



Year 9

Guided Choices

2025



2025 Key Stage 4 Guided Choices Booklet

This booklet is designed to provide you with information to help you to make the right choices for your studies in the Key Stage 4 Curriculum. The choices you make are important, both in enabling you to enjoy and succeed in your studies from age 14-16 and in providing you with the right knowledge and qualifications to support your choice of further study or work after the age of 16.

It is important to note that not all courses offered within this booklet may operate if numbers are too low and that some courses may need to be limited to maximum numbers. Students must, therefore, carefully select a reserve course when completing the online form

We hope that you have been able to take advantage of the opportunity to speak to teachers at the Guided Choices Evening. Please also read this book carefully and speak with your tutor or subject teachers if you require further clarification before submitting your form.

Director of Curriculum Programmes - Mr O'Neill

Heads of House - Miss Ryce (Drake), Miss Hughes (Grenville), Mr Richards (Raleigh),
Miss Carnell (Scott)

IMPORTANT DATES - KS4 TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS	
January 27th 2025	Option subject assemblies and GCSE focus week in Year 9 Lessons
January 30th 2025	Year 9 Guided Choices Process Launch Evening
February 14th 2025	Deadline for submission of "Preferred Options" online form—information at the end of this booklet
February 15th 2025 March 31st 2025	School review of forms; interviews with students, parents and carers (where changes are necessary or recommended); final changes to "Preferred Options" form submitted
May 2025	College to confirm courses and options for all students
September 2025	Students start to follow all KS4 courses
June 2027	Students complete courses and undertake final GCSE examinations

Next steps for students...

- Speak to your subject teachers and tutors.
- Read this booklet carefully.
- Discuss your choices with parents and carers.
- Complete and submit Preferred Options form at the end of this booklet by 14th February.

Good reasons for studying courses include:

- I am interested in the subject.
- I already do well in this subject.
- This subject will support my plans for future courses and careers.
- Together with other choices, this subject will give me a varied and interesting curriculum.
- The balance of exams and Non Examined Assessment in this subject plays to my strengths.

Things that should not influence your choice:

- My friends have chosen this subject.
 - I like my current teacher in this subject.
 - It will please my parents or others if I choose this subject.
-

Please consider the following pathway options when making your subject choices

Pathway 1 : Separate Science Pathway

Students who decide on this pathway will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately and will receive three separate grades. One of these sciences is counted as one of their options. They then have **two** more free choices.

Pathway 2 : Combined Science Pathway

Students taking this pathway will still study the three sciences but these are combined to give two GCSE grades. Their first choice is between Computer Science, French, Geography and History. They then have **two** other free choices.

Subjects Studied in Key Stage 4 via Core or Optional Programme

Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum for all students will include study of the following:

English Language & Literature

Mathematics

Science

Core PE, Religious Studies, PSHE (non-examined)

Pathway 1 (Separate Sciences)

Option 1: Third Science

Option 2: A free choice

Option 3: A free choice

Pathway 2 (Combined Science)

Option 1: One of the following subjects - Geography, History, Computer Science or French

Option 2: An open choice from the other subjects listed in this booklet.

Option 3: Another open choice from the other subjects listed in this booklet.

Who to Contact If You Need Further Help and Advice

For further advice and information during the Guided Choices process, contact your child's Tutor, Head of House, Careers Leader or subject teachers.

You can also email Mr O'Neill on: daniel.Oneill@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Details of all subjects, both Core and Optional, are given in the following pages.

COURSE INFORMATION

Core Subjects

1. English Language
2. English Literature
3. Mathematics
4. Science
5. Science

Non Examined Subjects

RE
PSHE
PE

Option Subjects

Subject	Qualification
Art	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Computer Science	GCSE
Design & Technology	GCSE
Drama	GCSE
Food Preparation & Nutrition	GCSE
French	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
Health & Social Care	BTEC
History	GCSE
Media Studies	GCSE
Music	BTEC
Photography	GCSE
Physical Education / Sport Studies	GCSE / Cambridge National
Religious Studies	GCSE
Third Separate Science	GCSE

English Language & English Literature (AQA)

Head of Department - Mrs L Dudman

It is a compulsory subject; grade 5 is required by many colleges and employers. English is necessary for all who want to communicate through speaking or writing and who want to deepen their skills of analysis.

English Language & Literature are studied and lead to two GCSEs.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Exam Board—AQA

English Language

Two exam papers

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing - 50%

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspective - 50%

In addition, there is a spoken component and this grade is reported separately on the English certificate.

English Literature

Two exam papers

Paper 1: Shakespeare & 19th Century novel - 40%

Paper 2: Modern texts & poetry - 60%

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

The qualification will help you get on to the Post 16 course of your choice and many employers will take your English qualification into account when deciding whether to employ you or not. A Level English Language and English Literature are offered at Sidmouth College in the Sixth Form. A good standard of English is also a pre-requisite for many other A Levels that require extensive written work.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

English is relevant for all and, taken to a high level, can lead to careers in areas such as Journalism, Teaching, Law and Politics.

