



Community



Creativity



Achievement



KS4 Choices Pathway Subject Booklet



INDEX

- Page 1 - Introduction from Ms Foster.**
- Page 2 - Key Stage 4 Choices Information.**
- Page 3 - Core Subjects.**
- Page 4 - English Language & English literature GCSE.**
- Page 5 - Mathematics GCSE.**
- Page 6 - Combined & Triple Science GCSE.**
- Page 8 - Ancient History GCSE.**
- Page 9 - Computer Science GCSE.**
- Page 10 - French GCSE.**
- Page 11 - Geography GCSE.**
- Page 12 - German GCSE.**
- Page 13 - History GCSE.**
- Page 14 - Spanish GCSE.**
- Page 15 - Urdu GCSE.**
- Page 17 - Construction & The Built Environment**
- Page 18 - Engineering.**
- Page 19 - Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE.**
- Page 20 - Hair Dressing & Beauty Therapy VTCT.**
- Page 21 - Health & Social Care .**
- Page 22 - Music Technology VCert.**
- Page 23 - OCR Cambridge National Sports Studies.**
- Page 24 - Digital Information Technology BTEC.**
- Page 26 - Art & Design GCSE.**
- Page 27 - BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise.**
- Page 28 - Citizenship Studies GCSE.**
- Page 29 - 3D Design GCSE.**
- Page 30 - Drama GCSE.**
- Page 31 - Ethics & Philosophy GCSE.**
- Page 32 - Extended Project GCE.**
- Page 33 - Media Studies GCSE.**
- Page 34 - Music GCSE.**
- Page 35 - PE GCSE.**
- Page 36 - Photography GCSE.**
- Page 37 - Psychology GCSE.**
- Page 38 - Sociology GCSE.**
- Page 39 - Contact Information Details.**
- Page 40 - Future Choices - Which route do I take?**
- Page 41 - Questions I could ask/Questions to consider?**



Dear Parent/Carer,

This half term is a very exciting time for your son/daughter as they select their subject choices for study in Years 10 & 11. I am aware though that for some, this process may seem daunting. Last terms Year 9 Parents Evening gave opportunity to discuss with subject teachers your child's current progress and aspiration.

In order to help offer guidance and support to your child we delivered information on each of the subject choices through assemblies and lessons and your child has also been able to attend a variety of taster sessions. Video and media clips have been created for each subject choice that will be shared with your child, this will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions to the subject teacher.

These Media clips will also be available online for you and your child to watch together. This guide will also provide further information and guidance as to the topics covered within each subject choice as well as the methods of assessment and possible future career pathways.

The world of 14-19 education and beyond is in a period of significant change, and we have been developing the courses that we offer to reflect this. We are also endeavoring to provide a curriculum that matches the need, aspirations and interests of our diverse community of pupils as fully as possible. We will again next year maintain our increased curriculum time for Maths and English whilst still providing a wide selection of other subjects that your child can choose from.

It is essential that your son / daughter selects subjects for the next two years of their academic life which will enable them to fully develop and enhance their skills so they can progress to university, employment and ultimately lifelong learning and success. We are very proud of our Sixth Form College and recognise that choices made at Key Stage 4 will provide a firm foundation and the passion to want to continue their success within their education at Key Stage 5 here at Parrs Wood Sixth Form College.

This is clearly, a very important time for our Year 9 students and we would urge students and their families to take full advantage of all the sources of advice available and to discuss the possibilities thoroughly. Our staff are here to support you in making the right choices to ensure future success.

Dear Year 9 Students,

This is it- you're reaching the end of year 9 and you're over halfway through your secondary education. No more 'subjects': now it's time to choose qualifications. The next two years are important because this is when you start on your learning pathways to qualifications that will stay with you for the rest of your life. Your teachers, parents/carers and our careers team are all dedicated to helping you make the right choices. If you have any questions please ask them along the way.

Ms Emma Foster

Assistant Headteacher
Director of Learning Key Stage 3



Your GCSE choices are your first step to making decisions about the pathway that you will take to the world of work and your career. A pathway that will see you gain qualifications and develop skills that lead to your chosen career. We are all different and there are lots and lots of very different jobs and pathways out there, so it is time to open your mind to the possibilities. Take a look at our careers – Future Choices Programme web pages on the school website and:

- Explore the World of Work
- Take the Buzz test
- Learn about your choices at 14, 16 and 18.

You could even drop-in on one of our guests at Year 9 Choices Evening and ask them about their careers and the pathways available. Our independent careers advisor will also be available to answer your questions.

Ms A. Brotherton
Careers Advisor

Key Stage 4 Choices



The curriculum we offer is broad and balanced with a core at the centre. The core subjects are compulsory to all students and consist of English, Maths, Science, PE and PSHE. There is then the opportunity for students to continue to continue to follow the Baccalaureate (EBACC) Pathway or alternatively, the Vocational Pathway, both offer our students a wide range of appropriate courses allowing all students the opportunity to succeed. We refer to the pathways on offer as:

Baccalaureate Pathway

Guided EBacc: Students are guided to choose one Language and one Humanities subject alongside two additional subjects outside or within these faculties.

Open EBacc: Students are guided to choose two English Baccalaureate subjects alongside additional subjects outside or within these faculties.

Vocational Pathway

Students choose four subjects, which can include English Baccalaureate subjects.

Irrespective of the pathway chosen we believe that we are offering a full and balanced range of courses which also maintains our academic curriculum.

You should be aware, however, that if too few students opt for a particular course we may be unable to run it. It should be stressed that the selection of a subject is not an automatic guarantee, rather an expression of interest.

Naturally, we will try to ensure that all students are able to study the subjects where they have expressed an interest, however if we feel that the student is not suited to a particular subject or type of learning we may advise against the selection.

The Key Stage 4 Choices booklet has all the subjects listed and outlines in detail the requirements and key points about the courses offered. Students may find the signposting to potential Sixth Form courses particularly useful in helping them decide on their Key Stage 4 Choices.

On our website you will find the Key Stage Option 4 choices form, which they can record their preferred subjects on and is also a useful tool for discussion at home about their final decisions.

Progression to Sixth Form

The Government has changed the law to increase the age at which young people are required to participate in education or training. Most young people already continue their learning when they leave school because it gives them the best chance to gain the skills and qualifications they will need to help them achieve in whatever they choose to do next, whether that is a job or further study.



Choosing Your GCSEs

DO Choose a subject because:

- You are good at it and enjoy it.
- It links to an idea of your possible future career.
- It will help you to develop skills you are interested in.
- It will help you to keep your choices open.
- It is a subject you may like to study more in the future.

DON'T Choose a subject because:

- Your friends have chosen it.
- You think it will be easy.
- Someone else thinks it will be a good idea.
- You like the teacher you have now.
- You couldn't think of anything else to do.
- You did not have time to research your choices properly.

To find out more you can visit our website

Core Subjects

Students will have to continue in education until their 18th birthday. This could be in education either full time or part-time or through an apprenticeship. All our courses lead to qualifications that are both recognised, and valued, by Sixth Form school and colleges, universities and employers.

The subject choices you make now may impact on your Post 16 Pathway. Therefore, if you are unsure of the path you wish to take after school, you are advised to choose a range of courses that will show a breadth of knowledge and skills across a variety of subjects, or speak to someone within the Sixth Form team. Further details of the post-16 courses available at Parrs Wood High School can be found in our Sixth Form Prospectus (available on our website or from the Sixth Form Office).

You can also speak to our Future Choices team or refer to our future choices web page over on our website for more information and ways in which we can support you.

- Future Choices Office: F44
- Careers Lead: Mrs Brotherton
- Email: A.Brotherton@pwhs.co.uk
- Independent Careers Adviser: Ms Patrick
- Email: J.Patrick@pwhs.co.uk
- Careers Administrator: Mr Pope
- Email: A.Pope@pwhs.co.uk

PARRS WOOD SIXTH FORM

Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury

Manchester, M20 5PG

t: 0161 446 8648

e: m.tracy@parrswood.manchester.sch.uk



Students will follow the following Core (compulsory) courses during Key Stage 4:

- **English Language and Literature GCSE**
- **Mathematics GCSE**
- **Combined or Triple Science GCSE**
- **Physical Education**
- **PSHE**

Some aspects of your KS4 Courses are “core” (compulsory). This includes English, Mathematics, Science and PE.

Although all students follow courses in the above subjects that does not mean that everyone must follow the same course within a subject. A variety of qualifications exists in most of these areas.

