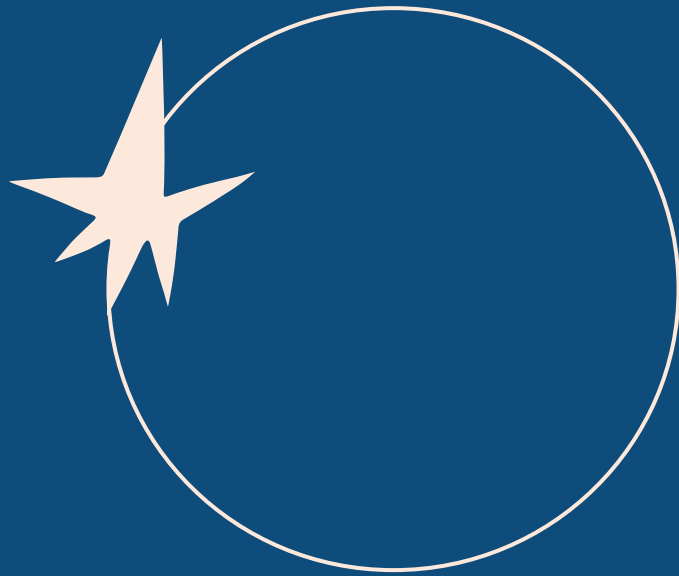


*"The way the sapling is shaped  
determines how the tree grows"*



CAMBIAN SOMERSET SCHOOL

# YEAR 10 / 11

## OPTIONS

SEPTEMBER  
2026

JULY  
2028

For any assistance, please contact us via  
[examnextsteps.somerset@cambiagroup.com](mailto:examnextsteps.somerset@cambiagroup.com)

# KS4 OPTIONS

## KEY DATES

This booklet provides a guide to the Key Stage 4 (KS4 - Years 10 and 11) options process and a summary of all subjects offered in the curriculum. Students will study fewer subjects at Key Stage 4 (KS4) than in Key Stage 3 (KS3). This means that students can choose subjects in which they are more interested and/or where their strengths are; but it does mean that they will stop studying some subjects.

Options chosen should reflect a learner's interests and strengths. Remember that some teachers will possibly change next year and learners may well be in different classes from their friends. It is very important that learners think through these choices carefully now and make the choices that are right for them as the timetable will be designed around their choices. We aim to make every attempt to give learners their first choice of subjects. If we are unable to offer first choice subjects, we will speak to learners personally about their reserve choice. If learners do not choose reserve options, they may be given a subject in which they have no interest.

English, Maths, Science and PSHE are compulsory subjects, as is PE - which can also be taken as an option. Among other things, learners will receive support with the transition into college, apprenticeships or employment through PSHE.

We urge learners to think carefully about their choices. Talk to teachers and collect further information about subjects they are considering. If you need any further information about the options process, please contact the exams and next steps team

[Examnextsteps.somerset@cambianguroup.com](mailto:Examnextsteps.somerset@cambianguroup.com)

**JUNE 2026**

Students receive options booklet and make informed choices in regards to their future studies

**July 15<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Options Form Deadline. The final date for learners and parents to submit their decisions.

# SOMERSET SCHOOL PATHWAY

Our pathway system has been designed to build upon the knowledge and experiences of your child in all aspects of their education up to this point. To help our students achieve meaningful, aspirational and achievable goals individualized towards them we use a variety of data and knowledge when placing a student within a certain pathway.

One of the things we do is consider past experiences, via teacher input, of the subject. Predict future achievements using qualification criteria and also parental input.

The simplest way to explain our system is

**You chose the subject that your passionate about and we will work hard to put you on the pathway to allow you to achieve your goals and aspirations.**

## KEY INFORMATION

- Select what is right for you
- Staff will only ever put you in for qualifications they feel you can achieve
- These may be challenging but they will be based on you and what we know about you

# ENGLISH

## GCSE English Language (Pearson)

GCSE English Language develops the essential reading, writing and communication skills needed for further study, employment and everyday life. Students will explore a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, learning how writers use language and structure to create meaning and engage readers.

The course encourages students to become confident and effective communicators through both creative and transactional writing. They will develop their ability to analyse texts, express ideas clearly, use accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar, and communicate effectively through spoken language. Assessment is through two written examinations, with a separate Spoken Language endorsement.

### Suitable for:

Students who enjoy reading, discussing ideas and developing their writing skills. GCSE English Language provides a strong foundation for A Levels, vocational qualifications and a wide range of future careers.

## Assessment

GCSE English Language is assessed through 100% external examination at the end of the course. There is no coursework.

