

Key Stage 4
Preferences Booklet
2018 – 2021



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Foreword

Dear Student

You are about to make a very important decision in your life by choosing your options for your GCSE studies. This process requires you to think carefully about your future.

You need to choose a good balance of subjects. You will of course continue to study the core subjects - English, Maths and Science, but where you are allowed to make a choice, try to make sure you choose sensibly, ensuring you study a broad range of subjects to help you develop a variety of skills. This will enable you to keep your future choices open.

Sydenham School has committed itself to offering a wide range of subjects, at a time when many other schools have narrowed their offer considerably. We are particularly proud of our extensive Performing and Visual Arts, Design Technology and Social Sciences offer, as well as the E Bacc, STEM, Humanities and Languages subjects.

We encourage all students to ensure the qualifications they choose to study incorporate a mix of these disciplines.

Remember that we try to give all of you as many first choice subjects as we can, but that this may not always be possible. You should be willing to be flexible and to have thought about your reserve subjects, so that if we do have to discuss any changes with you, you still get a selection of courses that you want.

Your learning during the GCSE or BTEC courses - and your results - will stay with you throughout your life. The grades you achieve at the end of Year 11 will be your keys to success when you are applying for Post 16 courses at Sixth Form. You will need at least eight GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and Maths. Often you will need to achieve at least a Grade 6 in the subjects that you wish to study in the Sixth Form, so everything you do during Years 9, 10 and 11 really does count towards your future.

As you work towards the end of this year, remember your grades give your teachers an important indication of your progress - it is essential that you do your best at every stage, so continue your commitment to your learning. We want you to achieve the best results that you can.

I hope you find this booklet helpful. I would like to wish you the very best of luck and look forward to working with you to make the most of every opportunity offered to you at Sydenham School.

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher

Key Stage 4 Overview

The compulsory curriculum

All students will take the following to GCSE level:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science

We believe it is also important for all our students to become responsible citizens, to understand and explore their own moral and spiritual values as well as those of others, to develop safe and healthy lifestyles and to expand their skills in using technology. Students should also have opportunities to explore the world of work, which includes a two-week compulsory work experience and opportunities to develop enterprise skills.

In addition, all students will study several courses that are not examined.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

We believe that it is important for all our students to study a range of academically rigorous qualifications.

The English Baccalaureate is a collection of such qualifications that are often required or preferred for entry to most university degree courses and A-Level courses, including:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science and Computer Science
- Modern Foreign Languages (French, Spanish, German) or Ancient Languages (Latin)
- Humanities (History, Geography)

Your daughter is part of the first year group in which the government expects 90% of students in UK schools to study one subject from each of the above groups. All students already take English, Mathematics and Science, and most will need to choose both a Language and a Humanities subject as well.

All students will have the opportunity to choose at least two qualifications outside of the English Baccalaureate, including Performing and Visual Arts (Fine Art, Dance, Drama, Music), the Technology subjects (Product Design, Food & Nutrition and Textiles), the Social Sciences (Sociology, Child Development, Health & Social Care, Citizenship Studies, Media Studies and Business Studies) and Physical Education/ Sport. We encourage all students to do so, in order to ensure coverage of a broad range of skills.

Changes to Vocational Qualifications

As well as the changes outlined above for GCSEs, vocational qualifications, such as BTECs and Cambridge Nationals, are being made more rigorous. These qualifications will have an increased amount of external assessment, and most will now have at least 40% of the qualification based on a written examination. Some of these qualifications have also been discontinued by the Government, such as the BTEC in Applied Sciences.

Progressing to Key Stage 5

The SFH6 Sixth Form (the joint sixth form of Sydenham and Forest Hill schools) provides an extremely wide range of courses at Key Stage 5 at all levels and supports students to progress on to a range of University courses, apprenticeships and employment.

All students are supported during their time at SFH6 through the tutorial programme, which includes the development of study skills, academic literacy, UCAS preparation, Careers guidance and discussions of the rights and responsibilities of young adults.

Whatever the combination of subjects chosen by students we are confident that they all provide an excellent range of core learning experiences.

Qualifications

Qualifications can be achieved at five different levels

Level 1/2 qualifications

This is the equivalent of GCSE grades 1 – 3 (Level 1) or GCSE grades 4 - 9 (Level 2). It can also be a BTEC, Cambridge National or other Level 1/2 Vocational course.

These qualifications are usually completed before the age of 16 during Key Stage 4.

At SFH6, we offer a small selection of Level 2 courses, including GCSE resits in Maths and English, for a limited number of students.

Level 3 qualifications

This is the equivalent of an AS or A-Level examination. It can also be a BTEC Level 3 award, a Cambridge Technical Level 3, or another Level 3 Vocational course.

At SFH6, we typically offer over 30 different Level 3 courses, including A-Level and vocational equivalents. We look closely at the Level 2 (GCSE) results of each student to determine whether to offer a place on our programme.

Level 4/5 qualifications

Qualifications at Level 4 and 5 are generally studied at university or other training providers, including Foundation degrees, Masters Degrees and other undergraduate and postgraduate study.

You apply to study for these qualifications via UCAS, where universities will look closely at the subjects you have studied and your results at Level 3 (A-Level) before deciding whether to accept you.

Changes to A-Levels

The Government has recently made changes to A-Level courses, with all A-Level qualifications eventually changing to a linear model (just like at GCSE level). This means that students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of each subject at the end of two years.

Details for entry requirements for A-Level and vocational qualifications at SFH6 can be found on the school website, under 6th Form.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I get my first preferences?

It is hoped that most students will get their first preferences, but this is not always possible. This might be because too few students have chosen a subject. On the other hand, it could be because too many students have chosen a subject and we cannot staff any more classes.

You should therefore make sure that your reserve preferences are definitely subjects that you want to study, and that you remain open-minded about what subjects you will be studying over the next 3 years.

How many subjects will I study?

Depending on whether you are entered for Combined or Triple Science, you will take 9 or 10 qualifications.

Can I change my mind during Key Stage 4?

There is a short window during September of Year 9 where students may request to change one of their subjects, **if** they can demonstrate a **good reason** for doing so. However, most students will be expected to complete the full qualification in each of the 9 or 10 GCSEs that they are studying, and we will only consider further changes in exceptional circumstances.

Can I choose any language?

Most students should select the language they have been studying in Years 7 and 8, but students can pick more than one language should they wish to do so.

Can I study more than 10 qualifications?

Some students may get the opportunity to sit more than 10 qualifications, for instance if they are entered for a GCSE in a Community Language, such as Polish. However, we no longer offer the opportunity for students to take additional GCSEs through Twilight lessons. Instead, we encourage students to use this time to engage with our extensive enrichment programme, such as applying for a place on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, Sport and Fitness, the Performing Arts, Coding and STEAM clubs, Debate Mate and much much more.

