

YEAR 9 OPTIONS



**YOUR
CHOICE**

**YOUR
FUTURE**

TIME TO CHOOSE

During Year 9, you must make important decisions about the courses you study that will lead to GCSE or other qualifications.

This booklet explains these different courses and answers some of the questions that you may wish to ask.

You will all continue to study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies (RS), Computing, and Physical Education (P.E.). Your Personal Development Learning (PDL) lessons will continue with topics such as health education, law and government in Year 10, and career planning in Year 11.

What are your choices?

You can choose from a wide range of GCSE and non-GCSE courses on the options form. After consulting with your parents /carers, teachers, and career advice, we will ask you to choose four courses.

The Government produced guidance on what will be considered a broad and balanced range of qualifications. You must follow the "Checklist" to guide your decision-making and ensure you gain recognition and reward for your studies.

- 1. Are you studying GCSE Maths and English?** All Malbank students study GCSE English, English Literature, and Maths.
- 2. Are you studying 3 EBacc GCSE subjects that include 2 or 3 Science GCSEs?** Yes. All students study 2 or 3 GCSEs in Science at Malbank. In addition, you will need to choose to study either Geography or History.
- 3. Are you studying three additional high-quality courses?** All KS4 courses at Malbank are judged to be of high quality by the Government. Please remember that in the performing arts subjects, the Government considers subjects like Media and iMedia to be too similar in content, so they only count as one qualification, so you can't choose to study both at Malbank.

TIME TO CHOOSE

How can I get help in making my decision?

We expect that you will consult parents/carers, subject teachers, and career advisors. Appointments with the career advisor can be made through the KS4 office.

In January, there will be a Virtual Year 9 Options Information Sharing Event at which representatives from subjects will explain the courses in greater detail.

How should I decide?

Choosing your option subjects is very important.



- Focus on yourself and the kind of person you are.
- Consider what sort of life you want after leaving school.
- Ask yourself what sort of job you might enjoy in the future.
- Think honestly about your solid subjects and those with which you are less confident. You cannot always do only what you like; life is not like that.
- Be flexible and aim for a wide range.
- Research to see if you know the type of career you want to pursue.



- Decide on a course only because a friend is choosing it; you must like it too.
- Select subjects according to examination marks alone.
- Be influenced by your liking or disliking a particular teacher.
- Try to select all your choices around your current career choice. It is likely to change.
- Choose a subject because it sounds good without doing your research on it.

TIME TO CHOOSE

Will I get a choice?

We will try to ensure you can study your chosen subjects. However, we might have to withdraw courses that are under-subscribed and, therefore, financially unviable. In some subject areas, where different qualifications are available (e.g., *GCSE and BTEC*), we will determine which pathway would be the right one for you; this will be in consultation with your Progress Manager and subject teachers.

Your Progress Manager will review your choices and use your progress data to determine whether your chosen courses are right for you. To succeed, some subjects require good knowledge and understanding of Mathematics and Science; therefore, you will have entrance requirements shared in the subject information section. You may be advised to choose another option.

While the school will try to accommodate your choices, sometimes timetabling restrictions prevent us from doing so. In such a case, we will discuss your interests and career choices with you and find an alternative.

REMEMBER

- If in doubt, ask questions.
- Use the careers resources and advisor at school.
- Go for the subjects (*and later employment*) that attract you.



CORE SUBJECTS

Regardless of your chosen pathway, you will all study:

- English, leading to two GCSEs: one in English Language & one in English Literature.
- Mathematics leading to one GCSE.
- Science, leading to either two (Combined Sciences) or three GCSEs (Separate Sciences).
- A Humanities subject from either Geography or History
- Core Religious Studies (RS).
- Core Computing in Year 11.
- Core Physical Education (P.E.).
- Personal Development Learning (PDL).



ENGLISH

All students will study both English Language and Literature at GCSE throughout Years 10 and 11. All external assessments will be examinations taken in the summer of Year 11.



ENGLISH LITERATURE AT GCSE

Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimuli and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. This specification will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students can demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

A real focus of these new GCSE specifications is that students will read fluently and with a good understanding of a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism.

CORE SUBJECTS

The format of assessments will be:

- **Paper 1:** 1hr 45 min - Explorations in Creative reading and writing 50% of GCSE.
- **Paper 2:** 1hr 45 min - Writers' viewpoints and perspectives 50% of GCSE.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT GCSE

Throughout our teaching of English Literature in KS3, students have already been exposed to a wide range of challenging and varied texts from across centuries and authorial perspectives, which prepares them for the modes of study at GCSE.

Our course encourages students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking. Through literature, students can develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best thoughts and writing. Studying GCSE English Literature will encourage students to read widely for pleasure and as preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

Our specific course will encourage students to read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, make connections across their reading, and read in-depth, critically, and evaluatively so that they can discuss and explain their knowledge & ideas and appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage.

The formal assessments will be:

- **Paper 1:** 1hr 45 min - Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel, 40% of total GCSE
- **Paper 2:** 1hr 45 min - Modern texts and Poetry, 60% of total GCSE

We will offer a wide range of texts to be studied across the course, including A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls, Blood Brothers and Macbeth.



For more information, students should contact their teacher or Miss L. Jennings, Head of English, at laj@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

CORE SUBJECTS



MATHS

Mathematics is a compulsory subject for all pupils until the age of 16. The courses followed at Key Stage 4 reflect the National Curriculum and continue the topics pupils will have studied in Key Stage 3, with new topics also being introduced.

The work is based on six areas of study:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio & proportion and rates of change
- Geometry & Measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Mathematics is taught in two tiers, and in year 11, we decide on the best tier of entry based on their performance in assessments, targets and mock examinations to ensure they achieve the best grade possible. The tiers are:

- Higher Tier - Grades 9 to 4
- Foundation Tier - Grades 5 to 1

Why is GCSE Mathematics so essential?

GCSE maths is required for most courses, apprenticeships, and jobs, so it's important to do well. Furthermore, it will support you with:

- **Preparing for university** - Most universities expect applicants to have a good understanding of maths, and a grade of 4 or higher can increase your chances of getting in.
- **Improving your earning power** - Jobs that require technical skills and advanced knowledge often pay better, and GCSE maths can help you get into these jobs.
- **Developing soft skills** - Maths can help you develop problem-solving, critical thinking, and numerical awareness skills.

CORE SUBJECTS



MATHS

The GCSE Course Structures

Pupils follow the Edexcel GCSE course, which builds upon the mathematical knowledge students have studied in years 7 to 9 and covers the full range of topics from the six key areas of study.

All pupils are set according to their ability and target grades to ensure they have the best opportunity to achieve their full potential. In the summer of year 11, they sit three exam papers, each 1½ hours long, with 1 being a non-calculator paper and the other 2 being calculator papers. Students' marks for these three papers are combined to produce their final GCSE grade.

Internal Assessments

During Years 10 and 11, pupils are regularly assessed on each unit of work through homework tasks, mini-tests and activities. Pupils also complete more significant summative assessments at key points during the year to assess their progress on the topics they have covered.

The assessments are thoroughly analysed, and the results are discussed with individual pupils. Time is then allocated in lessons to re-visit the common topics pupils may have struggled with.

GCSE Statistics

Students will also sit the Edexcel GCSE in statistics. This will be assessed over 2 calculator papers each of 1 hour 30 minutes. The content that will be assessed is based on the GCSE in Mathematics units on probability and statistics, so the amount of new content that students will be introduced to is minimal.



If you have any course questions, contact Mrs. E. Addy at eca@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk or your maths teacher.

CORE SUBJECTS

SCIENCE

All students will study Science at GCSE. Two pathways are available, and the Science department will recommend which course is suitable for each student individually.

Students will begin to study the GCSE sciences toward the end of Year 9, and all will cover the same material. If you wish to earn 3 GCSEs, one in each science, you must select one of your option choices as **'Separate Sciences'**.