### Paper 1: Fiction and Imaginative Writing

- 1 Hour 45 minutes
- 40% of the GCSE
- Reading questions based on an unseen fiction extract
- One imaginative writing task (narrative or descriptive)

### Paper 2: Non-fiction and Transactional Writing

- 2 hour 5 minutes
- 60% of the GCSE
- Reading questions on two non-fiction texts, including comparison
- Two writing tasks, such as writing articles, speeches, letters or reviews for different audiences and purposes

# ENGLISH

## Functional Skills English Level 2 (NCFE)

Functional Skills English Level 2 develops the practical communication skills needed for success in further education, employment and everyday life. The course focuses on applying English in real-world situations, helping students become confident readers, writers and communicators. Learners will develop the ability to understand and analyse a range of texts, write clearly and accurately for different audiences and purposes, and communicate effectively through speaking and listening activities.

This qualification is widely recognised and provides an excellent pathway for students who wish to strengthen their English skills through a practical approach. It supports progression to apprenticeships, further education, training programmes and employment by developing the literacy skills that employers and education providers value.

### Suitable for:

Students who would benefit from a practical alternative to GCSE English, wish to improve their confidence in English, or need a recognised qualification to support future study, training and employment.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through:

- External Reading Assessment
- External Writing Assessment
- Controlled Speaking, Listening and Communicating Assessment

Students must successfully complete all three components to achieve the qualification.

# ENGLISH

## Functional Skills English Level 1 (NCFE)

Functional Skills English Level 1 focuses on developing the practical reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication skills needed for everyday life, further education and employment. The course helps students build confidence in using English in real-world situations, such as understanding information, writing for different purposes and communicating effectively with others. It is an excellent option for learners who would benefit from a more practical approach to English and wish to strengthen their essential literacy skills.

Students will learn how to read and interpret a range of texts, produce clear and purposeful written communication, and develop effective speaking and listening skills. The qualification supports progression into further education, apprenticeships and employment by equipping learners with skills that are valued by employers and training providers.

### Suitable for:

Students who want to improve their practical English skills, build confidence in communication and gain a recognised qualification that supports future study, training and employment.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through:

- External Reading Assessment
- External Writing Assessment
- Controlled Speaking, Listening and Communicating Assessment

Students must successfully complete all three components to achieve the qualification.

# ENGLISH

## Functional Skills English Entry Levels 1, 2, 3 (NCFE)

Functional Skills English Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3 are designed for students who need additional support in developing their literacy and communication skills. The qualifications focus on practical English that can be used in everyday life, school, training and future employment. Students will develop confidence in reading, writing, speaking, listening and communicating in a range of familiar situations, helping them become more independent and effective communicators.

The course is tailored to individual needs, allowing students to work at the level most appropriate for them while building the skills needed to progress onto higher-level qualifications, including Functional Skills Level 1 and GCSE pathways. It provides a supportive environment in which learners can improve their confidence and achieve recognised qualifications that celebrate their progress.

### Suitable for:

Students who would benefit from additional support in English, wish to build confidence in literacy and communication, and are working towards further qualifications, training or employment opportunities.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through:

### Three controlled assessments

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking, Listening and Communicating

Assessment is practical and designed to allow students to demonstrate their skills in familiar and supportive contexts.

# MATHS

## GCSE Mathematics (Edexcel)

GCSE Mathematics develops the problem-solving, reasoning and analytical skills that are essential for further study, employment and everyday life. Students will explore a wide range of mathematical topics, including number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry, measures, statistics and probability. The course encourages logical thinking, resilience and the ability to apply mathematical knowledge to real-life situations.

Throughout the course, students will learn how to solve increasingly complex problems, interpret data, and communicate mathematical ideas clearly and accurately. GCSE Mathematics is a highly valued qualification that supports progression to A Levels, vocational courses, apprenticeships and a wide range of careers, including engineering, science, business, finance and technology.

Suitable for:

Students who enjoy problem-solving, logical thinking and applying mathematics to practical and real-world contexts. GCSE Mathematics is a core qualification that opens doors to many future pathways.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through:

Three controlled assessments, there is no coursework.

Paper 1:

- Non-calculator
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2:

- Calculator
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3:

- Calculator
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Each paper is worth 80 marks and contributes to the final grade equally. Students are entered for either the Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) or the Higher Tier (grades 4-9).

# MATHS

## Functional Skills Mathematics Level 2 (NCFE)

Functional Skills Mathematics Level 2 develops the practical mathematical skills needed for everyday life, further education and employment. The course focuses on applying mathematics to real-world situations, helping students become confident in solving problems involving number, measures, shape, space, data and probability. Learners will develop the skills needed to interpret information, make calculations, analyse data and use mathematics effectively in practical contexts.