When will I know if I am going to Study Triple Science?

All students will continue to study combined science and will be assessed for their suitability for Triple Science at the end of Year 9.

Key Dates

Dates	Events
Tuesday 20 th February	Y8 Preferences Evening & Subject Marketplace – 5pm to 7pm
Friday 6 th March Return your forms	Deadline for forms to be returned to Reception
March - April	Individual meetings with parents and/or students, where first or reserve choices cannot be given.
June	Confirmation of final options to be sent out to students via tutors
July	You will be issued with your final timetable for Year 9 based on your options.

Students will also be supported in making their preferences through the careers programme in tutor time, assemblies and through their PSE lessons. We also have a dedicated Careers and Enterprise Co-ordinator who is able to meet with students as needed.

Advice on choosing your preferences

Guidance for Students and Parents

- (1) You are about to be asked to make some important decisions on choosing your preferences. Up until now, you would have studied the same subjects as other students in Year 8. This will change in Years 9, 10 and 11. Why, you may ask? Firstly, **TIME**; there is not enough time to study all the subjects you have studied so far in enough depth for you to take examinations in them, so you will now have to choose some of the subjects you want to study over the next three years.
- (2) Secondly, **TALENTS**. Everyone is different; we all have strengths and areas for development in subjects. Consider choosing to study the subjects in which you are more interested or talented, as well as those, which you may need for a future career path.
- (3) Thirdly, **PREFERENCE**. Everyone has likes and dislikes and these become more obvious as you get older, and so it will help you become more successful in the subjects you like best.

Some questions you may have

I am certain about what I want to do, but I am not certain which subjects I need?

Ask your teachers and the Careers & Enterprise Coordinator for help. For some occupations and some college courses, certain subjects are important. Go to the Careers Resource Area in the Library or to Ms Taylor to find out which subjects are important in relation to your career choice. If you are thinking about a specific career or studying a particular subject at university, make sure, you check out what are the essential qualifications.

I am not certain what I want to do after I leave school?

Choose subjects that will give you flexibility later, as you develop your ideas. You will be able to make further choices at the end of Year 11.

I like Botany but don't like the teacher?

You may dislike or like a particular teacher, who teaches you now. That is no reason to choose or give up a subject. You may or may not have that teacher next year. Consider your ability in the subject first.

My friend is taking Crochet; I don't want to but I want to be with my friend?

Everyone is different; your friend will like subjects you don't and vice versa. You are not competing with your friend nor do you have to do everything together. Your choices and preferences are much more important to you. Would your friend drop a subject for you?

I don't know anything about some of the new subjects on offer?

Information will be available from appropriate Curriculum Leaders and subject teachers. Also, if you wish to study further at a College or University, your course may require a particular subject or subjects. Certain courses may need specific subjects. Please ensure you ask your subject teachers, PSE teacher or Ms Belger, Head of Key Stage 5 in the Sixth Form for help.

Remember you are choosing subjects, which you need, or which will help you in the future. **MAKE SURE** you find out all the facts before you make your decision.

GCSE English Language

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

You will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. You will explore and analyse writers' views on a wide variety of topics and be able to explain clearly which methods the writers use to construct their texts. You will also write creatively, producing descriptive pieces, telling stories, arguing a point of view, and persuading the reader. You will have the opportunity to discuss ideas in pairs and small groups as well as giving presentations.

Three Reasons to study English Language:

- You will explore a wide range of ideas covering writers from different time periods and backgrounds
- You will learn to express yourself fluently and articulately in speech and writing
- You will use your imagination when reading and writing texts

How will this course be examined or assessed?

- Two exams
- Each exam has a reading section and a writing section
- There is no coursework

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

- Both exams are compulsory
- You will also complete a speaking and listening assessment for which you will receive a separate grade – this will not count towards your overall English grade

Progression from this examination:

- A-levels in English Literature and other essay-based subjects such as History and Sociology

Careers Information:

- Students of English go on to a wide variety of exciting careers including copywriting, editing, publishing, teaching, journalism, film and TV, law, social media, marketing and public relations

Further Information:

- www.aqa.org.uk/english
- Please contact Ms Bornstein in the English office (h.bornstein@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) or any other English teacher

GCSE English Literature

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

You will read, discuss and analyse a wide variety of brilliant fiction including poetry, plays and drama texts. You will study 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare, 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley and a selection of poetry.

Three Reasons to study English Literature:

- You will explore works by some of the greatest writers of all time
- You will deconstruct how texts are put together, analysing the writer's methods
- You will learn to support your responses with evidence to make your arguments compelling.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

- Two exams
- Both exams are closed book.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

- Both exams are compulsory
- There is no coursework.

Progression from this examination:

- A-levels in English Literature and other essay-based subjects such as History and Sociology.

Careers Information:

- Students of English go on to a wide variety of exciting careers including copywriting, editing, publishing, teaching, journalism, film and TV, law, social media, marketing and public relations.

Further Information:

- www.aqa.org.uk/english
- Please contact Ms Bornstein in the English office (h.bornstein@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) or any other English teacher

GCSE Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

You will build on the knowledge and skills you have developed already in Key Stage 3, but you will use these increasingly interesting and complex scenarios. You will learn how to apply your mathematical skills to solve problems in real life (like money, speed) but also abstract mathematical situations (such as the geometry of Circle Theorems). New topics that you have not studied before include trigonometry, exponential growth and surds as well as many more ideas to challenge your thinking.

Three Reasons to study Mathematics:

- **Maths pays:** Several studies have proven that mathematics conferred a clear advantage in the job market. The higher your level of qualification, and the better your grade, then the higher your income later in life. A shortage of highly numerate candidates in the jobs market means employers pay a premium for the problem solving and number crunching skills of A-level mathematicians.
- **Maths is beautiful:** Quite apart from the practical applications of the subject, maths is beautiful in itself. For mathematicians the beauty is not in the shapes or symbols, but is in the patterns and relationships, in the elegance of connections between ideas.
- **Maths is creative:** Mathematicians need to think creatively to see connections and solve problems; for many the ultimate challenges and the excitement comes from overcoming a difficult problem to reach that 'Eureka' moment. The flash of insight that leads to realisation and understanding is a natural buzz. Moreover, mathematicians are always finding imaginative ways to apply mathematics to real world problems whether it be in science, technology, economics, psychology, sociology...

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Purely by examination.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

Yes, the whole course is compulsory

Progression from this examination:

A level and other Level 3 courses in Mathematics, Sciences, Psychology, Economics

Careers Information:

Statisticians and Mathematicians

Financial services

Engineering and Architecture

Teaching

Medicine and Forensics

Cryptology

Computing

Science...

