



Highfields School
BE THE BEST YOU CAN

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

For courses starting September
2026

A guide to the KS4 curriculum
for year 9 parents /carers & students

BE THE BEST YOU CAN

Highfields School – Key Stage 4 Curriculum from September 2026

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Glossary

Course material links

Year 9 option choices

We are constantly seeking ways to meet the needs of all our students and will continually explore alternative courses if appropriate. Details of which will be provided at that time.

Highfields curriculum

All students at Highfields follow a broad and balanced curriculum. The Highfields curriculum is designed to engage and challenge all students to strive to achieve their full potential, both in their studies and in developing as young people equipped to live happy and fulfilling lives in modern Britain and beyond. We aim to develop confident, considerate and successful young people, who enjoy and appreciate the value of learning, ready to make positive contributions to their local communities and to society.

In key stage 4 (years 10 and 11) students follow a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Religious Studies, PSHE, and Physical Education (PE). Students then have a choice of four 'optional' subjects to specialise in. We strongly encourage students to consider the choices they make at this stage within the context of the 'pathways' open to them post-16 and beyond.

Through the key stage 3 **PSHE** programme, and the integration of the 5Rs across the school curriculum, we aim to develop students as effective independent learners, equipped with the skills and self-awareness required to succeed. These skills become increasingly important as students progress through the school, and are key to achieving one's potential.

Students' **social, moral, spiritual and cultural education** at Highfields is essential to their development as young people. All curriculum areas contribute to this programme, alongside specialist provision within the personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme which focusses on areas including sex and relationships, careers, health, democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Across the whole school, the pastoral system also performs a vital role in contributing to this provision and providing for the needs of individual students.

At Highfields we believe strongly in the importance of providing students with a wide range of **extra-curricular** opportunities. These include clubs and teams across the arts and sports, as well as additional academic clubs and student-led groups with particular interests. We strongly encourage students to participate in such activities both within and outside school, in order to achieve an effective work-life balance.

Introduction

We are very aware of the efforts that all parents and carers make in ensuring that their children realise their potential in all aspects of school life. The aim of this booklet is to help you in the support of your child's learning. The booklet contains an outline of the curriculum in each subject area.

In addition, the following information is relevant to all subject areas:

- **Homework** – Homework is set regularly with the emphasis on reviewing learning. This is recorded on Show My Homework.
- **Profiles** - data for profiles is collected from all subjects to be sent home and parent consultation evenings arranged as follows:

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Y10 profile (1) issued	Y11 profile (2) issued	Y10 profile (3) issued
Y11 profile (1) issued	Y11 parents' evening	
	Y10 profile (2) issued	
	Y10 parents' evening	
	Y11 profile (3) issued	

- **Marking** - Marking in all subjects will be carried out in accordance with school policy.
- **Non-examined assessments (NEA)** - These tests have replaced coursework in GCSE subjects. Students have knowledge of the task set and prepare for it in advance. The test is then taken in the normal classroom situation but under examination conditions. For some specifications the controlled tests are worth 60% of the final marks, whilst for others it is 25%. Full explanations of the requirements of this part of the syllabus are indicated in the subject pages of this booklet.
- **Parents' consultation evenings** - Parents' evenings take place during the year, however, if you wish to discuss the progress of your child at any point during the year, please contact their relevant subject teacher.

Any queries about subjects should be directed to the head of the appropriate department.

How to help your child

- Show a keen interest in and appreciation of the work being done
- Use the information provided in this booklet to discuss the work being undertaken
- Encourage your child to take more responsibility for his/her own learning - to complete homework punctually and prepare thoroughly for examinations/assessments
- Try to provide the materials/resources at home which will support learning
- Monitor homework/assessment grades to ensure good progress is being made
- Contact the school if you feel progress is unsatisfactory or if you need further advice to enhance your child's progress
- Avoid making appointments at times that could affect your child's progress
- Avoid taking holidays during term time as this may affect your child's performance in assessments.

Details contained in this booklet are correct at the time of printing.



Department for Education

Educational Reform

Since 2016 schools have been judged on the following accountability measures:

- **Progress 8** – progress across a suite of 8 subjects, as measured from the end of key stage 2 (primary school) to the end of key stage 4 (secondary school). These 8 subjects include English, maths, 3 EBacc subjects (sciences, computer science, geography, history, modern foreign languages) and 3 further subjects (which can include art, music, drama and vocational subjects such as BTEC business). English and maths will be double-weighted to reflect the importance of these subjects.
- **Attainment 8** – average attainment across 8 subjects (as above).
- **Basics Measure** - The percentage of students achieving a grade 5 or above in both English (Literature or Language) and maths.
- The proportion of students gaining the EBacc.

All GCSEs are now graded 9–1, rather than A*–G, with grade 5 considered a strong pass and grade 9 being the highest and set above the previous A*. The new system is intended to help provide more differentiation, especially among higher achieving students.

This is a combination of subjects comprised of English Language, English Literature, maths, two sciences, a humanities subject (history or geography) and a modern foreign language. Whilst this combination may not be suitable for all students we advise giving it consideration as the basis of a broad, balanced programme of learning which will provide young people with the knowledge and skills to help them understand the world around them and ensure all future opportunities are open. Our curriculum allows for two further subjects from a wide and varied offer to be followed in addition to the EBacc subjects.

Further information can be found on the Department for Education website
(www.gov.uk)

Key Stage 4

Curriculum



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Art & Design: Fine Art

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8202

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>Fine art at GCSE level offers students a wide variety of visual experience through different art media and techniques. Students are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop their practical skills through a range of art processes. • Explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas and are encouraged to become more sensitive and knowledgeable about fine art practise in its broadest contexts. <p>A lot of the work you do will be based on drawing and careful observation and you will be encouraged to develop your own approach to creating works of art through studying and appreciating the work of artists, designers and craftspeople. You will be expected to form opinions and comment on your own and other artists' work.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Students will Learn about a range of different Fine Art techniques such as those listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drawing • painting • sculpture • Ceramics • lens-/light-based media • photography and the moving image • printmaking • mixed media <p>GCSE Fine Art demands commitment and requires the student to work at home on their own initiative. A large proportion of the work is drawing; observation; research and experimentation. Evaluation, using the language of art, of their own work and that of other artists/crafts-people is also a requirement.</p>
How you will be assessed:	The work the students do during the course is assessed and contributes towards their final mark. There is also an externally set assignment at the end of the course. They will be expected to keep all their work and display it for assessment in April of the second year.
Mark breakdown:	<p>60% Component 1: Portfolio</p> <p>40% Component 2: Externally set assignment</p>
Website link:	AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	<p>Exam: January to March year 11</p> <p>Controlled Assessments: Throughout year 10 and year 11</p>
Further Information:	Miss K Fairbank – Head of Art
Contact email:	kfairbank@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Art & Design: Photography