Mathematics (Edexcel)

Head of Department - Ms Charalambous

Mathematics is a compulsory subject. You will develop your ability to solve problems, think logically, work in a team, develop resilience, communicate ideas and use your own initiative. All of these skills are in high demand from employers and universities.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Exam Board:

Edexcel with two tiers (Foundation or Higher)

Assessment:

Foundation ranges from grades 1-5

Higher ranges from grades 4-9

Both tiers consist of three papers taken in May and June of Year 11. Each paper is worth a third of the total qualification. The first is a non-calculator paper and the other two are calculator papers. Each paper lasts 90 minutes.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

Mathematics GCSE can lead to A Level Maths, A Level Further Maths and Level 3 Core Maths, but will also support study in sciences, social sciences and indeed most other subjects and courses. It will be a requirement for most KS5 or other sixth form college courses. Any student achieving below a grade 4 will have to restudy the course and retake the exam until they reach the age of 18 or achieve a grade 4.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Maths is needed for a wide range of future careers options. It underpins science, technology and engineering. It also has wide applications in business, law, nutrition, sports science, psychology and finance. A grade 4 or 5 pass in GCSE Maths is needed for continuation to sixth form or any college or apprenticeship.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Mathematics is taught in ability sets. Students will be entered in the appropriate tier by the school. Most years see approximately 50% of students entered for each tier.

Combined Science (AQA)

Head of Department - Miss King

All students are required to complete a minimum of two GCSEs in Science. Combined Science studies Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, but provides two Science GCSEs, reflective of performance across all three subjects.

Information for separate (triple) Science is on another page.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

AQA GCSE Combined (Trilogy) Science

All content and course information can be found on the AQA website.

Exams constitute 100% of the final GCSE grades. There are 6 exams, all 1 hour and 15 minutes long.

Biology content	Chemistry content	Physics content
Cell Biology	Atomic structure and Periodic Table	Energy
Organisation	Chemical bonding and properties	Electricity
Infection and response	Quantitative calculations	Particle model of matter
Photosynthesis and respiration	Chemical changes	Radioactivity
Homeostasis and response	Energy changes	Forces
Inheritance, variation, and evolution	Rate of reaction	Waves
Ecology	Organic chemistry	Magnetism and electromagnetism
	Chemical analysis	
	Chemistry of the Earth	

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

Both Combined and Separate Science GCSEs allow students to progress onto A-level and vocational studies. Sidmouth College (and most other FE course providers) requires a minimum of two Grade 5/6s to be accepted onto A level science courses. Although not compulsory, a Grade 5/6 in Mathematics is also preferred.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

There is a vast number of science based careers for students to follow, for which this course will be suitable including, but not limited to, medicine, nursing and midwifery, veterinary surgery and science, clinical research, laboratory research, engineering, robotics, genetic engineering, sports science and environmental management. Science also provides a wide range of transferrable skills required by employers, including the public and armed services.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

We provide opportunities to buy discounted revision guides that go alongside this course.

Separate (Triple) Science (AQA)

Head of Department - Miss King

For students who enjoy Science as a subject and / or those looking to pursue a career in the sciences.

The main difference between combined and separate Science is the amount of content studied. Separate Science studies more within a topic, and often to a deeper level. Separate Science also looks to apply more knowledge to situations, such as medical treatments and chemical analyses.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

AQA GCSE Biology

AQA GCSE Chemistry *All content and course information can be found on the AQA website.*

AQA GCSE Physics

Course content is below. Topics with additional 'triple only' material are italicised.

Biology content	Chemistry content	Physics content
Cell Biology <i>Organisation</i> <i>Infection and response</i> Photosynthesis and respiration <i>Homeostasis and response</i> <i>Inheritance, variation, and evolution</i> <i>Ecology</i>	Atomic structure and <i>Periodic Table</i> Chemical bonding and properties <i>Quantitative calculations</i> Chemical changes Energy changes <i>Rate of reaction</i> <i>Organic chemistry</i> <i>Chemical analysis</i> Chemistry of the Earth	Energy Electricity <i>Particle model of matter</i> <i>Radioactivity</i> <i>Forces</i> <i>Waves</i> <i>Magnetism and electromagnetism</i> <i>Astrophysics (GCSE Physics only)</i>

Exams constitute 100% of the final GCSE grades. There are 2 exams for each subject, and each exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

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Both Combined and Separate Science GCSEs allow students to progress onto A-level and vocational studies. Sidmouth College (and most other FE course providers) requires a minimum of two Grade 5/6s to be accepted onto A level science courses. Although not compulsory, a Grade 5/6 in Mathematics is also preferred.

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Modern Foreign Languages—French (AQA)

Head of Department - Mr O'Neill

French is for everyone and anyone:

Anyone who has enjoyed their French language lessons at Key Stage 3; anyone who wants to have a widely valued GCSE; anyone considering going to university; students wishing to achieve the English Baccalaureate qualification. Please note you can only choose French as an option if you studied French in Years 7, 8 and 9.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE CONTENT : You will expand upon the work that you did at Key Stage 3, so many of the topics will be familiar to you. The three themes on which assessment is based are :

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Assessment:

All four languages skills will be assessed in the summer exam session of year 11.

There are no controlled assessments.

Students will be entered for either Foundation or Higher level.

Listening component (25%):

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken text. Half the answers are written in English, half are written in French

Speaking component (25%):

Communicating and interacting for a variety of purposes by completing one role play, one photo card discussion and one general conversation.

