

Key Stage 4

Options Booklet 2026 – 27 Discovery



Foreword	3
Key Dates	5
Advice on choosing your preferences	6
GCSE English Language	10
GCSE English Literature	11
GCSE Mathematics.....	12
GCSE Combined Science	13
GCSE Religious Studies (Short Course)	14
GCSE Art and Design.....	15
GCSE Photography	16
GCSE Business	17
GCSE Citizenship.....	19
GCSE Computer Science	20
BTEC Dance.....	21
GCSE Design & Technology: Product Design	22
GCSE Design and Technology - Textiles	23
GCSE Drama	24
GCSE German/French/Spanish	27
GCSE Geography.....	28
GCSE History.....	30
GCSE Media Studies	31
GCSE Music.....	32
GCSE Physical Education.....	34
BTEC Sport	35
GCSE Sociology	36
GCSE Triple Science.....	37

Foreword

Dear Year 9 Student,

You're about to make some exciting and important decisions about your future by choosing your GCSE option subjects. This is your opportunity to shape your learning journey for the next two years.

You'll continue with English, maths, science, PE and RE. Alongside these, you'll choose three or four additional GCSE subjects, depending on your pathway (see below).

We encourage you to choose a range of subjects that includes at least one from the humanities, languages or creative arts. This breadth will help you develop varied skills and keep your future options open.

Sydenham School is proud to offer an extensive range of subjects at a time when many schools have narrowed their options considerably. We are particularly proud of our extensive performing and visual arts, design technology and social sciences offer, as well as the EBacc, STEM, humanities and languages subjects.

We do our best to give every student their first-choice subjects, but sometimes this isn't possible due to timetabling or class sizes. That's why we ask you to think carefully about reserve choices too. This way, if we need to discuss any changes, you'll still have a selection of subjects you're genuinely interested in.

The qualifications you gain and the grades you achieve will stay with you throughout your life.

To progress to our Sixth Form - SFH6, you'll need an average grade of 5.7 across 8 subjects. For A-level subjects, you'll typically need at least a grade 6 in that subject at GCSE. Everything you do in Years 10 and 11 counts towards your future.

For support with your choices, speak to your form tutor, subject teachers, or Mr Freakes (Assistant Headteacher responsible for KS4 Options)

Find more information at Options [Options - GCSEs at Sydenham School](#)

We're here to support you in making the best choices for your future. Work hard, stay committed to your learning, and make the most of every opportunity at Sydenham School.

Emma Wijnberg

Headteacher



Your Pathway

Discovery

Students on the Discovery Pathway will study a core of seven GCSE subjects and a further three 'options' which they choose for themselves.

The core comprises English Language, English Literature, Maths, Triple Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and RE. The latter is a short course, you will study this during Year 10 and take your GCSE exam in this subject in the summer of 2026. The remainder of the GCSEs will be examined in the summer of 2027.

Students ten GCSEs will look like this:

1. English Language
2. English Literature
3. Mathematics
4. Triple Science: Physics
5. Triple Science: Chemistry
6. Triple Science: Biology
7. Religious Education (examined at the end of Year 10)
8. Any Option subject
9. Any Option subject
10. Any Option subject

For example, a student could choose Art, French and Sociology for their 8th, 9th and 10th subjects.

They could also choose Business Studies, Drama and Geography in these slots.

There are then many subjects that students can choose from for their three options. These are detailed in the following pages.



Key Dates

Dates	Events
Early January	Options Assembly We will explain to what is involved in subjects you have not studied in Years 7 – 9, like Photography or Sociology.
28th January	Parents' Evening and Options Presentation A chance to talk to your individual subject teachers about how you progressing and what you could do next year. There will also be presentations from GCSE subjects about what their course entails.
Beginning March	Options Forms published This will be an online form you will use to tell us which subjects you want to study.
Middle March	Options Forms Deadline You have to have completed the Online Form so that we can put together the class groups and timetable for Year 10.
March - April	Targeted Meetings Individual meetings with parents and/or students, where first or reserve choices cannot be given.
June	Confirmation Final options be sent out to students via tutors
July	Timetable You will be issued with your final timetable for Year 10 based on your options.