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8206

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>GCSE photography will introduce students to a variety of experiences exploring a range of lens-based and light-based media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies.</p> <p>They will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to lens-based and light-based media from the past and from recent times which will be integral to the investigating and making process. Students' responses to the work of artists will be shown through practical and critical activities which develop their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Students will work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as those listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• portraiture• location photography• studio photography• experimental imagery• installation• documentary photography• photo-journalism• moving image: film, video and animation• fashion photography <p>They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.</p>
How you will be assessed:	<p>The work the students do during the course is assessed and contributes towards their final mark. There is also an externally set assignment at the end of the course. They will be expected to keep all their work and display it for assessment in April of the second year.</p>
Mark breakdown:	<p>60% Component 1: Portfolio 40% Component 2: Externally set assignment</p>
Website link:	AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	<p>Exam: January to March year 11 Controlled Assessments: Throughout year 10 and year 11</p>
Further Information:	Miss K Fairbank – Head of Art
Contact email:	kfairbank@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

Art & Design: Three-dimensional design

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8205

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore three-dimensional sculpture and ceramics (With a focus on ceramics and pottery). They will be made aware of both traditional and new techniques and processes and work areas of study including sculpture, hand-building and decorative ceramics.</p> <p>Students will also explore the use of drawing for different purposes in their planning and design process, using a variety of methods and media. Students will use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin their work.</p> <p>Students will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. This should be integral to the investigating and making process.</p> <p>Students' responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Students will be required to demonstrate skills in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appreciation of solid, void, form, shape, texture, colour, decoration, surface treatment, scale, proportion, structure, rhythm and movement • awareness of intended audience or purpose for their three-dimensional design and ceramic work • appreciation of the relationship of form and function and, where applicable, the ability to respond to a concept, work to a brief, theme or topic, or answer a need in three-dimensional design • the safe use of a variety of appropriate tools and equipment <p>understanding of working methods, such as making, constructing and assembling.</p>
How you will be assessed:	The work the students do during the course is assessed and contributes towards their final mark. There is also an externally set assignment at the end of the course. They will be expected to keep all their work and display it for assessment in April of the second year.
Mark breakdown:	60% Component 1: Portfolio 40% Component 2: Externally set assignment
Website link:	AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: January to March year 11 Controlled Assessments: Throughout year 10 and year 11
Further Information:	Miss K Fairbank – Head of Art
Contact email:	kfairbank@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Business

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8132

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>Students will consider the practical application of business concepts. The units provide opportunities to explore theories and concepts in the most relevant way, through the context of events in the business and economic world.</p> <p>The knowledge and skills gained from this specification will provide students with a firm foundation for further study</p> <p>Core concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business in the real world • Influences on business • Business operations • Human resources • Marketing • Finance
What you will learn:	<p>All of you will work for some kind of organisation at some point in the future. This course gives you an insight into how different businesses are organised and the type of problems that they face and must overcome if they wish to be successful. The things we look at include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance - have we got enough money to cover our start up and running costs? • Profit - how many things do we need to sell in order to make any? • Legal issues - how does the law effect the way our firm is set up and run? Does it matter how we treat our customers and workers? • Customers - how do we attract them? How do we keep them? • Job roles - who does what in an organisation and how can a good manager make sure staff work well together? <p>Job applications – what it takes to be the best applicant for a job.</p>
How you will be assessed:	2 exams, each of 1 hour and 45 minutes in duration
Mark breakdown:	Each paper is of equal weighting
Website link:	AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Examinations take place in Summer of Y11
Further Information:	Mrs C Langsdale – Head of Business
Contact email:	clangsdale@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Computer Science

GCSE

Exam Board: OCR
Exam Code: J277

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>The course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science and will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming.</p> <p>This course is suitable for students with strong mathematical skills.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Component 01: Computer systems Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.</p> <p>Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.</p> <p>Practical programming Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming tasks during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02 (section B).</p>
How you will be assessed:	2 exams
Mark breakdown:	Each paper is of equal weighting
Website link:	OCR website: www.ocr.org.uk
Key Dates:	Examinations take place in Summer of Y11
Further Information:	Mr C Davies – Computer Science
Contact email:	cdavies@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Dance

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8236

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>GCSE dance is an exciting and demanding course that requires a great deal of commitment and passion from students.</p> <p>The course is divided into three units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance • Choreography • Dance appreciation <p>You will do both practical and theoretical sessions over the two years. The main dance form taught is contemporary although other styles will be explored. The course is 60% practical and 40% theory.</p>
What you will learn:	How to perform, choreograph, direct and appreciate dance. As a performer you will develop confidence and team working skills. As a choreographer you will use creative skills and problem solving.
How you will be assessed:	<p>Practical work will be internally marked by your teacher and externally moderated. Written paper will be externally examined.</p> <p>Performance Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration) Duet/trio performance (three and a half minutes in duration) 30% of GCSE 40 marks (15 marks for set phrases and 25 marks for duet/trio performance)</p> <p>Choreography Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes) 30% of GCSE 40 marks</p> <p>Dance appreciation Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills Critical appreciation of own work Critical appreciation of professional works 40% of GCSE</p> <p>Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks</p>
Website link:	AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Written Exam – Summer of Y11 Internal Assessments – Across Y11
Further Information:	Miss E Bonsall – Head of Dance and Drama Mrs A Hollinrake – Subject teacher
Contact email:	ebonsall@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Design & Technology

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8522

Duration:	2 years						
Outline of the course:	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.						
What you will learn:	<p>Core technical principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New and emerging technologies• Energy storage and generation• Modern and Smart materials• Systems approach to designing• Mechanical devices• Materials and their properties:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Paper & Board○ Timber○ Metals○ Textiles○ Polymers <p>Specialist technical principles:</p> <p>Students will learn more in-depth knowledge in one specialist material area - Timber</p> <p>Students are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others’ needs.</p>						
How you will be assessed:	<p>The assessment is made up of two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-examined assessment (NEA) – design and make (35 hours)• Written exam (2 hours) <p>The non-examined assessment piece consists of a project that addresses all the assessment objectives in an iterative, holistic way. The evidence required for the project consists of a design portfolio and a prototyped product.</p> <p>The written exam tests knowledge and understanding of core technical principles, specialist technical principles and designing and making principles.</p>						
Mark breakdown:	<table><tr><td>50%</td><td>Unit 1: Written exam</td><td>100 marks</td></tr><tr><td>50%</td><td>Unit 2: Design & making practice</td><td>100 marks</td></tr></table>	50%	Unit 1: Written exam	100 marks	50%	Unit 2: Design & making practice	100 marks
50%	Unit 1: Written exam	100 marks					
50%	Unit 2: Design & making practice	100 marks					
Website link:	AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk						
Key Dates:	Exam: Summer of year 11 Non-examined assessments (NEA): Beginning June year 10						
Further Information:	Mrs C Hakin – Head of Design & Technology Mr J Godwin & Miss A Marshall – subject teachers						
Contact email:	jgodwin@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk amarshall@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk						