Reading component (25%):

Comprehension questions from authentic written text, and the completion of one translation task from French into English

Writing component (25%):

Three or four written tasks which could include a message, a bullet pointed list, a structured written task and one translation task from English into French

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

Further study at A Level and a straightforward Languages Degree or a combination with such subjects as Business, Tourism, Computing, Psychology, Media, Film and Television, Performing Arts, Sport, Sociology, Education, Accounting, Marketing, Human Resources, Management, Health Studies, Geography, Mathematics, Art and Design, English, Philosophy, Law, Economics, Music, Journalism, International Relations, History, Archaeology, Engineering, Law.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Business Services, Central Government, Construction, Creative and Media, Engineering, Event Management , Financial Services, Medicine, Hotel and Catering Management , Land-based and Environmental Work, Local Government, Manufacturing, Marketing, Public Services, Retail, Teaching, Technology and Computer Gaming, Translation and Interpreting , Travel and Tourism, Voluntary and Charitable Sector, Law.

Geography (OCR)

Head of Department - Mr Sullivan

This GCSE builds on prior learning that students will have completed during Key Stage Three. The content is divided into Physical and Human Geography and focuses on the interactions between issues and processes.

EXAM BOARD—OCR Specification B

COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Exam Paper 1—Our Natural World—1hr 15 mins—35% of GCSE Mark

Global Hazards, Changing Climate, Distinctive Landscapes, Sustaining Ecosystems, Fieldwork, Geographical skills.

Exam Paper 2—People and Society—1hr 15 mins—35% of GCSE Mark

Urban futures, Dynamic development, Uk in the 21st Century, Resource Reliance, Fieldwork, Geographical skills.

Exam Paper 3 Geographic Exploration—1hr 30 mins—30% of GCSE Mark

Geographical skills, decision making.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

A Level Geography, Environment Studies, Travel & Tourism and also enables students to broaden their horizons by developing analytical, research and a variety of transferable skills.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Cartographer	Environmental Health Officer
Estate Agent	Armed Forces
Transport Officer	Researcher
Earth Scientist	Travel Agent
Hazard Prediction & Disaster Manager	Conservation Officer
Architect	Geographer
Construction or Property Lawyer	Teacher
Urban Regeneration Officer	Sustainable energy
Surveyor	Healthcare
Coastal Engineer	Education
Weather Forecaster	Finance
Forestry Manager	Social Care
	Journalism

History (Edexcel)

Head of Department - Mr Trengove

Students wishing to study the English Baccalaureate pathway. People who like learning about the past and how it has impacted on our lives today. Students with strong literacy skills.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

1. Paper 1 - Medicine through Time, c1250-present. [Thematic Study and Historical Environment Study]

Written Examination; 1 hour and 20 mins - 30% of the qualification.

This paper will consist of;

- A Thematic Study - Medicine in Britain, medieval to modern day; a chronological study of key features and reasons for the development of medicine in Britain
- A Study of a historical environment - The British sector of the Western Front, WW1 1914–18; a detailed study using evidence from the time to explore injuries, treatment and the trenches.

2. Paper 2 – Elizabethan England and The American West [Period and British Depth Study]

Written Examination; 1 hour and 15 mins - 40% of the qualification.

This paper will consist of;

- A British Depth Study - Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88; a study which focusses upon Queen Elizabeth I, politics and religion, challenges to her authority and Elizabethan society in the Age of Exploration.
- A Period Study - The American West, c1835–c1895; a study which looks at the early settlement of the West, developments on the Plains and conflict and conquest.

3. Paper 3 – Weimar and Nazi Germany [Modern Depth Study]

Written Examination; 1 hour and 15 mins - 30% of the qualification.

This paper will consist of;

- A Modern Depth Study - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39; a study focusing on initially the Weimar Republic and Hitler's rise to power, then move on to consider Nazi control and dictatorship and life in Nazi Germany.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

A Level History, Classics, Philosophy and complement a range of courses through developing strong literacy skills.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

People with a background of studying History at GCSE, A Level or Degree go in to a number of different career paths which include; Policing and Legal Professions, Business, Teaching, Journalism, Media, Armed Forces, Archaeologists and Anthropologist.

Reasoning for this is the transferable skills that History offers as a subject, which include; research, questioning, linking information together, planning, independent thought, reasoning, and evidential based work.

Art—Fine Art (AQA)

Head of Department - Miss Fry

- Students who wish to undertake further studies in Art and Design post-16.
- Students who like to experiment and express their ideas creatively
- Students who have an interest and aptitude in the subject.
- Students who are willing to develop their ideas independently with guidance and support from their teachers.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAIL

Exam Board—AQA Component 1 coursework (60%) Component 2 Exam (40%)

The course is taught through a number of projects over the two years. The projects are based on interesting themes and we encourage you to explore the themes in depth. To help you develop your ideas you will experience a variety of ways of working, discover new techniques and find out how to use many different materials. You will be helped to explore how artists, designers and craftspeople have developed their own ideas and you will be able to try these in your own work. During the course you will have the option to visit galleries and undertake visits to London and other major cities.