In English all students will be studying English Language and English Literature as their core English course.

There are two Science courses, Combined Science & Triple Award Science. Both of these courses will prepare students for study in an A Level Science and are comprised of components of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The key difference between the courses is that students will be awarded 2 grades for Combined Science, whilst Triple Award will lead to separate grades in each of the 3 subject areas due to the additional subject content studied and subsequent assessment. All students have currently begun the combined Science course. Following assessment in the Summer Term of Yr9 we will identify students for Triple Award Science.

All students must have PE within their core curriculum to develop their health and fitness, but within this there are also opportunities to undertake qualifications in Sports Leadership and Coaching.

All students will also follow a non-examined course in Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE). This course equips students with the knowledge and skills to deal with a range of issues they face as they grow up.

It covers:

- Drugs and alcohol education.
- Emotional health and well-being.
- Sex and relationship education (SRE).
- Nutrition and Physical activity.
- Personal Finance.
- Safety.
- Careers education.
- Work-related learning.

English Language & Literature (GCSEs)

GCSE English Language and English Literature

English is a compulsory subject and as such all students will study English at GCSE level. All students will be entered for two separate qualifications: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. Over the two years of study, students will complete both their English Language and English Literature GCSE qualifications.

What will I study?

GCSE English Literature Students will study for four elements of examination: Shakespeare, poetry, 19th Century Literature and a modern play. Two closed book exams will then assess knowledge and understanding. Texts studied include Macbeth, An Inspector Calls and A Christmas Carol. For both papers in GCSE English Language you will study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. They will learn to analyse texts they have not seen before. Creative writing skills will also be an important aspect of the course.

How is the course assessed?

Both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature are 100% exam based. Each course is assessed by two examination papers taken at the end of the course.

What can this course lead onto?

English prepares students for a wide range of subjects. Any essay-based course will benefit from English skills. Journalism, Law, Humanities and Social Sciences are all-natural progressions.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms F. Blake – Director of Faculty

Mr C. Gallie - Keystage 4 English Co-Ordinator.

Exam board: AQA



Key Points

- GCSE English qualifications are now 100% exam based. There is no coursework element.
- Students will have 5 lessons of English per week.
- English language and English literature will be taught as separate subjects.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

- A level English Language
- A level English Literature
- A level Media
- A grade 6 is a requirement for entry to English A level subjects.



Mathematics (GCSE)



What will I study?

This qualification requires students to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Number.
- Algebra.
- Geometry and Measures.
- Statistics.
- Probability.
- Use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts.
- Apply the functional elements of mathematics in everyday and real-life situations.

How is the course assessed?

By sitting three written papers; students can be entered on the foundation or higher tier, the entry strategy is flexible and based on ability and performance. Students will be assessed on the following assessment criteria over the course of the 3 papers:

- AO1: Use and apply standard techniques.
- AO2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematical methods.
- AO3: Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts Exams will be sat in May and June of Year 11. There is no coursework in Maths.

What can this course lead onto?

GCSE Mathematics is a required qualification for further study in many areas. For those wishing to study mathematical, scientific, economic based subjects a good GCSE grade is essential. At university most degree level courses require applicants to have a minimum of a grade 5 regardless of the subject being read.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mrs. Anderson – Head of Maths

Mr S. Wright – Key Stage 4 Coordinators

Exam board: AQA

Key Points

- This is the one of the most useful GCSE's – colleges and employers will always ask for this qualification.
- We study a 'linear' syllabus, where the qualification is assessed through three terminal examinations.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

- A level in Maths
- Core Maths
- Further Maths



Combined and Triple Science (GCSEs)

What will I study?

Every student studies science throughout KS4. Your child is currently covering topics included in the Combined Science GCSE. Following the end of Year 9 assessment we will identify students to follow the Triple award science pathway. Combined Science GCSE contains one third biology, chemistry and physics theory along with 15% of the end of course exams covering 'Required Practicals'. Triple Science will cover the same units as Combined Science but in greater depth. Topics studied include: Cell Systems, Organism level systems, Particles, Chemical reactions and Predicting reactions and products, Matter, Forces and Electricity.

How is the course assessed?

Combined Science is assessed at the end of Year 11 through 6 exams lasting 75 minutes each; each paper has equal weighting towards the final grades achieved.

Triple Sciences are assessed at the end of Year 11 through 6 exams lasting 105 minutes each; each paper has equal weighting towards the final grade achieved per subject. It is possible to achieve different grades in the three sciences.

What can this course lead onto?

Following completion of suitable courses post 16, students could work within a wide variety of scientific careers from medicine to engineering, research and teaching. A qualification in Science is highly sought after and demonstrates skills in interpretation, communication and critical thinking. The majority of students that go onto study A Level Sciences, Degrees in Medicine or Science will have studied for the Combined Science GCSE course.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Dr Wild – Director of Faculty

Miss MisKelly – KS4 Co-Ordinator

Mrs Kattou, Miss Woollaston, Mr Blake (Heads of Subject)

Exam board: AQA



Key Points

- 2 GCSE grades are awarded for combined science.
- The Triple Science course is most suitable for pupils working at Bands 5M and 6 in Year 9 along with strong maths ability.
- Triple sciences are not required or preferred by any University or degree course
- **Both Combined & Triple Award Science provide pathways to A Level Science.**

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form can I go on to study?

- A level Biology
- A level Chemistry
- A level Physics
- BTEC Applied Sciences



Ancient History (GCSE)

What will I study?

Year 10

Unit 1: Period Study: The Rise of Rome: from the Early kings to the birth of the Republic

Unit 2: Depth Study: Cleopatra and Rome: Impact and influence of the seductress of the Nile.

Year 11

Unit 3: Period Study: The rise of the Persian Empire: from Cyrus to Xerxes

Unit 4: Depth Study: Alexander the Great. Greek military genius or Paranoid alcoholic?

How is the course assessed?

There are 2 examinations at the end of year 11, both worth 50% of the course. Both lasting 1 hr and 45 minutes.

Each exam will cover a depth and period study: Persia and Alexander the Great/Rise of Rome and Cleopatra.

What can this course lead onto?

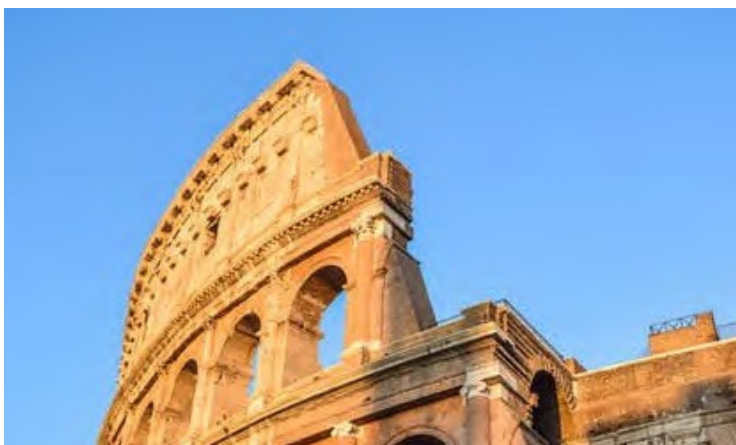
Pupils can continue with Ancient History or History at A level but can also progress to a wide variety of qualifications including other Humanities subjects, Law and Politics. The critical thinking and transferable skills learned are highly valued by Sixth Form colleges and Universities alike.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr Midgley – Director of Faculty

Mrs Taylor – Head of History and Ancient History

Exam board: OCR



Key Points

Study Classical and ancient material and discover grand and epic tales from the ancient world. There is also an optional study visit to Rome in year 10. You will have the opportunity to experience some of the archaeological sources you will study (which also happen to be some of the most famous and beautiful man made creations in Europe).



What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

You can continue with this subject at A Level in the sixth form. There is also a wide range of courses in this subject area in most universities.

Computer Science (GCSE)



What will I study?

You will develop your understanding of computer systems and programming how to use algorithms in computer programs. You will also;

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Understand the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.
- The fundamentals of a high-level programming language, allowing you to solve complex problems and design algorithms using skills such as sequencing, iteration and selection.

What can this course lead onto?

This course will enable you to go on and study Computing at A Level. The skills developed within Computer Science will benefit many future careers or college courses on such subjects as software engineering, cyber security, artificial intelligence and more.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr G. Leak - Director of Faculty

Mr R. Clark - Head of Computing

Exam board: OCR

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

This course will enable you to go on and study Computing at A Level.