Further Information:

Please contact Mr Freakes (m.freakes@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) for further information

GCSE Combined Science

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

During Year 9 all students will study the combined science course.

Combined science includes content from all 3 sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In Biology, students have the opportunity to carry out microscopy, study how a range of diseases affects human health, and learn about how species change over time and how we influence our environment. In Chemistry, you will study the world of particles and how they influences everything around us; you will learn the fundamentals of making brand new materials and technology and how to evaluate the use of materials and the impact on our environment. In Physics you will learn about the fundamental forces that make everything work around you; you will look at the beneficial uses and dangers of radiation and discover how circuits found in all electrical gadgets work.

Three Reasons to study Combines Science:

- Science opens doors to a huge number of careers, some of which you will not know about, for instance criminal law or sound engineering. Other careers haven't even been invented yet – but Science will be at the forefront.
- If you like to understand why things happen, and how things work.
- Everything around you from the phone in your pocket, the bus you take to school to the clothes you wear relate to Science.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Students will receive two GCSEs each encompassing all 3 sciences.

Combined science is assessed in 6 X 70 minute exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Each exam is designed to assess the students ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Scientific ideas; application of this knowledge; and interpret, evaluate and draw conclusions from experimental procedures.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

All students are expected to complete a range of core practicals. These will not be assessed formally and do not count towards to the final grade, however students who complete all practical work will be accredited with a practical component grade. The work covered in the practicals will also be assessed in the exams.

Progression from this examination:

If you achieve a grade 6 in Science and Maths, you will be able to progress on to A level Biology, Chemistry or Physics. A grade 5 will allow you to study BTEC Applied Science.

Careers Information:

Science GCSE's will allow you to access for careers in a wide range of professions including Nutrition, Engineering, Midwifery, Nursing, Scientific Research, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Forensics, Patent law, Mathematics and Computing.

Further Information:

Please contact Ms Vickers (a.vickers@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) or Mr Ryan (b.ryan@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) for further information.

GCSE Triple Science

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

Students that meet criteria will have the option to take Triple Science from Year 10.

Triple Science students will complete 3 individual GCSEs in the different sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In Biology students have the opportunity to carry out microscopy, study how a range of diseases affect human health, learn about how species change over time and how we influence our environment. In triple Biology you will also study the intricacies of the human brain and eye, as well as the development of genetic mutations on the human body. In Chemistry, you will study the amazing world of particles and how they influence everything around us, you will learn the fundamentals of making brand new materials and technology and how to evaluate the use of materials and the impact on our environment. In triple Chemistry, you will also learn about using Dynamic Equilibrium to develop products, as well as the science and applications of hydrocarbons as polymers. In Physics you will learn about the fundamental forces that make everything work around you; you will look at the beneficial uses and dangers of radiation and discover how circuits found in all electrical gadgets work. In triple Physics you will also study the world beyond earth in Astronomy as well as the uses and dangers of static electricity.

Three Reasons to study Triple Science:

- Science opens doors to a huge number of careers, some of which you will not know about, for instance criminal law or sound engineering. Other careers haven't even been invented yet – but Science will be at the forefront.
- If you like to understand why things happen, and how things work.
- Everything around you from the phone in your pocket, the bus you take to school to the clothes you wear relate to Science.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Students will receive three GCSEs, one for each Science. Each science is assessed by examination.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

All students will complete a range of core practicals. These are not assessed formally; however, students will be accredited with a practical component grade.

Progression from this examination:

If you achieve a grade 6 in Biology and Maths, you will be able to progress on to A level Biology.

If you achieve a grade 6 in Chemistry and Maths, you will be able to progress to A level Chemistry.

If you achieve a grade 7 in Physics and Maths, you will be able to progress to A level Physics.

A grade 5 will allow you to study BTEC Applied Science.

Careers Information:

Science GCSE's will enable you to access careers in a wide range of professions including: Nutrition, Engineering, Midwifery, Nursing, Scientific research, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Forensics, Patent law, Mathematics and Computing.

Further Information:

Please contact Ms Vickers (a.vickers@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) or Mr Ryan (b.ryan@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) for further information.

GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Examination Board: Eduqas

What will I study?

Philosophical and ethical issues on relationships, life and death, human rights and good and evil will make up 50% of the course. Christian and Muslim beliefs and practices will make up the other 50% of the course.

Three Reasons to study Religion, Philosophy and Ethics:

- Teaches you how to debate and discuss controversial issues
- Teaches you the skills you need to write evaluative academic essays.
- Opens your mind to philosophical and ethical thinking.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

The course is 100% exam. There are two exams each lasting two hours.

Progression from this examination:

This will be an excellent GCSE to help you with any of the Arts subjects as it teaches you how to construct an academic argument, and how sources of authority can be interpreted differently to reach a range of conclusions. Therefore A levels such as Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics, and any Humanities or English course would benefit from a background in RE at GCSE.

Careers Information:

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics courses are highly regarded by universities. They will allow you to access a wide variety of different career paths. For example, your experience analysing ethical issues will help you to get jobs in the **NHS**, **education** and the **private sector**. Similarly, your ability to construct a philosophical argument will be helpful if you are interested in any writing based careers, such as **journalism**. Having an in depth knowledge of religious beliefs and practices will also be invaluable if you wish to work in the **charity sector**, **police force**, or within **government** as it will provide you with a strong insight into the cultural values that are shared by different members of British society.

Further Information:

Please contact Ms Syers (e.syers@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) for further information.

<http://eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/gcse/index.html>

www.bbc.co.uk/religion

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/sections/big-questions>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/sections/festivals-and-worship>

GCSE Art and Design

Examination Board: OCR - Fine Art endorsement

What will I study?

GCSE Art and Design is a practical course, full of challenging activities to develop your art skills. You will get creative with a range of materials and techniques including **drawing, printing, ceramics, painting, sculpture, and collage**. The course will help you to develop high levels of technical skill for visual expression.

The digital arts are embedded across the two years and you will study **photography, animation and Photoshop**. You will work with your art teacher to develop your own **work and ideas** leading towards a final piece.

You will gain a broad knowledge of art history and develop a contextual understanding of artists work; including trips to London galleries and museums. **A trip abroad** is usually offered during the three-year course; previous destinations include **Barcelona, Berlin and New York**.

Three Reasons to study Art and Design:

- **Improve your art skills and make incredible art works.**
- **Be inspired by artists and improve your art history knowledge.**
- **Enrich your life with creative thinking and making skills to understand, express and challenge the world around you.**

How will this course be examined or assessed?