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Drama

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8261

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	GCSE drama is an exciting course offering an array of skills and opportunities. The lessons consist of a combination of practical and theoretical content covering a wide range of topics and themes. Students will learn about the theatre, playwrights and practitioners and develop their performance and technical skills. They will explore short scripts, devise work of their own and help to direct their peers. The course demands much teamwork and provides students with the opportunity to work in varying group sizes. They will be expected to devise pieces of theatre inspired by workshops led by their teacher following a stimulus/script and produce a log book detailing their practical exploration. Students will learn about design elements of theatre and will be encouraged to produce design work and/or scripts in response to the stimulus material presented to them. Students who opt for this course must enjoy practical work and performing. During the course there will be opportunities to visit the theatre and take part in workshops led by professional actors and practitioners.
What you will learn:	Students will learn many key life skills – you don't have to want to go into film, television or the theatre to both benefit from and enjoy the course. Confidence, communication, cooperation, leadership, creativity, teamwork, problem solving, imagination, resilience, listening, negotiation, analytical skills and empathy are just a few of the skills you will use and develop. These skills can be applied to most career paths and prove you have the fundamental ability to communicate effectively, present your ideas and work with others.
How you will be assessed:	<p>Component 1: Understanding drama, 40% - 1hr 45 mins Written exam will be taken at the end of year 11. Preparation for the exam will be ongoing throughout years 10 and 11 - Section A: multiple choice-Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre (<i>4 marks</i>); Section B: four questions on extract from a set play text (Blood Brothers) (<i>44 marks</i>); Section C: one question from a choice on the work of theatre makers in a single live performance - An analysis and evaluation of live theatre (<i>32 marks</i>)</p> <p>Component 2: Devising drama, 40% - Internally assessed and externally moderated by AQA. You will do component 2 in year 10.</p> <p>Devised log (60 marks): The process and development of creating devised drama; analysis and evaluation of own work</p> <p>Devised performance (20 marks): Performance of the devised drama to a live audience.</p> <p>Component 3: Texts in practice, 20% - This will take place in year 11. This component will be externally examined by AQA in year 11.</p> <p>Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) / Performance of Extract 2 (20 marks)</p>
Mark breakdown:	60% Coursework (Performances and Written) 40% Written exam
Website link:	AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Written Exam: Summer of year 11 Controlled Assessments: January-May of year 10 Performance Exam: March of year 11
Further Information:	Miss E Bonsall – Head of Dance and Drama/teacher of drama & theatre Mrs R Adams/Mrs G Cupitt (2 nd in department)– Subject teachers
Contact email:	ebonsall@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

Engineering (Level 1-2 Award)

Exam Board: WJEC
Exam Code: 5799QA

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	The Level 1 / 2 Vocational Award in Engineering provides a more practical alternative to GCSE. The qualification is based around the world of engineering and aims to introduce students to the various strands available within the field. The qualification offers students the chance to develop knowledge, skills and understanding through tasks set in realistic work-related contexts.
What you will learn:	<p>You will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills required for independent learning and development • a range of generic and transferable skills • the ability to solve problems; • the skills of project based research, development and presentation • the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment • the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts <p>Progression: The successful completion of this qualification could provide opportunities to access a range of Level 3 qualifications including GCE, apprenticeships and vocationally related qualifications. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Level in Design Technology: Engineering • Apprenticeships in Engineering
How you will be assessed:	<p>The Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Engineering will be graded Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*, Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*</p> <p>Units 1 and 2 are internally assessed through summative controlled assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1: Engineering Design (20%) The purpose of this unit is for learners to analyse engineered products in order to propose design solutions to meet requirements • Unit 2: Producing Engineering Products (40%) The purpose of this unit is for learners to use skills developed to produce an engineered product. <p>Units 3 is externally assessed through examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 3: Solving Engineering Problems (40%) Externally assessed 90 minute examination - total of 80 marks
Mark breakdown:	<p>20% Unit 1 Engineering Design 40% Unit 2 Producing Engineering Products 45% Unit 3 Solving Engineering Problems (Examination – 90 minutes)</p>
Website link:	Wjec website: www.wjec.co.uk
Key Dates:	<p>Unit 1 Internal Assignment Autumn Term Y11 Unit 2 Exam Spring Term Y11 Unit 3 Internal Assignment Summer Term Y11</p>
Further Information:	<p>Mrs C Hakin – Head of Design & Technology Mr S Jackson – Subject teacher / Miss A Marshall – Subject teacher</p>
Contact email:	sjackson@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

English Language

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8700

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: Reading – one literature extract followed by 1 short form question, 2 longer form questions, 1 extended question. Section B: Writing – descriptive or narrative writing - 1 extended writing question. <p>Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: Reading – Two linked texts: one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text followed by 1 short form question, 2 longer form questions, 1 extended question. Section B: Writing – opinion writing - 1 extended writing question. <p>Non-examination separate endorsement: spoken language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting Responding to questions and feedback Use of standard English
What you will learn:	You will develop the skills needed to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly, as well as being able to express ideas and respond in spoken English using standard English whenever and wherever possible.
How you will be assessed:	There are two exams at the end of year 11 to test skills in reading and writing which count for 100% of the final mark. Spoken English is separately assessed by your teacher (0% weighting of GCSE).
Mark breakdown:	50% Reading 50% Writing 0% Spoken language
Website link:	AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: Two exams at the end of year 11 Spoken language will be marked by your teacher during the two year course
Further Information:	Mrs C Cooper – Acting Head of English Mr M Webb – Head of Key Stage 4 English
Contact email:	ccooper@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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English Literature

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8702

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the nineteenth century novel You will study a play by Shakespeare (<i>Macbeth</i>) and a nineteenth century novel (<i>A Christmas Carol</i>), both of which will be assessed by examination.</p> <p>Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry You will study the play <i>An Inspector Calls</i>, an anthology of poems and be taught to respond to unseen poems.</p> <p>All students will follow this course along with GCSE English Language.</p>
What you will learn:	You will develop skills in how to approach the study of literature and how to make engaged personal responses to texts.
How you will be assessed:	You will be assessed by 2 exams.
Mark breakdown:	40% Paper 1: Shakespeare and the nineteenth century novel 60% Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
Website link:	AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: Two exams at the end of year 11
Further Information:	Mrs C Cooper – Acting Head of English Mr M Webb – Head of Key Stage 4 English
Contact email:	ccooper@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Film Studies

GCSE

Exam Board: Eduqas
Exam Code: C670QS

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>Exam Component 1: US film Students will study one pair of films from mainstream/Hollywood cinema (such as <i>Rebel Without a Cause</i>/<i>Ferris Bueller</i>) and one independent US film (<i>Juno</i>/<i>The Hurt Locker</i>/<i>Whiplash</i>).</p> <p>They will gain an understanding of genre, narrative and representation as well as studying specialist writing on film.</p> <p>Exam Component 2: Global film Students will study contemporary UK films (such as <i>Attack the Block</i> or <i>Skyfall</i>), global English language films (such as <i>Slumdog Millionaire</i> or <i>District 9</i>) and non-English language films (such as <i>Let the Right One In</i>).</p> <p>In this unit we study the aesthetics of cinema, how it looks and how it is influenced as well as looking at the differences in narrative and representation from the mainstream.</p> <p>Non-exam Component 3 – Production: Students will produce either a genre based film extract (2-2.5 minutes) or one genre based screenplay extract (750-800 words) In addition the students will complete a written evaluation of their production.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Students will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How films are made • How the meaning of the film is put across to you by camera angles, lighting, costume and editing • How the genre of a film affects audiences and what is included to create a genre film • What films exist 'beyond Hollywood' and how enjoyable and entertaining these films are • Practical skills – the course provides a chance for students to explore popular films from Hollywood, as well as films you wouldn't normally watch. Whilst doing so they will learn how film-makers create meaning and messages through the way they present the film. There will be opportunities to make their own short film extracts as well as creating a screenplay.
How you will be assessed:	Students will be assessed by two separate exams and a single non-exam piece of production work.
Mark breakdown:	<p>35% Paper 1 – written exam</p> <p>35% Paper 2 – written exam</p> <p>30% Production assessment</p>
Website link:	Eduqas website: www.eduqas.co.uk
Key Dates:	<p>Exam: Summer of year 11</p> <p>Production Assessment: Throughout year 10 and year 11</p>
Further Information:	Mr C Warrington – Head of Film Studies
Contact email:	cwarrington@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