Advice on choosing your preferences

Careers advisor, Ms Mangal: m.mangal@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

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 9. This will change in Years 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 the subject 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 a subject; 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 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 Healy, 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.



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 subjects that you want to study, and that you remain open-minded about what subjects you will be studying over the next 3 years.

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 7,8 and 9, but students can pick more than one language should they wish to do so. Students who speak another language at home, a 'Community' language, can take this as a GCSE in discussion with their Head of Year.

Can I study more extra qualifications?

Some students may get the opportunity to sit more qualifications, for instance if they are entered for a GCSE in a Community Language, such as Polish, or if they are selected for the Further Maths course which runs afterschool.

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.



Measuring Progress

School measures have changed over the recent years as has terminology. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the school measures such as Attainment 8, the percentage of students who achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and the percentage of students who achieve a grade 4+ and 5+ in both English and Mathematics GCSE.

All subjects count: we have moved on from the era of English and Mathematics being the priority focus and we must ensure that students are making exceptional progress across all disciplines. We will monitor progress across all subjects to ensure that students achieve their potential.

Attainment 8

Attainment 8 is a measure of a student's average grade across a set suite of eight subjects. The GCSE grading system runs 1 – 9 with 9 the top grade and 1 the lowest.

English Baccalaureate

The EBacc is a performance measure for schools and not a qualification for students. It is designed to ensure that students have a good knowledge base for further education and career options.

The EBacc includes subjects such as English language, English literature, maths, double science or biology, chemistry and physics, history or geography, and a language.

The government's aim was for 90% of UK students to be taking EBacc subjects by 2025. However, the EBacc is not a requirement for students.

Parents may want to encourage their children to consider the EBacc as part of their educational journey, as it can provide a strong foundation for future academic and career success.



GCSE English Language

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 at the end of Year 9. There will be an opportunity to retake the speaking and listening assessment in Year 10 if you wish.



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

Exam Board: AQA

Further Information:

- Curriculum Leader for English Ms. Bornstein: h.bornstein@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE English Literature

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 'the Worlds and Lives poetry anthology, covering poems from the 19th century to the present day'.

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.

Exam Board: AQA

Further Information:

- Curriculum Leader for English Ms. Bornstein: h.bornstein@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Mathematics

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 algebraic proof). You will go into depth into topics that you have started studying in year 9 such as trigonometry, surds, and Venn diagrams as well as many more areas 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?

Three 90-minute exams; one non-calculator paper, two calculator papers.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

All three exams are compulsory

Progression from this examination:

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

Careers Information:

Students of Mathematics go on to a wide variety of exciting careers including jobs in financial services, engineering and architecture, teaching, medicine and forensics, cryptology, artificial intelligence and computing.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

- Curriculum Leader for Mathematics Mr Pimentel: m.pimentel@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Combined Science

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 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.

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 6 in English you will be able to progress on to A level Biology,

If you achieve a 7-6 in Science and 6 in Maths you will be able to progress on to A level Chemistry, and if you achieve 7-7 in Science and a 6 in maths you can progress to Physics. A grade 5-5 will allow you to study an AAQ in 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.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:



- Curriculum Leader for Science Ms Vickers: a.vickers@sydenham.lewishams.sch.uk

GCSE Religious Studies (Short Course)

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 course is 100% exam. There are three exams ranging from 35 minutes to 1-hour.

Progression from this examination:

Religious Education at GCSE (short course) is a compulsory subject that provides essential skills for academic success. It teaches you how to construct well-reasoned arguments and explore how sources of authority can be interpreted in different ways to reach a range of conclusions. These analytical and evaluative skills are fundamental for A levels such as Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics, as well as Humanities and English courses. A strong foundation in RE at GCSE will significantly enhance your ability to excel in these subjects.

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.

Exam Board: Eduqas

Further Information:

- Subject Leader for RE Ms Thirunavukarasu: a.thirunavukarasu@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Art and Design

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, 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, and Photoshop**. You will work with your art teacher to develop your own **work and ideas** leading towards a variety of designed outcomes.

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 two-year course; previous destinations include Venice, Barcelona, Berlin and Paris.

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 a set of drawing pencils, drawing pens and acrylic paint.

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, Photography 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**.