The skills developed within Computer Science will also benefit any future career or college course.



French (GCSE)

What will I study?

You will learn communication and language skills across a broad range of areas, including:

Theme 1:

People & Lifestyle.

Theme 2:

Popular culture.

Theme 3:

Communication & the world around us.

How is the course assessed?

This is a linear course, with all examinations taking place at the end of year 11. You will be assessed in 4 skills areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each skill is worth 25% of the overall grade.

What can this course lead onto?

Many Universities now request that pupils have studied a language at GCSE. You will acquire many skills that employers are looking for, giving you the edge over other applicants when applying for jobs! You may be required to use your language skills later on in your career and this skill could tip the balance when your C.V. is compared with someone else with similar experience.

Careers include: Interpreter, Translator, Lawyer, Doctor, Nurse, Air Hostess, Import / Export industry, Engineering, Sales and Marketing, Accountant, Secretary, Teacher, Banking, United Nations, European Union – any career will be enhanced with a language qualification.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms S. White – Director of Faculty

Ms A. Burnham – Head of French

Exam board: AQA



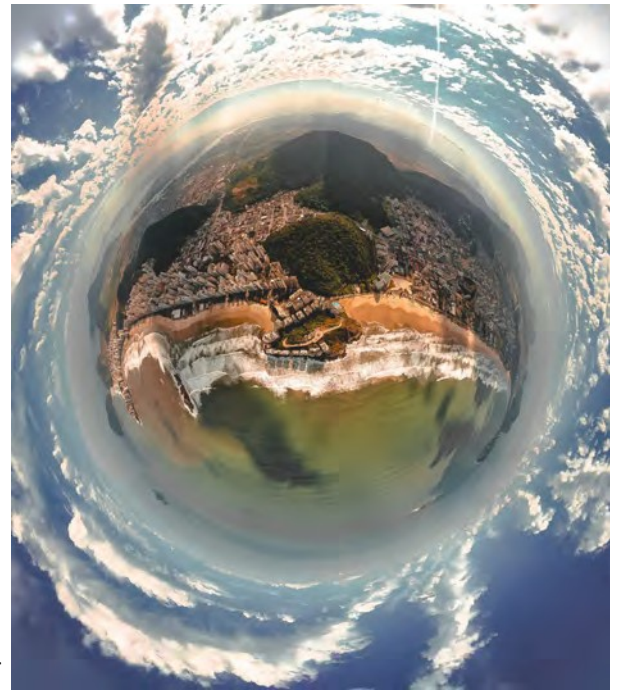
What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Pupils can continue with this subject at AS and A level at the Parrs Wood Sixth Form College.

Key Points

- Possible to study two languages to GCSE.
- The Languages Faculty will help you organise examinations in any other languages you may learn or know outside of school.
- Any language teacher will be pleased to take time to help you choose the course to which you are best suited.
- REMEMBER YOU CAN NOT CHOOSE to study a language in Year 10 if you have not learned it previously. Urdu may only be taken if you have some previous knowledge of it through home and/or family.

Geography (GCSE)



What will I study?

Unit 1 – Living with the Physical Environment.

You will begin with in-depth studies of a range of natural hazards including: earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, extreme weather in the UK, and climate change. The next section focuses on the formation of rivers and coasts and how we can manage issues that are faced by people who live near them. Finally we study two dynamic ecosystems – tropical rainforests and hot deserts.

Unit 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment.

We begin this unit with a focus on how rising population is causing urbanisation and affecting cities. We will learn about the different challenges faced by cities in the rich and poor world and then consider how sustainability could be achieved. There is a study of development and recent economic changes across the world and in the UK. The module ends with a look at the global inequality of resources including water and energy with a closer look at food supply.

Unit 3 – Geographical Applications.

This is a brand new exam and replaces the need for submission of a written piece of fieldwork. On visits to Liverpool and the Peak District, students will collect data on human and physical aspects of Geography. Questions in the exam will assess their understanding of this process and of the ways they have analysed their findings. This unit also contains an issue evaluation section, for which pre-release information will be studied in class. Students answers in this section will demonstrate the skills they have learnt, such as their ability to comment on photographs, use statistics, and evaluate the effectiveness of graphs.

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1: Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes: 35% of GCSE

Unit 2: Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes: 35% of GCSE

Unit 3: Written Exam: 1 hour: 30% of GCSE

What can this course lead onto?

Pretty much anything. Skills learnt in Geography span across English, Maths and the Sciences and you will also become proficient in practical investigations and problem solving. Choosing Geography allows you to keep your options open for the future. Our A-level Geographers have gone into such varied fields as: Architecture, Journalism, Banking, Law, Dentistry, Engineering, Marketing and Scientific research. Careers more specific to the course include: Pollution Consultancy, Surveying and Transport Planning.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms Hardman - Head of Geography

Mr Midgley – Director of Faculty

Key Points

- Appeals to universities and employers
- Exciting fieldwork opportunities - students on the Geography course must attend all trips

Exam board: AQA

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Pupils can continue with Geography A Level but can also progress on to a wide variety of qualifications including other Humanities subjects e.g. Law and Politics, Town Planning, Surveying, Geology.



German (GCSE)

What will I study?

You will learn communication and language skills across a broad range of areas including:

Theme 1: People & Lifestyle.

Theme 2: Popular Culture.

Theme 3: Communication & the world around us.

How is the course assessed?

This is a linear course, with all examinations taking place at the end of year 11. You will be assessed in 4 skills areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each skill is worth 25% of the overall grade.

What can this course lead onto?

Many Universities now request that pupils have studied a language at GCSE. You will acquire many skills that employers are looking for, giving you the edge over other applicants when applying for jobs! You may be required to use your language skills later on in your career and this skill could tip the balance when your C.V. is compared with someone else with similar experience.

Careers include: Interpreter, Translator, Lawyer, Doctor, Nurse, Air Hostess, Import / Export Industry, Engineering, Sales and Marketing, Accountant, Secretary, Teacher, Banking, United Nations, European Union – any career will be enhanced with a language qualification.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms S. White – Director of Faculty
Mr N. Munn – Head of German

Exam board: AQA



Key Points

- Possible to study two languages to GCSE.
- The Languages Faculty will help you organise examinations in any other languages you may learn or know outside of school.
- Any language teacher will be pleased to take time to help you choose the course to which you are best suited.
- REMEMBER YOU CAN NOT CHOOSE to study a language in Year 10 if you have not learned it previously.
- German is highly valued in the world of business

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Pupils can continue with this subject at AS and A level at the Parrs Wood Sixth Form College.



History (GCSE)

What will I study?

Are you interested in investigating real issues, solving real problems developing and expressing your own ideas? If so, then History at GCSE is the course for you to develop the skills that will prepare you for your future. You will develop your ability to communicate ideas clearly, to analyse information and form arguments, all whilst studying some of the great figures of History including Martin Luther King and William the Conqueror.

- Medicine through time.
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c.1060-88.
- The American West, 1835-95.
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39.



KEY POINTS

What you do:

You will study a wide range of exciting History topics from c.1000 to the present day.

Is that it?

You will improve and develop analytical and communication skills – the key skills employers want.

What do I have to do?

You will complete 3 external exams. There is no coursework.

All pupils will take the same exam. There are no tiered papers

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by 3 externally examined papers. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

What can this course lead onto?

Studying History can lead to a variety of careers as it develops the essential skills of communication, analysis and judgement, explaining issues in a range of different ways and genres, understanding the needs of different audiences. Therefore History can lead to careers in Journalism and the Media, Law, Marketing, Advertising, Social Services, Human Resources, Teaching, Politics and the Arts.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Please come to the Humanities office (F12) and speak to either:

Mrs Taylor – Head of History & Ancient History

Mr Midgley – Director of Faculty

Exam board: EdExcel

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form can I go on to study?

Pupils can continue with History at A level but could also progress to a wide variety of qualifications including Ancient History and Politics.



Spanish (GCSE)

What will I study?

You will learn communication and language skills across a broad range of areas, including:

Theme 1:
People & Lifestyle.

Theme 2:
Popular Culture.

Theme 3:
Communication & the world around us.

How is the course assessed?

This is a linear course, with all examinations taking place at the end of year 11. You will be assessed in 4 skills areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each skill is worth 25% of the overall grade.

What can this course lead onto?

