

Key Stage 4 Preferences Booklet 2021 – 2024



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Foreword

Dear Student

You are about to make some important decisions by choosing some of your GCSE option subjects. This process requires you to think carefully about your future.

You will of course continue to study the core subjects - English, Maths and Science. You will also continue to study History and Geography during Year 8 and you will decide which one of these you want to carry on for GCSE at the end of Year 9. Most students will also continue to study a Language at GCSE and everyone will study Physical Education, Personal and Social Education and Religious Education.

When you are choosing your GCSE option subjects you need to make sure that you have a good balance of subjects. We encourage all students to ensure the subjects they choose include a creative or social science subject. Studying a broad range of subjects will help you to develop a variety of skills and knowledge and 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.

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 so please think carefully 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
- Humanities. In Year 9 all students will study History and Geography and then will take one of these to GCSE.
- Religious Education
- Most students will take a Modern Foreign Language

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 that will ensure that everyone is able to achieve highly and have a wide range of choices open to them after Year 11.

The English Baccalaureate is a collection of such qualifications that will provide students with a broad range of important knowledge and skills. These are:

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

The government expects 90% of students in UK schools to study one subject from each of the above groups. All students take English, Mathematics and Science, and most will take a GCSE in 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, Media Studies and Business Studies), Computer Science and Physical Education/ Sport.

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 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 28 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.

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 make sure that your reserve choices are 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?

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 by selecting the second language as one of the options. Students choosing a second language should only select languages that they have studied in Years 7 and 8 unless this has been agreed with the Curriculum Leader for Languages

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 clubs, Debate Mate and much much more.

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

All students will study Triple Science in Year 9. Students will be assessed at the end of Year 9 to see whether they continue with Triple or take Combined Science in Years 10 and 11.

When will I choose to study History of Geography?

All students will study both subjects in Year 9 and will be asked to make a choice towards the end of Year 9.

Key Dates

Dates	Events
Tuesday 9 th February	Options Presentation and Q&A Evening 6pm – 7pm Click HERE to attend
Friday 5th March	Deadline for online options forms to be completed Click HERE to complete the form

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.

Careers advisor: Mrs Taylor: F.Taylor@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

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. Contact 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?

We will make a presentation about each subject available to you so that you can watch these on your own and with your families to help you make your choices. Click [HERE](#) to access the presentations. You will also spend some time in your PSE lessons learning about these choices.

Remember you are choosing subjects that you will study for the next three years. **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 broad range of topics and be able to explain clearly which methods the writers use to carefully 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 worth 50% of the qualification)
- 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 and closed book
- 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. You will complete this in Year 10.

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 MsBornstein 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 'Love and Relationships' 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 (worth 40% and 60% respectively)
- 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 first term of the Separate (Triple) science course. They will continue with either combined science or separate (triple) science from the Spring Term in year 9.

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 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 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 Combined 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 student's 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 6,6 in Science and a 7 in Maths, you will be able to progress on to A level Biology and Chemistry

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

A grade 4,4 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) for further information.

GCSE Triple Science

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

Students that meet criteria will have the option to take Separate (Triple) Science from the Spring term in year 9. 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 a 7 in 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)

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, Photoshop and use a digital drawing pad**. 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 **Venice, 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 each included a 10 hour 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 an A3 portfolio at the start of the course, to carry your work to school with. These will be supplied through your teacher. You would also need a small supply of art materials at home such as watercolours, acrylic paints, paint brushes, drawing pencils and art pens.

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 the essential knowledge and understanding of the growth and development throughout childhood. 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 as 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. You will also 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 distinct 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 vocational studies such as: Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Early Years Education and Child Development.

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 Shirfield – Teacher of Child Development in room S.2.014 or email S.Shirfield@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Citizenship

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

Citizenship education allows students to develop knowledge and understanding of the politics, legal and economic issues and its impact on modern 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.

The course content is divided into five themes:

- A: Living together in the UK
- B: Democracy at work in the UK
- C: Law and justice
- D: Power and influence
- E: Taking citizenship action

How will this course be examined or assessed?