Highfields School – Key Stage 4 Curriculum from September 2026

Food Preparation & Nutrition

GCSE

Exam Board: Eduqas
Exam Code: C560P1

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	GCSE food preparation and nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills and understanding of nutrition.
What you will learn:	<p>Section 1: Core knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This covers eight subjects and these aspects filter into the commodity topics found in Section 3. The topics are; principles of nutrition; diet and good health; the science of cooking food; food spoilage; food provenance and food waste; cultures and cuisines, Technological aspects and factors affecting food choice. <p>Section 2: Basic mixtures and recipes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of practical in class to aid knowledge and understanding of other areas as well as the development of their making skills. <p>Section 3: Commodities</p> <p>The commodities covered are; cereals, fruits and vegetables; milk cheese and yoghurt; meat poultry fish and eggs; beans nuts and seeds soya tofu and mycoprotein, butter oil margarines sugar and syrup.</p>
How you will be assessed:	<p>EXAM: Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition (50%)</p> <p>Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p>The paper will be made up of two sections. Section A includes questions based on stimulus material and is worth 15 marks and Section B is a series of structured, short and extended response questions that are designed to assess the content related to food preparation and nutrition this is worth 85 marks.</p> <p>Non-examined assessment (NEA):</p> <p>Task 1: Food investigation (15%) Written report</p> <p>Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Students will submit a written report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation as well as both charts and graphs to support.</p> <p>Non-examined assessment (NEA):</p> <p>Task 2: Food preparation assessment (35%)</p> <p>Written portfolio - students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planned in advance. Students will submit a written portfolio (15 A4 pages) including photographic evidence.</p>
Mark breakdown:	<p>50% Written exam</p> <p>50% Non-exam assessment</p>
Website link:	Eduqas website: www.eduqas.co.uk
Key Dates:	<p>Exam: May/June of year 11</p> <p>Non-examined assessment (NEA): Throughout year 11 (October / March)</p>
Further Information:	<p>Mrs C Hakin – Subject teacher/ Head of Design & Technology</p> <p>Miss H Weller – Subject teacher</p>
Contact email:	<p>chakin@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk</p> <p>hweller@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk</p>

Highfields School – Key Stage 4 Curriculum from September 2026

French

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8652 (F) (H)

Duration:	2 years 2 tiers of entry – Foundation and Higher
Outline of the course:	<p>A modern languages GCSE will equip you with the skills necessary to communicate with people in a variety of situations. Language skills are highly valued by both universities and employers and will complement any career path you may have in mind. A foreign language will enhance any visit abroad.</p> <p>You will be expected to learn vocabulary and grammar rules, to be able to manipulate and use the language independently. You will learn how to access authentic material in a variety of media including film and literature as well as how to translate into and out of the target language.</p> <p>You will learn speaking survival skills and explore the customs and traditions of the countries where the language is spoken. We encourage you to join one of our languages trips abroad to practise your skills.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Some topics you have already studied (but at a more advanced level), some new, such as global issues and technology.</p> <p>Other topics will include lifestyle, youth culture, leisure & media, home & local area, issues relating to the countries where the language you are studying is spoken and their customs and traditions and work, education and future plans.</p>
How you will be assessed:	At the end of the two years you will have exams in listening, speaking, reading and writing.
Mark breakdown:	25% Listening exam 25% Speaking exam 25% Reading exam 25% Writing exam
Website link:	AQA website www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Speaking Exam: April of year 11 Other Exams: Summer of year 11
Further Information:	Mrs M Bowen – Head of Modern Foreign Languages and subject leader for French
Contact email:	mbowen@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Geography

GCSE

Exam Board: Eduqas
Exam Code: Specification A – C111QS

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>Geography is a dynamic, constantly evolving subject which covers all aspects of life today.</p> <p>Geography is constantly in the headlines from natural disasters in Asia to human conflict in the Middle-East and the ever-real threat of climate change.</p> <p>If you want to learn more about the world we live in and be more informed about the choices you make in the future then geography is the subject for you!</p> <p>Geography is such a broad subject that it complements any chosen career and provides you with key skills to adapt to any situation.</p>
What you will learn:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map skills • How to use ICT (information and communication technology) • How to collect and interpret data gained through fieldwork • How to make decisions and solve problems
How you will be assessed:	<p>Component 1 – Changing physical and human landscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes and physical processes • Rural urban links • Tectonic landscapes and hazards <p>Component 2 – Environmental and development issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather, climate and ecosystems • Development and resource issues • Social development issues <p>Component 3 - Applied fieldwork enquiry A written exam based on practical fieldwork experiences</p>
Mark breakdown:	<p>35% Component 1 – Changing physical and human landscapes</p> <p>35% Component 2 – Environmental and development issues</p> <p>30% Component 3 - Applied fieldwork enquiry</p>
Website link:	Eduqas website: www.eduqas.co.uk
Key Dates:	<p>Exams: Summer of year 11</p> <p>Fieldwork July in year 9, October and April in year 10</p>
Further Information:	Mrs M Barker – Head of Geography
Contact email:	mbarker@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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German

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8662 (F) (H)

Duration:	2 years 2 tiers of entry – Foundation and Higher
Outline of the course:	<p>A modern languages GCSE will equip you with the skills necessary to communicate with people in a variety of situations. Language skills are highly valued by both universities and employers and will complement any career path you may have in mind. A foreign language will enhance any visit abroad.</p> <p>You will be expected to learn vocabulary and grammar rules, to be able to manipulate and use the language independently. You will learn how to access authentic material in a variety of media including film and literature as well as how to translate into and out of the target language.</p> <p>You will learn speaking survival skills and explore the customs and traditions of the countries where the language is spoken. We encourage you to join one of our languages trips abroad to practise your skills.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Some topics you have already studied (but at a more advanced level), some new, such as global issues and technology.</p> <p>Other topics will include lifestyle, youth culture, leisure & media, home & local area, issues relating to the countries where the language you are studying is spoken and their customs and traditions and work, education and future plans.</p>
How you will be assessed:	At the end of the two years you will have exams in listening, speaking, reading and writing.
Mark breakdown:	25% Listening exam 25% Speaking exam 25% Reading exam 25% Writing exam
Website link:	AQA website www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Speaking Exam: April of year 11 Remaining Exams: Summer of year 11
Further Information:	Mrs M Bowen – Head of Modern Foreign Languages Mrs J Andrews – Head of German
Contact email:	mbowen@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Health & Social Care