Many Universities now request that pupils have studied a language at GCSE. You will acquire many skills that employers are looking for, giving you the edge over other applicants when applying for jobs! You may be required to use your language skills later on in your career, and this skill could tip the balance when your C.V. is compared with someone else with similar experience.

Careers include: Interpreter, Translator, Lawyer, Doctor, Nurse, Air Hostess, Import / Export Industry, Engineering, Sales and Marketing, Accountant, Secretary, Teacher, Banking, United Nations, European Union – any career will be enhanced with a language qualification.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms S. White – Director of Faculty

Ms R. Lopez – Head of Spanish

Exam board: AQA



Key Points

- Possible to study two languages to GCSE.
- The Languages Faculty will help you organise examinations in any other languages you may learn or know outside of school.
- Any language teacher will be pleased to take time to help you choose the course to which you are best suited.
- REMEMBER YOU CAN NOT CHOOSE to study a language in Year 10 if you have not learned it previously.
- Urdu may only be taken if you have some previous knowledge of it through home and/or family.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Pupils can continue with this subject at AS and A level at the Parrs Wood Sixth Form College.



Urdu (GCSE)

What will I study?

You will learn communication and language skills across a broad range of areas, including:

Theme 1:
People & Lifestyle.

Theme 2:
Popular Culture

Theme 3:
Communication & the world around us.

How is the course assessed?

This is a linear course, with all examinations taking place at the end of year 11. You will be assessed in 4 skills areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each skill is worth 25% of the overall grade.

What can this course lead onto?

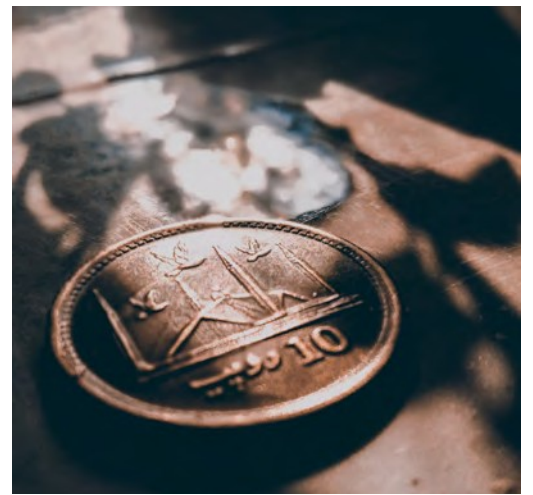
Many Universities now request that pupils have studied a language at GCSE. You will acquire many skills that employers are looking for, giving you the edge over other applicants when applying for jobs! You may be required to use your language skills later on in your career and this skill could tip the balance when your C.V. is compared with someone else with similar experience.

Careers include: Interpreter, Translator, Lawyer, Doctor, Nurse, Air Hostess, Import / Export Industry, Engineering, Sales and Marketing, Accountant, Secretary, Teacher, Banking, United Nations, European Union – any career will be enhanced with a language qualification.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms S. White – Director of Faculty
Ms M. Ilyas – Subject Teacher

Exam board: EDEXCEL



Key Points

- Urdu may only be taken if you have some previous knowledge of it through home and/or family.
- Possible to study two languages to GCSE.
- The Languages Faculty will help you organise examinations in any other languages you may learn or know outside of school.
- Any language teacher will be pleased to take time to help you choose the course to which you are best suited.
- REMEMBER YOU CAN NOT CHOOSE to study a language in Year 10 if you have not learned it previously.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Pupils can continue with this subject at AS and A level at the Parrs Wood Sixth Form College.

Construction & Building Crafts

Open Awards Level 1/2 Award in Construction & Building Crafts

What will I study?

The Open Awards Level 1/Level 2 Award in Construction and Building Crafts is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying practical skills used in construction, the principles of technology in construction used to create a better environment in the world, and interpreting the landscape, briefs and other aspects that impact on design. The qualification enables learners to develop their sector-specific skills, such as using tools and materials safely with vocationally correct techniques, interpreting and understanding the infrastructure for safe and efficient work, and specialist design techniques to enhance communication of design by using realistic vocational contexts.

How is the course assessed?

120 Total Qualification Time (hours) 88-guided-learning-hour (GLH) qualification that consists of three units completed over 2 years. Learners will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence set and marked internally and externally quality assured by Open Awards.

Mandatory Unit - Exploring Health, Safety and Welfare in

Construction. This is a portfolio and practical based set of tasks.

Optional Units – Employability, a set of tasks which are internally set and completed as assignments within class. The evidence is gathered through a portfolio and practical based task.

Vocational Unit – Practical tasks internally set as an introduction to the trades within the construction industry. Activities are completed as assignment tasks within class and evidenced through a portfolio of student work and teacher observation.

What can this course lead onto?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification.

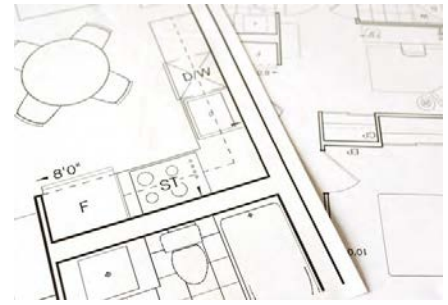
On successful completion of this course you will have practical experience and evidence that can be used towards an application towards a collage course in your chosen specialist field.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr R. Goldstone – Director of Faculty

Mr H. Lad - Head of Hard Technologies

Exam board: Open Awards



Key Points

- Motivate learners via applied learning and assessment.
- Ability to recall Construction based theory knowledge is essential
- Independent practical and problem solving skills are essential
- Students that select this course must be willing to stay beyond the end of the school day on a regular basis to complete incomplete or further studies using the specialist tools and equipment that are available at the school
- The ability to safely and independently use a range of tools, equipment and processes within a workshop environment is essential

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

There are currently no courses for this subject at Parrs Wood Sixth Form, however this subject will give you relevant evidence towards a post 16 vocational course and taken into account alongside other qualifications gained.

Engineering

Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Engineering

Do you ever look around your home and think of handy products that could improve people's lives or get inspired by the amazing feats of engineering all around you? Are you creative, and want to start building the skills you need for a successful career in the industry?



What will I study?

This qualification is made up of 3 units:

Unit 1: Manufacturing engineering products

- Have the opportunity to interpret different types of engineering information in order to plan how to manufacture engineering products.
- Develop knowledge, understanding and skills in using a range of engineering tools and equipment in order to manufacture and test a final product.

Unit 2: Designing engineering products

- Explore how an engineered product is adapted and improved over time. It offers the opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding to adapt an existing component, element or part of the product that you will have manufactured for Unit 1.

Unit 3: Solving engineering problems

- Introduced to a range of considerations that impact on engineering design and how modern engineering has had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed through a mixture of exams and project work.

Unit 1 will involve producing a manufacturing product, which will be worth 40% of the qualification. This can range from a basic hand tool to complex machinery. The product will need to be developed over 20 hours.

Unit 2 will also be assessed through project work and will be worth 20% of the qualification. Here you will apply your problem-solving skills to answer a brief and produce a solution. You will produce your solution over 10 hours.

Unit 3 will involve a single exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification. The exam will last 1 hour and 30 minutes. The exam will be made up of multiple-choice questions, and short and extended answers.

What can this course lead onto?

When you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of engineering skills. You will be acquiring knowledge and building useful skills which are not generally covered in GCSE courses, you will have a better idea of whether the engineering sector is for you and which part of it you might want to study further.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr R. Goldstone – Director of Faculty
Mr H. Lad – Head of Hard Technologies
Ms J. Smith – D&T Teacher

Key Points

- 3 Units
- Manufacturing Project (40%)
- Design Project (20%)
- Exam (40%)

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Learning independently
- Research
- Taking on responsibility
- Time management

WHAT CAN THIS COURSE LEAD ONTO?

There are a wide range of opportunities within the field of engineering, for example;

- Aerospace engineer
- Biomedical engineer
- Civil/structural engineer
- Computer engineer
- Electrical/electronic engineer
- Environmental engineer
- Marine engineer
- Mechanical engineer
- Product engineer

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Students that complete this course go on to study A-Level Maths, Physics, Art & Design, ICT and Business Studies.

EXAM BOARD Equcas



Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)

What will I study?

Pupils who choose this GCSE subject will complete:

- A year of theoretical and food preparation skills built up to secure the knowledge for year 11, where pupils will complete a practical and written investigation task (15%), a 3 hr practical assessment (35%) and a written exam (50%).