This qualification is widely recognised by employers, colleges and training providers and is often accepted as an alternative to GCSE Mathematics for many progression routes. It provides an excellent pathway for students who prefer a practical approach to mathematics and wish to develop the numeracy skills needed for future study, apprenticeships and the workplace.

### Suitable for:

Students who would benefit from a practical alternative to GCSE Mathematics, wish to improve their confidence in using maths in everyday situations, or need a recognised qualification to support future education, training and employment.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through:

- **Non-Calculator Assessment** – testing mathematical reasoning and problem-solving without the use of a calculator.
- **Calculator Assessment** – testing the application of mathematical skills and problem-solving using a calculator.

Students must successfully complete both assessments to achieve the qualification.

# MATHS

## Functional Skills Mathematics Level 1 (NCFE)

Functional Skills Mathematics Level 1 develops the practical maths skills needed for everyday life, learning and work. The course focuses on applying mathematics to real-world situations, helping students build confidence in using numbers, measures, shapes, data and simple problem-solving techniques. Learners will develop the skills needed to make calculations, interpret information and solve practical mathematical problems that they may encounter in daily life.

This qualification provides a supportive pathway for students who wish to strengthen their numeracy skills through a practical approach to mathematics. It helps prepare learners for progression to Functional Skills Mathematics Level 2, further education, apprenticeships and employment by developing the mathematical skills valued by employers and training providers.

### Suitable for:

Students who would benefit from a practical approach to mathematics, wish to improve their confidence in using maths in everyday situations, or are working towards higher-level qualifications and future employment opportunities.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through:

- Non-Calculator Assessment – testing mathematical reasoning and problem-solving without the use of a calculator.
- Calculator Assessment – testing the application of mathematical skills and problem-solving using a calculator.

Students must successfully complete both assessments to achieve the qualification.

# MATHS

## NCFE Functional Skills Mathematics Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3

Functional Skills Mathematics Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3 are designed for students who need additional support in developing their numeracy and problem-solving skills. The qualifications focus on practical mathematics that can be applied in everyday life, helping learners build confidence in using numbers, measuring, handling money, interpreting information and solving simple mathematical problems. Students' progress through the Entry Levels at a pace that suits their individual needs, developing the skills required for greater independence and future learning.

The course provides a supportive and accessible approach to mathematics, enabling students to apply their learning to real-life situations both in and beyond school. Successful completion of these qualifications can support progression to Functional Skills Mathematics Level 1 and other suitable pathways in education, training and employment.

### Suitable for:

Students who would benefit from additional support in mathematics, wish to improve their confidence with numbers and practical problem-solving, and are working towards further qualifications, training or employment opportunities.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through:

Students complete practical assessments that demonstrate their ability to apply mathematical skills in realistic situations. Assessment focuses on key areas such as:

- Using Numbers and the Number System
- Using Common Measures, Shape and Space
- Handling Information and Data

Assessments are designed to be accessible and supportive, allowing students to demonstrate their mathematical understanding and progress at the appropriate Entry Level

# SCIENCE

## GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (AQA)

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy provides students with a broad understanding of the three main science disciplines: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course develops scientific knowledge, practical skills and problem-solving abilities while helping students understand how science impacts everyday life and the world around them. Topics include human biology, ecosystems, chemical reactions, materials, energy, electricity, forces and the structure of matter.

Throughout the course, students will develop their investigative and analytical skills through practical work and scientific enquiry. The qualification encourages curiosity, critical thinking and the application of scientific knowledge to real-world situations. GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy is highly valued by colleges and employers and provides a strong foundation for further study, including A Levels, vocational qualifications and apprenticeships.

### Suitable for:

Students who are interested in understanding how the world works, enjoy practical investigations and wish to develop their scientific knowledge and problem-solving skills. Successful completion of the course leads to the award of two GCSE grades.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through six written examinations, all taken at the end of the course:

- Biology Paper 1 – 1 hour 15 minutes
- Biology Paper 2 – 1 hour 15 minutes
- Chemistry Paper 1 – 1 hour 15 minutes
- Chemistry Paper 2 – 1 hour 15 minutes
- Physics Paper 1 – 1 hour 15 minutes
- Physics Paper 2 – 1 hour 15 minutes

Students are entered for either the Foundation Tier or Higher Tier. Practical investigations are completed throughout the course, with knowledge and understanding of these practical's assessed within the written examinations. There is no coursework:

# SCIENCE

## NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Climate Change and Environmental Awareness

This qualification provides students with an introduction to climate change, sustainability and environmental awareness. Learners will explore the causes and effects of climate change, the importance of environmental protection, and the actions individuals, communities and industries can take to reduce their impact on the environment. The course encourages students to think critically about global environmental challenges and develop an understanding of sustainable practices.