Exam Board: OCR

Further Information:

- Curriculum Leader for Visual Arts Ms Henderson: c.henderson@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Photography

GCSE Photography is a practical course, full of challenging activities designed to develop your photography skills. You will develop your creativity with a range of **camera techniques** and **editing techniques**, including using digital DSLRs, editing using Photoshop and mixed media editing techniques. The course will help you to develop high levels of technical skill for **visual expression**.

You will learn how to develop a portfolio of photographs showcasing your skills. You will work with your teacher to **develop your own ideas** leading towards a variety of designed outcomes including single complex edits, photographic series and animation.

You will gain a broad knowledge of the history of photography and develop a **contextual understanding** of photographers' work; including trips to London galleries and opportunities for external photoshoots. **A trip abroad** is usually offered during the two-year course; previous destinations include Venice, Barcelona, Berlin and Paris.

Three Reasons to study Photography:

- Improve your photography skills and develop an exciting portfolio.
- Be inspired by photographers and learn about the power of visual communication.
- Enrich your life with creative thinking and making skills to understand, express and challenge the world

You do not need to buy a camera to take this course but having access to a camera or smartphone with a good camera is a benefit – you will be expected to take photos independently, we can support with this where access to resources is an issue.

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 outcome. 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, including 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, Photography 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**.

Exam Board: OCR

Further Information:

- Curriculum Leader for Visual Arts Ms Henderson: c.henderson@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Business

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.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

- Business Studies Teacher Mr Crowther s.crowther@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



BTEC Child Development

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

Child Development will give you all of the essential knowledge and understanding for child development.

You'll explore a wide range of topics, from pregnancy and birth to caring for babies and young children. We'll cover antenatal care, postnatal checks, childhood illnesses, and how to create safe, supportive environments.

You'll also learn about the stages of development from birth to age five, discover key milestones, and even carry out observations and research. Plus, you'll gain practical knowledge about nutrition, equipment, and the benefits of play in helping children learn and thrive. By the end of the course, you'll have the skills and understanding you need to support children's growth and development in a positive way as this course provides a strong foundation for further study or careers in childcare, education, and health-related fields.

Three Reasons to study Child Development:

- **Interest in children and factors that influence development** - If you are interested in learning the physical, intellectual and social developmental norms for children and how to support children to thrive.
- **Excellent progression**- develops independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the Childcare sector including research and communication skills.
- **Promoting further understanding**- To promote an understanding of the overall needs of babies and young children from conception to the age of five with the use of practical tasks including cooking meals and completing observations.

How will this course be assessed?

40% examination 60% coursework

Health and well-being for child development – **Examination**

Create a safe environment and understand the 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; Level 2 & 3 vocational qualifications including BTEC/OCR AAQ and OCR Cambridge Technicals in Early Childhood development. Health and Social Care, Mental Health, Individuals and Society.

Careers Information:

Child Development is a useful subject if you hope you work with children and families. Some careers include: Nurse, Teacher, Health visitor, Nursery Teacher, Paediatrician, Social worker, Midwife, Speech and language therapist, Neonatal nurse, Childminder, Child psychologist, Toy designer

Exam Board: OCR

Further Information:

Curriculum Leader for Science Ms Vickers: a.vickers@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Citizenship

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.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

Subject Lead for Citizenship Mrs Virgo-Furrs h.virgo-furrs@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Computer Science

This course introduces you to the core principles of Computer Science and develops your skills in problem solving and computational thinking. You will learn how to break down (decompose) and model real-world problems and then design, write and test programs to solve them. You will also explore how computer systems work, how data is represented and stored, and how technology can be used responsibly and creatively to address issues that affect modern society – preparing you for further study and future careers in a digital world.

Three reasons to study Computer Science

- **Excellent prospects** – Computer Scientists are in high demand worldwide. This often means higher starting salaries, strong employment prospects and a wide variety of industries to choose from.
- **Showcase your problem-solving** – You will develop your ability to tackle complex, multi-step problems using logic, creativity and perseverance. These skills are highly valued for many pathways, especially mathematics, engineering, science and medicine.
- **Shape the future** – Computer Scientists design and build the systems and apps that change how we live and work. As technology keeps evolving, there are always opportunities for those who are both technical and innovative, including those with entrepreneurial ambitions.