Design briefs and assignments for the investigation and practical assessment will be selected from a bank set by the AQA. They will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

You will be encouraged to use the computer and show I.C.T. skills in presenting your investigation.

How is the course assessed?

- Food Investigation' research, investigation and evaluation (15%)
- 'Food Preparation' 3 hr practical exam (35%).
- Exam paper (50%)

What can this course lead onto?

- A catering placement.
- Training in the catering industry to become a chef or restaurateur.
- University courses at degree level; Dietetics, Nutrition, Food product development, consumer studies.
- PGCE courses in Design and Food Technology for teaching posts.
- Cookery writer or food stylist / photographer.
- Working for food promotions agencies, e.g. British Nutrition Foundation.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr R. Goldstone – Director of Faculty

Ms L. Rossiter – Head of Subject

Exam board: AQA



Key Points

- Develop knowledge, skills & understanding of the food industry (with links to research, analysis, science, preparation, presentation).
- Develop technological capability in the use of Food as a material.
- A nationally recognised qualification for those who want to progress to further education and will offer valuable preparation for those entering the world of work.
- Gain confidence to make a range of food skills/ enables creativity / develops organisational skills.
- Assessed through coursework, practical work and exam conditions.
- Leads to a GCSE qualification.



What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Science (Biology/Chemistry)
Physical Education / BTEC Sport, Health and Social Care.

Parrs Wood Diploma in Hair Dressing & Beauty Therapy

What will I study?

The Parrs Wood Diploma comprises of three separate qualifications.

VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Hair dressing and Beauty Therapy - equivalent to 1 GCSE

YEAR 10: Mandatory Units

- Understanding the hair and Beauty Sector.
- Hair and Beauty Research Project.

YEAR 11: 2 Units from the following Optional Units:

- Enterprise in the Hair and Beauty Sector.
- Marketing Hair and Beauty products and services.
- Hair and Beauty science.
- Responding to a Hair and Beauty Design Brief.

Assessment

External exam and 3 projects/pieces of coursework. This qualification is equivalent to 1 GCSE A*- C. Students will be in two groups, rotating between Hair and Beauty

Parrs Wood Hairdressing Diploma taught by Manchester College

- Basics – shampooing and basic blow drying techniques.
- Styling – advanced blow drying, curling, setting.
- Hair up – basic hair up skills.
- Basic colour – applying regrowths and full head colours (with conditioners).
- Advanced colour – basic highlighting techniques (with conditioners).

Assessment

Will be assessed by a tutor from Manchester College and school tutor. Many of our current students have gained college places or apprenticeships and Saturday jobs based on the experience they have gained during the course and their ever-growing portfolio which students get to keep.

Parrs Wood Beauty Therapy Diploma

- Health and Safety / Client Care
- Facial Skincare and Make-up Services
- Manicure, and nail services
- Media Make-up
- Reception duties

Assessment

Will be assessed by Parrs Wood assessor. Units will be assessed by Practical Assessment via photographic evidence and stored in their portfolio. Again this can be used for college interviews and work-based interviews.



Key Points

For students with a keen interest in the Hair and Beauty Industry and possible future course and careers in this sector such as hairdressing or beauty therapy.



Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms K Traynor

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

As we work in close partnership with Manchester College, successful, hard-working students will be offered places at the college for courses and apprenticeships on leaving school. Apprenticeships are also very popular with our students who wish to earn while they learn.

Exam board: VTCT

Health & Social Care

What will I study?

CRO32: Principles of Care in Health and Social Care

RO33: Supporting Individuals through Life Events

RO35: Health Promotion Campaigns

How is the course assessed?

Units RO33 and RO35 are internally assessed, where you will receive feedback on your progress throughout the unit giving you the opportunity to improve your work before your final controlled assessment task. These units include assignments, project work, case studies, presentations and role plays. RO32 is an externally marked exam which assesses your ability to apply your knowledge to a variety of health and social care contexts.

What can this course lead onto?

A variety of careers as well as further and higher education.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms Grimmer - Head of Health and Social Care

Ms Woodward - Teacher of Health and Social Care

Exam board: OCR Cambridge National



Key Points

- An engaging introduction to the Health and Social Care sector.
- A focused understanding of Health and Social Care through specialised units.
- Develop responsibility for your own work.
- Develop team work skills.
- Develop critical thinking skills.
- Gain skills relevant to health and social care sector

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Health and Social Care
Sociology
Psychology Biology
Philosophy and Ethics
Sport



Music Technology (V Cert NCFE)

What will I study?

Music Technology V Cert NCFE allows you to develop your ear for music production and gain a deeper understanding in multiple areas of the subject. You will study a variety of different topics which range through different types of media to studio recording and production. This is paired with composition and writing tasks, as well as presentation tasks.

You must be able to play an instrument or sing. Having extra-curricular instrumental lessons is desirable. All the electronic and acoustic resources of the Music Department will be available, not just in lesson time, but by arrangement before school, during lunchtimes and after school.

You will also become a priority for instrumental lessons if you don't already play an instrument. Regular practice of your instrument or voice is essential and should be considered as part of your homework. You will be able to use the recording studio in Parrs Wood House and will have access to professional standard equipment for recording and producing music.

How is the course assessed?

Moderated Coursework 50% - Pupils will be assessed in four areas of study:

- Introduction to DAW
- Styles of music
- Recording
- Radio and media production

Pupils produce a piece of work for each unit which is assessed by the teacher and moderated by the exam board.

Exam 50%: Pupils will sit two exams in year 11 based on listening and practical knowledge that has been covered throughout the course.

What can this course lead onto?

- Further study in Music and Music Technology at A level.
- Studying music at degree level either at university or at a conservatoire/music college.
- A career related to the music industry.
- A career in the creative industry.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Miss Gocher, Head of Music
Mr Wheelton, Music Teacher



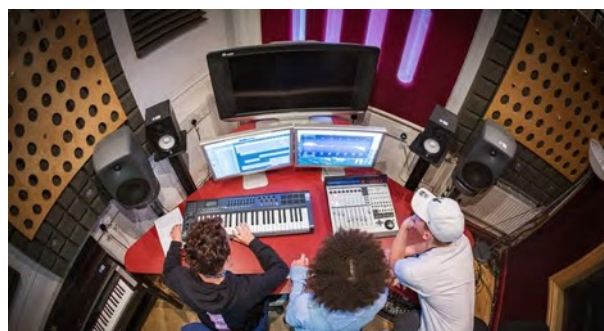
Key Points

- Composing and understanding music and music technology
- Encourages excellent transferrable skills including organisation, creativity, teamwork, individual determination, revision techniques
- Equipment available for use outside lesson times
- Regular practice is essential
- Your compositions will be presented for assessment
- Develops social and historical knowledge of music and music technology
- Encourages the use of Music Technology in performance and composition
- Leads to a Level 2 qualification

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Both Music A Level and Music Technology A Level can be studied at the Parrs Wood Sixth Form Centre

Keep up to date with the Music Department's notices and performance on Twitter: @PWHS_Music



OCR Cambridge National Sports Studies Level 2 (Vocational)



What will I study?

Pupils will study two compulsory units and two optional units.

Core Compulsory Units (study both)

- Contemporary Issues in sport **40%**

Assessed externally through an online test including a mixture of multiple-choice short answer and extended questions in an examination lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes.

- Performance and leadership in sports activities **40%**

Assessed internally through controlled assessment coursework tasks.

There is a significant practical requirement to the course and pupils will be expected to take part in a variety of sports including: Individual Games, Team Games and Leadership focusing on improving skills and analysing performance. Your practical ability is not assessed but your ability to analyse and improve performance is.

Optional specialist Units (Choice of 1)

- Sport and the Media **20%**
- Developing knowledge and skills in Outdoor Activities **20%**

Both units are assessed internally through controlled assessment coursework tasks and additionally Outdoor Activities in combined with 2 sport.

How is the course assessed?

40% total mark, assessed externally through an online test and 60% total mark, assessed internally through controlled assessment

What can this course lead onto?

Possible University Courses include:	Possible Careers:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Science Physiotherapy Sports Development Sports Coaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PE teacher Physiotherapist Sport Development Nutritionist Coaching Leisure Management

Key Points

- For pupils with a keen interest in sport and are practically able.

- Cambridge National is a Level 2 qualification.
- Assessed through coursework (60%).
- Written examination (40%)

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms Glover –Head of Subject

Exam board: OCR

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Can continue with this subject in the Sixth Form studying A Level PE/BTEC Level 3

Digital Information Technology Level 2 Tech Award (BTEC)



What will I study?