Cambridge Nationals

Exam Board: OCR
Exam Code: J835

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	Offering an effective introduction to the health and social care sector, this qualification looks at the role the sector plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals. It also introduces students to knowledge and skills needed to work in various care settings.
What you will learn:	<p>Underpinning the qualification is a focus on person-centred values, rights of individuals, communicating effectively and protecting individuals. Also, supporting individuals through life events and the option to plan and deliver a creative activity or a health promotion campaign.</p> <p>The qualification is designed to help students learn practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations, to think creatively, analytically, logically and critically and develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the health and social care sector and more widely.</p>
How you will be assessed:	One exam Two externally assessed units (coursework)
Mark breakdown:	Exam 40% Coursework 60%
Website link:	OCR website Cambridge Nationals - Health and Social Care Level 1/Level 2 – J835 - OCR
Key Dates:	Examinations take place in Summer of Y11
Further Information:	Miss L Burgess- Head of Health and Social Care
Contact email:	lburgess@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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History

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8145FC

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	This is a popular and well-respected course that aims to equip students with a range of highly prized historical and transferable skills for the future. History is a subject that binds our society together and is so broad that it will complement and enhance any career path you may have in mind. A fascinating subject that covers four topics which are delivered in a variety of different ways. By studying this subject you learn directly about key events in the past, helping you to make sense of the present and future.
What you will learn:	<p>Paper 1A: Period Study- Germany 1890-1945- Democracy and Dictatorship The themes of fascism, communism, democracies under threat, racism and extreme nationalism, and conflict between nations have rarely felt as important to understand as they do in the 2020s. This unit reflects on the fall of the Kaiser's Germany; its replacement by a democratic regime; the failure of that regime and its replacement by the tyranny of the Nazis</p> <p>Paper 1B: World Depth Study- Conflict & Tension: The First World War, 1894-1918 The First World War defined the 20th Century. It toppled monarchies, encouraged revolutions and changed the world irrevocably. In many ways we are still dealing with its legacy today. This unit covers the causes, events and controversies of the 'Great War.'</p> <p>Paper 2A: Thematic Study- Britain health and the people: c.1000-present day This unit covers the history of medicine from the middle ages to the present day. There is something for everyone, as we investigate a range of historical periods, from Medieval times right through to the modern world. You will be investigating the causes and extent of change within the history of medicine.</p> <p>Paper 2B: British Depth Study: Elizabethan England, c.1568-1603 Hailed as a 'Golden Age', the time of Elizabeth is full of intrigue, murder, controversy, warfare, exploration and culture. This course will cover everything from court life to the key events, such as the Armada and Drake's circumnavigation.</p>
How you will be assessed:	<p>Exam Paper 1 – Period Study & World Depth Study Exam Paper 2 – Thematic Study & British Depth Study</p>
Mark breakdown:	<p>Exam Paper 1 - 50% of qualification Exam paper 2 - 50% of qualification</p>
Website link:	AQA Website- www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/specification
Key Dates:	Exam: Summer of year 11
Further Information:	Mr P Copeland – Head of History
Contact email:	pcopeland@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Mathematics

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8300

Duration:	2 years There are two tiers of GCSE entry , Foundation and Higher. With 9 grades available, Foundation tier gives access to grades 1-5 and Higher tier accesses grades 3-9.
Outline of the course:	<p>You will continue to study the four main aspects of mathematics: Number, Algebra, Shape and Space and Handling Data. The syllabus places particular emphasis on fluency, reasoning and problem solving. You will be expected to learn facts and formulae, practise and master some mathematical techniques and show that you can recognise when to use and apply these appropriately.</p> <p>The syllabus will involve taking three exams at the end of the two year course, so it will be important to understand how to improve your exam technique to make sure you reach your potential in the final exams.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Problem solving skills are particularly important with emphasis on functional maths that relates the maths to the real world. Many questions expect you to reason and think for yourself and realise which part of your mathematical knowledge will be relevant and helpful in solving the problem.</p> <p>Being involved in class discussions and activities will be an important part of maths lessons. It is vital that you build up the confidence to find ways to tackle problems that you haven't seen before. Group work and explaining your ideas will be important. Homework will be a crucial part of the course, giving both you and the teacher evidence that you can reason on your own. It will also give you time to practise routine operations (like solving equations) in order to gain the required fluency.</p>
How you will be assessed:	One of the three examinations is without the use of a calculator so it is really important to practise and improve your mental skills. All students are expected to have their own calculator so they can become familiar with the relevant functions during the GCSE course.
Mark breakdown:	100% exam (3 exams: each one is 1hr 30 mins)
Website link:	Exam board website - www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: Summer of year 11
Further Information:	Mr M Prescott – Head of Maths
Contact email:	mprescott@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Music

GCSE

Exam Board: Eduqas
Exam Code: C660QS

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. For any student who takes an active interest in music, the exciting new GCSE course offers the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the benefits of performing, composing and appraising music.</p> <p>During the GCSE course students explore four areas of study through the context of set study pieces.</p> <p>GCSE areas of study: AoS1 Musical Forms and Devices AoS2 Music for Ensemble AoS3 Film Music AoS4 Popular Music</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Students write and develop their musical compositions using state of the art computer software and Highfields' fully equipped, purpose built recording studio. The composition element of the GCSE course is enjoyable and exciting for students as they have the opportunity to compose music in a variety of musical styles using Sibelius, GarageBand and Logic Pro software. The new GCSE offers students the chance to study a wider range of musical genres, with more opportunities for practical learning, bringing theory, listening and composition to life.</p> <p>Gaining a GCSE music qualification opens the door to many interesting and exciting careers in the performing arts industry including recording & producing, arts journalism and teaching. It develops self-confidence as well as leadership and organisational skills.</p>
How you will be assessed:	Students will be both externally and internally assessed during the course. Compositions and Performances (Components 1 & 2) are internally marked and externally moderated by Eduqas.
Mark breakdown:	30% Component 1: Performing (NEA) 30% Component 2: Composing (NEA) 30% Component 3: Appraising (Written examination)
Website link:	Eduqas website: www.eduqas.co.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: Summer of year 11 Non-examined assessment (NEA): Compositions are non-examined assessments and take place in the Spring term of year 10 and Autumn term of year 11 Performance exams take place in November and March of years 10 & 11
Further Information:	Mr K Rowley – Head of Music
Contact email:	music@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