2 written exams

Progression from this examination: This can lead onto further studies in Government and Politics, Law, Sociology, Geography, Philosophy and Ethics and 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; teaching; or journalism.

Further Information:

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

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/citizenship-studies-2016.html>

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 a 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 30 mins; Written Exam.
Unit 2	Application of Computational Thinking	2 hours; Onscreen Exam.

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 Computing) 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, and Software Developer.

Further Information:

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

BTEC Dance

Examination Board: BTEC - Pearson

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 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?

- BTEC: Practical and theory coursework and coursework examinations

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

- Attend out of lesson Dance clubs and 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

Progression from this examination:

BTEC Dance will help you develop a variety of transferable skills, including teamwork, 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, other arts-based jobs and many other professions. Further Dance related courses available in Sixth Form are: A Level Dance and BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts: Dance.

Careers and Further Information:

Please contact

Ms Hemstead: A.Hemstead@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Miss Cook: T.Cook@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

CL: Ms Durban: E.Durban@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))

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 Catchpole m.catchpole@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Ms Morrison s.morrison@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Examination Board/Title: Eduqas

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 project

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: a.thompson@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk, SG007 or call on Ext 494

GCSE Geography

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Physical geography study areas include...	Human geography study areas include.
Climate change	The growing development gap
Earth's changing ecosystems	Issues and challenges in London
Extreme weather	How can humans be sustainable?
UK coasts and rivers	The emergence of global megacities

Three Reasons to study Geography:

- Geography is topical and engaging
- Geography is challenging and thought-provoking
- Geography allows us to engage with the world around us

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Three 90 minute exams at the end of Year 11

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

Students must take part in two fieldwork investigations over the duration of the GCSE course. The learning from these field sessions will be assessed in the final exams

Progression from this examination:

Geography at GCSE is a required step for study of geography both at Sixth Form/college and university. Geography will also set students up for their next steps after GCSEs due to a focus on transferrable skills and critical thinking throughout the course

Careers and Further Information:

Study of geography will support students to excel in a huge range of careers due to the wide range of topics and skills that are explored throughout the GCSE. Careers arising from geography study could include work in the public sector as a diplomat, government official or environmental consultant. Alongside this, the skills developed in geography could lead to careers in international business, science, planning or politics.

Further Information:

Please contact Mr Davidson (t.davidson@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.html>

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 health or social care sector. or early years; e.g. nursing, midwifery, radiographer, social worker, education, social care, early childhood studies, perhaps 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 3 & 2 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 sectors.

Further Information:

Please contact Ms N Shaw, Subject Leader of Health and Social Care

n.shaw@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE History

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

Medicine in Britain, c1250-present, including a study of medicine during World War One.

- Medieval Medicine, 1250-1500.
- Renaissance Medicine, 1500-1750.
- Industrial Medicine, 1750-1900.
- Modern Medicine, 1900-Present Day.
- Medicine on the Western Front, 1914-1918

Early Elizabethan England 1558-88

- Religion in Elizabethan England.
- Domestic and Foreign threats to Elizabeth I.
- Leisure and Pastimes.
- Exploration.

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

- The early Nazi Party, 1918-1929.
- The rise of the Nazi Party, 1929-1935.
- The Police State, 1935-1939.
- Life in Nazi Germany, 1935-1939.

Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

- The origins of the Cold War, 1941-1956.
- The three crises of the Cold War, 1956-1969.
- The end of the Cold War, 1970-1991.

Three Reasons to study History:

- GCSE History helps you to understand the world around you and how the past connects to the present.
- GCSE History will help you learn how to create your own arguments and turn these into essays, with a convincing argument.
- GCSE History teaches you how to work with and evaluate evidence.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

The course is examined at the end of Yr11, over 3 exams, totalling 4 hours and 20 minutes.

- Medicine in Britain, 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Superpower Relations and Early Elizabethan England, 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1 hour and 20 minutes.

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.

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 Ms. Stoddart (j.stoddart@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) for further information.