This vocational course has three components that are designed to give you an overview of working in the fastest growing sectors of the digital industry.

1.Exploring User Interface Design Principles.

In this component you will explore different types of user interfaces and then plan, design and create a user interface of your own based on a provided project specification.

2.Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data.

This component explores data analysis. You will start by researching the importance of data analysis and look at how it affects the world around us every day. Next you will create a data dashboard of your own based on a large data set modelled after a real business and finally provide suggestions for decisions the business could make based on the data analysis.

3.Effective Digital Working Principles.

The third component takes a wider look at the digital industry as a whole.

You will learn how people effectively work together in a modern digital environment.

How is the course assessed?

60% Coursework, assessed through practical projects. 40% through a paper based exam.

What can this course lead into?

After completing this BTEC Tech Award, you will be in a great position to continue in the digital information technology sector. you will have developed a practical understanding of the digital information technology industry. This qualification prepares you for both technical and academic routes. For example, you could go on to study a BTEC Level 3 in Computing. Alternatively, you might want to find work in the digital industry sector as an apprentice or a trainee.

Key Points:

The BTEC Digital Information Technology Tech Awards offers learners a chance to plan and complete digital projects in a similar way to workers in the industry.

- You will learn project management, spreadsheet development, user interface design and evaluation skills.
- 3 components over the 2 years.
- Exploring user interface design and data analysis sectors.
- 2 practical coursework components and 1 written exam.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr G. Leak - Director of Faculty.

Mr R. Clark - KS3 Coordinator, Computing.

Exam board: Edexcel

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

BTEC Level 3 in Computing
BTEC Level 3 Esports

Art and Design (GCSE)

What will I study?

Students will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of art-based skills within the areas of drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, textiles, print-making and digital media. The course also examines the work of relevant artists, teaching students to understand and appreciate different forms of art. Course projects are structured but students are encouraged to work independently, developing their own ideas and personal directions.

How is the course assessed?

Portfolio of Work, Component 1:

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions for example a final outcome and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study. Set and marked by school and moderated by AQA. 96 marks, 60%.

Externally set assignment, Component 2:

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. Outcome completed over 10 hours of controlled exam conditions. Set and marked by school and moderated by AQA. 96 marks, 40%

What can this course lead onto?

Pupils can continue with this subject at A-level at the Parrs Wood Sixth Form College. Art develops creative skills in researching and developing an idea. In an increasingly visual world, there are many art related careers, from being a Furniture designer, to an Artist, Curator or Architect. Some of the most lucrative jobs are in the creative industries but it is also an area which can inspire and motivate people.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr Davison – Head of Subject

Mr McLynn – Subject Teacher

Exam board: AQA



Key Points

- Students produce a portfolio for their coursework both teacher led and self-directed.
- Students are required to be committed and organised in their approach. Homework is a compulsory part of the course.
- The study of contextual studies looking at artists, designers and other sources is an important component of the course.
- Students complete a controlled exam in year 11. They will respond to a question producing development work leading to an outcome under exam conditions.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

This leads to a GCSE qualification in Art. This may help the student opt for A-level Art at Parrs Wood sixth form or follow a career route in creative industries.

Citizenship Studies (GCSE)

What will I study?

Our programme is varied and interesting. Units studied include:

- Citizenship skills, processes and methods looks at the skills and concepts needed to be an active citizen.
- Life in modern Britain looking at personal and national identity, government and Britain's international roles.
- Rights and responsibilities looking at the role of the police, laws, the legal system, human rights and bringing about changes in the law.
- Politics and participation looking at political power, local and devolved government, voting and bringing about political change.
- Active citizenship allows students to apply their citizenship knowledge and skills to a pre-released case study.

We employ a variety of teaching and learning styles including group work, speaking and listening activities, pupil presentations and debates.

How is the course assessed?

There are two written examinations.

Paper 1 covers Active Citizenship and Politics and Participation

Paper 2 covers Life in Modern Britain and Rights and Responsibilities

Both exams are 1 hour 45 minutes

The active part of the course develops key skills that are essential in today's competitive job market.

What can this course lead onto?

We live in an increasing complex and fast changing world; Citizenship is a course that develops your knowledge and awareness of this world and allows you to understand change. The knowledge gained in the course can be applied to a number of future courses and careers. In addition to the knowledge, the course also develops key skills for the workplace such as collaborative working, critical thinking and decision making.

You can continue to study the main themes of citizenship at A level in course such as Government and Politics, Law and Sociology.

There are many careers that involve working with people, bringing about positive change, and dealing with local and national government and laws that relate directly to Citizenship. This is an expanding area of the jobs market and Citizenship is particularly useful for careers in the civil service, public sector, law, local government, national and European government, third sector (voluntary organisations), management and media.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Subject Teacher -Mr Wallace



Key Points

- Stimulating lessons
- Various teaching and learning styles
- Develops your knowledge and awareness of the world
- Moral, spiritual and cultural education
- Equal opportunities
- Develops collaborative working
- Develops confidence
- Develops your skills for life
- Develops key skills for the workplace

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Useful for A levels in Government and Politics, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, Health & Social Care Law and History.

Exam board: AQA

3-Dimensional Design Art and Design (GCSE)

What will I study?

Pupils will learn about artists and designers, teaching students to understand and appreciate different forms of 3D design. Pupils will be given an opportunity to work with a range of different materials such as Timbers, Plastics, Metals as well as Card and Boards. Pupils will also gain knowledge of a wide range of modelling techniques alongside tools, machines and equipment used during manufacturing products.

How is the course assessed?

Year 10 will contain projects which will enhance the skills and knowledge developed over Key Stage 3 and allow pupils to experiment with different materials to find a material that they feel comfortable to work with. Students will be assessed through the evidence they collect in their portfolios, practical outcomes and observations from the teacher.

Portfolio of Work, Component 1:

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions for example a final outcome and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study. Set and marked by school and moderated by AQA. 96 marks, 60%.

Externally set assignment, Component 2:

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. Outcome completed over 10 hours of controlled exam conditions. Set and marked by school and moderated by AQA. 96 marks, 40%.

What can this course lead onto?

Design & Technology sets pupils up for careers in:

Architecture	Landscape Design
Product Design	Furniture design
3D design	Interior Design

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr R. Goldstone – Director of Faculty

Mr H. Lad - Head of Hard Technologies

Ms J. Smith– Design & Technology Teacher



Key Points

- Students produce a portfolio for their coursework both teacher led and self-directed.
- Students are required to be committed and organised in their approach.
- Homework is an essential part of the course.
- Independent practical and problem solving skills are essential
- The study of contextual studies looking at artists, designers and other sources is an important component of the course.
- Students will need to spend at least 2-3hours per week completing independent learning tasks
- Students that select this course must be willing to stay beyond the end of the school day on a regular basis to complete incomplete or further studies using the specialist tools and equipment that are available at the school
- Learners must be able to problem solve and work through design solutions independently
- The ability to safely and independently use a range of tools, equipment and processes within a workshop environment is essential

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

Students who complete this course go on to study A-Level Maths, Physics, Art & Design, ICT and Business Studies



Drama (GCSE)

What will I study?

- In Component 1, you will devise a piece of drama based around a theme or issue. You will also keep a written portfolio discussing how you shaped your performance piece.
- In Component 2, you will either perform in and/or design for a performance of 2 extracts from a play in front of a visiting examiner.
- In Component 3, you will write about how you would perform extracts from a play set by the exam board, as well as writing a review about a piece of theatre you have seen.

How is the course assessed?

40% - teacher assessed practical work and portfolios

20% - externally assessed Drama performance of and/or design for two key extracts from a play text

40% -written exam (Unit 3)

What can this course lead onto?

This course can lead to studying A Level Drama or BTEC Performing Arts at Higher Level. It can also lead to work within the Acting and Film Industry, Theatre and TV Industry. Many students go on to study Drama and Performance at University or at Drama schools. Nearly every job recognises students who have studied Drama as being able to work in a team, communicate effectively, confident and competent and have the ability to speak up for themselves and present themselves well. It is a subject that teaches these essential key skills that employers are looking for.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr McBride –Head of Subject

Exam board: Edexcel



Key Points

- Scripted and devised performances
- Written note books
- Theatre visits
- Group work
- Leads to a GCSE qualification
- Students can continue with this subject at 'A' level at the Parrs Wood Sixth Form College
- Written coursework and teacher practical assessment make up 40% of the mark
- Must be able to perform in front of an audience

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

A Level Drama & Theatre Studies



Ethics and Philosophy (GCSE)

What will I study?