You will be shown how to draw from observation to build skills and confidence in manipulating the formal elements. Your sketchbook will be an important record of your ideas over the two years and forms an important part of your final assessment. Homework assignments will be directly related to your coursework.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

This course provides a strong foundation for further progression into Art and Design related courses such as A-level Art and Design/photography, higher education, foundation studies, apprenticeships and university courses.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Fashion Buyer	Art teacher/lecturer
Interior Designer	Product Designer
Fine Artist	Community Art Worker
Television Art Director	Tattoo Designer
Medical Illustrator	Furniture Designer
Lighting Designer	Industrial Designer
Cinematographer	Game Designer
Graphic Designer	Landscape Designer
Architect	Advertising
Set Designer	Graphic Designer

At the end of the course your work is displayed for final moderation by the examiners. This includes your portfolio work in your sketchbooks - coursework (60%) and your examination work (40%) It is worth bearing in mind that the creative industries are the biggest employer in the UK at present and this GCSE will help your employability. Art is primarily coursework based so this involves time and care to complete classwork and homework throughout the two years.

Business (Edexcel)

Head of Department - Mr Kanda

This course is for anyone who has an interest in how a business works, wants a career in business, or who may want to set up their own business in the future. We look at how businesses are set up and how they have to anticipate future trends and outside influences. A good standard of literacy and numeracy will be required to be successful on this course.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Exam Board—Edexcel

Content

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business

- Develop an understanding of how behaviour and decisions in business are impacted on a local and national level.

Theme 2: Building a Business

- Develop an understanding of how behaviour and decisions in business are impacted on a national and global level.

Assessment: 100% Exam with TWO exams, each 1hr 45 minutes.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

GCSE Business offers an excellent foundation for those wishing to pursue careers in management, marketing, project management, business accounting, management consultancy, human resources, and business journalism as well as those interested in continuing on to further study either at A Level, degree level, apprenticeship or other work based training

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

- Setting up your own business
- Business Management
- Accountancy
- Law
- Human Resources
- Events Management
- Marketing

Computer Science (OCR)

Head of Department— Mr Kanda

This course is perfect for students who enjoy problem-solving, logical thinking, and understanding how technology works. If you are curious about how computers operate, how to program them, and how technology impacts the world, this course is for you! No prior programming knowledge is required—just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

The course is delivered through the OCR exam board and is split into three components:

Component 01: Computer Systems

- Topics: Systems architecture, memory and storage, computer networks, network security, system software, and the ethical, legal, cultural, and environmental impacts of technology.
- Assessment: Written exam (1 hr 30 mins) – 50% of the total GCSE.

Component 02: Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming

- Topics: Algorithms, programming fundamentals, robust program production, Boolean logic, and programming environments.
- Assessment: Written exam (1 hr 30 mins) – 50% of the total GCSE.

Component 03: Programming Project

- Students will complete a practical programming task to design, write, test, and refine a program. This is compulsory but not formally assessed (approximately 20 hours).

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

Studying Computer Science can open doors to further education and career opportunities in a technology-driven world. It prepares students for A-level Computer Science and related courses in STEM fields such as Engineering, Mathematics, and Data Science. This qualification also provides a strong foundation for apprenticeships in IT, software development, and digital technology.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Computer Science is an essential subject for careers in:

- Software Development
- Cybersecurity
- Data Science and Artificial Intelligence
- Web Development
- Game Design
- Network Engineering
- IT Consultancy
- Robotics and Automation

Additionally, the skills developed in this course, such as critical thinking, logical problem-solving, and coding, are valuable in almost any modern profession.

Design & Technology (AQA)

Head of Department - Mr Walshaw

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

This course allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth. This course has 50 per cent non—exam assessment (coursework) in order to recognise the importance of practical work within this subject.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

AQA GCSE Design & Technology

Written Paper - 50% of total marks - 2 hours - 100 marks

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions including a 12 mark design question.

Plus:

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) - 50% of the total marks—100 marks

Substantial Design and Make Task (30-35 hours)

Assessment criteria: Investigating, Designing, Making, Analysing and Evaluating

Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence (max 20 pages)

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

A range of A Level Design & Technology courses or a wide range of apprenticeships.;

Skills that will be useful to you in the future include;

Time management, problem solving, idea generation, practical skills, making a concept in to a real outcome, research and analysis skills

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Industrial Design

Furniture Design

Carpentry

Automotive Design

Cabinet Making

Construction

Model Making

Engineering

Project Management

Ergonomics

Architecture

Product Design

Drama (AQA)

Head of Department - Mrs Davey

Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course designed for students to meet the demands of their future role as active citizens in employment and society in general, as well as for the possible further study of Drama. The ability to speak and act in public with confidence, think independently, write and communicate effectively, adapt to new situations, improvise on the spot, organise and collaborate in a team – these indispensable transferable skills get people jobs. A GCSE in Drama equips you with all these skills and more. Do you want to stand out from the rest?

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

- ♦ You will be working in groups in response to varied stimulus material to communicate ideas in dramatic form.
- ♦ You will study a theatrical text with the emphasis on performing and staging techniques.
- ♦ You will study lighting, set design, sound, costume and props.
- ♦ You will experience live theatre and you may work with professional practitioners in a workshop situation.

Throughout this course, you will be involved in many varied activities. You will be improvising, examining texts, designing, visiting theatres and working in groups. The emphasis is on individual strengths and interests. This drama course demands a high level of personal motivation and interest.