GCSE Modern Languages

German/French/Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

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:

A 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 Waddingham (Subject Leader French) or Ms. Bauer (Curriculum Leader of Languages and Subject Leader German)

GCSE Latin

Examination Board: Eduquas

What will I study?

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

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 and Subject Leader Latin.
(a.bauer@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk)

GCSE Media Studies

Examination Board: Eduqas (part of 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 DVD cover). You will also develop an understanding of media theories, which will help you to analyse and create media texts.

Three Reasons to study Media Studies:

- 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
- Preparation for the world of work, there are many media related jobs (TV, radio, film, web design and content, journalism, marketing/promotions, advertising).

How will this course be examined or assessed?

- 70% is assessed through examination:
- Component 1 exam covers a wide range of media texts and is worth 40% of the GCSE
- Component 2 exam covers a few media texts in more detail and is worth 30% of the GCSE
- Component 3: 30% of the GCSE is assessed through a non-examined unit (coursework). In this unit you plan and produce your own media texts.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

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

Progression from this examination:

There is a range of KS5 Media Studies related courses available for students including:

A levels 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 number of previous 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), as well as English Literature

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), in the English Office or by email:

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 30% of overall grade - The standard performance level at GCSE is, minimum, Grade 3 or equivalent on your instrument by the end of year 11. Students will choose a solo and ensemble piece to record at the end of Year 11 and will work closely with their Music teachers in order to work towards this. We expect all students to be having instrumental/vocal lessons in order to prepare for this unit, please let the school know if this is required.

Composition 30% of overall grade – You will complete three compositions during your course and we will choose two to submit to the examiner in Year 11. One composition will fit a brief, set by the exam board. You will use Music Technology Software in order to complete your compositions, though they can be performed Live if you wish.

Understanding 40% of overall grade – You will learn about a range of musical genres from 21st Century Pop Music to Classical Music. The exam is made up of a combination of ‘unfamiliar listening’, applying the musical elements to pieces from different genres, and ‘Set works’. Our set works are songs from the musical ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ and a Mozart Concerto. We ask that students are able to read basic notation by the time they start the course.

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. Learning an instrument or having singing lessons improves **discipline** and develops **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%

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

Component 2 - Performing Music 30%

One solo and one ensemble performance recorded in Year 11

Component 3 - Composing Music 30%

Two compositions, one 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 creative problem solving, 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 Ms Durban, CL Performing Arts & PE (e.durban@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 a.fullilove@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:

- 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 a.fullilove@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 (Steady-Hand Games and LED Mood-Light projects) but even more exciting and challenging. There is exam content but this is mainly taught through practical in the workshop, so it is very active and practical overall.

Three Reasons to study

- 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. We do this through lots of sketching and modelling of ideas, then making the solution ourselves 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. The world needs people who can solve problems creatively, in whatever field you find yourself. Product Design gives you this edge!
- 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, where your theoretical learning is reinforced with actually applying the theory you have learnt in a very real way.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

- The GCSE course is made up of an exam (50%) and a design-and-make project (50%)
- Are there any compulsory elements for this course?
- Both the exam and the design and make project are compulsory

Progression from this examination:

The problem-solving skills and creative thinking which this course teaches will benefit you in all future careers in which you find yourself. If you choose to follow a career in designing, such as Industrial Design, Set Design or Product Design, successful completion of this course will allow you the opportunity to continue your studies in Product Design at A-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:

Careers Information Product Design can lead to a variety of career options including: Product Designer, Commercial Designer, Teaching Design & Technology, Building Technician, Biomedical Engineering,

Measurement & Control Engineering, and Backstage Theatre Work, Working in Industry, Technical & Engineering Careers in Radio & TV, Carpenter & Joiner, Garage Work, Aircraft Engineering, Cabinet & Furniture

Making, Agricultural Engineering, Three Dimensional Design, Cabinet Making, Electrician, Plumber, and Kitchen Fitter

Further Information: Please see the AQA website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552> For more information please contact Mr D Bima, Subject Leader for Product Design at Sydenham School: d.bima@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Examination Board: Eduqas (students follow the Core RE programme and most are entered for the GCSE short course as part of this provision)

What will I study?