Students will study topics including climate change and sustainability, the relationship between industry and the environment, and resource efficiency and waste management. The qualification helps learners develop knowledge that is increasingly relevant across a wide range of careers and industries, while promoting responsible environmental citizenship and awareness of current global issues.

### Suitable for:

Students who are interested in environmental issues, sustainability and the future of our planet. The course is ideal for those who wish to broaden their understanding of climate change and develop knowledge that is valuable for further study and future employment.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence, which is completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Students must demonstrate their achievement of the learning outcomes from the three mandatory units:

- Understand Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Protection
- Understand Industry and the Environment
- Understand Resource Efficiency and Waste Management

The portfolio is internally assessed by teachers and externally quality assured by NCFE

# SCIENCE

## NCFE Science Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3

NCFE Science Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3 provide students with an introduction to scientific concepts and the world around them. The qualifications are designed for learners who benefit from a more accessible and practical approach to science, helping them develop their understanding of everyday scientific ideas through engaging and relevant activities. Students explore topics such as living things, materials, energy, the environment and how science affects daily life.

The course encourages curiosity, investigation and practical learning, enabling students to develop scientific knowledge alongside important skills such as observation, communication, problem-solving and working safely. Learners progress at a pace suited to their individual needs and can use these qualifications as a stepping stone towards higher-level science courses and other pathways in education, training and employment.

### Suitable for:

Students who would benefit from additional support in science, enjoy practical and hands-on learning, and wish to develop their understanding of the world around them while building confidence and independence.

## Assessment

Students complete a range of practical and classroom-based assessment activities throughout the course.

Assessment is designed to be accessible and allows learners to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and scientific skills in a supportive environment.

Assessment may include:

- Practical investigations and experiments
- Observation and discussion activities
- Written and verbal tasks
- Portfolio evidence collected throughout the course
- 

There are no final written examinations, with achievement assessed through ongoing evidence of learning and progress.

# PSHE

## NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Well-being

The NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Well-being helps students develop an understanding of the factors that contribute to a healthy and balanced lifestyle. The course explores physical, emotional, social and mental well-being, encouraging learners to develop positive habits, build resilience and improve their overall quality of life. Students will learn practical strategies for maintaining their health, managing challenges and making informed lifestyle choices.

The qualification promotes self-awareness, confidence and personal development while helping students understand the importance of healthy relationships, emotional wellbeing and positive decision-making. The skills and knowledge gained can support success both in education and in everyday life, while also preparing learners for further study and future employment.

### Suitable for:

Students who are interested in personal development, improving their wellbeing and developing the knowledge and skills needed to lead a healthy, positive and balanced lifestyle.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Students demonstrate their learning through a range of activities, which may include:

- Practical tasks and projects
- Written assignments
- Discussions and presentations
- Reflective activities and personal development planning

Assessment is ongoing and designed to allow learners to demonstrate their understanding and progress in a supportive and accessible way.

# PSHE

## NCFE Level 1 Award in Interpersonal Skills

The NCFE Level 1 Award in Interpersonal Skills helps students develop the communication and relationship-building skills needed for success in school, further education, employment and everyday life. The course focuses on understanding how to interact effectively with others, work as part of a team, communicate clearly and build positive relationships in a variety of situations.

Students will explore topics such as effective communication, teamwork, listening skills, confidence, respect for others and resolving disagreements constructively. The qualification encourages learners to develop self-awareness and social skills, helping them become more confident and effective communicators both in and outside the classroom.

Suitable for: Students who would like to improve their confidence, communication and teamwork skills, and develop the personal qualities needed for future education, employment and independent living.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Students demonstrate their learning through a range of activities, which may include:

- Group and teamwork activities
- Practical communication tasks
- Discussions and presentations
- Written reflections and assignments

Assessment is ongoing and designed to allow learners to demonstrate their skills and personal development in a supportive and accessible environment.

# PE

## NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Sport, Exercise and Fitness

The NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Sport, Exercise and Fitness is designed for students with an interest in sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. The course provides a practical introduction to the sports industry, helping learners develop knowledge of fitness, training, anatomy and physiology, nutrition and participation in sport. Students will explore how the body responds to exercise, how fitness can be improved and the skills needed to work effectively within the sport and leisure sector.

The qualification combines theory and practical learning, allowing students to develop confidence, teamwork, leadership and communication skills alongside their sporting knowledge. It provides an excellent foundation for progression to Level 3 Sport qualifications, apprenticeships and a range of careers within sport, fitness, coaching and the wider leisure industry.