The GCSE course is made up of: **Unit 1: Coursework = 60%, Unit 2: Exam = 40%**

The majority of coursework marks comes from developmental work, including preparation towards a final piece. The final assessment is comprised of selected examples of work, presented on portfolio boards. You are given the exam theme before the exam so you can develop ideas in lesson with your teacher, before completing the outcome.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

You must complete unit 1 and unit 2 and sit a practical exam.

Progression from this examination:

This course will equip you for Further Education in many creative arts subjects. The Faculty offers A-level **Art and Art History** courses. Most students progress to Art School to study various degree courses via a one year Foundation course. Previous students have gone on to study painting, theatre design, fashion design, photography, drawing, book illustration and animation at degree level.

Careers Information:

The Creative industry is the biggest employer in the country. Possible career paths include **Graphic Designer, Computer Game Programmer, Fashion Designer, Illustrator, Animator, Architect, Theatre Set Designer, Photographer or Artist**.

Further Information:

You will need to buy a portfolio at the start of each unit. These will be supplied through your teacher. You would also benefit from having a small supply of art materials at home such as watercolours, pencil crayons, craft knife, paint brushes, glue etc.

Please contact Ms Henderson, Curriculum Leader (Visual Arts) or your Art teacher

C.Henderson@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Business

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

In Business, you will learn about the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in setting up and running a small business. You will explore what it is like to be an entrepreneur, how new business ideas come about, and how the ideas are developed into products that are bought and used by customers. You will understand how to promote and price products to customers, as well as knowing where to locate a business and how to be competitive.

Once you have learnt the basics, you will be able to learn to grow a business, to ensuring right marketing and financial decisions are made. You will discover the importance of growing and inspiring a good team of employees and how to secure business success!

Three Reasons to study Business:

- **Everything in life revolves around business** – understand the world and society around you from “why is that product designed and marketed?” and “how do businesses operate?” to “what would I need to know to set up my own business?” and “why does the government tax us?”
- **Gain a unique insight into the world of work** – through studying Business you will gain valuable knowledge of how businesses operate and about their key elements and essential business functions. It is excellent preparation for many careers and apprenticeships
- **Business is a theoretical and a practical course** – you will gain a valuable as well as learning the skills, which will enable you to apply the knowledge to real life situations. The skills gained will make you stand out when applying to sixth forms and colleges

How will this course be examined or assessed?

2 written examinations at the end of Year 11.

Theme 1 – Investigating small businesses

Theme 2 – Building a business

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

Both examinations, as each are worth 50% of your qualification.

Progression from this examination:

When you successfully complete this course, you can progress to a Level 3 course in Business or Economics in the 6th form, and then onto university or an apprenticeship.

Careers Information:

Business opens up a huge range of career possibilities from having your own business to careers in marketing, finance, economics, banking, accounting, human resources, customer services and much more.

Further Information:

Please contact Ms. Maduka – Curriculum Leader Human Sciences (N.Maduka@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)

Child Development Cambridge National Level 1/2

Examination Board: OCR

What will I study?

Child Development will give you all of the essential knowledge and understanding for child development. The course covers a variety of topics from reproduction and parental responsibility to antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, and conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety. You will gain practical knowledge of the equipment needed to care for babies and young children, as well knowledge about their dietary needs. You will understand the developmental stages of children, from babies through to the age of five. You will study the different milestones children reach, observe, and undertake research into development. You will gain an understanding of the development norms and the benefits of play in child development.

Three Reasons to study Child Development:

- **Excellent progression-** If you are interested in a career which involves working with children, e.g. nursery nursing education, primary school teaching, children's nursing, social work or many others.
- **Interest in children and factors that influence development-** If you are interested in finding out more about the way children develop and the different factors that influence their development.
- **Promoting further understanding-** To promote an understanding of the overall needs of babies and young children from conception to the age of five.

How will this course be assessed?

The course is assessed through a mixture of examination and coursework.

Health and well-being for child development - Examination

Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years – Coursework

Understand the development of a child from birth to five years– Coursework

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

All elements of the course are mandatory.

Progression from this examination:

A course in a sixth form or FE college including A-Levels in Social Science subjects and Health and Social Care; BTEC Firsts and Nationals in Health and Social Care and Applied Science.

Careers Information:

Training including modern apprenticeships and level 3 NVQs in the Early Years and Social Care sectors.

Employment in the Early Years and Health and Social Care sector.

Further Information:

Please contact Ms Maduka – Curriculum Leader Human Sciences in room S.2.014 or email

N.Maduka@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Citizenship

Examination Board: OCR

What will I study?

In Citizenship we strive to educate students to have a grasp of the political, legal and economic functions of the society. It has the power to motivate and educate young people into becoming thoughtful, active citizens who engage with, and participate in, public life.

Three Reasons to study Citizenship:

- To know and understand the relationship between the state and citizens, the rights, responsibilities and duties of citizens living and working in the UK and how people participate in democracy.
- To know and understand the role of the law in society, how laws are shaped and enforced and how the justice system works in England and Wales.
- To use and apply citizenship knowledge and understanding to contribute to debates, show understanding of different viewpoints, make persuasive and reasoned arguments, and justify and substantiate their conclusions.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

3 written exams

Progression from this examination:

- Government and Politics
- Law
- Sociology
- Geography
- Philosophy and Ethics
- History

Careers Information:

Citizenship Studies would be most useful if you're interested in a career involving government (local and national); charities (especially those concerned with human rights, international development or environmental issues); law; advisory bodies; the police; the Crown Prosecution Service; community groups; roles within the European Union; teaching; or journalism.

Further Information:

Please contact Mrs. H. Virgo-Furrs and Miss F. Nkrumah: h.virgo-furrs@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk;
f.nkumrah@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Computer Science

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

This course will introduce you to the core principles of Computer Science and will develop your skills in problem solving and computational thinking. You will decompose and model aspects of real-world situations, and as a result be able to build and test a fully programmed solution to the problem. You will also develop your knowledge and understanding of how technology can be used proactively to help with current issues that impact on modern society, preparing you for your next steps in today's global world.