Two units are studied:

Paper 1: Religion and Ethics (1RB0/1B)

Paper 2: Religion, Peace and Conflict (1RB0/2C) Topics covered include;

- War and Peace.
- Abortion.
- Marriage and Divorce.
- Euthanasia.
- The problem of evil and suffering.

We employ a variety of teaching and learning styles including role - play, group work, speaking and listening activities, pupil presentations and debates.

How is the course assessed?

Examination is 100% and consists of 2 papers, both lasting 1 3/4 hours. Both units are taken at the end of year 11.

What can this course lead onto?

The skills that you will learn will be useful to you in any number of careers; Teaching, Youth Work, Journalism, Civil Service or Government to name a few. It is one of the fastest growing GCSE subjects. This is partly because it is compatible with and has a similar skills base to other GCSE subjects such as English, History and Sociology.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms H. Grimmer

Exam board: Edexcel



Key Points

- Stimulating, relevant and engaging lessons.
- Leads to a desirable GCSE with many employers.
- Pupils can continue with this subject at 'AS' and 'A' level at Parrs Wood Sixth Form College.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

A level courses including Religious Studies, Sociology, Law, Government & politics, and health & social care.

Extended Project – GCE (A Level Course)

AQA GCE Level 3 Extended Project 9990

(Mrs Green will invite pupils if the course is appropriate for them)

The Extended Project qualification is an opportunity to develop thinking in a topic area of choice by carrying out a detailed project style piece of research. Each student completes their own Extended Project, chosen by the learner, and approved by the assessor. The project can be undertaken as an individual or part of a group.

The Extended Project gives students an opportunity to develop skills for future study / employment such as Critical thinking, Planning, Analysis, Synthesis, Reflection and Evaluation, it aims to develop and recognise independent learning.

Homework

Homework is specifically related to the work covered in class and may include written work, research or primary data. Students will be expected to carry out additional research on the topic of their project.

Other useful information

<http://scholar.google.co.uk/>

www.aqa.org.uk

<http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/bacc.php>

What can this course lead onto?

This course develops many skills usually seen at 'A' level and Undergraduate Level which will support any career choice. Some examples include: Psychology, Law, Sociology, Medicine, Pharmacy, Architecture, and many more.

Universities can use it as a discriminator when candidates have the same qualifications.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms Green - Gifted and Talented Co-Ordinator

Exam board: AQA

Key Points

- Independent research skills will be developed.
- Discriminator used for University Applications.
- Stimulating lessons that will lead to an accredited course and early GCE qualification.
- Increase knowledge in an area of your choice.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

- AQA Baccalaureate
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Religious Studies
- History
- Art
- Geography
- Law
- Economics
- English Literature



Media Studies (GCSE)

What will I study?

- Media Language, e.g. cinematography, editing, sound, lighting and production techniques.
- The way in which business and finance control the media and affect their products.
- Audiences and the effects of the media on consumers.
- The ways in which people, places and ideas are represented in the media.
- You will also create a media product in response to a given brief. This may be a short film or trailer, a web site or print based work.

How is the course assessed?

One coursework assignment, including some written and some practical work is worth 30%. The final examination (two papers) is worth 70%.

What can this course lead onto?

This course may lead onto an A level course in Media or Film Studies or more practical higher education courses such as media/ creative production.

What careers are available through Media Studies?

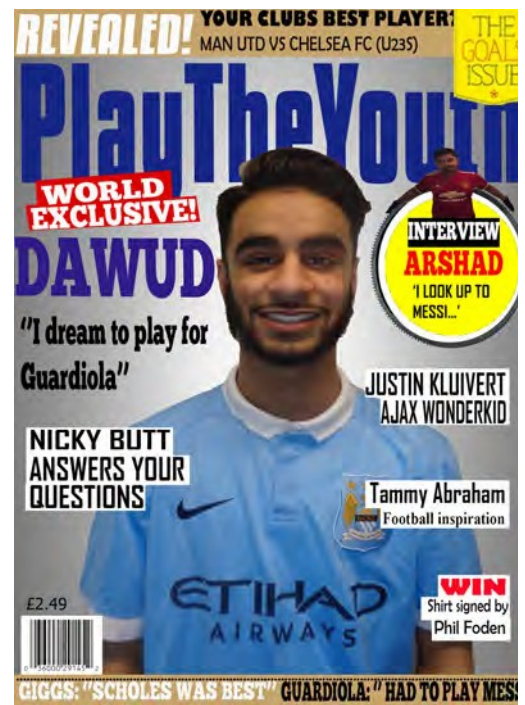
- Media Research
- Public relations
- Television/film/video production
- Advertising
- Broadcast journalism
- Print journalism
- Market research
- Screen Writing
- Web Design

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr Gledhill – Head of Media

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

A Level Media Studies



Key Points

- Requires committed, independent study and effective time management.
- Develop skills of research and written analysis.
- Assessment is on the completion of each close study product.
- Close textual analysis of a variety of media texts e.g. films, magazines and adverts.
- Leads to a GCSE qualification.
- Students can continue with this subject as AS and A Level at Parrs Wood Sixth Form.
- Homework is set weekly and is based on understanding of the key components.



Music (GCSE)

Consideration:

You must be able to play an instrument or sing. Having extra-curricular instrumental lessons is desirable. All the professional standard electronic and acoustic resources of the Music Department will be available, not just in lesson time, but by arrangement before school, during lunchtimes and after school. You will also become a priority for instrumental lessons if you don't already play an instrument. Regular practice of your instrument or voice is essential, and should be considered as part of your homework. You have to submit a free composition and one set by the exam board.



How is the course assessed?

Listening and understanding music 40%:

There is a listening examination at the end of the course based on four areas of study:

- Instrumental Music
1700-1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

Composing 30%:

Pupils produce two compositions which are assessed by the teacher and moderated by the exam board. One composition is a 'free' composition. You can compose in any style or genre and for any instrument using music technology, if preferred. The other composition brief is set by the exam board and will be worked on in year 11.

Performing 30%:

Pupils produce both a solo and ensemble performance during the course. This is assessed by the teacher and moderated by the exam board. There is also the option to use the recording studio and produce a multi-track or sequenced recording instead of one instrumental performance.

What can this course lead onto?

- Further study in Music and Music Technology at A level.
- Studying music at degree level either at university or at a conservatoire/music college.
- A career related to the music industry.
- A career in the creative industry.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms B. Gocher, Head of Music

Examination Board: Edexcel

Key Points

- Composing, performing and understanding music.
- Encourages excellent transferable skills including organisation, creativity, teamwork, individual determination, revision techniques.
- Option to focus on Music Technology instead of one of your performances.
- Equipment available for use outside lesson times.
- Regular practice is essential.
- Your compositions and performances will be presented for assessment.
- Develops social and historical knowledge of music.
- Encourages the use of Music Technology in performance and composition.
- A wide variety of enrichment activities are available.
- Leads to a GCSE qualification.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

A Level Music, A level Music Technology.



PE (GCSE)

What will I study?

Unit 1 (Theoretical Aspects):

- Participation, exercise and training.
- Anatomy, Physiology and Performance.
- Socio cultural studies.
- 60% of the total mark is assessed externally by a mixture of multiple choices, short and extended written questions in two examinations lasting 1 hour each.

Unit 2 (Physical Aspects):

- Practical Performance – 3 practical activities from a wide variety of activities. Individual and team sports must be assessed.
- Analysis of performance – Students will be required to speak confidently about one chosen activity of their choice and be able to plan and carry out an effective training plan which will improve their overall fitness.

How is the course assessed?

60% of the course is assessed through two written exams, 30% of the course is practically assessed, 10% of the course is assessed through written and verbal coursework

What can this course lead onto?