Physical Education

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8582

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>The GCSE PE course is ideal for students who have an interest and passion for sport, is this you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have good skills and understanding in a variety of sports/physical activities • I am enthusiastic about and interested in sport and physical activity • I want to learn how the body works to make me do physical activity • I want to know why some people do sport and some people don't <p>If any of these comments sound familiar then read on ...</p>
What you will learn:	<p>GCSE PE candidates will cover the following topics:</p> <p>Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport. This will involve applied anatomy and physiology; movement analysis; physical training and use of data.</p> <p>Paper 2: This will involve sports psychology; socio-cultural influences; health, fitness and well-being and the use of data. The range of physical activities; the roles of the active participant; injury; energy production (aerobic and anaerobic); leisure and recreation; health and fitness; training; diet; school influences; emotional health and well-being; cultural and social factors; the media; sponsorship; competitions; international sports and events.</p> <p>Not only will candidates develop and improve their skills, fitness and understanding within the sporting activities covered, they will also acquire vital life skills: communication; co-operation; leadership and teamwork.</p>
How you will be assessed:	<p>The course is broken down into two sections: The first is the theory side (covering the topics above) and is worth 60% of the overall mark and this takes the form of two written examinations (30% each).</p> <p>The practical component is worth 40% and you must be competent and assessed in 3 of sporting activities selected from the list available from the AQA website. Practical performance must be in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).</p> <p>You will also have to complete a coursework assessment task which involves the analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.</p> <p>In school, students will be assessed in a range of activities within core and optional PE lessons. Candidates can also be assessed in sporting activities not offered within school, e.g. swimming; horse-riding; golf; snow sports and water sports.</p>
Mark breakdown:	<p>60% (30%) Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport (1hr 15mins written exam)</p> <p>(30%) Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport (1hr 15mins written exam)</p> <p>40% The Active Participant – Non-examined assessments (NEA) (3 activities 1 piece of coursework)</p>
Website link:	Exam board website - www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: Summer of year 11
Further Information:	Mr C Shirtcliffe – Head of PE
Contact email:	pe@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Physical Education

Core

Exam Board: There are no formal assessments in lessons. Students are able to opt for the GCSE in Physical Education or BTEC in Sport as one of their options.

Duration:	2 years	
Outline of the course:	Physical Education at KS4 follows the same concepts as KS3 but students opt to take part in an individual based pathway or a team-based pathway, allowing individuals ownership to aid buy in. The focus at KS4 is to implement all the skills developed at KS3, improve performance physically, develop socially and Mentally (Head Heart Hands). There is more focus on doing the activity, being physically active, applying rules, deciding and adapting strategy, improving physical literacy, leadership, the understanding of different (New) sports and activities as well as trying to develop a lifelong appreciation of physical activity and sport. One addition which we start after the FUNDamental aspects is sport education, this is placed here to allow students to develop a deeper understanding of different roles within sport such as warm up lead, head coach, equipment manager, fair play monitor, manager statistician etc. This awards points for positive contributions and deducts points for those not meeting expectations.	
What you will learn:	<p>Head Motivating Others Rules and expectations Communication Evaluation Innovation Decision making Collaboration Health, Wellbeing and Diet</p> <p>Hands Skills and components of fitness for a range of activities. OAA/Fitness/Orienteering Capture the Howler Football/Netball/Lacrosse Athletic activities Cricket/Rounders</p>	<p>Heart Participation & Effort Leadership Self-Management Respect & Integrity Resilience Empathy</p> <p>Theory Bones, Joints Components of fitness Effects of exercise on the body Muscular system Respiratory system Cardiovascular system</p>
Further Information:	Mr C Shirtcliffe – Head of PE	
Contact email:	pe@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk	

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PRS

Core

Exam Board: There are no formal assessments in lessons. Students are able to opt for the GCSE in Religious Studies as one of their options.

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	PRS in years 10 and 11 is focussed on students learning about their place in the world along with the varying views of religious and non-religious belief systems on a range of topics. Lessons focus on a variety of skills such as evaluating view points, debating different issues and researching the world around us.
What you will learn:	Year 10 consists of 3 units including a couple of lessons on each topic. World Issues - the environment, the problem of evil, charity Ethics - abortion, animal rights, punishment Relationships - marriage, same sex relationships, contraception and fertility treatment Year 11 consists of 2 units including a couple of lessons on each topic. World Issues - Human rights activists, discrimination, media Ethics - euthanasia, war, death penalty. Students receive 1 single lesson a fortnight.
Further Information:	Mrs S Blakesley – Head of PRS
Contact email:	sblakesley@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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PSHE

Core

Exam Board: There are no formal assessments in lessons. Students are able to opt for the GCSE in Religious Studies as one of their options.

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	Personal, Social, Health and Economic education is a subject through which students develop the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens. The curriculum which is delivered on a spiral basis aims to develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk management, teamworking and critical thinking. Topics are explored as part of three core themes: health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world community including careers and economic wellbeing. PSHE includes drugs education and sex and relationships education.
What you will learn:	
Year 10	
Topic 1	Money and Values: Getting paid, work contracts, financial independence, voting elections and pressure groups.
Topic 2	Relationships and Sex Education: Sex and relationships responsibilities, Sexual health, Fertility and routes to parenthood.
Topic 3	Mental Health and Wellbeing: Mental health, exam stress, revision, mindfulness.
Topic 4	Online Safety: Digital footprint, privacy, online bullying
Topic 5	Physical Health: Keeping healthy, self-examination, self-image and first aid.
Topic 6	Careers Education: Work Experience preparation, the work environment, expectations, and reflection.
Year 11	
Topic 1	Mental Health and Wellbeing: Positive mental health, exam stress.
Topic 2	Careers Education: CV drafting, CV workshop, Mock Interview reflection
Topic 3	Online Safety: Fake News, misinformation, agenda, censorship and free speech.
Topic 4	Relationships and Sex Education: Sexual content online, pornography, gender and sexuality
Topic 5	Physical Health and wellbeing: Addiction, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, illegal drugs and crime
Topic 6	Social Education: The law and your life, the police.
Further Information:	<u>Events</u> Careers Fair Work Experience Placement Mock Interview Careers Adviser Appointment
Contact email:	rhendry@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Religious Studies A (full course)

GCSE

Exam Board: Eduqas for WJEC
Exam Code: C120P3

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	<p>The course reflects the fact that religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of other principal belief systems represented, specifically Islam and Humanism. Students are given the opportunity to reflect upon, and respond to, human experience and the issues raised by being human, to develop a knowledge and understanding of how religions and belief systems have responded to these experiences and issues through the beliefs, values, practices and traditions which help to shape and give meaning to the lives of their followers.</p> <p>Component One: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World Theme 1: Issues of Relationships Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights</p> <p>Component Two: Study of Christianity A study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity.</p> <p>Component Three: Study of a World Faith A study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>The course involves an in depth study of the key beliefs, teachings and practices of both Christianity and Islam. Central questions and issues in human life and experiences are explored and the relevance of religious and non-religious beliefs, practices, values and traditions in response to these questions and issues are studied.</p> <p>Students will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion. • Explore religions and beliefs, reflect on fundamental questions, engage with them intellectually and respond personally. • Enhance their spiritual and moral development. <p>Enhance their personal, social and cultural development, their understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world, and to contribute to social and community cohesion.</p>
How you will be assessed:	Assessment will be in the form of three written exams.
Mark breakdown:	<p>50% Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World (2 hrs)</p> <p>25% Study of Christianity (1 hour)</p> <p>25% Study of a World Faith (1 hour)</p>
Website link:	WJEC website: www.eduqas.co.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: Summer of year 11
Further Information:	Mr S Blakesley – Head of Religious Studies
Contact email:	sblakesley@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Science – Double Science GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8464