If you have any questions about the courses and their relevance to you, please contact Miss. H. Jones at hyj@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

COMBINED SCIENCES

GCSE Combined Science, also known as Double Award Science or Trilogy, is a course that covers all three sciences (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) and awards students two GCSE grades.

The science covered in the GCSE course is highly relevant to everyday life. We explore subjects as diverse as cloning, mobile phones, and climate change, all of which you will see mentioned in the news.

2 COMBINED GCSE'S



Biology

- Cell Biology
- Organisation
- Infection and Response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and Response
- Inheritance, Variation and Evolution
- Ecology



Chemistry

- Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
- Bonding, Structure, & Properties of Matter
- Quantitative Chemistry
- Chemical Changes
- Energy Changes
- The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change
- Organic Chemistry
- Chemical Analysis
- Chemistry of the Atmosphere
- Using Resources



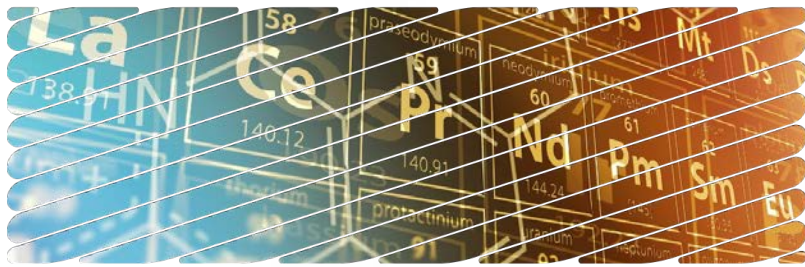
Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and Electromagnetism
- Particle Model of Matter
- Atomic Structure

CORE SUBJECTS

Examinations for GCSE Combined Science trilogy (2 GCSEs):

- **Tiers:** Foundation and Higher.
- **Six papers:** Two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each will assess different topics.
- **Duration:** All the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.
- **Weighting:** The papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks.
- **Question types:** Multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.



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SEPARATE SCIENCES

GCSE Separate Sciences, or Triple Award Science, is a course where students study Biology, Chemistry, and Physics separately and earn three GCSEs. It is ideal if you are likely to choose A-level sciences in college or sixth form.

Examinations for GCSE Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs):

- **Tiers:** Foundation and Higher.
- **Six papers:** Two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each will assess different topics.
- **Duration:** All the papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.
- **Weighting:** The papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade of each science and has 100 marks.
- **Question types:** Multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.



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CORE SUBJECTS

CORE COMPUTING



Core Computing allows students to broaden their use of IT to help with their curricular studies and to set the technological foundation for life beyond school. **Students will follow the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) detailed below.**

iDEA - Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award

The Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) is an international programme to help address the digital skills gap. The programme provides digital skills education through engaging online modules (badges).

The iDEA curriculum has been curated to help inspire people all over the world to become Digital Citizens, Workers, Makers, Entrepreneurs and Gamers to enhance their employability; and to help them become economically active.

LEARNING WITH iDEA



CITIZEN BADGES

Digital awareness, safety and ethics.



WORKER BADGES

Tools and techniques which are useful in the workplace.



MAKER BADGES

Digital creativity and manufacturing the digital world.



ENTREPRENEUR BADGES

How to originate ideas and bring them to life.



GAMER BADGES

Techniques that help people learn how to make games.

iDEA learners are incentivised to become digital all-rounders but also given the opportunity to take their learning deeper into areas of interest.

To achieve the Bronze Award, learners need to earn 250 points, including a minimum of 50 points in each of the core categories of the curriculum: Citizen, Worker, Maker and Entrepreneur.



For more information, contact Mrs. E. Austin at eea@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk



CORE SUBJECTS



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education aims to promote a healthy lifestyle through active participation in lessons. Students will develop fitness, coordination, and physical competence through selected activities, including major team games and individual sporting activities.

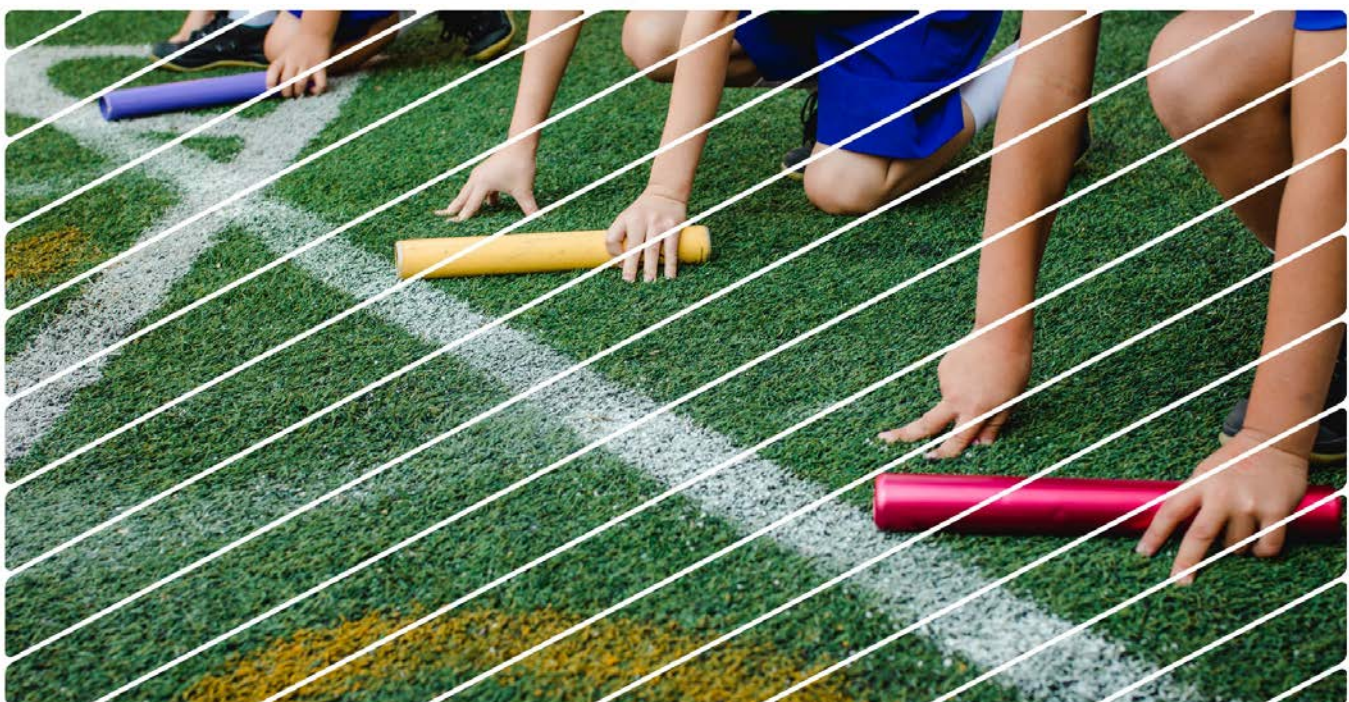
Learning requires developing self-confidence, cooperation, tolerance, and appreciation of strengths and weaknesses. Students are expected to plan, execute, and evaluate actions, ideas, and performances in individual, group, and team activities.

At Key Stage 4, pupils refine techniques in their chosen activities to achieve more consistent and effective performances. This process allows pupils to discover their aptitudes, abilities, and preferences and to choose how to engage in lifelong physical activity.

Physical Education provides opportunities to be creative and competitive and to face different challenges when participating, either as a performer, coach, or official.



If you have any questions or queries about this course, please do not hesitate to contact your **Physical Education teacher**.



CORE SUBJECTS



RELIGIOUS STUDIES SHORT COURSE

As RS is compulsory in KS4, we teach you the GCSE short course to give all students an official qualification for their hard work.