C1: The Written paper [1hour 45mins] 40% of total marks

The written paper comprises three sections:

- A:** Four Multiple choice questions based on Theatre Roles and specialist terminology [4marks]
B: Four questions based on an extract from a set text studied on the course. [44 marks]
C: One question based on a live or streamed production seen. [32 marks]

C2: Devised Practical NEA 40% of total marks

A group devised piece performed to an audience and a written devising log.

C3: Text in Practice externally examined 20% of total marks

The performance of two key extracts from a scripted play marked by external examiner

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

This GCSE provides an excellent foundation, preparing students for the transition to study Drama at A Level in the Sixth form and supports all university courses.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Where leadership and team work are essential skills.

Where the art of persuasion is sought and enterprise rewarded.

Where people skills and communication are vital.

Where skills are appropriate to the diverse requirements of the creative industries which is the biggest employer generating 90 billion a year to the UK economy. This includes all areas of Television, Film and Theatre, where performing, technical and creative ability are central to success.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Important! If you want to do well in this course you will need to be committed to working outside lesson time. You will benefit from a department that has consistently achieved high results and where success is created and celebrated.

Food Preparation and Nutrition (Eduqas)

Head of Department - Mr Walshaw

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a new course designed to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages students to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and in later life.

Practical work will be carried out most weeks and is used to complement theory lessons, and enhance the learning skill.

It is suitable for any student who has an interest in food; whether they wish a career in this area, or enjoy cooking and want to learn more.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Eduqas (formerly WJEC) GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

One written exam accounts for 50% of the final grade covering the areas of study:

- Food commodities – different foods, ingredients, processes and techniques
- Principles of Nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The Science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation – develop practical cooking skills

Component 2- Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action

Two coursework / non examination practical assessments

Assessment 1 – The Food Investigation Assessment (15%)

This piece of work requires students to investigate and evaluate the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients creating a report setting out their findings.

Assessment 2 – The Food Preparation Assessment (35%)

This piece of work requires students to plan, prepare, cook and present a selection of dishes to meet particular requirements such as dietary need or lifestyle choice

Please be aware that students carry out practical work on a regular basis, for which they are expected to provide their own resources.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

BTEC Hospitality and Catering level 3, Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition Level 3 as well as complementing other subjects such as sport science, health or food and hospitality courses or apprenticeships.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Hospitality and catering is a growing sector of the jobs market and there are numerous opportunities within this industry from retail, hotel work, chef etc. This course can open opportunities to study catering to BTEC or degree level, or undertake an apprenticeship in a variety of local establishments.

BTEC Health & Social Care (Edexcel)

Head of Department - Mrs Whitworth

Anyone with an interest in people, how human development happens and how our lives are affected by this development. Those with an interest in caring for others and in the health and caring professions, including nursing, midwifery, social work and teaching.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

This is a Level 2 BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care that is equivalent to a GCSE and aims to:

- develop your knowledge and understanding of the sector
- gain an appreciation of the importance of care values
- analyse and evaluate your own caring and communication skills

The course has two internally assessed components, and one that's externally assessed:

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (internally assessed assignments 30%)

- explore how individuals develop physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually over time
- investigate how various factors, events and choices may impact on individuals' development
- discover how people adapt to life events and cope with making changes.

Unit 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values (internally assessed assignments 30%)

- learn which health and social care services are available
- identify why people might need to use these services
- discover who's involved in providing these services
- explore what might stop people from accessing the services they need
- look at the care values which ensure people get the care and protection they need.

Unit 3: Health and wellbeing (Externally assessed task based on a brief 40%)

- learn what 'being healthy' means to different people
- explore the different factors that might influence health and wellbeing
- identify key health indicators and how to interpret them
- assess someone's health using what you have learned
- create a health and wellbeing improvement plan
- reflect on the potential challenges the person may face

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

You might continue on to further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, or choose apprenticeships and traineeships. What's more, the practical transferable skills you master during your studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support your progress in the present and the future.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

If you are interested in any of the caring professions (nursing, teaching, social work, nursery worker, midwifery, paramedic, physiotherapy and many others), Health and Social Care is a really useful way of developing an understanding of the skills needed.

Media Studies (Eduqas)

Lead Teacher - Mrs Todd

This subject is for anyone who is interested in the media industry that surrounds them. Students will explore the media through a combination of theoretical, analytical and practical lessons – this course is not just about watching television! Students who opt for Media Studies should be driven, curious, creative and enthusiastic. They will have an excellent work ethic, be able to work independently and have the good written communication skills that are required in order to produce the analytical written work that is expected.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DEATAIL

Exam Board— Eduqas

COURSE CONTENT:

Throughout this GCSE, you will study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences. You will explore how media products (television, newspapers, online, social and participatory media, film, music videos, video games, radio, and magazines) are made, why they are made, why audiences engage with them and what we get from doing so. You will also study advertising and marketing within the media industry.

ASSESSMENT:

Exam paper 1: Component 1: Exploring the Media - Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

In Section A, students will analyse both set and unseen print texts (magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements) in relation to media language and representation. In Section B, students will answer questions relating to film, newspapers, radio and/or video games in relation to the Media Industry and Audiences. This exam is worth 40% of the GCSE.

Exam paper 2: Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products – Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. Students will answer a question on either media language or representation and a question on media industries, audiences or media contexts. Section A will be based on an extract from one of the set television programmes you have studied whilst in Section B, students will respond to two questions making reference to music videos and online media. This exam is worth 30% of the GCSE.