How will this course be examined or assessed?

Paper 1 – Computer Systems - Written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming - Written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes

As part of the course, you will also undertake **practical programming tasks** to develop your coding skills in at least one high-level language.

All components of the GCSE course are compulsory.

Progression from this examination

A GCSE in Computer Science provides a strong foundation for:

- **A Level Computer Science (OCR)** at SFH6.
- **Level 3 vocational qualifications**, such as the **BTEC National in Computing**, at SFH6.
- **Apprenticeships and employment** in IT and Computing-related roles (see Careers information below).

Careers information

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, Cyber Security Analyst and many more emerging digital roles.

Exam Board: OCR

Further information

Subject Lead for Computer Science Mrs Halls: p.halls@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



BTEC Dance

You will learn about the process of creating and improving choreography as well as the physical, expressive, technical and mental skills needed for effective performance. You will consider factors which influence the achievement of high-quality dance performance and the work of different choreographers and professional dance works. You will develop critical, conceptual, 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 BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts: Dance.

Careers Information:

You could be a professional dancer in West End musicals, perform in music videos or have a position in a ballet company. You might become a choreographer or a dance instructor for young people or even adults. You might diversify into dance therapy, physiotherapy or personal training. Or you could explore backstage roles in sound, lighting or staging.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

Subject Lead for Dance Ms Hemstead: a.hemstead@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Design & Technology: Product Design

Why Choose GCSE Product Design?

If you're passionate about creativity and innovation, GCSE Product Design is the perfect choice for you! This course prepares you to thrive in an increasingly technological world by combining design thinking with practical skills. You will develop creativity, technical expertise, and problem-solving skills essential for modern design and manufacturing. Through a series of engaging, hands-on projects, you will gain confidence in the workshop and learn to apply innovative strategies to manufacture products that are both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

What you will learn:

- **Creative Design Thinking:**
With sustainability at the heart of all design decisions, you will learn about the wider influences involved in design and manufacture of products. You will explore inspiring historical and modern designers, gain an understanding of how social and cultural influences alongside environmental and economic issues contribute to the design process.
- **Independent Problem Solving:** Great design is about solving problems. You will develop a **user-centred approach**, beginning by understanding your client's needs and wants. You will experiment with a range of **resistant materials**, manufacturing **processes** and use maths skills to test your ideas through **card modelling** and **3D CAD**.
- **Technical Skills Development:** You will advance your practical expertise and technical knowledge gaining hands-on experience with specialist workshop tools, advanced manufacturing processes and technical equipment.

How will this course be examined or assessment?

- **Non-Examined Assessment: 50%**
Students create a working prototype and coursework.
- **Written Examination 50%**
2 Hr examination.



Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

All parts are compulsory. The exam, the design & make project and coursework.

Future pathways:

A-Level: Product Design, Art & Design, Engineering.

Level 3 vocational qualifications: BTEC Level 3 in Product Design & Engineering, Carpentry.

Apprenticeship and employment in the building industry, Design & Engineering.

University Degrees: Product Design, Industrial Design, Engineering Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Robotics.

Careers Information:

Product design offers a wide range of career options such as Engineering, Product Design, Architecture, Industrial design, Robotics and other careers such as Set and Interior Design to name but a few.

Exam Board: AQA

Further Information:

Subject Leader for Product Design Ms Easington: r.easington@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Design and Technology - Textiles

D&T Textiles is all about researching, designing, making and evaluating high quality, imaginative and functional Fashion and Textile products for a modern and diverse society. You will investigate the needs and wants of a client, explore the work of others and use this to inform your own innovative design ideas. You will experiment with 2D and 3D communication to develop your ideas and then make them into fully functioning products.

Three Reasons to study D&T Textiles:

Turn your creative ideas into reality

You will have the opportunity to learn how to design and make creative 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.

Problem solving

Develop your independent problem solving skills. 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. Experiment with different manufacturing processes and apply your knowledge of material properties and maths to solve design problems. Visualise your designs by developing 2D templates and making 3D models.

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:

- 2 hour 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 exam and the design and make project are compulsory.

Progression from this examination:

A-Level Art and Design or 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.