Three Reasons to study Computer Science:

- **Excellent prospects** – Computer Scientists are heavily in demand, both in the UK and beyond, which often means higher starting salaries, a greater chance of professional employment for recent graduates and, because so many industries rely on computers, a wide variety of job types and industries to choose from
- **Demonstrate your ability to problem solve** – As a Computer Scientist, you will develop your capabilities in solving deep, multidimensional problems requiring imagination, creativity and focus, a key skill for many career paths, and particularly for those with an interest in mathematics, engineering, science and medicine
- **Take control** – Computer Scientists have the power to control their destiny in ways that few other career paths allow, because the industry is constantly changing and being transformed by highly motivated and skilled people and there are always opportunities for those who are entrepreneurial, as well as technical

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Unit 1	Principles of Computer Science	1 hr 40 mins Written Exam
Unit 2	Application of Computational Thinking	2 hours Written Exam
Unit 3	Computer Science Project (Python Programming)	2 hours Non-Examination Assessment

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

All units for the course are compulsory

Progression from this examination:

- A-Level Computer Science;
- Level 3 vocational qualifications (such as BTEC National in Information Technology) at SFH6;
- Apprenticeships and Employment in the Computing industry (see Careers information below);

Careers Information:

A GCSE in Computer Science can help prepare you for a wide range of careers, such as:

Database Administrator, Computer Game Developer, Information Systems Manager, IT Consultant, Multimedia Programmer, Network Engineer, Systems Analyst, Systems Developer, IT trainer, Software Developer, Forensic Computer Analyst,

Further Information:

Please contact Mrs Warner, Subject Lead for Computer Science (m.warner@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)

GCSE Dance & BTEC Dance

Examination Board: Dance GCSE- AQA Dance BTEC- Edexcel

What will I study?

The process of creating and improving choreography

Performance – the physical, expressive, technical and mental skills needed for effective performance

Factors which influence the achievement of high quality dance performance

The work of different choreographers and professional dance works

Critical, perceptual, evaluative and reflective skills in response to their own work and that of others.

Three Reasons to study Dance & BTEC Dance:

- If you love self-expression through being creative in performance art and dance
- If you love performing and being involved in performing arts productions and showcases
- If you feel inspired by attending the theatre and seeing live professional work.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

GCSE: 40% Theory examination 60% Practical coursework and examination

BTEC: 80% Practical coursework 20% Practical and theory examination.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

Attend out of lesson technique clubs and performance rehearsals

Perform in the annual Dance Showcase and performing arts assemblies throughout the year

Attend theatre trips to see live professional works

Participate in professional workshops organised by the dance department

Factors which influence the achievement of high quality dance performance.

Progression from this examination:

GCSE and BTEC Dance will help you develop a variety of transferable skills: team work, co-operation, working to deadlines and give you confidence in yourself. All these skills will be useful in any profession where you work with others such as teaching, social work, in the 'arts' and many other professions. A Level Dance, BTEC National in Musical Theatre and Dance Leaders Award are available in the Sixth Form.

Careers and Further Information:

Please contact Mrs Barker (P.barker@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) and Mrs Hemstead (A.hemstead@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)

GCSE Drama

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

What will I study?

You will learn about theatre from the perspective of a director, performer, designer and audience member. You will work collaboratively and independently to create your own work and to bring a written text to life. You can develop your skills as a performer, designer or both.

Three Reasons to study Drama:

- **Develop your creative thinking skills**
- It will increase your ability to think; creatively, imaginatively and critically. You will develop your skills in teamwork; leadership, independent learning, motivation and planning. These are key skills that are needed in any career path.
- **Experiment**
- You will develop your understanding and explore a range of different plays written by other people. You will also have the opportunity to devise your own play. This provides the opportunity to experiment with new ideas and take risks.
- **Be reflective**
- Drama encourages you to ask questions that help make sense of learning. You are expected to question and critique your own and others' processes and products. Drama requires us to view things from multiple perspectives.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Component 1 – Devising: Practical Assessment

Component 2 – Performance from Text: Practical Assessment

Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice: Written Assessment

Progression from this examination:

A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Level 3 vocational qualifications (such as BTEC National Performing Arts (Acting) at SFH6

Performance diplomas and degree courses offered by Drama colleges and Universities and degrees in Stage Management and Technical Theatre.

Careers Information:

A GCSE in Drama can help prepare you for a wide range of careers, such as:

An actor, playwright and/or choreographer, as well as related careers such as teaching, drama therapy, set design, lighting design, stage manager, costume design, producer, make-up artist, sound design and Arts management.

Further Information:

Please contact: Ms Morrison or Ms Catchpole s.morrison@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk;
m.catchpole@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Examination Board/Title: WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9-1) in FOOD PREPARATION and NUTRITION

What will I study?

You will learn about food commodities; the principles of nutrition, diet and food health, where food comes from the science of food and consolidate your practical knowledge of how to cook and prepare food. Dishes cooked will include a wide range of dishes for example, main meal, vegetable, pastries, cakes, sauces, dishes for special diets, starters and desserts. Students will cook every week in order to develop their practical skills and to produce a wide range of high quality dishes.

Three Reasons to study Food Preparation & Nutrition:

- **Career opportunities**
When working in the food industry, there are literally thousands of different jobs available. You are not limited to lab work or a desk job. There is something for everyone, whether it be in quality, research and development, sales, marketing, manufacturing, teaching, food inspector, food scientist or in government. A food science degree is inherently multidisciplinary, which opens up a myriad of opportunities. Travel opportunities – The food industry is global and many large companies in the UK conduct business in several other countries. Depending on your position, it is likely you will get to travel, often paid for by your company or agency.
- **Job security**
The food industry is one of the largest on the planet, and people will always have to eat. This means if you are working anywhere along the food supply chain, you will always have a job.
- **The food**
If you love food, you will definitely enjoy working in this industry. Whether you are creating exciting new products, testing products for quality, or doing research, you will be presented with a plethora of amazing foods discovering dishes and flavour combinations you never knew existed.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

1 written exam

1 coursework

Progression from this examination:

This specification builds on subject content which is typically taught at Key Stage 3 and provides a suitable foundation for the study of WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition, and other food-related courses at either AS or A level. It can allow entry into apprenticeships and employment in the Hospitality and Catering industry.

Careers Information:

This subject will enable learners to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways in the food science industry. (See career opportunities above)

Further Information:

Please contact: l.williams@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk, SG007 or call on Ext 494

GCSE German/French/Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

(A brief and interesting outline of the course designed to encourage students' interest)

Over the course of KS4 you will cover 3 themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Three Reasons to study German/French/Spanish:

- **Excellent career prospects** - being able to speak a language will make you really stand out when applying for jobs because German/French/Spanish may be useful or simply because the skill sets acquired from learning a language are transferrable and highly valued
- **A combination of language and culture** – you will study a wide range of topics all about different people and cultures as well as how to communicate in the German/French/Spanish language, enabling you to communicate with and understand people from different cultures
- **Problem solving and interpersonal skills** - Learning languages improves your communication skills and ability to work with others; you will develop your capabilities in problem solving too as you tackle grammar tasks.

How will this course be examined?