Philosophical and ethical issues on relationships and life and death issues will make up 50% of the course. Christian and Muslim beliefs 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 GCSE course is 100% exam. There are two exams each lasting one hour.

Progression from this examination:

This excellent course will 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.

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 MsWylie (r.wylie@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) or Miss Thirunavukarasu (A.Thirunavukarasu@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) for further information

[GCSE Specification Template \(eduqas.co.uk\)](http://www.eduqas.co.uk)

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 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 for a client. 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 embellish 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 design and make clothes, accessories, costumes and homeware. 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. Research inspiring designers and cultures and experiment with a variety of design strategies such as biomimicry. Explore the needs of different clients and social groups. Explore the possibilities of surface decoration and fabric manipulation using different fabrics in structured Textile workshops. Experiment and discover unexpected potential in your designing through making 3D models.
- **Extensive creative job opportunities**
The fashion and textiles 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, Fashion/Textiles/Costume/Interior/ Designer, Trend Forecaster, Stylist, Visual merchandiser, Print maker, Clothing technologist, Production manager, Fashion journalist, Magazine editor, Fashion Buyer to name a few

Further Information:

Please contact: Ms Winters, Curriculum Leader for DT and Subject Leader: Textiles

a.winters@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

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

At Sydenham School we teach our students to become high performance learners.

High performers are made not born. They work for it.
 Any house can be home to success. It's not all in the genes." *'Great Minds and How to Grow Them'* Wendy Berliner and Professor Deborah Eyre

What is the High Performance Learning Approach?

- High academic performance is an attainable target for everyone
- We can systematically teach students how to be 'intelligent' and how to succeed in school
- World-class schools produce students that are both intellectually and socially confident, who are college- ready, workplace-ready and life-ready with a global outlook and a concern for others.

How To Think

Advanced Cognitive Characteristics (ACPs):
 There are 20 characteristics which students need to develop if they are to be high performers

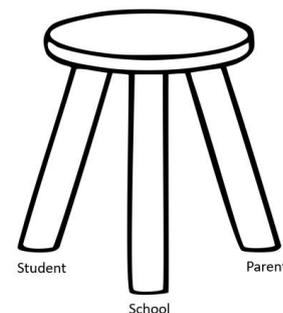
How To Behave

Values, Attitudes and Attributes (VAAs):
 There are 10 values, attitudes and attributes that develop the wider learner attitudes needed for success.

Parental Support

Children are successful when we work as a team, each playing our role. Support your child to develop strong learning habits by using the Sydenham Study Guide for Retrieval and Deliberate Practice. Scan the QR code below.

Talk
 Read
 Feed Curiosity
 Build Empathy
 Be a role model



For more ideas about how you can build your child's ability to perform at a high level, visit our website:



<https://www.sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk/curriculum/highperformancelearning>

“The differences between expert performers and normal adults are not ...due to genetically prescribed talent. Instead, these differences reflect a life-long period of deliberate effort to improve performance.”

'The Role of Deliberate Practice in the Acquisition of Expert Performance' by Anders Ericsson

HOW TO THINK

- Meta-thinking
- Creating
- Realising
- Linking
- Analysing

HOW TO BEHAVE

EMPATHETIC

- Collaborative
- Concern for Society
- Confident

AGILE

- Enquiring
- Creative and Enterprising
- Open Minded
- Risk-Taking

HARDWORKING

- Ready to Learn
- Deliberate Practice
- Retrieval Practice
- Resilience
- Perseverance

High Performance Learning at Sydenham School

Completing your Preference Form

Complete your Preference Form by 5th March. The link for this is below

Click [HERE](#) to complete your form

Checklist

Have you:

- ✓ Attended the Options Presentation?
- ✓ Read through the detailed information provided for each subject in this booklet?
- ✓ Watched the subject presentations [LINK](#)
- ✓ Asked any questions you may have by emailing the subject leaders?
- ✓ Discussed possible preferences with your parents?
- ✓ Completed the online Preferences Form by 5th March?

Friday 5th March 2021

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