How can a GCSE in Religious Studies support my future?

- Whether you study at university or college or enter the workforce, you will encounter people from all walks of life with various religious and moral perspectives. GCSE Religious Studies will help you understand and appreciate them.
- Employers may feel that RS demonstrates your sensitivity.
- Evaluating differing opinions will help you develop similar skills in other subjects.
- Studying life's ultimate questions can offer a strong foundation for tackling religious and moral issues in adulthood.

What will you study during the course?



The Study of Religions - Beliefs and Teachings of two Religions:

- Islam
- Judaism



Thematic Studies: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies:

- Theme A: Relationships and Families
- Theme B: Religion, Peace and Conflict

This core subject does not take up one of your option columns. However, if you are interested in Religious Studies, consider the available RS full course. It examines many important current issues from philosophical, ethical and religious viewpoints.



If you have any questions about the course, contact Mr. J. Clarkson at jzc@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk or your Religious Studies teacher.

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CORE SUBJECTS



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT LEARNING

We will develop healthy, independent, and successful community members in Malbank's Personal Development Learning (PSHE and RSHE) department. Students will develop their understanding and skills in personal safety, healthy relationships, personal health, and sex education. They will also develop broader personal development skills to play a positive role in society and be fully prepared for modern Britain.

At Malbank School, everyone can enjoy school life in a safe and friendly environment. We encourage respect for others and their property and strive to ensure that everyone is valued equally and treated with respect, regardless of aptitude, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability or social status.

The Key Stage 4 PDL programme develops the issues explored during Key Stage 3 and introduces new topic areas. We regularly draw upon the expertise of Form Tutors, local and regional services, and our colleagues from Cheshire East and invite other specialist speakers to support us whenever appropriate.

Below is an example of our KS4 programme covering PSHE, Relationship and Sex Education, and Health Education.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
	Health and Wellbeing		Relationships		Living in the Wider World	
	Mental Health Mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding health, including during periods of transition or change.	Exploring Influence The influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media.	Healthy Relationships Relationships and sex expectations, myths, pleasure and challenges, including the impact of the media and pornography.	Addressing Extremism Communities, belonging and challenging extremism.	First Aid/Finance First Aid, fraud, online risk.	Online Identity & Risk Online identity, preparing myself for employment, cybercrime.
	Building for the Future Self-efficacy, stress management, and future opportunities.	Independence Responsible health choices and safety in independent contexts.	Communication in Relationships Personal values, assertive communication (including in relation to contraception and sexual health), relationship challenges and abuse.	Families Different families and parental responsibilities, pregnancy, marriage and forced marriage and changing relationships	LORIC Next steps in application processes, and skills for further education, employment and career progression.	



If you have any questions about the course, contact Mrs. V. Thorley at vct@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

OPTIONS CHOICES 2025



You must select one subject from each of the columns below, including a Humanities subject and three additional courses. You must also choose a backup subject for columns 2-4.



Your choices will be made on the SIMS Parent App. If you have any issues with this, please contact Mrs. N. Hemmings, our SIMS manager, at nrh@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk or 01270 611009.

HUMANITIES

- Geography
- History

1+ ADDITIONAL COURSE

- French
- German
- Spanish
- Health & Social Care
- Art
- Media Studies
- Engineering
- Retail Business
- Separate Sciences
- OCR Sport
- GCSE P.E.
- Dance

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

SPORTS STUDIES

1+ ADDITIONAL COURSE

- Business
- Travel and Tourism
- Health and Social Care
- Media Studies
- Music
- Art
- Religious Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Design & Technology
- Separate Sciences

SOCIAL SCIENCES

1+ ADDITIONAL COURSE

- Creative iMedia
- Computer Science
- Hospitality & Catering
- Design & Technology
- OCR Sport
- GCSE P.E.
- Health & Social Care
- Art
- Drama
- Media Studies
- Business
- Economics
- Child Development

COMPUTER STUDIES

SPORTS STUDIES

CHOICE 1

CHOICE 2

CHOICE 3

CHOICE 4

The table below illustrates how each option column will look in the SIMS app. Please take your time with your entry to ensure you have chosen correctly.

Humanities Option					Additional Course 1					Additional Course 2					Additional Course 3				
Code	Course Name	Entry	Level	Subject	Code	Course Name	Entry	Level	Subject	Code	Course Name	Entry	Level	Subject	Code	Course Name	Entry	Level	Subject
g9GCSFP	Geography	1	GCSE Full Course	Geography	FRNCSFP	French	1	GCSE Full Course	French	ARTCSFP	Art & Design	1	GCSE Full Course	Art & Design	AMICSFP	Art & Design	1	GCSE Full Course	Art & Design
h9GCSFP	History	1	GCSE Full Course	History	GERCSFP	German	1	GCSE Full Course	German	BTCSFP	Business	1	BTCC Tech Award Level 1/2	Business	BUSCSFP	Business	1	BTCC Tech Award Level 1/2	Business
					ENGCSFP	Engineering Dip	1	GCSE Full Course	Engineering Dip	DANCECSFP	Dance	1	BTCC Tech Award Level 1/2	Dance	CHSCSFP	Child Development	1	GCSE Full Course	Child Development
					FRNCSFP	French	1	GCSE Full Course	French	DTCSFP	Design Tech	1	GCSE Full Course	Design Tech	COMCSFP	Computer Studies	1	GCSE Full Course	Computer Studies
					H&SC	Health & Social Care	1	BTCC Tech Award Level 1/2	H & S	DRCSFP	Drama	1	GCSE Full Course	Drama	CSHCSFP	Health & Social Care	1	GCSE Full Course	Health & Social Care
					MCSFP	Media Studies	1	GCSE Full Course	Media St	ARTCSFP	Art	1	GCSE Full Course	Art	CLTCSFP	Child Development	1	GCSE Full Course	Child Development
					RBCSFP	Retail Business	1	BTCC Tech Award Level 1/2	Retail Business	MUSICCSFP	Music	1	GCSE Full Course	Music	DRCSFP	Drama	1	GCSE Full Course	Drama
					SSCSFP	Separate Sciences	1	GCSE Full Course	Science	DTCSFP	Design & Technology	1	GCSE Full Course	Design Tech	MSCSFP	Media Studies	1	GCSE Full Course	Media Studies
					OCRSP	OCR Sport	1	GCSE Full Course	Sports S	ECONCSFP	Economics	1	GCSE Full Course	Economics	COMPCSFP	Computer Science	1	GCSE Full Course	Computer Science
					PESCSFP	GCSE P.E.	1	GCSE Full Course	Sports S	PSYCSFP	Psychology	1	GCSE Full Course	Psychology	HOSPICSFP	Hospitality & Catering	1	GCSE Full Course	Hospitality & Catering
					DANCE	Dance	1	GCSE Full Course	Sports S	SOCICSFP	Sociology	1	GCSE Full Course	Sociology	HTCSFP	Health & Social Care	1	BTCC Tech Award Level 1/2	H & S
										TR&TCSFP	Travel & Tourism	1	BTCC Extended Certificate	Travel & Tourism	MSCSFP	Media Studies	1	GCSE Full Course	Media St
										SCSFP	Separate Sciences	1	GCSE Full Course	Science	SPCSFP	Sports S	1	GCSE Full Course	Sports S



HUMANITIES



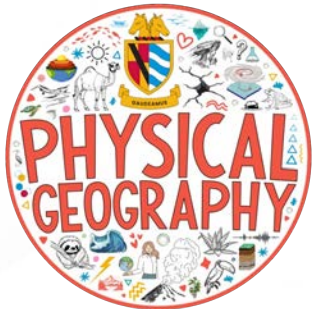
GEOGRAPHY

Studying geography allows you to travel the world via the classroom and learn about natural and social sciences. You will understand how Geography impacts everyday life and discover the world's key opportunities and challenges. You will also develop academic and life skills, from writing, teamwork and communication to analytical skills.