Duration:	3 years – started in year 9 2 tiers of entry
Outline of the course:	<p>The course is equivalent to 2 GCSEs</p> <p>This specification is one of the new suite of GCSE science specifications offered by AQA. The specification leads to a double award GCSE combined science. There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.</p> <p>A student taking Higher Tier assessments will be awarded a grade within the range of 4–4 to 9–9. A student taking Foundation Tier assessments will be awarded a grade within the range of 1–1 to 5–5.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>The opportunity to gain a good understanding across a broad range of rich and relevant topics in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology topics: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; Bioenergetics; Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology. • Chemistry topics: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes and Energy changes; The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources. • Physics Topics: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure; Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism
How you will be assessed:	Six written exams at the end of year 11 and assessed practicals throughout the course.
Mark breakdown:	16.7% Biology 1 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 16.7% Biology 2 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 16.7% Chemistry 1 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 16.7% Chemistry 2 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 16.7% Physics 1 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 16.7% Physics 2 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier)
Website link:	Exam board website - www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: Summer of year 11 Assessed Practical: Taken throughout the year
Further Information:	Dr R Atkins – Head of Science
Contact email:	ratkins@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Science – Triple Science

GCSE

GCSE Separate Sciences

Exam Board: AQA

Exam Code: 8461 Biology / 8462 Chemistry / 8463 Physics

Duration:	3 years – started in year 9 2 tiers of entry
Outline of the course:	The course is equivalent to 3 GCSEs This specification is one of a new suite of GCSE science specifications offered by AQA. The specification leads to a single award GCSE in biology, a single award GCSE in chemistry and a single award GCSE in physics. There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. A student taking Higher Tier assessments will be awarded a grade within the range of 4 to 9. A student taking Foundation Tier assessments will be awarded a grade within the range of 1 to 5.
What you will learn:	The opportunity to gain a good understanding across a broad range of rich and relevant topics in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology topics: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; Bioenergetics; Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology. • Chemistry topics: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes and Energy changes; The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources. • Physics Topics: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure; Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism
How you will be assessed:	Six written exams at the end of year 11 and assessed practicals throughout the course.
Mark breakdown:	50% Biology 1 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 50% Biology 2 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 50% Chemistry 1 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 50% Chemistry 2 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 50% Physics 1 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier) 50% Physics 2 - Written paper (Foundation Tier / Higher Tier)
Website link:	Exam board website - www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: Summer of year 11 Assessed Practicals: Taken throughout the year
Further Information:	Dr R Atkins – Head of Science
Contact email:	ratkins@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Spanish

GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Exam Code: 8692 (F) (H)

Duration:	2 years 2 tiers of entry – Foundation and Higher
Outline of the course:	<p>A modern languages GCSE will equip you with the skills necessary to communicate with people in a variety of situations. Language skills are highly valued by both universities and employers and will complement any career path you may have in mind. A foreign language will enhance any visit abroad.</p> <p>You will be expected to learn vocabulary and grammar rules, to be able to manipulate and use the language independently. You will learn how to access authentic material in a variety of media including film and literature as well as how to translate into and out of the target language.</p> <p>You will learn speaking survival skills and explore the customs and traditions of the countries where the language is spoken. We encourage you to join one of our languages trips abroad to practise your skills.</p>
What you will learn:	<p>Some topics you have already studied (but at a more advanced level), some new, such as global issues and technology.</p> <p>Other topics will include lifestyle, youth culture, leisure & media, home & local area, issues relating to the countries where the language you are studying is spoken and their customs and traditions and work, education and future plans.</p>
How you will be assessed:	At the end of the two years you will have exams in listening, speaking, reading and writing.
Mark breakdown:	25% Listening exam 25% Speaking exam 25% Reading exam 25% Writing exam
Website link:	AQA website www.aqa.org.uk
Key Dates:	Exam: April/May/June of year 11
Further Information:	Mrs M Bowen – Head of Modern Foreign Languages Ms L Shaw – Head of Spanish
Contact email:	mbowen@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

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BTEC Sport Tech Award Level 2

BTEC

Exam Board: Pearson/Edexcel
Exam Code: 603/7068/3

Duration:	2 years		
Outline of the course:	<p>Choosing to study for a BTEC Tech Award Level 2 qualification is a great decision to make for lots of reasons. More and more people are accessing the sports industry to improve their health, meet new people, learn new skills or support a local sports team. As the number of people using the sports industry grows then the demand for well qualified people to work within it also grows. The qualification enables learners to develop their sector-specific skills, such as sport analysis and sports leadership, using realistic vocational contexts, and personal skills, such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.</p> <p>This course is a vocational and work-related qualification. This doesn't mean that it will give you all the skills you need for a job, but it does mean that you'll have the opportunity to gain specific knowledge, understanding and skills that are relevant to your chosen subject or area of working.</p>		
What you will learn:	<p>Components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigating provisions for sport including equipment and facilities to enhance sport.Planning and delivery of sport drills and sessions.Fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology.Explore types and provision of sport and physical activity for different types of participant.Examine equipment and technology required for participants to use when taking part in sport and physical activity.Prepare participants to take part in sport and physical activity.Understand how different components of fitness are used in different physical activities.Participate in sport and understand the roles and responsibilities of officials. <p>Demonstrate ways to improve participants sporting technique.</p>		
How you will be assessed:	Component number	Component title GLH Level	How is it assessed?
	1	Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity	36 1/2 Internal – externally moderated
	2	Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance	36 1/2 Internal – externally moderated
	3	Developing Fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity	48 1/2 External Synoptic
Mark breakdown:	<p>Students will achieve an overall grade and certificate for a pass, merit or distinction/* at the end of the course.</p> <p>Component 1 is marked out of 60</p> <p>Component 2 is marked out of 60</p> <p>Component 3 is marked out of 60</p>		
Website link:	Pearson Edexcel website - www.edexcel.com		
Key Dates:	<p>Exam component 3: Summer of Year 11</p> <p>Component 1 will be assessed in June in year 10. (Coursework).</p> <p>Component 2 will be assessed in June in year 11. (Coursework).</p>		
Further Information:	Mr C Shirtcliffe – Head of PE		
Contact email:	pe@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk		

Travel & Tourism BTEC Level 2

BTEC

Exam Board: Pearson/Edexcel
Exam Code: 603/7048/8 (2022 specification)

Duration:	2 years
Outline of the course:	This qualification is built on three components which give learners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the travel and tourism sector, and relevant transferable skills such as research and communication skills at Levels 1 and 2.
What you will learn:	<p>Internal assessment – externally moderated- These units underpin the fundamental knowledge and understanding of the travel and tourism sector.</p> <p>Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations - Learners will investigate travel and tourism organisations in the UK, their ownership, aims, key products and services, and how they work together. They will explore the role of different consumer technologies within the travel and tourism industry. Learners will understand the different types of tourism and different types of visitor, and will investigate the features of and routes to popular tourist destinations.</p> <p>Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism – Learners will investigate how organisations use market research to identify travel and tourism trends and identify customer needs and preferences. They will apply their understanding by exploring how specific needs are met by organisations and how travel planning meets customer needs and preferences.</p> <p>Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism - Learners will explore the different factors that may influence global travel and tourism, and how travel and tourism organisations and destinations respond to these factors.</p>
How you will be assessed:	Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment . There is one external assessment, Component 3 , which provides the main synoptic assessment.
Mark breakdown:	You will achieve an overall grade and certificate for a pass, merit or distinction/* at the end of the course.
Website link:	Pearson Edexcel website - www.edexcel.com
Key Dates:	Exam: Component 3 – Influences on Global Travel and Tourism (2hrs) – end of year 11 Non-examined assessment (NEA): Throughout year 10 and year 11
Further Information:	Mrs M Barker – Head of Geography
Contact email:	geography@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