Non- exam Assessment: Component 3: Creating Media Products

Students plan and construct an individual media production for a specific audience in response to a choice of briefs set by the exam board. Students will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of media language and representation in this component. This section is worth 30% of the GCSE.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

A Level Media Studies is offered at Sidmouth College for those wishing to pursue media further. In addition, this GCSE will develop your skills in written communication, analytical writing, using ICT to produce and present work, problem solving and creativity which are fundamental skills for many other subjects offered at A Level.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Media Studies is a modern subject for a modern world. The media is all around us and the industry is growing exponentially! Because Media Studies develops so many different skills, the career opportunities beyond a media education are abundant. It can lead to careers in areas such as journalism, editing, screen writing, app design, graphic design, web development, acting, direction, composing, lighting, magazine writing/editing, public relations, marketing, advertising, politics and TV production.

Music - BTEC Tech Award

Subject leader Mr Morgan

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT DETAILS

The BTEC Tech Award in music practice has a more vocational focus where students learn about the various music products, develop valuable skills and techniques in music creation, performance and production, and explore potential careers in the industry. There is no formal written exam as all assessments are practical in nature.

Component 1—Exploring Music Products and Styles (30%)

Aim: explore musical styles and techniques, and gain an understanding of roles in the industry

- Explore different styles and genres of music.
- Take part in practical workshops to understand stylistic features and characteristics.
- Learn about the different products in the music industry.
- Develop techniques in realising musical products, through performance or technology.

Component 2—Music Skills Development (30%)

Aim: develop musical knowledge, skills, and techniques and apply them to a music product

- Reflect on their progress, and on areas for improvement.
- Choose a job role and explore the skills needed to fulfil it.
- Develop a range of skills.
- Apply skills and techniques in a music performance, creation or production.

Component 3 – Responding to a Commercial Music Brief (40% of course)

Aim: put skills into practice by responding to a brief as a composer, performer or producer

- Choose an area of the industry that excites you (composer, performer, or producer).
- Explore the brief and come up with possible responses and ideas.
- Use relevant resources, skills and techniques to develop and refine musical material.
- Present their final response (solo or in a group).
- Review and reflect their approach to the brief and their final outcome.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

During the course, you will gain the knowledge and skills you need to succeed in your next steps. After completing the course, you can continue on to further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships. What's more, the transferable skills you master during your studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support your progress.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Vocational qualifications are excellent for those who want to develop skills for use later in life, whether they want to use those skills for paid employment or as a means for self-fulfilment or indeed to stand out from the crowd in a competitive job market. Musical skills in both playing traditional instruments or producing using music technology are recognised as being rich in cultural capital and transferable skills making candidates more attractive to employers, as well as providing opportunities for creative enterprises.

Photography (AQA)

Head of Art and Photography - Miss Fry

Creative people who already enjoy taking photographs of lots of different things and enjoy the instant result of the image. This course will suit anyone with an imagination, ideas and particularly students who enjoy practical work and using computers. You will have opportunities to explore many different digital techniques in our Photography Specialist room, allowing you to discover new ways to express yourself and your ideas.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Exam Board—AQA **Component 1 Coursework (60%)** **Component 2 Exam (40%)**

The course is taught through a number of projects over the two years. The projects are based on interesting themes and we encourage you to explore the themes in depth. To help you develop your ideas you will experience a variety of ways of working, discover new techniques. You will be helped to explore how artists, photographers, designers and craftspeople have developed their own ideas and you will be able to try these in your own work.

You will be shown how to use the camera to build skills and confidence in manipulating images particularly when using the formal elements and composition. Your sketchbook will be an important record of your ideas over the two years and forms an important part of your final assessment. Homework assignments will be directly related to your coursework.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

A-Level Art, Photography, Film, Media, branding, design, communications, Video, Television production, Stage design, Fashion, Graphics, Illustration etc. Art & Design Foundation degree and Apprenticeships.

This course provides a strong foundation for further progression to Art and Design related courses such as A-level Art and Design, Photography, Fashion. You will also find it useful for enhanced vocational and career pathways, higher education, foundation studies, apprenticeships and university courses.

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

There is a wide range of careers that Photography GCSE can be useful to access. The subject teaches; communication and collaboration, research and analysis skills, independence and adaptability. It is also worth bearing in mind that the creative industries are the biggest employer and generator of GDP in the UK at present and this GCSE will help your employability.

Fine artist	Community Art worker	Music video
Interior designer	Exhibition design	Illustrator
Medical Illustrator	Lifestyle Photographer	Print maker/ printer
Television Art Director	Industrial designer	Press photographer
Cinematographer	Furniture designer	Web design
Graphic designer	Advertising	Fashion photographer
Art appraiser	Museum or Art gallery	Lighting designer
Set designer	curator	Jewellery design
Film maker	Fashion designer	And other careers in these
Production designer	Theatre designer	industries
Product designer	Game design	

GCSE Physical Education (AQA)

Head of Department - Mrs S Omand

Any student who has a love of sport and consistently participates in competitions will thrive on this course. The ideal student will have an ongoing history of representing the College in at least two competitive sports and will regularly participate in physical activity. An interest in the world of health and fitness in terms of how to lead a healthy lifestyle, what makes one performer better than another and the effects of exercise on the body is important. You should also be interested in how sport affects our society in terms of the media, sponsorship and major sporting events.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS—AQA

Course Content (Theory 60%):

Paper 1: Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training and Use of Data

Paper 2: Sports Psychology, Socio-Cultural Influences, Health, Fitness and Well-being and Use of Data.