Unit 1 – Listening Exam

Unit 2 – Speaking Exam

Unit 3 – Reading Exam

Unit 4 – Writing Exam

Progression from this examination:

AS and A2 Level German/French/Spanish

A combination of Bachelor of Arts degrees including Languages with business, Modern Languages, Law and Languages, History of Art/Politics and a language

Careers Information:

Languages are useful in a huge range of careers. Specific language careers include translating, interpreting, teaching languages and working in Linguistics. However, languages are sought-after in many other careers such as law, finance, tourism and sales. According to recruitment agency Reed, employees who use languages in their work earn on average 8% more.

Further Information:

Please contact Ms. Ossa (Subject Leader Spanish), Ms Higgins (Subject Leader French) or Ms. Bauer (Curriculum Leader of Languages)

GCSE Geography

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

In Geography, students will explore case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries, newly emerging economies and lower income countries. Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes

Three Reasons to study Geography:

- Geography is topical and engaging
- Geography is challenging and thought-provoking
- Geography has many cross-curricular links

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Three examinations.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

Students must take part in two fieldwork investigations and answer questions on their findings as part of their examinations.

Progression from this examination:

Many students benefit from studying GCSE Geography, as you will learn to analyse, investigate and to develop your extended writing. You can also continue to study Geography to A Level in the sixth form. You will be required to achieve at least a 6 in your final exam in order to take A Level.

Careers and Further Information:

Commercial/Residential Surveyor, Environmental Consultant, Geographical Information Systems Officer, Planning and Development Surveyor, Secondary School Teacher, Town Planner, International Aid/Development Worker, Landscape Architect, Logistics and Distribution Manager, Market Researcher, Nature Conservation Officer, Sustainability Consultant, Tourism Officer, Transport Planner, Commercial/Residential Surveyor, Environmental Consultant, Geographical Information Systems Officer, Planning and Development Surveyor, Secondary School Teacher, Town Planner, International Aid/Development Worker, Landscape Architect, Logistics and Distribution Manager, Market Researcher, Nature Conservation Officer, Sustainability Consultant, Tourism Officer

Further Information:

Please contact Mr Glendinning (s.glendinning@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) for further information.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.com/education>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

<http://www.rgs.org/HomePage.htm>

OCR Cambridge National (CAM NAT) Level 1/2 Diploma in Health and Social Care

Examination Board: OCR

What will I study?

Health and Social care is a course designed for students who enjoy learning independently and are skilled at managing their own workload, are organised and able to meet deadlines. Health and Social Care develops students as effective and independent learners. It will be of interest to students who are inquisitive about the skills, policies and procedures used by professionals within the Health, Social Care and Early Years sectors. This will be achieved through investigation and evaluation of a range of services and organisations within the sector.

Three Reasons to study Health and Social Care:

- **Excellent Progression:** This course is particularly useful if you are interested in a career which involves working within the early year, health or social care sector, e.g. nursery nursing, education, social care, social work, working within the NHS in a variety of specialist, caring and supportive roles.
- **Development of the skills and knowledge used by professionals within the Health, Social Care and Early Years sectors.** For example, strong communication skills are developed by increasing students' understanding of a range of different effective communication methods that are employed by health and social care professionals.
- **A wide range of learning and assessment opportunities.** The course is assessed through a mixture of examination and coursework and you will have opportunities to take part in role play and simulations of events in health and social care settings.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

All students will complete three coursework units throughout the course plus one examined unit in the summer term of year 11.

You will be awarded a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* which is the equivalent of an 8/9 at GCSE. A distinction at Level 2 is the equivalent of an A, a merit at Level 2 is the equivalent of a 6 and a Pass at Level 2 is the equivalent of a 4/5 grade.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

The qualification consists of two mandatory units and two optional units.

Progression from this examination:

A course in a sixth form or FE college including A Levels in Social Science subjects; Level 2 & 3 vocational qualifications including BTEC and OCR Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care and Applied Science.

Careers Information:

Training including modern apprenticeships and NVQs in Health and Social Care and employment in the Early Years, Health and Social Care sector.

Further Information:

Please contact Ms N Maduka, Curriculum Leader for Human Sciences

N.Maduka@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE History

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

This new specification covers four key units:

- Medicine Through Time, c1250-present
- Early Elizabethan England 1558-88
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Three Reasons to study History:

- GCSE History teaches you how to work with and evaluate evidence!
- GCSE History will help you learn how to create your own arguments and turn these into academic essays!
- GCSE History helps you to understand the World around you!

How will this course be examined or assessed?

3 exams.

Progression from this examination:

Many A Levels would benefit from studying GCSE History. This is because of the transferable skills that are included in the course, such as debating, essay writing, scrutinising evidence, group work and presentations. If you are considering studying A Level History, then you will be required to achieve at least a 6 in your final exam.

Careers Information: A GCSE in History will be useful if you are considering a career in any of the following areas; primary and secondary teaching, lecturing, museum work, local or national government, journalism, writing, magazine, TV, newspaper and online journalism, archiving, documentary making, legal and litigation work and many, many more!

Further Information:

Please contact Mrs Egginton (s.egginton@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) for further information.

GCSE Latin

Examination Board: Eduquas

What will I study?

(A brief and interesting outline of the course designed to encourage students' interest)

You will cover Latin Language, Roman Civilisation and Literature.

Three Reasons to study Latin:

- Gain insight into Romantic languages and develop English. Students deploy their knowledge to deepen their understanding of English and other languages.
- Develop insight into the relevance of the Latin language and Roman literature and culture
- Develop research and analytical skills which will empower them to become independent students and enquirers, equipping them for further study in arts, humanities and science.

How will this course be examined?

Component 1 Latin Language

Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes
50% of the qualification
100 marks

Component 2 Latin Literature and Sources

Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes
30% of the qualification
60 marks

Component 3

EITHER 3A: Latin literature
(narratives) OR 3B: Roman Civilisation
Written examination 1 hour
20% of the qualification
40 Marks

(themes)

Progression from this examination:

- A Level Latin
- A degree in Classics
- Any degree related to science
- A degree in languages

Careers Information:

Languages are useful in a huge range of careers. Specific language careers include translating, interpreting, teaching languages and working in Linguistics. However, languages are sought-after in many other careers such as law, finance, tourism and sales. According to recruitment agency Reed, employees who use languages in their work earn on average 8% more.

Further Information:

Please contact Ms. Bauer (Curriculum Leader of Languages)

GCSE Media Studies

Examination Board: Eduqas/WJEC

What will I study?

