



Options

2025-26





Introduction

Dear Parents and

Carers

We encourage you to spend time discussing these options together as a family, just as we will be doing with pupils in school. Our aim is to guide each individual pupil to select subjects they enjoy and in which they can achieve their greatest success.

As you may be aware, the educational landscape continues to evolve. Schools are now measured not only on attainment but on the progress made by every pupil. GCSEs are graded on a 9-1 scale, and progress will look different for each child. This is why we remain committed to innovative teaching and mixed-attainment classes, ensuring that every pupil is nurtured and enabled to make excellent progress from their own starting point.

In this booklet, you will find information about all core subjects, English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects and optional subjects offered at Key Stage 4.

As we move into the next stage of transition, this is an exciting time in your child's academic journey. We are pleased to introduce our Key Stage 4 Options Booklet, which outlines the curriculum pathways designed to ensure our pupils are fully prepared for their future education and career choices.

At Houlton School, we have created an ambitious curriculum that provides all pupils with the knowledge, skills and cultural capital needed to become confident global citizens. Alongside a comprehensive personal development programme, our curriculum ensures that pupils gain both the academic qualifications and wider skills necessary for their next steps. Our aim is to offer a rich and diverse set of options that allow pupils to pursue subjects they enjoy and achieve success in.

We are proud to offer a broad range of GCSE and Level 2 qualifications that appeal to the varied interests and strengths of our pupils.

Since 2022, it has been the government's ambition for pupils to study the English Baccalaureate. At Houlton School, this means most pupils will select at least one humanities subject (History or Geography) and at least one language (French or Spanish). Pupils wishing to study both languages or both humanities subjects may do so within their remaining option choices. All pupils also study English, Mathematics, Science, PHRSE, core PE, and short course Religious Studies (with full course RS available as an option).

On the following page, you will find a summary of the full range of subjects available, subject to levels of interest. Pupils will first select initial preferences so that we can use this information to structure the option blocks and finalise the courses on offer.

To support you in making informed decisions, we will be hosting subject information stalls in the Refectory on Thursday 11th December, running alongside our first face-to-face Year 9 Parents' Evening. This will be an excellent opportunity for you and your child to meet teaching staff, ask questions about specific courses, and explore the pathways available at Key Stage 4.

Following Parents' Evening, pupils will have time to reflect before submitting their final choices in January. While we aim to offer all pupils their first preferences, reserve choices will be needed should any courses be oversubscribed or undersubscribed.

We look forward to working with you through this important stage of transition and to welcoming our third Key Stage 4 cohort next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Poutney'.

Lorna Poutney
Head of School





Content

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Core Subjects

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Combined or Triple Science

Humanities Choice (EBACC)

History or Geography

Language Choice (EBACC)

French or Spanish



GCSE Option Choices

Business Studies
Computer Science
Design Technology
Fine Art
Food and Nutrition
Music
Photography
Physical Education
Psychology
Religious Studies (Full Course)
Sociology

Level 2 Option Choices

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia
Cambridge National in Health and Social Care
Technical Award in Performing Arts: Acting
Technical Award in Performing Arts: Dance

Choices

Almost all pupils study core subjects, 1 humanities choice, 1 language choice and 2 choices from either the GCSE options choices OR Level 2 option choices. For Example:
History, French, Computer Science and Photography
OR
History, French, Psychology and Cambridge National in Creative iMedia.





English Language

What will I study?

GCSE English Language focuses on the exploration of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts. Pupils will conduct structure and language and analysis, as well as evaluation, comparison and summary. In addition, they will enjoy creative writing from various stimuli, as well as writing non-fiction texts to communicate their perspective. Pupils will also improve their oracy skills through presenting to an audience on a topic that is important to them.

What skills will I develop?

Literacy skills – reading (comprehension, inference and analysis) writing (including SPaG), vocabulary, oracy. Research skills (context) and revision skills.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE English Language
EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
Language – 2 papers and a non-examined element:
Paper 1 - 1h 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of GCSE.
Paper 2 - 1h 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of GCSE.
Non-examined element – spoken language presentation (pass/merit/distinction)