Suitable for:

Students who enjoy sport and physical activity and are interested in areas such as coaching, fitness instruction, sports development, personal training, physiotherapy or working within the sport and leisure industry.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Students demonstrate their learning through a range of activities, which may include:

- Practical sports participation and performance
- Fitness testing and training programmes
- Written assignments and research tasks
- Presentations, projects and coaching activities

Assessment is internally assessed by teachers and externally quality assured by NCFE, allowing students to build evidence of their knowledge and skills over time.

# PE

## NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Sport

The NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Sport is designed for students who have an interest in sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. The course provides an introduction to the sport and leisure industry, helping learners develop their understanding of participation in sport, fitness, health and teamwork. Students will explore how physical activity contributes to a healthy lifestyle while developing practical skills through a range of sporting activities.

The qualification combines classroom learning with practical experiences, allowing students to build confidence, communication, teamwork and leadership skills. It provides a supportive pathway for learners who wish to progress to Level 2 Sport qualifications, further education, apprenticeships or employment within the sport and leisure sector.

### Suitable for:

Students who enjoy sport and physical activity, want to develop their confidence and teamwork skills, and are interested in learning more about health, fitness and the sports industry.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Students demonstrate their learning through a range of activities, which may include:

- Practical sports participation and performance
- Fitness and healthy lifestyle activities
- Written assignments and project work
- Group activities, presentations and discussions

Assessment is ongoing and designed to allow learners to build evidence of their knowledge, understanding and practical skills in a supportive and accessible environment.

# ART

## NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Creative Craft

The NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Creative Craft is designed for students who enjoy creative and practical activities and would like to develop their artistic and craft-based skills. The course allows learners to explore a range of craft techniques, materials and processes while encouraging creativity, problem-solving and independent working. Students will plan, design and create their own craft products, developing both practical skills and an understanding of the creative industries.

Throughout the course, learners will build confidence in generating ideas, producing finished pieces and evaluating their work. The qualification provides an opportunity to develop transferable skills such as organisation, communication and project management, while preparing students for further study in art, design, craft or related vocational areas.

Suitable for:

Students who enjoy making, designing and creating practical products, and who are interested in developing their creative skills for further education, training or future careers within the creative industries.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Students demonstrate their learning through a range of activities, which may include:

- Designing and creating craft products
- Practical workshops and projects
- Research and planning activities
- Written evaluations and reflective work
- Presentations and displays of completed work

Assessment is ongoing and allows students to build evidence of their creative development, practical skills and understanding throughout the course

# ART

## NCFE Level 1 Award in Creative Craft, Art and Design

The NCFE Level 1 Award in Creative Craft, Art and Design is designed for students who enjoy being creative and expressing their ideas through practical projects. The course introduces learners to a range of art, craft and design techniques, helping them develop their creative skills while exploring different materials, processes and artistic styles. Students will have the opportunity to experiment, create and present their own work in response to a variety of themes and design briefs.

The qualification encourages imagination, problem-solving and independent thinking while helping students build confidence in their creative abilities. Learners will develop practical skills alongside transferable skills such as planning, organisation, communication and evaluation. The course provides a strong foundation for progression to higher-level creative qualifications and further study in art, design and craft-related subjects.

Suitable for:

Students who enjoy drawing, painting, designing, making and creating, and who would like to develop their artistic skills while exploring a range of creative techniques and materials.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Students demonstrate their learning through a range of activities, which may include:

- Creating artwork and craft products
- Design and development projects
- Sketchbook and portfolio work
- Research and investigation activities
- Written evaluations and presentations

Assessment is ongoing and allows students to build evidence of their creativity, practical skills and artistic development throughout the course.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Photography

The NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Photography is designed for students who have an interest in photography and visual creativity. The course introduces learners to photographic techniques, image composition, camera functions and digital image editing, helping them develop both technical and creative skills. Students will explore different styles of photography and learn how to plan, capture and present images that communicate ideas and tell stories.

Throughout the course, learners will develop their understanding of the creative process while building confidence in using photographic equipment and editing software. The qualification encourages creativity, attention to detail and independent working, while also developing transferable skills such as planning, research and evaluation. It provides an excellent foundation for further study in photography, art and design, media or other creative subjects.

Suitable for:

Students who enjoy photography, digital media and creative projects, and who would like to develop practical and artistic skills that can support further education and future careers in the creative industries.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Students demonstrate their learning through a range of activities, which may include:

- Practical photography projects
- Photo shoots and image creation
- Digital editing and image enhancement
- Research into photographers and photographic styles
- Written evaluations and presentations

Assessment is ongoing and allows students to build a portfolio showcasing their technical skills, creativity and photographic development throughout the course.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## NCFE Level 1 Award in Photography

The NCFE Level 1 Award in Photography introduces students to the creative and technical aspects of photography. Learners will explore how to use cameras effectively, develop an understanding of composition and image-making, and experiment with different photographic styles and techniques. The course encourages creativity while helping students build confidence in capturing and presenting their own photographic work.