To support learning we provide enrichment opportunities such as GCSE PE workshops, practical weekend away and attendance at student conferences and sports events.

Course Content (Practical 40%): Three practical performances in different physical activities in the role of player/performer; one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either one other team or individual.

Examples of Team activities: Basketball, Cricket, Football, Hockey Netball, Rugby, Tennis doubles

Examples of Individual: Athletics, Badminton singles, Boxing, Canoeing, Equestrian, Swimming, Skiing, Tennis singles, Trampolining

You will also be required to complete a piece of written coursework to include an analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one of your chosen activities.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

- BTEC Level 3 Sport (currently taught in year 12 & 13 in sixth form) or in any of the sports areas such as sports development, coaching, and personal training. It provides an excellent foundation for study in sport science, psychology, sociology and business due to the diverse content of the theory specification.
- A Level Physical Education

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Teaching (either primary or secondary with PE), Health or Science as a specialism, Coaching, Armed Forces, medical professions such as Physiotherapy, Dietician, Occupational Health, Health Visitors, Outdoor Educational or Recreational Instructor roles. Also, due to the increase in socio-cultural topics: Media (particularly sports journalism), anyone interested in business in terms of sponsorship or product development.

***PE staff will select which PE/ Sport qualification is most suitable for your child.
However you may indicate your preference during option selection.***

Religious Studies (Edexcel)

Head of Department - Miss Hext

Students will develop a whole range of skills including those of presentation of an argument, analysis, evaluation, empathy, and understanding of current events and religious beliefs.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS

There are two exam papers at the end of this course, both exams are 1 hour and 45 minutes long. We study Edexcel B – focussed on Christianity, Islam, and ethical issues.

Areas of study

Religion and Ethics

Christian Beliefs

Matters and the family

Living the Religious Life—Christianity

Matters of life and death

Religion, Peace and Conflict

Muslim Beliefs

Crime and Punishment

Living the Religious Life—Islam

Peace and Conflict

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

The course could lead to A Level Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, Health & Social Care, Childcare

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Religious Studies is valued in a whole range of careers as it shows that you can listen to the opinions of others and present your own views. Careers where it is particularly useful include Police, Social Work, Medicine, Law, Personnel Management, Teaching and Politics. As well as complementing a number of post 16 options through development of a range of skills. Critical thinking, essay writing, investigative, analytical and critical evaluation skills.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Please note that a whole range of views are discussed in the course and students are encouraged to understand the views of others and to express their own opinions. The course is suitable for students of all faiths and none.

Sport Studies (Cambridge National OCR)

Head of Department - Mrs S Omand

Any student who has an interest in sport, leadership and the outdoors. The ideal student will regularly participate in physical activity and play at least one competitive sport. An interest in the world of health and fitness in terms of how to lead a healthy lifestyle, an interest in leadership and coaching and willing to participate in new sporting activities.

EXAM BOARD, COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT DETAILS—OCR

Course Content

Due to the increasing popularity of Physical Education and Sport courses, this is a new course at the College for 2024. All Ted Wragg Schools offer this highly successful qualification already. This course will provide an excellent opportunity for students who prefer coursework over examinations, may have one specialist sport as opposed to three and will enjoy taking part in leading Primary school events and participating in Outdoor Adventurous activities.

Course Content

Exam paper: Contemporary Issues in Sport (Theory 34%)

Students will learn about: Issues that affect participation in sport, sport in society, performance enhancing drugs, implications of hosting a major sporting event, the role of National Governing Bodies and the use of technology in sport.

Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities (Practical and coursework 33%)

Students will learning about: the key components in performance, applying practice methods for improvement in a sporting activity, planning, organising, leading and reviewing a sporting activity.

Increasing Awareness of Outdoor Adventurous Activities (Practical and coursework 33%)

Students will learn about: provision for different types of outdoor adventurous activities (OAA), preparing for, participating in and evaluating outdoor adventurous activities.

To support learning we provide enrichment opportunities such as workshops, practical weekend away and attendance at student conferences and sports events.

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD TO POST 16?

- BTEC Level 3 Sport (currently taught in year 12 & 13 in sixth form) or in any of the sports areas such as sports development, coaching, and personal training. It provides an excellent foundation for study in sport science, physical education and health.
- A Level Physical Education

FOR WHAT CAREERS WILL THIS COURSE BE USEFUL?

Teaching (either primary or secondary with PE), Health or Science as a specialism, Coaching, Armed Forces, medical professions such as Physiotherapy, Dietician, Occupational Health, Health Visitors, Outdoor Educational or Recreational Instructor roles.

***PE staff will select which PE/ Sport qualification is most suitable for your child.
However you may indicate your preference during option selection.***

Where to go for more information

Contact the College

If you have any questions about the changes to GCSEs and how this will affect your child, please speak to their subject teacher, Head of House, Tutor or Mrs Young - Careers Leader.