In GCSE Media Studies, you will get the chance to study a wide range of media texts such as: television programmes, adverts, newspapers, magazines, radio programmes, video games, websites and more. This will develop your ability to analyse texts in detail, as well as developing your creative skills through coursework (for example, designing a film poster and a magazine front cover). You will also develop an understanding of media theories, which will also help you to analyse and create media texts.

Three Reasons to study Media Studies:

- Preparation for the world of work, there are many media related jobs.
- Develops your creative and analytical skills through the study of a wide variety of media texts
- Great progression routes to KS5 Media Studies courses and university courses

How will this course be examined or assessed?

70% is assessed through examination.

30% is assessed through coursework.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

All units are compulsory and are set by the exam board.

Progression from this examination:

There are ranges of KS5 Media Studies related courses available for students including:

A level in Media Studies and Film Studies, as well as Level 3 BTEC Media production. A number of students continue studying Media Studies in the sixth form (SFH6) and the A level course achieves excellent results (well above the national average). A large number of Year 13 students are now studying Media related degree courses at a wide range of universities (including Bournemouth, Sussex, Kent, Portsmouth, Norwich and Westminster). GCSE Media Studies also supports students applying for KS5 humanities courses (such as Sociology).

Careers Information:

Media industries provide a wide range of employment opportunities including television and film production and post-production (editing), marketing, advertising, journalism, radio and web design.

Further Information:

Please contact Mr Marcus in the Media Room (GG013) or in the English Office (l.marcus@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk).

GCSE Music

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

GCSE Music is a **creative** and **practical** course designed for any students with a genuine interest in music across a wide range of different styles and genres.

Performance - You will perform music on any instrument of your choice, including voice, and have a free choice as to the pieces you learn which are recorded as coursework in Year 11. You will be supported by our team of peripatetic music teachers to achieve your full potential and are **guaranteed** to have access to instrumental or voice lessons during years 9, 10 and 11.

Composition – You will compose two pieces in any style of your choice using live instruments or using out music technology resources which include Logic Pro X and Sibelius.

Understanding – You will learn about a range of musical genres from 21st Century Pop Music to the Beatles and Classical Music. This will help you to prepare for your Year 11 listening exam.

Three Reasons to study Music:

- GCSE Music encourages **creativity** and an overall appreciation for the arts – no two people will have the same experience when studying GCSE music and will **perform** and **compose** different pieces of music using a range of instruments and techniques
- GCSE Music helps to improve your **listening** and **performance** skills, which is of great benefit across other school subjects, including **Maths**. Learning an instrument or having singing lessons improves **discipline** and creates **resilience** to persevere when faced with challenges
- GCSE Music allows a better understanding of **cultures** and **traditions** from across the world. **Teamwork** is very important and music allows you to work with a diverse range of people in a fun but also **academically rigorous** way

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Component 1 - Understanding Music 40%

1 written exam at the end of the course with listening exercises using excerpts of music

Component 2 - Performing Music 30%

1 solo and 1 ensemble performance recorded during the course

Component 3 - Composing Music 30%

2 compositions, 1 of which follows a given brief, created during the course

Progression from this examination:

GCSE Music is ideal preparation for future study of A-Level Music, BTEC Music, A-Level Music Technology and other courses across the Performing Arts. Being an active musician gives students a number of well-respected skills such as teamwork, resilience and independent thinking which are in demand by 6th form colleges, Universities and Employers.

Careers Information:

GCSE Music can lead to a number of different careers in music and the performing arts, including Performer, Composer, Arranger, Music Journalist, Record Producer, Recording Engineer, Songwriter, Session Musician, Music Therapist, DJ, Publisher, Promoter, Music Librarian and Music Teacher.

Further Information:

Please contact Mr Dottridge (A.Dottridge@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) for more information.

GCSE Physical Education

- **Examination Board:** EDEXCEL

What will I study?

A broad range of topics including Anatomy and Physiology, Sports Psychology, Physical, Social and Emotional Health, as well as physical training. This course links in well with both Biology and elements of Psychology and is 60% theory based, 30% practical and 10% coursework. The practical part of the course consists of a range of different sports as well as the opportunity to be assessed through a weekend climbing residential in Surrey.

Three Reasons to study Physical Education:

- If you are passionate about Sport and Physical Activity.
- Have a keen interest in how the body works and how it responds to exercise.
- Would love to learn more about Health and the factors that can affect it.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

- 2 x Exams (1 on health and Performance and 1 on Body Systems) 60%
- 1 x written 6 week Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) 10%
- 3 x Practical Sports activities worth 10% each. (30%) 2 Individual Sports and 1 Team or 2 team and 1 individual. There are a huge range of sports to choose from to cater to every students interests.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

Participation in Extra-curricular clubs at school or in the community to build on your skills for the practical course component.

Sporting fixtures and competitions against other schools

Progression from this examination:

- AS/A Level Sport and Physical Education
- BTEC Sport Level 3
- BTEC Sport Science Level 3
- Apprenticeships and employment in the sports industry
- Coaching qualifications

Careers Information:

A GCSE in Physical Education can help you progress into a huge variety of careers; all employers like to hear that their employees have an interest in keeping themselves healthy, fit and have an ability to work in teams. More specifically a career in teaching, coaching, physiotherapy, professional sports player, sport physiology, medicine, fitness instructing, personal training or centre manager could also be available to you.

Further Information: Please contact M.cantrill@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

BTEC Sport

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

What will I study?

A variety of topics including Practical Sport; The rules, regulations and scoring systems of Sport, The Mind and Sports Performance; Psychology of Sport and Sports performers, How to Lead Sports activities as well Fitness and training; Planning an exercise programme and understanding how to get the best out of a variety of different training methods and principals.

Three Reasons to study BTEC Sport:

- If you are passionate about Sport and Physical Activity.
- Prefer coursework based learning rather than exams.
- Would love to learn more about fitness, training and exercise as well as leading Sports activities.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

- 1 x online fitness exam
- A number of assignments submitted on deadlines throughout the 3 year course.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

- Participation in Extra-curricular clubs at school or in the community.
- Leadership of small groups of Primary school aged students

Progression from this examination:

- AS/A Level Sport and Physical Education
- BTEC Sport Level 3
- BTEC Sport Science Level 3
- Apprenticeships and employment in the sports industry
- Coaching qualifications

Careers Information:

A BTEC in Physical Education can help you progress into a huge variety of careers; all employers like to hear that their employees have an interest in keeping themselves healthy, fit and have an ability to work in teams. More specifically a career in teaching, coaching, physiotherapy, professional sports player, sport physiology, medicine, fitness instructing, personal training or centre manager could also be available to you.

Further Information: Please contact M.cantrill@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Design & Technology: Product Design

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Designing and making products in the D&T workshops, using hand and machine tools, laser-cutters and 3D-printers. It is like year 7 and 8 Product Design (*Happy City* and *LED Mood-Light* projects) but even more exciting and challenging.