Exam Board: AQA

Further Information:

Curriculum Leader for Design and Technology, Ms Winters: a.winters@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Drama

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 Plays: Practical Assessment with 2000-word portfolio 40%

- Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus (free choice for centre).
- Performance of this devised piece or design realisation for this performance.
- Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance.
- Performer or designer routes available.



Component 2

Performance from Text: Practical Assessment 20%

- Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.
- Centre choice of performance text.
- Performer or designer routes available.



Component 3

Theatre Makers in Practice: Written Assessment 40%

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.
- Choice of 12 performance texts.
- Live theatre evaluation

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.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

Curriculum Leader for Performing Arts, Ms Catchpole: m.catchpole@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

This exciting course will give you the confidence and skills to cook delicious dishes while exploring the principles of food science, nutrition, and healthy eating. It's all about inspiring a love for cooking, empowering you to make smart food choices, and equipping you with the know-how to prepare affordable, nutritious meals for yourself and others now and for life. This course is designed with flexibility and innovation in mind. You will dive into fascinating topics such as food commodities, where our food comes from and the science behind what we eat, all while developing your practical cooking skills. From hearty main meals and vibrant vegetable dishes to delicate pastries, indulgent cakes, rich sauces, and recipes for special diets, you will create an impressive variety of starters and desserts. With hands-on cooking sessions every fortnight, you will develop essential techniques and produce a wide range of high-quality, delicious 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 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 enjoy working in this industry. Whether you are creating exciting new food 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 - **1hour 45mins paper (50% of grade)**

2 Coursework - **NEA1 The Food Investigation Assessment & NEA2 The Food Preparation Assessment (50% of grade)**

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)

Exam Board: Eduqas

Further Information:

Subject leader for Food Technology, Ms Burford: a.burford@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE German/French/Spanish

Theme 1: My personal world

Theme 2: Lifestyle and wellbeing

Theme 3: My neighbourhood

Theme 4: Media and Technology

Theme 5: Studying and my future

Theme 6: Travel and tourism

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 improve 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?

Paper 1 – Listening Exam

Paper 2 – Speaking Exam

Paper 3 – Reading Exam

Paper 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.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

Curriculum Leader of Languages Ms Arteaga: y.arteaga@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE Geography

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 cross-curricular links with history and biology. For example, looking at the impact of the British Empire on a country's development.

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

Exam Board: AQA

Further Information:

Geography subject leader Mr Froy: o.froy@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



BTEC Health and Social Care

The Cambridge National in Health and Social Care is a vocational qualification designed to give students a practical introduction to the health and social care sector. The course focuses on real-world contexts, preparing students for further study or careers in areas such as nursing, childcare, and social work.

Students explore a wide range of topics that reflect the realities of working in care settings. They learn about the rights of individuals and how to promote equality and diversity. Person-centred values such as dignity, respect, and compassion are central, alongside safeguarding and confidentiality. Learners also study human growth and development across life stages, considering how physical, intellectual, emotional, and social changes affect individuals. The benefits of studying Health and Social Care are significant. It equips students with transferable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and empathy, while also offering insight into one of the UK's largest employment sectors. The qualification builds confidence, supports progression to higher-level courses, and provides a strong foundation for making a positive difference in people's lives.

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 years, health or social care sector
- **Development of the skills and knowledge** used by professionals within the Health, Social Care and Early Years sectors.
- **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 a 9. 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 one optional unit.

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/OCR AAQ and OCR Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care and Mental Health, Individuals and Society.

Careers Information:

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

Exam Board: OCR

Further Information:

Curriculum Leader for Science, Ms Vickers: a.vickers@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

GCSE History

GCSE History helps students make sense of the world by exploring how the past has shaped the society we live in today. The course covers a wide and engaging range of topics, from the development of medicine from the Renaissance to the modern day, including the challenges faced by doctors on the Western Front during the First World War, to life in Elizabethan England and the dramatic events of Weimar and Nazi Germany. Students will also study international relations during the Cold War, learning how global tensions developed and eventually ended. Alongside fascinating content, students will build valuable skills such as analysis, evaluation, and extended writing, which are highly useful for further study and future careers.

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?