Much of the content is based on real-life case studies to enable students of all abilities to learn and develop. This exciting course is balanced between physical and human Geography. It allows you to investigate the link between the two themes and approach and examine the battles between the man-made and natural worlds.

Students who complete the course will have the skills and experience to progress onto A-level and beyond.

In the AQA Geography GCSE course, the subject content is split into two main areas:



Living with the Physical Environment:

- Rivers and Coasts
- Tectonic and Climatic Hazards (Volcanoes, Earthquakes, and Tropical Storms)
- The Living World (Ecosystems – focusing on Rainforests and Hot Deserts)



Challenges in the Human Environment:

- Urban Environments (e.g., issues faced by cities and potential solutions)
- The Changing Economic World (e.g., reasons for variations in quality of life globally and actions to improve less developed regions)
- Managing Resources - food, water, and energy.



HUMANITIES



GEOGRAPHY

Geographical skills are taught throughout the course (e.g., drawing and interpreting graphs, understanding maps, aerial photographs, satellite images, etc.). Pupils will learn to apply theory to real-life situations and make decisions based on real-world issues.

At the GCSE level, students must study case studies and examples from around the world, including the United Kingdom. Case studies are broader in context and require greater depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding. They will provide an excellent platform for studying geography at A-level.

How will I be assessed?

You will have three written exams. Papers 1 and 2 are 1 hour and 30 minutes long, contributing to 70% of your final mark. Paper 3 also lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes, accounting for the final 30% of your GCSE grade. This exam focuses on fieldwork and decision-making issues.

Please note that working outside the classroom is required for the course. Students will experience a one-day field trip to collect primary (firsthand) data, followed by in-class analysis and secondary research.



For more information, please contact Mrs. K. Batty at keb@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk or your geography teacher.



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Questions matter

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HUMANITIES



HISTORY

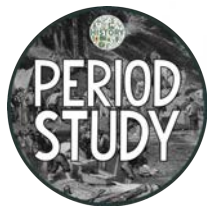
The History course at GCSE allows students to develop their understanding of a wide range of historical topics, including British and International events, that will capture their imagination and inspire further study.

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will take all their exams at the end of the course. GCSE History students will sit assessments in all of the following papers at the same time:



Paper 1: Thematic Study - 30%

Students will undertake a developmental study of Medicine Through Time. This study will examine the changes in medical practices over the centuries, from medieval times to advanced surgery. There is much to uncover here!



Paper 2: Period Study & British Depth Study - 40%

Students will undertake two studies. First, they will examine Elizabeth I's reign and identify the religious, political, and social challenges she faced. Second, they will explore the American West, empathising with the plight of the Plains Indians and recognising how the West of America developed through the Gold Rush, lawlessness, and land rushes!



Paper 3: Modern Depth Study - 30%

Pupils will study Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939. Students will focus on Postwar Germany, the rise of Hitler and life under the Nazis.



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This course is not only an incredibly interesting and inspirational subject but is also EBacc accredited. It's a valuable option for those wanting to study A-Level History and those interested in Law, Commerce, Journalism, Medicine, Management, and Finance careers. The underlying skills of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation are especially beneficial for further academic pursuits studies. Please note that working outside the classroom is a compulsory part of the course. It is essential that you engage in active revision under the direction of your classroom teacher.



For more information, please contact Mr. J. Condliffe at jsc@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk or your history teacher.

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



FRENCH

GCSE French

This course enables students to enhance their ability to communicate in French, both in speech and writing. They will explore the language within a range of thematic contexts that are pertinent to their age and interests, and will cultivate a deeper understanding of the culture of French-speaking communities and countries.



GCSE French equips you with a vital language skill that can enhance your job prospects, broaden your cultural understanding, improve your cognitive abilities, and open doors for travel and further education in French-speaking regions. This positions you as a more competitive candidate in the current global job market.

Reasons to take French at GCSE:

- **Employability:** French is widely spoken worldwide, particularly in Europe, making it a valuable asset on your CV for international companies or jobs requiring cross-cultural communication.
- **Travel opportunities:** Speaking French allows you to engage with locals and experience a richer cultural immersion when visiting French-speaking countries.
- **Cognitive Benefits:** Learning a language like French improves cognitive skills such as memory, problem-solving, and critical thinking.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Studying French exposes you to French culture, history, and perspectives, fostering a broader understanding of the world.



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Edexcel



Four Assessments - Weighted 25% each

Paper 1: Speaking in French

Use clear and understandable language for various audiences and purposes in formal and informal contexts tailored to their current and future interests.

Paper 2: Listening & Understanding in French

Students are assessed on their understanding of standard spoken French in both formal and informal contexts and in familiar and unfamiliar situations.

Paper 3: Reading & Understanding in French

Students are evaluated on their comprehension of written French across various genres.

Paper 4: Writing in French

Assessed on effective and accurate communication in French when writing for various purposes.

Contact Mr. G. Guichoux at
gxg@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



GERMAN

GCSE German

This qualification emphasises the significant role modern foreign languages play in enhancing communication, expanding viewpoints, introducing diverse cultures, and shaping students into rounded global citizens.



Learning a new language broadens one's horizons and creates new opportunities, but German truly shines among career options. A notable shortage of qualified linguists in the UK makes German-speaking students highly desirable for employers.

Studying a foreign language broadens your perspectives and enriches your understanding of your culture. It helps break down barriers, fosters appreciation for cultural diversity, and sharpens analytical and problem-solving abilities. Proficiency in foreign languages opens the door to art, music, dance, fashion, cuisine, film, philosophy, science, and much more more.

The course follows on naturally from the teaching and learning content covered in Key Stage 3. The GCSE course focuses on improving your vocabulary and grammatical knowledge and will give you the skills to take your language learning further in the future. A GCSE in Modern Foreign Languages forms part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) qualification.



Pearson
Edexcel



Contact Mr. G. Guichoux at
gxg@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

Four Assessments - Weighted 25% each

Paper 1: Speaking in German

Use clear and understandable language for various audiences and purposes in formal and informal contexts tailored to their current and future interests.

Paper 2: Listening & Understanding in German

Students are assessed on their understanding of standard spoken German in both formal and informal contexts and in familiar and unfamiliar situations.

Paper 3: Reading & Understanding in German

Students are evaluated on their comprehension of written German across various genres.

Paper 4: Writing in German

Assessed on effective and accurate communication in German when writing for various purposes.

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



SPANISH

GCSE Spanish

This qualification enhances culture, communication, and connection. By designing speaking tasks that prioritise communication and incorporating images for cultural context, we aim for students to recognise that words serve as a gateway to uncovering a deeper understanding.



The course has been designed as an engaging and inspiring study program that empowers students to effectively, independently, and creatively utilise the target language. This foundation will equip them well for progression to A Level or future employment opportunities.

Reasons to take Spanish at GCSE:

- **Global Reach:** Spanish is the second most spoken language worldwide, making it useful for communication in many countries.
- **Career Opportunities:** Proficiency in Spanish can be advantageous for careers in international business, tourism, healthcare, education, and translation.
- **Cultural Understanding:** Learning Spanish allows you to engage with Hispanic cultures and gain insight into different perspectives.
- **Transferable Skills:** Language learning develops critical thinking, listening, communication, and problem-solving skills applicable to various fields.



Pearson
Edexcel



Contact Mr. G. Guichoux at
gxg@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: Speaking in Spanish

Speaking: 25% of the qualification
Read Aloud, Role-Play and Picture Task

Paper 2: Listening & Understanding in Spanish

Written examination: 25% of the qualification
Listening and Dictation

Paper 3: Reading & Understanding in Spanish

Written examination: 25% of the qualification
Reading and Understanding & Translation into English

Paper 4: Writing in Spanish

Written examination: 25% of the qualification
Students are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively through writing in Spanish for different purposes and audiences.