Students will develop practical skills alongside planning, communication and evaluation skills, providing a foundation for further study in photography, art, media and other creative subjects.

Suitable for:

Students who enjoy taking photographs, expressing their creativity and exploring digital media and visual communication.

## Assessment

Assessment may include:

- Practical photography projects
- Image editing and presentation work
- Research activities
- Written evaluations and reflections

# FOOD

## GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (AQA)

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition combines practical cooking skills with an understanding of nutrition, food science and healthy eating. Students learn how to prepare, cook and present a variety of dishes while developing knowledge of food safety, food provenance, consumer choice and the science behind food preparation. The course encourages creativity, independence and confidence in the kitchen, whilst helping learners understand the importance of making informed food choices.

Throughout the course, students develop a wide range of practical skills, including planning meals, selecting ingredients, using specialist equipment and applying a variety of cooking techniques. They also explore how food choices are influenced by health, culture, lifestyle and environmental factors. The qualification provides an excellent foundation for further study in hospitality, catering, nutrition, food science and related industries, as well as equipping students with valuable life skills.

Suitable for:

Students who enjoy practical learning, cooking and food-related activities, and who would like to develop their understanding of nutrition, healthy eating and food preparation skills.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a combination of a written examination and practical coursework (Non-Exam Assessment).

- Written Examination – 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)
  - Assesses knowledge and understanding of food preparation and nutrition.
  - Includes multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions.
- Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) – 50%
  - Food Investigation Task (15%)
    - Investigating the scientific and functional properties of ingredients.
  - Food Preparation Assessment (35%)
    - Planning, preparing, cooking and presenting a menu of dishes in response to a set brief.

There is a strong practical element throughout the course, allowing students to develop and showcase their cooking skills while applying their understanding of nutrition and food science in real-life contexts.

# FOOD

## NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Food and Cookery Skills

The NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Food and Cookery Skills is designed for students who enjoy cooking and would like to develop their culinary knowledge and practical skills. The course explores food preparation, cooking methods, nutrition, food safety and healthy eating, helping learners gain confidence in planning and preparing a variety of dishes.

Students will develop practical cooking techniques while learning about ingredients, menu planning and the importance of a balanced diet. The qualification provides an excellent foundation for further study in hospitality, catering and food-related careers.

### Suitable for:

Students who enjoy cooking, want to improve their practical food preparation skills and are interested in nutrition, hospitality or catering.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Practical cooking activities
- Food preparation and presentation tasks
- Research and project work
- Written evaluations and nutritional investigations

# FOOD

## NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Food and Cookery Skills

The NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Food and Cookery Skills provides an introduction to food preparation, cooking and healthy eating. Students will learn basic cooking techniques, food hygiene and safety practices, and how to prepare simple, nutritious meals. The course helps learners build confidence and independence while developing valuable life skills that can be used both at home and in future employment.

The qualification combines practical learning with an understanding of nutrition and healthy lifestyles, providing a supportive pathway to further study in food, hospitality and catering.

### Suitable for:

Students who enjoy practical learning, want to develop confidence in the kitchen and are interested in food, nutrition and healthy living.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Practical food preparation and cooking tasks
- Demonstrations of food hygiene and safety
- Written assignments and project work
- Evaluations of completed dishes and cooking activities

Assessment is ongoing, allowing students to build evidence of their skills and knowledge throughout the course.

# GRAPHIC DESIGN

## NCFE Level 1 Award in Graphic Design

The NCFE Level 1 Award in Graphic Design introduces students to the principles of visual communication and creative design. Learners will explore how images, text, colour and layout are used to communicate ideas and messages across a range of media. The course encourages creativity while developing practical design skills and an understanding of the design process.

Students will create their own design work, develop confidence in presenting ideas and gain an insight into the creative industries. The qualification provides a foundation for further study in graphic design, art, media and related creative subjects.

### Suitable for:

Students who enjoy creativity, drawing, digital design and visual communication, and who would like to develop their artistic and design skills.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Design projects and practical tasks
- Research and idea development
- Sketchbooks and portfolio work
- Written evaluations and presentations

# INTERACTIVE MEDIA

## NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Interactive Media

The NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Interactive Media introduces students to the world of digital media and content creation. Learners will explore how interactive products such as websites, digital graphics, animation and multimedia presentations are created and used. The course develops creativity, technical skills and an understanding of digital technologies.