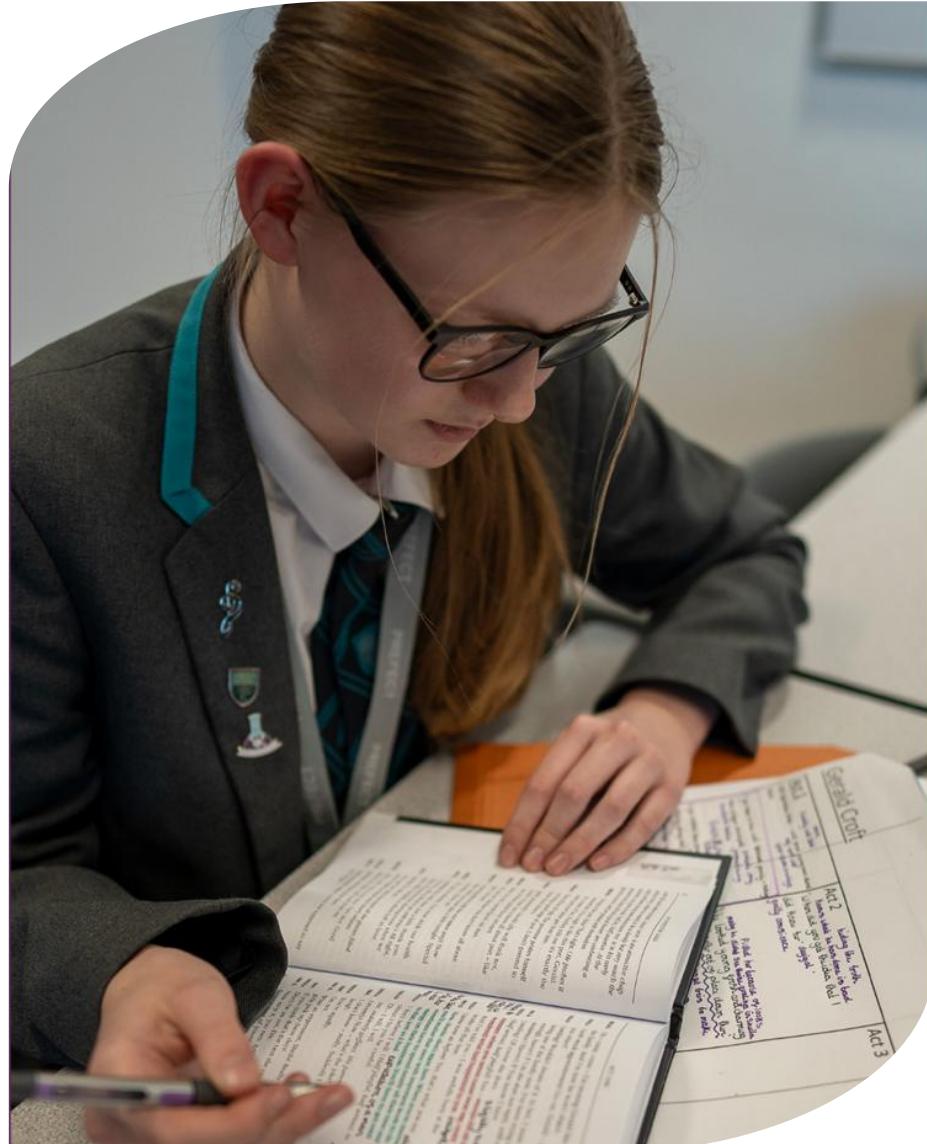
For more info please contact:
Ben Coleman
colemanb@houlton.tlet.org.uk

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

English is essential for almost every career: Almost every job requires strong communication skills so whether you go into engineering, healthcare, business, trades, or creative industries, strong English skills make you stand out.

English is needed for further study at College, A-Levels, Apprenticeships and University. English Literature shows analytical thinking, which is valued in academic subjects like History, Law, Psychology, and Sociology.

English also improves Communication & Confidence - this is helpful in relationships, work, and everyday decision-making.





English Literature

What will I study?

GCSE English Literature allows pupils to explore deep themes and messages within a variety of text forms. These include plays such as *An Inspector Calls* and *Macbeth*, as well as the AQA 'Power and Conflict' Poetry Anthology and the novella *A Christmas Carol*. In addition, they develop skills which allow them to interpret any text, such as unseen poetry.

What skills will I develop?

Literacy skills – reading (comprehension, inference and analysis), writing (including SPaG), vocabulary, oracy. Research skills (context) and revision skills.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE English Literature

EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Literature – 2 papers:

Paper 1 – 1h 45 minutes, 64 marks, 40% of GCSE.

Paper 2 – 2h 15 minutes, 96 marks, 60% of GCSE.