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN



GCSE ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

Art, Craft & Design at GCSE level will require you to be enthusiastic about the subject, creative, hardworking and to have enjoyed your lessons at Key Stage 3. Successful Art & Design students are independent learners & have a passion for practical creative thinking.

The course is practical, vibrant and explorative. During the course you will build upon and develop further the practical skills developed during KS3 art lessons. You will be introduced to a broad curriculum where you can explore and develop technical processes involved with painting, drawing, print making, textiles, mixed media processes, photography and digital art.

You will also learn about artists, designers & craftspeople relevant to your themed project.

You will complete an in-depth coursework portfolio which is made up of a foundation project and a sustained personal project. Your portfolio will show evidence of your creative journey from your initial ideas and engagement with the theme to the final practical outcomes.



PAINTING



Drawing



Digital Art



MIXED MEDIA



Printmaking



In each project you will work to provide evidence of the four assessment objectives:

Assessment Objective 1: Research.

Research into the work of artists, designers and craftspeople is extremely important to make connections with your own work and to inspire new ideas.

Assessment Objective 2: Exploring Materials and Techniques.

You will use a wide range of fine art, design and craft-based processes to develop different art works related to your theme, using your own drawings and photographs.

Assessment Objective 3: Drawing and Recording.

You will explore observational drawing and take photographs as the initial source for your artwork and discuss your process through written annotation.

Assessment Objective 4: Personal Response.

You will create one or a series of final pieces of artwork which enables you to bring all your explored ideas together, demonstrating your strengths & refined skills as an artist.



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN



GCSE ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

The GCSE course is divided between 2 components:

Component 1: Coursework Portfolio (60% of overall grade)

This will be made up from a foundation project and the larger sustained project and is worked on for the whole of year 10 & the first term of Y11.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of overall grade).

In the January of year 11 you will complete an externally set exam unit; an exam paper which requires you to choose from 7 different themes/topics and produce a unit of work in a specific time period ending in 10hrs of supervised work to produce an outcome for the unit.

Digital Art



MIXED MEDIA



Printmaking

PAINTING



Our Aims

We aim to provide a variety of exciting opportunities that encourage all students to develop their intellectual, imaginative, and creative capabilities.

We provide support to enhance analytical, expressive experimental, & technical skills, promoting independence & reflective thinking. We encourage enthusiasm for art, craft, and design.

We have two recently refurbished teaching studios, textiles and printing facilities, as well as a computer and photography suite.

For further information about the course contact:

 Mrs. S. Jennings (Head of Art):
sej@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

 Mrs. C. Knight:
chk@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

BTEC in Business Enterprise

This qualification enables learners to develop their transferable skills, such as researching, planning, making decisions and judgements, and financial literacy using realistic vocational contexts, and personal skills, such as creativity and innovation, time management, reviewing, communication and planning through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.



We strive to provide students with ample opportunities to learn through hands-on experiences, broadening learners' understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

The course comprises three components: two internally assessed in school and one externally assessed. The three-block structure, explore, develop, and apply, has been developed to allow students to build on and embed their knowledge. This allows them to grow in confidence and then put what they have learned into practice.

Component 1 - Exploring Enterprises

Aim: examine different enterprises to develop knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs

Assessment: internally assessed assignments

Weighting: 30% of the total course

During Component 1, students will:

- examine the characteristics of enterprises
- explore how market research helps enterprises meet customer needs and understand competitor behaviour.
- investigate the factors that contribute to the success of an enterprise
- develop transferable skills, such as research and data analysis, to interpret their findings.

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Component 2 - Planning for & Pitching an Enterprise Activity

Aim: explore ideas, plan & pitch a micro-enterprise activity to an audience, and use feedback to review their business plan.

Assessment: internally assessed assignments

Weighting: 30% of the total course

During Component 2, students will:

- explore ideas and plan for a micro-enterprise activity
- pitch a micro-enterprise activity
- review their pitch for a micro-enterprise activity
- develop their planning and research, presentation, communication and self-reflection skills.

Component 3 - Promotion and Finance for Enterprise

Aim: explore the different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how enterprises identify and target their market

Assessment: externally assessed synoptic task.

Weighting: 40% of the total course

During Component 3, students will:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of promotion and financial records
- interpret and use promotional and financial information about a given enterprise.
- make connections between different factors influencing an enterprise
- advise and provide recommendations to a given enterprise on improving its performance.



Pearson
BTEC



For more info, please contact Mr. A. Brownsword at azb@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

OCR Cambridge National Child Development



The Cambridge National in Child Development will inspire and equip students with independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the childcare sector and more widely. It covers all aspects of child development, from conception to five years, as well as providing safe and nurturing environments.

The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

Research skills - for example, within the set assignment students will need to complete research for equipment to help make decisions on which to choose and explain why.

Communication skills - for example, within the NEA set assignment students will need to make recommendations to the nursery on how accidents can be prevented.

You will study key knowledge, understanding and skills that relate to working in the Child Development sector.

You will also have the opportunity to apply what you learn by completing practical activities. This qualification has three mandatory units:

Unit R057: Health and well-being for child development.

Unit R058: Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years

Unit R059: Understand the development of a child from one to five years

Assessment: one externally assessed unit that focuses on knowledge and understanding and two skills-based, non examined assessment units (NEA).

Progression: The knowledge and skills you develop will help you to progress onto further study in the care sector. This may be other vocational qualifications, such as the Level 2 or Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care; the T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Childcare or the Early Years Educator Apprenticeship. The qualification also helps to develop other transferable skills, such as research and communication skills that will be valuable in other life and work situations.



Contact Mrs. S. Gibson at slg@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk for any more information.

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



GCSE Computer Science (9-1) - J277

Our GCSE in Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

1

Component 1

50% WRITTEN EXAM

Component 01: Computer systems

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security, system software and ethical issues.



2

Component 2

50% WRITTEN EXAM

Component 02: Computational Thinking

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

Assessment Overview

Component	Mark	Duration	Weighting
Component 1	80	1 hour 30 mins	50%
Component 2	80	1 hour 30 mins	50%

Languages used during this course



Please get in touch with Mrs. E. Austin at eea@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

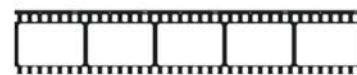
CREATIVE iMEDIA

OCR 



Cambridge National in Creative iMedia J834

This is a vocational course designed to equip learners with a range of creative media skills. With a lot of practical elements, the course has been purposely developed to be 'hands on'. The course has also been designed to challenge all learners through two separate independent project based assignments.



1

Unit R094: Visual identity

25% COURSEWORK

Visual Identity and Digital Graphics

Assessed through a portfolio of work marked in school out of 50 and then externally moderated. This unit focuses on developing a visual identity and creating an original graphic.



2

Optional Units R095-R099:

35% COURSEWORK

Optional Unit

Depending on the brief, learners will complete one of the following units.

- R095 - Characters and Comics
- R096 - Animation with Audio
- R097 - Interactive Digital Media
- R098 - Visual Imaging
- R099 - Digital Games

3

Unit R093: **40% WRITTEN EXAM**

Creative iMedia in the Media Industry

Creative iMedia in the Media Industry

The exam element of this course looks at Creative iMedia in the Media industry.

- Media industry and products
- Job roles in the media industry
- House style, layout and content
- Client requirements and audience
- Pre-production planning
- Distribution
- Legal issues that affect media

Unit	Duration	Weighting
R093	1 hour 30 mins	40%
R094	In class time	25%
Optional		35%



Please get in touch with Mrs. E. Austin at eea@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



DANCE

BTEC Tech Award in Dance Level 2

If you like to learn and perform dance repertoire & explore a wide variety of dance styles, this is the course for you.