Students will gain experience in planning, creating and reviewing digital media products while developing transferable skills in communication, problem-solving and project management.

### Suitable for:

Students who are interested in technology, digital media, content creation and creative computing.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Digital media projects
- Creative design tasks
- Practical ICT activities
- Research and evaluation work

# HISTORY

## GCSE History B (OCR)

OCR GCSE History B helps students develop a deeper understanding of the world by exploring significant events, people and themes from local, British and world history. The course encourages learners to investigate how and why societies change over time, analyse historical evidence and evaluate different interpretations of the past. Students study a range of historical periods and topics, developing valuable skills in critical thinking, research, analysis and communication.

The qualification combines thematic studies, depth studies and a local history investigation, allowing students to explore history from a variety of perspectives. Learners will develop the ability to construct balanced arguments, interpret historical sources and understand how the past has shaped the modern world. These skills are highly valued in further education and a wide range of careers including law, journalism, education, public services and business.

### Suitable for:

Students who enjoy finding out about the past, discussing different viewpoints, analysing evidence and developing strong written communication and evaluation skills. History complements a wide range of GCSE and post-16 study pathways.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through three written examinations, all taken at the end of the course. There is no coursework.

- Component 1: British History – 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)
  - A thematic study and a British depth study.
- Component 2: History Around Us – 1 hour (20%)
  - A study of a local historical site chosen by the school.
- Component 3: World History – 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)
  - A period study and a world depth study.

Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of historical events, their ability to analyse sources and interpretations, and their skill in constructing well-supported historical arguments.

# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## NCFE Level 1 Diploma in Health and Social Care

The NCFE Level 1 Diploma in Health and Social Care provides a broad introduction to the health and social care sector. Students will explore the roles of health and care professionals, the importance of communication, healthy living, safeguarding and supporting individuals with different needs.

The course helps learners develop the knowledge, understanding and personal skills required for progression into health, social care and childcare pathways. It also supports the development of confidence, empathy and teamwork.

### Suitable for:

Students who are interested in helping others and may wish to pursue careers in health care, social care, childcare or community support services.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Assignments and project work
- Practical activities and role play
- Research tasks
- Presentations and reflective activities

# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Health and Social Care

The NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Health and Social Care introduces students to the knowledge and skills required within health and care settings. Learners will develop an understanding of health, wellbeing, communication, equality and diversity, and the importance of supporting individuals with dignity and respect.

The qualification provides a strong foundation for progression to higher-level health and social care qualifications and related vocational pathways.

Suitable for:

Students who are interested in health, wellbeing and caring professions, and who would like to learn more about supporting other:

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Written assignments
- Practical and group activities
- Research projects
- Discussions and presentations

# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## NCFE Level 1 Award in Introduction to Health, Social Care and Children's and Young People's Settings

The NCFE Level 1 Award in Introduction to Health, Social Care and Children's and Young People's Settings provides an overview of the care sector and the different environments in which care and support are delivered. Students will learn about working with children, young people and adults, while developing an understanding of communication, safeguarding, equality and professional behaviour.

The course helps learners build confidence and gain an insight into careers that involve supporting and caring for others. It is an excellent starting point for progression into health, social care and childcare qualifications.

### Suitable for:

Students who are considering a future career in health care, social care, childcare or education, and would like an introduction to these sectors.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Assignments and project work
- Case studies and research tasks
- Group discussions and presentations
- Practical activities and reflective work

# OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

## NCFE Level 1 Diploma in Occupational Studies

The NCFE Level 1 Diploma in Occupational Studies is designed for students who would like to explore a range of vocational subjects and develop practical skills for future education, training and employment. The course allows learners to experience different occupational areas helping them identify their interests and strengths while building confidence, independence and employability skills.

Students will complete practical projects and activities linked to a variety of work-related sectors, developing transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, organisation and problem-solving. The qualification provides an excellent foundation for progression to further vocational study, apprenticeships or employment pathways.

### Suitable for:

Students who enjoy practical learning, would like to explore different career areas and wish to develop the skills needed for further education and the workplace.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Practical projects and activities
- Workplace-related tasks
- Research assignments
- Presentations and discussions
- Reflective evaluations

# OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

## NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Occupational Studies

The NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Occupational Studies provides students with the opportunity to develop practical, work-related skills while exploring a range of vocational subjects. Learners gain experience of different occupational areas and develop the knowledge, confidence and employability skills needed for progression into further learning or employment.

The course encourages independence, teamwork and personal development while helping students make informed decisions about future career pathways.