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

- Medicine in Britain, 1 hour and 20 minutes.
- Superpower Relations and Early Elizabethan England, 1 hour and 50 minutes.
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1 hour and 30 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; law, lecturing, museum work, local or national government, journalism, writing, magazine, TV, newspaper and online journalism, archiving, documentary making, legal and litigation work, teaching and many, many more!

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

Curriculum Leader for Humanities, Ms Wylie r.wylie@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



Art Room



County Secondary School, Sydenham

GCSE Media Studies

If you're interested in **TV, film marketing, video games, podcasting, advertising, music** or anything online, Media Studies is the subject where you get to explore the things you engage with every day.

You will study a wide range of media texts from the past 50 years. You'll learn how to analyse them in detail and understand how they are constructed using camera shots, audio, editing, costumes, props and settings. You'll also learn to recognise how and why media texts try to influence your opinions and behaviours.

Later in the course, you'll complete creative coursework where you'll design your own media products such as a **film poster, Blu-Ray cover or magazine cover** — based on a real brief from the Eduqas exam board and requiring you to develop your photography and design skills.

Three Reasons to study Media Studies:

- Opportunity to learn about the kinds of media products you watch, read, play and listen to every day
- A 12-week coursework unit where you'll develop your research, photography and design skills in Adobe Photoshop
- Great progression routes to KS5 Media Studies courses and university courses

How will this course be examined or assessed?

- 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.
- 30% is assessed through a non-examined unit (coursework): Component 3.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

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

Progression from this examination:

Students who study GCSE Media Studies can progress to KS5 media-related courses available at our school, including A Level Media Studies and A Level Film Studies. Many students choose to continue Media Studies in the sixth form (SFH6), where the A Level course consistently achieves excellent results, well above the national average.

A number of former students have gone on to study media-related degrees at universities such as Bournemouth, Sussex, Kent, Portsmouth, Norwich and Westminster. GCSE Media Studies also supports applications to KS5 humanities subjects (such as Sociology) due to the skills developed throughout the course.

Careers Information:

Careers include TV and film production, editing and post-production, digital marketing, social media management, content creation for YouTube, TikTok and streaming platforms, podcasting, journalism, radio, web and app design, gaming and eSports, animation, and graphic design.

Exam Board: Eduqas

Further Information:

Subject Leader for Media Studies, Mr Kenny: jkenny@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk





GCSE Music

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 10 and 11.

Composition – You will compose two pieces, one free composition and one to a brief using live instruments or using out music technology resources which include Logic Pro X and Sibelius.

Understanding – There will be 4 areas of study: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music

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%

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 during the course

Component 3 - Composing Music 30%

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.

Exam Board: Eduqas

Further Information:

Subject Leader for Music, Ms Campbell c.campbell@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Physical Education

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 inside of school as well as sports taken by students outside of school.

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 sports team at school or in the community to build on your skills for the practical course component and to aid evidence for course requirements.
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.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

Subject Leader for PE, Ms Chandler: c.chandler@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Please note: Only one sports course (either GCSE or BTEC below) will run, determined by student preference and the number of registered participants. Courses will not run concurrently.



BTEC Sport

A variety of topics including Practical Sport; The rules, regulations and scoring systems of Sport, understanding fitness components, discovering how to coach or train others, using drills and practices to help participants improve. Fitness training and performance — learning about different fitness types, how to test fitness, and how to design training programmes to boost performance. explore the many types of sport and physical activities across different social backgrounds, sporting equipment and technology and how it is used, and how to plan safe, effective warm-ups and sessions.

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 written exam
- A number of assignments submitted on deadlines throughout the 2 year course.

Are there any compulsory elements for this course?

- Participation in Extra-curricular sports team at school or in the community.
- Leadership of small groups of Primary/ lower 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.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

Subject Leader for PE, Ms Chandler: c.chandler@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Please note: Only one sports course (BTEC or GCSE above) will run, determined by student preference and the number of registered participants. Courses will not run concurrently.



GCSE Sociology

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.

Exam Board: AQA

Further Information:

Subject Lead for Sociology, Ms Begum: j.begum@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk



GCSE Triple Science

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

What will I study?

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, Environmental law, Mathematics and Computing.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information:

Curriculum Leader for Science, Ms Vickers: a.vickers@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