What is a BTEC Tech Qualification?

This is a nationally recognised qualification, designed to provide students with various opportunities to specialise in Dance. This qualification is recognised in Progress 8 and equates to one GCSE grade. This qualification will provide students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to prepare them for Further Education in the Performing Arts.

The course consists of three compulsory Core Components

Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts Internally Assessed

This will give you a taster of 3 different dance styles by studying repertoire from 3 different dance practitioners. You will learn dance phrases from professional dance work. You will analyse the pieces to help you understand how choreographers express themes and ideas through movement. You will look at each choreographer's working practices to help you understand different methods of creating dance.

Component 2 - Developing Skills & Techniques Internally Assessed

During this unit you will learn longer sections of repertoire and get them ready for performance. You will set targets and review your progress regularly in order to improve your dance skills and techniques to discover who you are as a dancer. □

Component 3 - Performing to a Brief Externally Assessed

This will combine all the skills you have learnt over the course. You will use your knowledge of creating works from Component 1 to choreograph your own group piece in response to a brief set by the exam board. You will use the dance skills learnt in Component 2 to rehearse your piece fully for a professional feeling performance.

What will I need to do to pass the qualification?

Students will be expected to work practically, prepare and plan their ideas and material, and research, understand and explore the work of other artists. Written work is an integral part of the course. Students opting into this course should be prepared to participate in theatre performances /visits and be willing to participate in the extracurricular life within the Performing Arts at Malbank.



For more info, please contact Mrs. E. Gabbatiss at ecg@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

GCSE Design and Technology

GCSE Design and Technology equips students to engage confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. They will gain awareness and learn from the wider influences on Design & Technology, including historical, social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors. Students can work creatively and apply their technical and practical skills in designing and making.



This GCSE in Design and Technology enables students to explore fundamental technical, design, and manufacturing principles, including various design processes, material techniques, and equipment. They will also be able to examine specialist technical principles in greater depth. This subject not only leads directly to Product Design A-level but also supports progression to degree level in higher education. It is ideal for students considering BTECs in further education, including Engineering, Business Administration, and Furniture Design. In this branch of Design and Technology, students will learn to cut, join, and finish various materials to a high standard using hand, power, and bench tools. This includes working with wood, metal, plastics, electronic components, cards, and textiles. In addition to exploring traditional areas such as woodwork joints, students will investigate working with metals using heat and pressure, as well as plastics employing adhesives and moulding machinery, sublimation printing, and laser cutting.

Students will study the design process, which provides an excellent framework for guiding their coursework and helping them understand manufactured objects.

Recent successful outcomes that have contributed to achieving a high level of achievement at GCSE include personal items, storage systems, furniture, sports equipment, and audio equipment. Due to the wide range of projects, techniques, & materials, this is a popular subject that appeals to both creative & practical students.

Contact Mr. A. Reed at
axr@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

AQA
Questions matter



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



DRAMA

GCSE Drama

GCSE Drama is a dynamic, engaging, and vibrant course of study. The department works creatively, utilizing the performing arts to help students express themselves and develop skills beyond the arts. We provide a wealth of social, artistic, and practical sessions to enrich our students' life experiences and, consequently, their well-being.



The Edexcel GCSE in Drama is comprised of three units.

Unit 1: Devising

Internally assessed 40% of the GCSE

Overview of content:

- Devise an original performance using one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.

Unit 2: Text in Performance

Externally assessed by a visiting examiner, 20% of the GCSE

Overview of content:

- Two performances to be delivered to an examiner.
 - One group performance/design of a key extract from a play
 - A monologue or duologue from a key extract of a play.

Unit 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Written exam – Externally assessed. 40% of the GCSE

Overview of content:

- An evaluation of a live theatre performance you will see.
- Practical exploration and study of a complete text.
- Practical exploration and interpretation of a second complete text in light of a drama practitioner.



Pearson
Edexcel



Contact Mr. R. Lewis at
rjl@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



ECONOMICS

AQA GCSE Economics

The subject matter explores economic activity through the perspectives of consumers, producers, the government, and the dynamics of the global economy. As students engage with the course, they are presented with opportunities to address real-world issues. Students ought to consider and reflect on the moral, ethical, and sustainable challenges that emerge from the effects of economic activity.



Key Topics:

- **Interest in Current Events:** Do you like understanding what's happening globally?
- **Enjoy Math and Data:** Are you comfortable with numbers and graphs?
- **Curiosity About Business:** Are you interested in how businesses and markets operate?

Examinations:

Paper 1: How markets work

- This paper covers economic foundations, resource allocation, production, price determination costs, revenue, profit, competitive and concentrated markets, and market failure.

Paper 2: How the economy works

- This paper includes topics like the national economy, government objectives, economic management, international trade, the global economy, and the role of money and the financial market.

Possible Careers:

- Economist
- Financial Analyst
- Business Consultant
- Policy Advisor
- Entrepreneur



For more info, please contact Mr. A. Brownsword at azb@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



ENGINEERING DESIGN

Cambridge National in Engineering Design

Engineering design is a systematic approach employed to discover market opportunities and address challenges, ultimately leading to the creation of new products and systems. This qualification is intended for learners who are interested in exploring the processes involved in designing innovative engineered products and understanding the necessary design specifications.



Overview

Through research and hands-on activities, learners will grasp how market demands and opportunities shape client briefs, while also conveying design concepts through practical skills like drawing, computer modelling, and model-making.

Students will engage in two coursework units and one final exam, with each unit contributing a third of their overall grade. The coursework units encompass various engineering topics, offering students a diverse array of opportunities and experiences to equip them for a future in engineering and design.

Unit Breakdown

Principles of Engineering Design (*Examination Unit*)

- Students will explore various design strategies, particularly iterative design, and understand the stages involved. They'll learn to create design briefs and specifications, considering manufacturing factors. Key skills include engineering drawing techniques for effective design communication and evaluation methods, including modelling.

Communicating Design (*Coursework Unit 1*)

- students will enhance sketching and industrial drawing skills using standard conventions like dimensioning and line types. They will gain proficiency in CAD software to produce precise 2D and 3D designs.

Design, Evaluation and Modelling (*Coursework Unit 2*)

- In the design, evaluation, and modelling unit, students will learn to create and test models for prototypes. They'll improve virtual modelling skills with CAD software and develop physical prototypes using modeling materials.

Contact Mr. A. Reed at
axr@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

BTEC Health & Social Care

This topic revolves around the general population's challenges and highlights the significance society attributes to the health and social care sector. Students who select this subject are keen on understanding human behaviour and enhancing the lives of others. This course is particularly pertinent for those pursuing A-level studies or a career in health care, social care, early years education, and public service professions.



This course includes one mandatory exam unit and two essential coursework units. You must develop strong research skills, study independently, and meet deadlines to succeed. Each course part will contribute equally, making up one-third of your grade.

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development - Coursework

You will examine how individuals grow and develop, from infancy to old age, focusing on physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development. You'll investigate various factors that influence growth and development and have the chance to explore different available support networks.

Component 2: Health & Social Care Services and Values - Coursework

This unit involves exploring your local area's health and social care services and evaluating how they address the needs of individuals with complex care requirements. You will also study the core care values that guide effective professional practice, particularly in protecting service users from harm.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing - Examination

You will analyse health and well-being factors to understand what being 'healthy' means. This knowledge will help create a personalised health plan with SMART targets for improvement. You'll also identify potential barriers to adherence and develop strategies to manage these obstacles for successful outcomes.



Pearson
BTEC

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READ
ME



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Hospitality and Catering

Hospitality and catering is a dynamic, vibrant, and innovative sector that delivers vital jobs, growth, and investment in the heart of our local communities, which are important culturally, socially, and economically. The sector is a major contributor to the UK economy, employing 2.9 million people and generating £130 billion in economic activity while paying £38 billion in taxation to fund important local and national services.