Three Reasons to study Product Design:

- **Creative, hands-on problem solving**

If you enjoy designing and making products in the workshop this would be the subject for you. Our basic aim is to solve problems using our wits, creativity, skills and knowledge of materials and processes in the workshop.

- **Developing skills of investigation and analysis**

There is more to GCSE D&T Product Design than simply 'making things'. You would learn how to analyse products and research to ensure that you get the most out of them before you embark on your own designing. Learning to think and express yourself analytically is a valuable transferrable skill even if you choose not to go into a design field as a career.

- **Setting a foundation of technical knowledge for a creative career**

If you do want to pursue a career in the creative industries, GCSE D&T Product Design will help you learn the theoretical and practical knowledge about materials, processes, tools and skills to design and make products well. It is a very hands-on course.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

The GCSE course is made up of an exam and a design-and-make project

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

Both the exam and the design and make project are compulsory

Progression from this examination:

Successful completion of this course will allow you the opportunity to continue your studies in Product Design at AS and A2 Level. Following your studies at school, you may wish to continue at one of the many universities that offer design-based courses at degree level.

Careers Information:

Product Design can lead to a variety of career options including design, engineering and vocational careers.

Further Information:

Please see the AQA website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

Please contact Mr D Bima, Subject Leader for Product Design at Sydenham School:
d.bima@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Sociology

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Sociology is the study of society. In this subject you will learn to understand the world around you and see society and social issues from a variety of different viewpoints. You will get the chance to discuss how people are influenced by their families, schools, friends and work colleagues. You will question how schools are run and the different influences on student achievement. You will consider different reasons why individuals commit crime and how society controls individual's behaviour. You will also consider social inequalities and the variety of methods used by sociologists to collect evidence and data.

Three Reasons to study Sociology:

- **Develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society and different social groups in society today** - Sociology at GCSE investigates the different experiences that social groups have in the UK and you will get the opportunity to discuss these and consider a range of explanations.
- **Consider and question approaches to current issues and evidence** - Sociology is an academic subject, and students will develop important transferable skills in analysing data and source materials, evaluating evidence and arguments and writing extended answers.
- **Excellent prospects** - Sociology at GCSE is useful for a range of careers including journalism, health care, law, teaching, social work, politics, social research and careers. This is a discipline that can be studied at degree level and beyond for those who wish to become professional sociologists with their own body of social research.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Two written examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: The Sociology of families and education

Paper 2: The Sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

Both examinations, as each are worth 50% of your qualification.

Progression from this examination:

Following a GCSE in Sociology, you can progress to study the subject at A-Level and could go on to study for a degree in Sociology and/or Social Policy and/or Criminology.

Careers Information:

A GCSE in Sociology can help prepare you for a wide range of careers, such as:

Journalism, health care, law, teaching, social work, politics, social research, criminal justice system.

Further Information:

Please contact Miss Maduka, Curriculum Leader Human Sciences (N.Maduka@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)

GCSE DT Textiles

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

DT Textiles is all about designing and making high quality, imaginative and functional Fashion and Textile products. You will learn about all the best designing techniques including factors you will need to consider as a 21st century designer. You will learn all the skills you need to decorate and make a range of different textile and fashion products and how these products could affect our society and our environment.

Three Reasons to study Textiles:

- **Turn your creative ideas into reality**
You will have the opportunity to learn how to make clothes, accessories, costumes and homeware and present them effectively. Whether these are skills you want for a career in fashion, textiles or costume or if it's just something you really enjoy then this is the course for you.
- **Explore and experiment**
Develop your creativity and independence. Explore the possibilities of surface decoration and different fabrics through structured Textile workshops. Experiment and discover unexpected potential in your designing.
- **Extensive creative job opportunities**
The fashion and textile industry is one of Britain's largest employers. It could take you all over the world for research or buying, or you could choose to be based in fashion capitals such as London, Paris, Milan or New York. You may work for a large dynamic company, a small business or start your own designer label or shop.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

The GCSE course is made up of:

- Written exam: 50% of your final grade.
- Non-exam Assessment: 50% of your final grade.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

Both the written and non-exam assessment.

Progression from this examination:

A-Level Textiles

Level 3 vocational qualifications (such as BTEC in Fashion and Clothing)

Apprenticeships and Employment in the Fashion and Textiles industry.

Foundation and Masters Degrees in Fashion design, Fashion Marketing, Fashion History, Textiles design, Interior design, Costume and theatre design.

Careers Information:

Textiles offers you a wide range of career options, for example Buyer, Production manager and publishing to name a few

Further Information:

Please contact: Ms Winters, Subject Leader: Textiles a.winters@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Name:

Tutor Group:

Key Stage 4 Preference Form *Class of 2021*

In addition to the Core (English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science), you need to select 4 subjects to study in Key Stage 4. From these four subjects:

- A. You must select at least **one** of either History or Geography
- B. You must select at least **one** Language (Note, this should be a language you have been studying in school)
If you have not studied a language in Year 7 or 8 you **must** choose Study Support from Option Two
- C. You must select **two** from the list of other subjects in row C. (You **may** take another Humanities subject and/or Language subject)
- D. You then need to pick **any** two subjects from the long list in row C as reserves.

You will therefore study up to **10 GCSEs** in total. All students will study Combined Science in Year 9, The Triple Science allocation will be made at the end of Year 9.

		Subjects	Choices
A	Option One	Geography History	Select one:
B	Option Two	French German Latin Spanish Study Support	Select one:
C	Option Three and Four	Art (Fine Art) Business Studies Child Development Citizenship Studies Computer Science Dance Drama Food & Nutrition Health & Social Care Media Studies Music PE Product Design Religion, Philosophy and Ethics Sociology Textiles	Select no more than two: 1. 2.
D	Your 1st Reserve Preference:	Select at least one:	
E	Your 2nd Reserve Preference:	Select at least one:	

Submit your completed preferences form to the desk at the main reception by 6th March

Student Signature:

Parent/Carer Signature:

Which Way Now? Checklist

Have you:

- Attended the Options Information Evening?
- Read through the detailed information provided for each subject in this booklet?
- Read and understood how to complete the Preferences Form?
- Discussed possible preferences with your parents?
- Asked any questions you may have by speaking with teachers or subject leaders?
- Recorded your final preferences on the Preferences form, including reserve subjects?
- Placed your final Preferences form in the box at Reception before the deadline?

Your deadline for returning option forms to reception
is

Tuesday 6th March 2018

We wish you every success with all your GCSE subjects during the next 3 years of Key Stage 4!