Glossary

Term	Description/Explanation
AQA	Assessment & Qualifications Alliance – the awarding body/exam board (formed by merging the Associated examining board (which is the awarding body for GCSE and GCE A Levels) with the Northern Examinations and Assessment Board).
Assessment	The method of grading and evaluating / judging how well students are progressing. This may include exams and course work.
Attainment	What students accomplish.
Attainment target	The individual goal set for a student. Targets are a way of checking student progress.
Awarding body/examination board	The organisation that writes the specification, sets and marks the exams and moderates the teacher assessed work.
Awarding body/examination board web sites	www.aqa.org.uk www.edexcel.org.uk www.ocr.org.uk www.wjec.co.uk www.eduqas.co.uk
BTEC	Business & Technical Education Council - Vocational qualifications that teach the skills that are needed for working life. The overall BTEC qualifications are given pass, merit or distinction grades.
Edexcel (now Pearson Edexcel)	<i>See Pearson overleaf</i>
Eduqas	Eduqas is part of WJEC Exam Board (Welsh Joint Education Committee – awarding / examination body), offering Ofqual reformed qualifications to secondary schools and colleges.

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English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)	The EBacc is a performance measure introduced by the government linked to specific GCSEs (it is not a qualification). It requires students to gain at least a C grade GCSE in English, two sciences, maths, history or geography and a modern foreign language.
GCSE	General Certificate of Education - academic examination of basic secondary education generally taken over two years by 14-16 year olds.
Tiers of entry	For the majority of our GCSE courses there is a single tier of entry. Where there are two tiers (Higher and Foundation) this is indicated against the subject.
Key Stage 4	The curriculum relevant for years 10 and 11 (KS4 = GCSE).
Level 1	Level 1 qualifications include GCSEs, GNVQs at Foundation Level and NVQ1s. Grading is equivalent to GCSE grades 3-1.
Level 2	Level 2 qualifications include GCSEs at grades 9-4, GNVQs at Intermediate Level, BTEC Tech Awards, WJEC Vocational Awards.
Non-examined assessments (NEA)	Many subjects have this, which counts as part of your final assessment (this is a percentage grade, with the remaining part assessed by one or more exams). The NEA is marked by the subject teacher, but it is also sent to external examiners who moderate the marking. NEAs have to be completed in class time under supervision.
OCR	Oxford Cambridge and RSA - awarding/examining body incorporating previous Oxford Cambridge and RSA qualifications.
Pearson Edexcel	Pearson is the UK's largest awarding organisation offering academic, vocational and work-based learning qualifications, including BTEC and Edexcel GCSEs.
Portfolio	A collection of examples of work.
Progress / progression	Continuous proven improvement, moving students forward with their learning.
Projected level / grade	The students' predicted grade at the end of KS4.
Syllabus or specification	This is an outline of what students have to study in any subject.

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Vocational qualifications

Vocational qualifications are work-related qualifications available in a wide range of subjects which relate to different jobs and industries.

WJEC

Welsh Joint Education Committee – **awarding / examination body.**

Work-based learning

Leads to NVQ qualifications gained in the workplace.

Course Material Links

AQA www.aqa.org.uk

Art & Design (Fine Art) – spec code 8202

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/fine-art>

Art & Design (Photography) – spec code 8206

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/photography>

Art & Design (Textile Design) – spec code 8204

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/textile-design>

Business – spec code 8132

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/gcse/business-8132/introduction>

Dance – spec code 8236

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236/specification-at-a-glance>

D&T– spec code 8552

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

Drama – spec code 8261

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261>

English Language – spec code 8700

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

English Literature – spec code 8702

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

Mathematics – spec code 8300

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

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Physical Education – spec code 8582

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582>

Science (Double Science) Combined Science – Trilogy – Spec code 8464

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

Science (triple)

spec code 8461 Biology - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

spec code 8462 Chemistry - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

spec code 8463 Physics - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463>

Eduqas www.eduqas.co.uk

Film Studies – spec code C670QS

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies/gcse/>

Food Preparation & Nutrition – spec code C560P1

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/food-preparation-and-nutrition/>

French – spec code C800QS (F) (H)

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/french-gcse/#tab_overview

Geography – spec code A – C111QS

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography/gcse-a/>

German – spec code C8200QS (F) (H)

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/german-gcse/#tab_overview

Music – spec code C660QS

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Religious Studies – spec code C120P

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

Spanish – spec code C810QS (F) (H)

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/spanish-gcse/#tab_overview

OCR www.ocr.org.uk

Computer Science – spec code J276 (9-1)

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/>

PEARSON EDEXCEL www.edexcel.com

History A (SHP) – spec code 1HIO

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

Sport – BTEC Tech Award level 2 – spec code 603/7068/3

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/sport-2022.html>

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Travel & Tourism – spec code 603/7048/8 (2022 specification)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/travel-and-tourism/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/60370488-BTEC-Tech-Award-Travel-and-Tourism-2022-purpose-statement.pdf>

WJEC www.wjec.co.uk

Engineering –spec code 5799QA

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/>

ICT level 1 / 2 vocational award – spec code 5539

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-ict/#tab_keydocuments

Year 9 option choices

Compulsory for all students:

Examined Subjects



Non-examined Subjects



Science option:

All students will study Science. If students do not opt for Triple Science they will have a double lesson of Biology, Chemistry and Physics every week and gain a double award GCSE Combined Science GCSE, worth the same as two GCSEs. If students opt for Triple Science they will have three double lessons of Biology, Chemistry and Physics every two weeks and gain three GCSEs.

Other options:

You will take four option subjects. Our advice is that you should select a broad range of courses that interest you and cover different areas of learning. **We advise all students to take a humanities subject (history or geography) and a modern foreign language.** This together with the compulsory subjects would provide the basis of a broad, balanced programme of learning which will provide you with the knowledge and skills to understand the world around you and ensure all future opportunities are open. In addition to this are 2 further options, meaning a very wide range of programmes can be created, matching your interests and strengths.

- You must first pick a **Red** subject from the **green** box. You need to consider choosing a Language along with History or Geography if you have an Advanced benchmark.
- You must then pick five more subjects in order preference. You will be given three of these.
- Subjects that are similar appear in **orange** boxes together. You can pick **ONE** subject from within each of the **orange** boxes.

Art & Design: Fine Art	Drama	History
Art & Design: Photography	Engineering (Vocational Award)	Music
Art & design: Textiles	Film Studies	PE (GCSE)
Business	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Religious Studies
Computer Science	French	Spanish
Dance	Geography	Sport (BTEC)
Design & Technology	German	Travel & Tourism (BTEC)
Fine Art	PE (GCSE)	Triple Science
Art Textiles	Sport (BTEC)	