The hospitality sector stands as the third largest private sector employer in the UK, outpacing financial services by double and exceeding the combined sizes of the automotive, pharmaceuticals, and aerospace industries. This sector encompasses a variety of businesses, including hotels, restaurants, coffee shops, pubs, bars, leisure parks, stadiums, nightclubs, contract catering services, food service providers, and entertainment attractions. Employment opportunities span a range of positions from receptionists, and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers, and food technologists for supermarket chains. Many of these roles require additional education and training, often through apprenticeships or higher education. Hospitality and Catering is a technical award that complements GCSEs and is evaluated through two units:

Unit 1: The Hospitality & Catering Industry

Written exam: 1 hour 20 minutes (40% of qualification)

- Hospitality and Catering Provision
- How hospitality and catering providers operate
- Health and safety in hospitality and catering
- Food safety in hospitality and catering

Unit 2: Hospitality & Catering in Action

Controlled assessment: approx. 12 hours (60%)

- The importance of nutrition
- Menu planning
- The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes
- Evaluating cooking skills



Contact Mr. A. Reed at
axr@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

MEDIA STUDIES

AQA GCSE Media Studies

GCSE Media studies is a subject that allows you to study a wide variety of media texts: the film industry, television, advertising, magazines, newspapers and the internet. This is a great subject if you are a lively, creative, and enthusiastic student with good English skills.



Coursework

Media coursework allows students to show creativity and flair, engaging in a pre-released brief that focuses on various media platforms, which students start in Year 11. Planning and preparation allow students to engage in the media world and use cameras & editing equipment to create their final pieces.

Examination

Students are tested on their knowledge during two Year 11 exams. They have studied various 'Close Study Projects' to answer several questions. The course allows students to study a range of media texts and understand theories and key concepts. The exam tests their research and the prescribed material from the AQA examination board.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Extracurricular opportunities include the Stop Motion Club, where students learn about creating and filming and take on extra responsibilities to film around the school. We meet weekly to plan and develop various projects. Students can also take part in multiple trips, including to London, Harry Potter Studios, and the theatre.

Due to the nature of the course, good literacy skills are essential!



Contact Mrs. J. Harding at jmh@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

MUSIC

GCSE Music

How will GCSE Music help me in the future?

In the future, creativity will be one of the most important and sought-after skills in the workplace. When business leaders worldwide were surveyed, they ranked creativity as the most crucial capability for their businesses to survive and thrive.



This indicates that studying creative subjects like music is increasingly significant and relevant to young people, offering you the chance to succeed, regardless of your ambitions. You will encounter numerous opportunities to develop and enhance your well-being both independently and as part of a larger community.

Engaging in the study of music opens up avenues for higher-order thinking by exploring concepts that transcend language. This is excellent brain training that benefits you in various aspects of life. You will cultivate a profound understanding of transferable skills and learn to apply them to different scenarios, enhancing your analytical and problem-solving abilities. By immersing yourself in music, you will acquire the skills necessary for success in your future endeavours.

Your practical skills in composing music and performing will be refined, and you will demonstrate creativity, reflection, and resilience, as well as develop confidence.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 - Performing (30%)

At least two pieces on your chosen instrument or voice lasting 4 minutes.

Component 2 - Composing (30%)

Two pieces, one linked to a brief from the exam board, and one free choice.

Component 3 - Listening and Appraising (40%)

Listening exam: eight questions, two on each topic:

- Musical forms & devices: Western classical music.
- Music for ensemble: including jazz, blues and musical theatre.
- Popular music rock, pop, metal, prog rock, Rn B, Bhangra.
- Film music.

What skills will I require?

- Be able to perform confidently on your chosen instrument or voice. Attending one-to-one instrumental lessons is strongly recommended and participation in school concerts is expected.
- An open mind to varied styles of music.
- Dedication, perseverance & resilience
- Independent learning skills and self-motivation



Contact Mr. S. Cope at
szc@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

 GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE Physical Education

Do you have a passion for Physical Education and wish to participate in an exciting course? Are you interested in exploring the benefits of both individual performance and teamwork, while also studying the human body and contemporary issues? If this resonates with you, then GCSE Physical Education is the ideal course for you.



Why study GCSE PE?

You will be challenged and inspired by a variety of sporting activities & theories:

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.
- Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport.
- Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas.
- Develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport.
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being.
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Introduction to physical education.
Written examination: 2 Hours. 60% of qualification
Learners will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions. The questions will be based on stimuli/sources.

Component 2: The active participant in physical education.

Non-exam assessment: 40% of qualification.
This component is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Learners will be assessed in three different activities in the role of performer in at least one individual and one team sport. Learners will be further assessed through a written analysis and evaluation of their personal performance in one of their chosen activities.

You will have the chance to delve into a diverse array of physiological and socio-cultural subjects:

- Health, training and exercise
- Exercise physiology
- Movement analysis
- Psychology of sport and physical activity
- Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport



Contact Mr. W. Smithson at
wws@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk
for more information.



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



OCR SPORTS STUDIES

OCR Sports Studies

The OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Sports Studies is tailored for students with a strong passion for sports. This course aims to deepen knowledge, understanding, and practical skills relevant to exercise, physical activity, sports, and health industries.



Who would this course suit?

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- Understanding contemporary issues in sports and how they impact different activities.
- Applying your skills as both a performer in two different sporting activities and as a leader in one sporting activity.
- How to be a sports leader by using your initiative to solve problems and making decisions when dealing with rapidly changing conditions and situations
- Understanding the relationship between sport and the media.
- How to evaluate and interpret the different ways in which the media represent sport.

How would this course support your future?

This course will help you develop independence and confidence in using skills relevant to exercise, physical activity, sports, and health. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- Completing research and working cohesively with others
- Planning training programmes, writing reports and delivering bespoke presentations
- Evaluating and making recommendations to help improve performance
- Leadership skills
- Healthy living and lifestyle skills.

This qualification will complement other learning that you're completing for GCSEs or vocational qualifications at Key Stage 4 & help to prepare you for further study.

How will you be assessed?

- **R184** - Contemporary sports issues (Year 11 exam)
- **R185** - Performance & leadership in sports activities (Practically assessed in two sports, one team and one individual. Also assessed in leading a 30 minute lesson on a sport of their choice)
- **R187** - Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities (Rock Climbing Assessment)

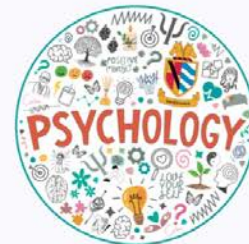


Contact Mr. W. Smithson at wws@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk for more information.

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

PSYCHOLOGY

GCSE Psychology



This is the subject for you if you want to develop:

- An understanding of why people behave the way they do
- An ability to think scientifically
- Knowledge of what psychologists do and how they support society
- A comprehension of the treatments & therapies used to help people

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Psychology is a science that dives deep into the workings of the human body and mind. This course covers key biological areas such as the brain, neurotransmitters, genetics, and synaptic transmission, helping you understand the science behind behaviours.

Be prepared for a strong scientific approach and a significant amount of maths, including data analysis and statistics.

Many students expect psychology to be purely about social or criminal behaviour, but in reality, it combines biology, research methods, and mathematical skills to explore what makes us tick. If you enjoy science (particularly biology) and maths, and have an interest in human behaviour, this is the subject for you!

What will I learn?

You will be looking at answers to the following topics:

- **Development** - How did you develop in terms of intelligence and morality?
- **Memory** - How does your memory work?
- **Psychological Problems** - How would psychological problems affect you?
- **The Brain and Neuropsychology** - How does your brain affect you?
- **Social Influence** - How do others affect you?
- **Criminal Psychology** - Why do people become criminals?
- **Sleep and Dreaming** - Why do you need to sleep and dream?
- **Research Methods** - How do you conduct psychological research?