Possible University Courses include:

- Sport Science
- Physiotherapy
- Sports Development
- Sports Coaching

Possible Careers:

- PE teacher
- Physiotherapist
- Sport Development
- Nutritionist
- Coaching
- Leisure Management

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr A. Dunne - Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator

Exam board: OCR

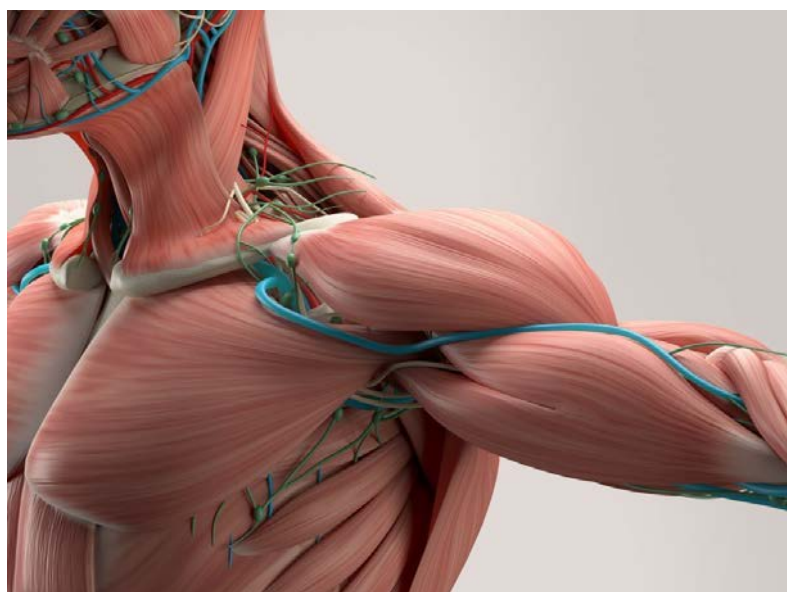


Key Points

- For pupils with a keen interest in sport.
- Must compete in a chosen activity outside of school.
- Must represent the school in at least 1 activity.
- Assessed through coursework, practical and written examination.
- Will develop a variety of key life skills such as leadership, communication and effective decision making.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

A level / BTEC in Sport



Photography (GCSE)

What will I study?

Students will learn how to use a DSLR camera and manipulate images using digital software, including Photoshop and manual editing techniques. The course also examines the work of relevant photographers, teaching students to understand and appreciate different photographic styles. Course projects are initially structured by your teacher to build core skills before starting a student-led project. There is also an opportunity for students to explore film making within the course.

How is the course assessed?

Portfolio of Work, Component 1:

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions for example a final outcome and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study. Set and marked by school and moderated by AQA. 96 marks, 60%.

Externally set assignment, Component 2:

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. Outcome completed over 10 hours of controlled exam conditions. Set and marked by school and moderated by AQA. 96 marks, 40%.

What can this course lead onto?

Pupils can continue with this subject at A-level at the Parrs Wood Sixth Form College. Art develops creative skills in researching and developing an idea. In an increasingly visual world, there are many art related careers, from being a Furniture designer, to an Artist, Curator or Architect. Some of the most lucrative jobs are in the creative industries but it is also an area which can inspire and motivate people.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Mr J. Davison – Head of Subject

Exam board: AQA



Key Points

- Students produce a portfolio for their coursework both teacher led and self-directed.
- Students are required to be committed and organised in their approach.
- Homework is a compulsory part of the course.
- The study of contextual studies looking at artists, designers and other sources is an important component of the course.
- Students complete a controlled exam in year 11. They will respond to a question producing development work leading to an outcome under exam conditions

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

This leads to a GCSE qualification in Art. This may help the student opt for A-level Art at Parrs Wood sixth form or follow a career route in creative industries.

Psychology (GCSE)

What will I study?

Throughout the course you will examine a number of aspects of human behaviour. Some of the areas you will study include:

- Memory
- Social influence (e.g., conformity and obedience)
- Developmental Psychology
- Research methods
- Perception
- Language, thought and communication
- Mental health
- The brain and neuropsychology



How is the course assessed?

You will sit 2 examinations at the end of year 11, Paper 1 and Paper 2 each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. Each exam will be worth 50% of your overall GCSE grade in Psychology.

What can this course lead onto?

Studying psychology will give you lots of options for your career, especially if you are interested in working with people. Professional psychologists work in the areas of: Clinical Psychology; Forensic Psychology; Educational Psychology, Sports Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Counselling Psychology. However, jobs in many other areas are also linked to psychology: Health and Social Care, Marketing and PR, Management and Human Resources, Education, Public Sector Work and much more.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms L. Davies – Head of psychology

Exam board: AQA



Key Points

- Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour.
- A wide range of teaching and learning methods are employed in lessons to gain a desirable GCSE used within a variety of career paths.
- Leads to a GCSE qualification.
- Pupils can continue with this subject at A level at Parrs Wood Sixth Form College.

What can I study at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

- Psychology
- Sociology
- RE
- Law
- Business and Economics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Maths
- English Language/Literature
- Criminology

Sociology (GCSE)

Why should I choose this subject?

Sociology is the study of human social life, groups and societies. It attempts to make sense of the social world around us and studies the major institutions in society such as the family, education system, crime and deviance. It is an academic subject, theoretically based that will appeal to pupils who are interested in asking questions about life and the different cultures in which we live.

Why do some pupils do better at school than others?

Sociologists do not accept simple explanations such as one pupil being more intelligent or hard working than another. Instead we examine the importance of a child's background, the attitude of teachers and the influence of the peer group on each pupil, and thus find deeper reasons for educational achievement.

What will I study?

Throughout the course you will examine a number of aspects of society. Amongst the topics you will study are: Families and Households, Education, Social Stratification, Poverty, Crime and Deviance, and Research Methods.

How is the course assessed?

100% Examination consisting of 2 papers, including multiple choice and extended writing responses. Both papers are 1 hr 45 mins.

What can this course lead onto?

Social Work, Teaching, Counseling, Management, Journalism, Advertising, Nursing, Travel and Tourism, Researcher, Government Advisor.

Who can I speak to about this in more detail?

Ms Z. Farag – Head of Subject

Exam board:
Eduqas (Part of WJEC)



Key Points

- The study of Society through non-scientific methods using a wide variety of teaching & learning methods.
- As part of the course we complete group and paired work, as well as whole class discussion. Sociology is seen as a desired GCSE with many employers.
- Pupils can continue with this subject at A Level at the Parris Wood Sixth Form.

What can I study at Parris Wood Sixth Form?

- Sociology
- Psychology
- History
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Law
- Government & Politics
- Health & Social Care
- Maths

CONTACT INFORMATION



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Year 9 Form Tutors

9SWO – Mr S. Wright

9TXM – Mr T. McBride

9EJW – Ms E. Waterhouse & Ms T. Breckwoldt

9EGP – Ms E. Perks

9KZC – Ms K. Crispin

9KJB – Ms K. Bates

9JPC – Ms J. Cosseron

9AJB – Ms A. Burnham

9LET – Ms L. Tuffley

9LKH – Ms L. Harrison

9TJS – Ms J. Smith

9MPL – Mr M. Lees

Which route do I take?



GCSEs

You can speak to: Future Choices Dept. Careers Advisors, Teachers, Heads of Departments, Heads of Years & ALL our subject staff are willing to **HELP YOU** in making your choices.

Level 3 Qualifications (age 16+)
A-levels...Diplomas...NVQ...BTEC...T Levels

**Foundation
Degree**

Degree

Work

JOBS : Advanced Apprenticeship, Higher Apprenticeship, Degree Apprenticeship

What questions can I ask at the Careers Fair?

Apprenticeships

What sort of jobs will I be carrying out as part of the apprenticeship?
What qualifications do I need?
What other skills do I need?
How do I show that I have these skills?
What is involved in the application process?
What will I be paid?
Will I be guaranteed a job after I have completed the apprenticeship?
What sort of jobs have apprentices gone onto?
What do they earn?

Sixth-Form

What qualifications do I need?
What is involved in the application process?
What sort of courses or apprenticeships have students gone on to?

Further Education Colleges:

What sort of jobs will I be carrying out as part of an apprenticeship?
What qualifications do I need?
What other skills do I need?
How do I show that I have these skills?
What is involved in the application process?
What have students gone on to do after they have completed their course?
What did they get earn?

University

What is the cost of going to university? How is it paid?
What is a bursary? What bursaries are available?
What courses are available?
What subjects and grades are required at GCSE and Level 3 e.g A-Level, BTEC?
Can you go to university after you have been on apprenticeship?
What sort of careers do people with degrees go on to ?
What salaries do they earn?

Useful websites:

University entry requirements: <http://ucas.com>,
Apprenticeships after GCSE: <http://nas.apprenticeships.org.uk>
After A level or equivalent: <http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk>,
Careers: after GCSEs: The National Careers website.
Job profiles
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>,
After university:
<http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options> with your subject.htm

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