External links

The government explains its reasons for reforming GCSEs in appendix 4 of a policy paper linked to below:

- **2010 to 2015 government policy: school and college qualifications and curriculum, GOV.UK – DfE** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-school-and-college-qualifications-and-curriculum/2010-to-2015-government-policy-school-and-college-qualifications-and-curriculum>

Ofqual regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments. It provides more information about the changes to GCSEs and the new GCSE grading structure:

- **New GCSE grading structure, GOV.UK– Ofqual** https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/435615/2015-06-16-postcard-new-gcse-grading-structure.pdf
- **Get the facts: GCSE reform, GOV.UK – Ofqual** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-gcse-reform>

The BBC and the NHS provide advice on supporting your child through exams:

- **Helping your child through exams, BBC** http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/helping_with_exams/
- **Beat school exam stress, NHS** <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Examstress.aspx>

Career Website Links

- www.careerpilot.org.uk - for research on what you may want to do
- www.ucas.com/undergraduate - For any post 16 research as sometimes students pick subjects which do not lead into a course they may like to do



Primley Road, Sidmouth, EX10 9LG

Tel: 01395 514823

Email: enquiries@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

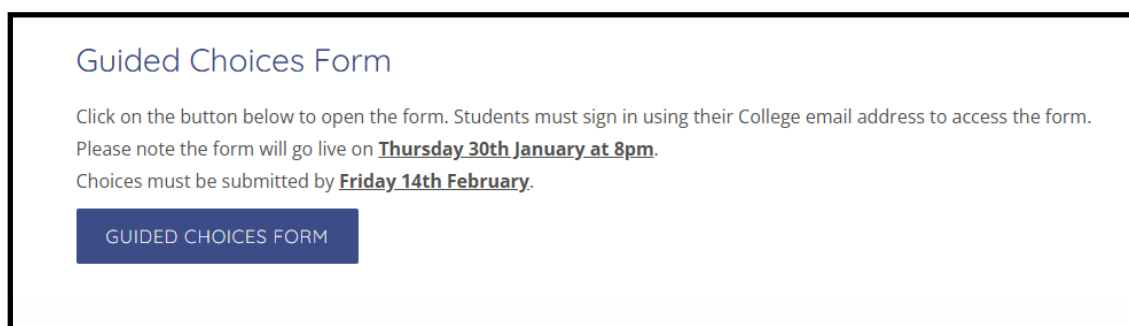
How to Complete & Submit the

Online Options Form

Visit the Sidmouth College website.

From the 'Students' menu option drop down list, select the 'Year 9 Guided Choices' menu option.

On the page that loads, scroll down to the 'Guided Choices Form'.

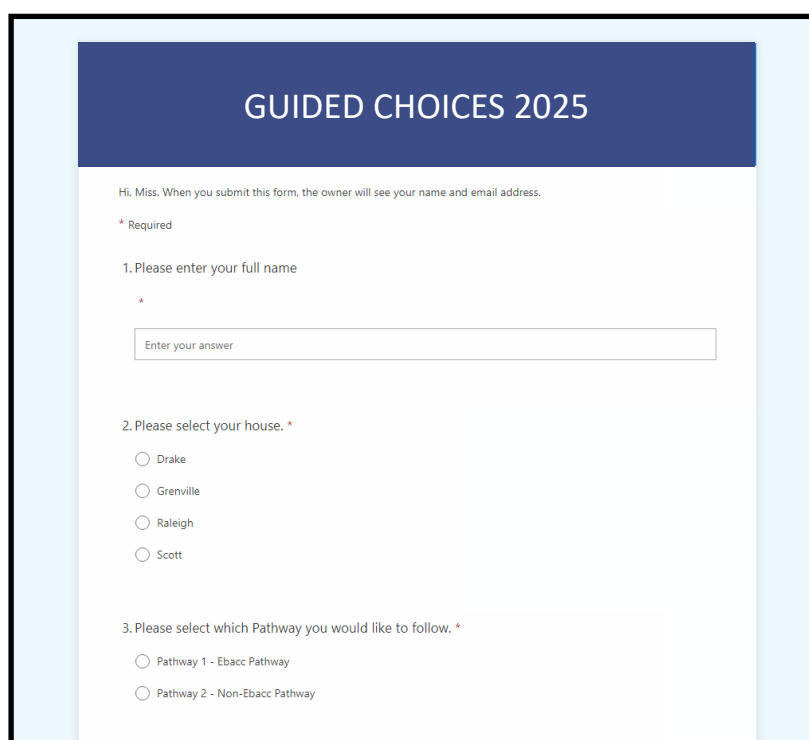


Guided Choices Form

Click on the button below to open the form. Students must sign in using their College email address to access the form.
Please note the form will go live on **Thursday 30th January at 8pm**.
Choices must be submitted by **Friday 14th February**.

GUIDED CHOICES FORM

Once the form loads, enter the student's name, select your chosen pathway and make your selections.



GUIDED CHOICES 2025

Hi, Miss. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

* Required

1. Please enter your full name *

Enter your answer

2. Please select your house. *

☐ Drake

☐ Grenville

☐ Raleigh

☐ Scott

3. Please select which Pathway you would like to follow. *

☐ Pathway 1 - Ebacc Pathway

☐ Pathway 2 - Non-Ebacc Pathway

An email confirming your choices will be sent out.