How will I be assessed?

There are two exams in the summer of the second year, which include:-

- some multiple-choice questions,
- some short-answer questions and
- some essay-based questions up to 12 marks.

Please note, this is an exam only course; there is no coursework. Entry onto the course will require strong grades in maths and science at the end of Year 9.



Contact Mrs. S. Gibson at slg@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk for any more information.

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



RETAIL BUSINESS

Retail Business (Technical Award)

This course focuses on applied learning, i.e., acquiring & applying knowledge, skills, and understanding through purposeful tasks set in sector or subject contexts that resemble many actual work characteristics.



Retail Business Overview

There is a real need for qualifications in retail business and for educational providers to provide education and training for young people to enter this mammoth UK sector. The importance of the retail industry to the UK economy is difficult to overstate; in 2019, it generated £394 billion in retail sales, 5% of the UK's Gross Domestic Product. Over the past 10 years, UK retail businesses have consistently generated improved turnover figures.

The employment opportunities offered by the retail business sector are diverse and extensive. As the largest private sector employer, it currently supports nearly 3 million young people, who can aspire to various roles from the shop floor to the showroom, and from head office functions to the warehouse. The importance of equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to build careers in this lucrative and varied sector is immense.

Course Aims & Objectives

The course is designed to support students interested in learning about the vocational sector and the opportunities it offers for their careers or further study. It serves as a solid foundation for additional study.

This further study will allow pupils to develop a variety of specialist and general skills that will facilitate their employment progression.



For more info, please contact Mr. A. Brownsword at azb@Malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

GCSE PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GCSE Religious Studies

Students will be challenged with questions about beliefs, values, meaning, purpose, and truth, enabling them to develop attitudes toward religious issues. They will also learn how religion, philosophy, and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, research skills, and leadership skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.



What skills can you expect to develop?

- Problem-solving, analytical, and strategic thinking abilities
- Research skills coupled with critical judgment
- Proficiency in working with abstract and conceptual ideas
- Capability to empathise with different perspectives & negotiate conflict resolution
- Insight into the effects of conflicting ideologies
- A deep appreciation for human diversity, belief systems and spiritual experiences.

These skills are particularly useful for future careers in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration or the media. Many of these careers actively seek people with a philosophy and/or religious studies background as they can make ethical decisions.

What will you study?

You will have the chance to delve into a broad range of topics, exploring issues of morality and questions of meaning, lifestyle, & choices, all from philosophical & religious perspectives.


How will you be assessed?

Paper 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

Two from the following religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Christianity

Paper 2: Thematic studies Either

- Four themes of religious, philosophical, and ethical studies are discussed: relationships and families, religion and life, the existence of God and revelation, religion, peace and conflict, crime and punishment, and human rights and social justice. or
- Two religious, philosophical and ethical studies and two textual studies themes

 For more info, speak to your RS teacher.

AQA
Questions matter



+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

SEPARATE SCIENCES

Students have separate Biology, Chemistry, and Physics lessons with specialist teachers. Science concepts will be explored in depth, allowing students to engage with key ideas and scientific principles. Experiments will assist students in developing greater skills in manipulating equipment and recording data. They will discuss scientific problems, design research projects, and test models of scientific hypotheses.

This course is designed for students with proven scientific work skills who want to pursue a career or course that requires a solid science background and would like a head start in AS-level sciences.

3 SEPARATE GCSE'S

Biology



- Cell Biology
- Organisation
- Infection and Response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and Response
- Inheritance, Variation and Evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry



- Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
- Bonding, Structure, & Properties of Matter
- Quantitative Chemistry
- Chemical Changes
- Energy Changes
- The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change
- Organic Chemistry
- Chemical Analysis
- Chemistry of the Atmosphere
- Using Resources

Physics



- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and Electromagnetism
- Particle Model of Matter
- Atomic Structure
- *Space Physics

On completing the course, you will be awarded three GCSEs (one for each science). Employers and universities highly value science qualifications, which can lead to many career options, including:

- [Analytical chemist](#),
- [Animal technician](#),
- [Biomedical engineer](#),
- [Biomedical scientist](#),
- [Clinical psychologist](#),
- [Clinical research associate](#),
- [Clothing/textile technologist](#),
- [Colour technologist](#),
- [Community pharmacist](#),
- [Environmental health practitioner](#),
- [Food technologist](#),
- [Forensic scientist](#),
- [Hospital pharmacist](#),
- [Metallurgist](#),
- [Meteorologist](#),
- [Microbiologist](#),
- [Nanotechnologist](#),
- [Oceanographer](#),
- [Pharmacologist](#),
- [Plant breeder/geneticist](#),
- [Product development scientist](#),
- [Research scientist \(life sciences\)](#),
- [Science writer](#),
- [Scientific laboratory technician](#),
- [Teaching laboratory technician](#),
- [Toxicologist](#),
- [Water quality scientist](#)



If you have any questions, please contact Miss. H. Jones at hyj@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

SOCIOLOGY

GCSE Sociology

Sociologists investigate why society functions as it does, exploring how our behaviour & opportunities can be influenced by social class, age, gender, and race. Studying sociology will enhance your understanding of how individuals integrate into broader social groups and will inspire you to question previously accepted beliefs about society.



Sociology involves analysing groups of people by examining their similarities and differences. It studies individuals concerning culture, gender, race, disability, ethnicity, and age.

Sociologists conduct experiments and observations to understand why groups of people behave the way they do. They then apply this understanding to develop practical solutions that help society function smoothly. Sociology provides many key skills, including logical thinking, planning, research, and negotiation, that are applicable in various career contexts.

The nature of sociology makes this subject an ideal choice for various careers and higher education courses. For example, many sociologists pursue careers in journalism, recruitment, management, government, human resources, business, sales, social work, community projects, charity work, civil service, prison work, police work, and teaching, wherever people interact.

GCSE Sociology is a two-year course assessed entirely through exams, with no coursework required. It provides a comprehensive introduction to the subject and an excellent foundation for A-level studies in Sociology. We offer A-level Sociology, allowing you to continue your studies with us.

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES

SOCIOLOGY

GCSE Sociology

Entry Requirements

A good grasp of English is useful to meet the demands of the 12-mark extended responses. Students will be required to use specialist vocabulary and understand sociological concepts and terminology to explain explanations of behaviour.

Course Content

Following the AQA specification:

Paper 1: The Sociology of Families & Education

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Sociological theory and methodology

Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime, Deviance & Social Stratification

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Sociological theory and methodology



Contact Mrs. S. Gibson at slg@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk for any more information.

+ ADDITIONAL COURSES



TRAVEL AND
TOURISM

BTEC in Travel and Tourism

The travel and tourism sector is the UK's third-largest employer, accounting for 9.5% of total employment. It is one of the fastest-growing employment sectors in the UK, providing jobs for 3.5 million people, with tourism contributing £121 billion to the UK economy.



In 2020, travel and tourism accounted for 10.2% of the world's GDP, and the sector currently supports 292 million jobs globally, one in ten jobs worldwide. The outlook for the travel and tourism sector in 2024 remains strong, and it will continue to play a pivotal role in wealth and employment creation in the global economy.

How will the course support your future?

This Award enables learners to acquire sector-specific knowledge and skills within a practical learning environment. Students will gain:

- An understanding of the essential knowledge required for effectively applying skills, processes, and attitudes in the industry, including the attractiveness of various tourist destinations to different customer types and the factors affecting tourism.
- Skills such as researching various travel organisations, identifying the characteristics of tourist destinations, and recognising the products and services tailored to meet diverse customer needs.
- Attitudes that are considered to be very important in the travel and tourism sector, including how to develop tourism while respecting the environment and local communities.



Pearson
BTEC

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ME





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CHOICE
YOUR
FUTURE**