### Suitable for:

Students who are interested in practical learning, exploring vocational subjects and developing workplace skills.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Practical tasks and projects
- Vocational investigations
- Research activities
- Presentations and group work
- Reflective reviews

# OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

## NCFE Level 1 Award in Occupational Studies

The NCFE Level 1 Award in Occupational Studies provides an introduction to vocational learning and the world of work. Students will explore practical skills linked to different occupational areas while developing confidence, communication, teamwork and problem-solving abilities. The qualification helps learners gain an understanding of workplace expectations and the skills required for future employment.

The course is designed to provide a stepping stone to larger vocational qualifications and further study, while helping students identify areas of interest for future career development.

### Suitable for:

Students who would like an introduction to vocational learning, practical skills and workplace preparation.

## Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of evidence completed throughout the course. There are no final written examinations.

Assessment may include:

- Practical activities and projects
- Vocational and workplace-related tasks
- Research assignments
- Discussions and presentations
- Personal reflections and reviews

# WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You have to study the following:

English  
Maths  
Science  
PSHE

Subject staff will use all available knowledge to place students within the most appropriate aspect of each subject's pathway system.

You will also have to participate in PE lessons but these will not be working towards a qualification unless you select PE as one of your options

In the box below please indicate your preferred options. Please rank your ideal subjects from 1-3. 1 being your first-choice option

Subject	Choices (1-3)
PE	
Art	
Photography	
Food	
Graphic Design	
Interactive Media	
History	
Health and Social Care	
Occupational Studies	

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## IS THE PATHWAY PROCESS BASED ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVED?

No. The pathways process is not based on first come first served, therefore please take your time and consider your options carefully.

## WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF I HAVE MY FIRST CHOICES?

We aim to confirm with you by Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July. We will contact parents/learners individually if there is any concern regarding the options chosen.

## I AM NOT SURE WHAT COURSES TO TAKE?

Speak to your tutor and subject teachers, as they will know lots about the courses provided

## DO I REALLY NEED TO PICK RESERVE SUBJECTS?

Yes! You need to put as much thought into these subjects as you did your initial choices. If there is a conflict in subjects or a course does not run, you will need to do your reserve choice.

## IS ONE QUALIFICATION BETTER THAN ANOTHER?

Both qualification types are highly valued and can provide excellent progression routes. The most appropriate choice depends on a student's strengths, interests, preferred learning style and future aspirations.

# UNDERSTANDING OUR COURSES

**NCFE Level 1 and Level 2** qualifications are vocational courses designed to help students develop practical skills, knowledge and confidence in a range of subject areas. They are available in a wide variety of sectors including Sport, Health and Social Care, Creative Arts, Photography, Food and Cookery, Environmental Studies and Employability Skills.

These qualifications are often assessed through a combination of practical activities, projects, coursework and portfolios of evidence completed throughout the course. This allows students to demonstrate their learning over time rather than relying solely on final examinations. Many NCFE qualifications focus on applying knowledge to real-life situations and developing transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, organisation and problem-solving.

NCFE qualifications provide recognised pathways to further education, apprenticeships and employment. They can be particularly beneficial for students who thrive in practical learning environments and prefer continuous assessment.

How do they compare to GCSEs?

- Greater emphasis on practical and vocational learning.
- Assessment is often through coursework, portfolios and practical tasks rather than mainly examinations.
- Learning is focused on applying knowledge and developing workplace and life skills.
- Provides progression routes to further vocational study, apprenticeships and employment.
- 

Qualification Levels

- **Level 1 qualifications are broadly equivalent to GCSE grades 1–3.**
- **Level 2 qualifications are broadly equivalent to GCSE grades 4–9.**

Suitable for:

Students who enjoy practical learning, developing vocational skills and applying knowledge in real-world contexts.

**GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education)** are nationally recognised academic qualifications typically studied by students aged 14–16. They provide students with a broad and balanced education while developing subject knowledge, analytical skills and preparation for further study.

The three main examination boards used by school are:

- AQA
- Pearson Edexcel
- OCR
- 

Although specifications vary slightly between exam boards, all GCSE qualifications are regulated to the same national standards and are considered equally valuable by colleges, employers and universities.

Most GCSE subjects are assessed primarily through examinations taken at the end of Year 11, although some subjects include coursework, practical assessments or non-exam assessments. Students are awarded grades on a **9–1 scale, with Grade 9 being the highest achievement.**

GCSEs provide an important foundation for progression to A Levels, T Levels, vocational qualifications, apprenticeships and future careers. They are designed to develop subject-specific knowledge alongside skills such as critical thinking, analysis, evaluation and problem-solving.

Suitable for:

Students who enjoy academic study, developing subject knowledge and preparing for further education pathways.