For more info please contact:

Ben Coleman

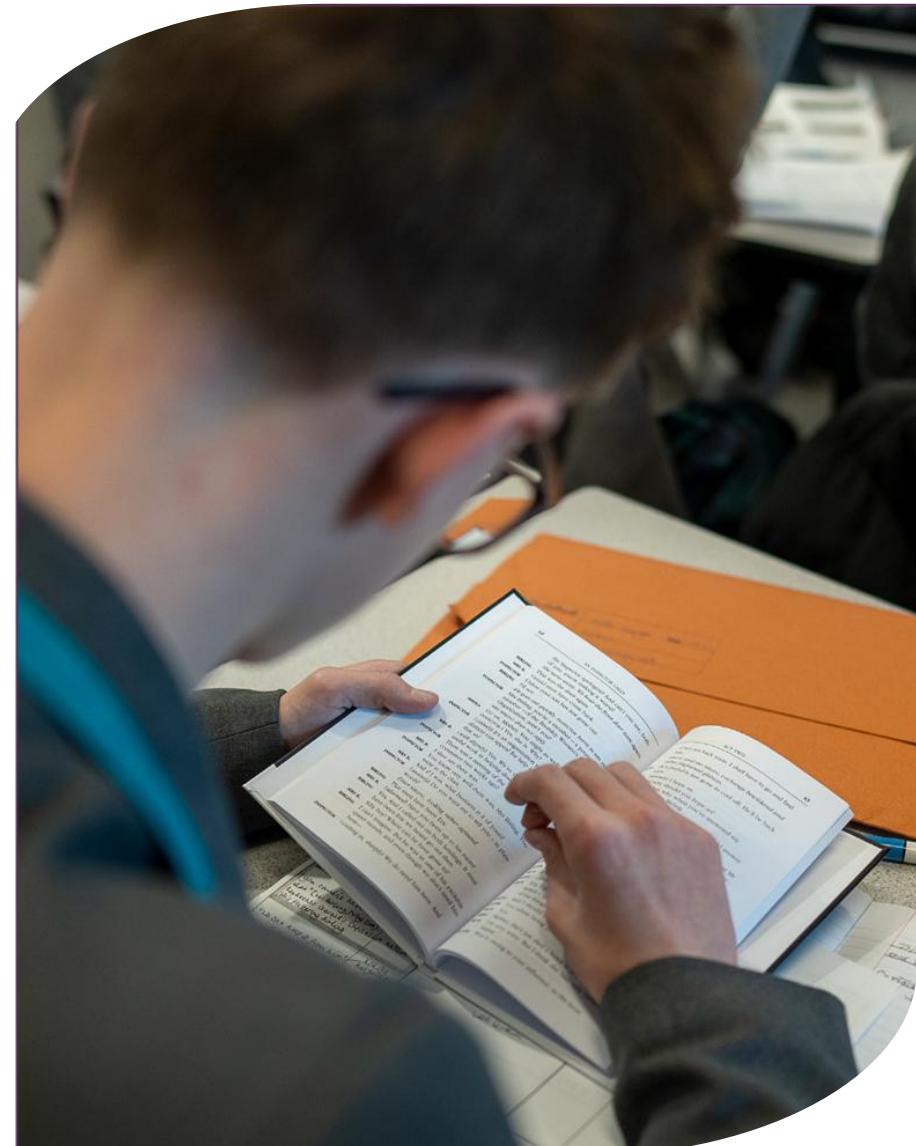
colemanb@houlton.tlet.org.uk

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English is needed for further study at College, A-Levels, Apprenticeships and University. English Literature shows analytical thinking, which is valued in academic subjects like History, Law, Psychology, and Sociology.

English also improves Communication & Confidence - this is helpful in relationships, work, and everyday decision-making.





Mathematics

What will I study?

Pupils will learn mathematics through a range of learning experiences including problem solving in a wide variety of contexts, investigations, data analysis and mathematical reasoning.

Pupils will have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of number, ratio and proportion, geometry, algebra, statistics and probability.

What skills will I develop?

Developing fluency in numeracy skills and problem solving.

Developing confidence in material studied at KS3 in number; algebra; ratio proportion and rates of change; geometry and measures; probability and statistics.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Maths

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Three exam papers at the end of Yr 11.

Paper 1 is a non-calculator, and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.

Each paper is 1 hour & 30 mins long.

Each paper has 80 marks.

For more info please contact:

Sean Cairns

carirnss@houltton.tlet.org.uk

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Entry requirement for most subjects and careers, including a strong grade for many science subjects post 16.

A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Core Mathematics Level 3 Example jobs - architecture, engineers, financial sector.



Combined Sciences - Biology, Chemistry, Physics



What will I study?

Core Science is compulsory for all pupils. Pupils will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics over the course of 2 years and be awarded a total of 2 GCSEs for Combined Science.

Who would this course suit?

Pupils with:

- Strong analytical skills
- Strong levels of numeracy
- Good level of reading and comprehension
- Ability to write concisely and clearly
- The ability to respond positively to feedback

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

The study of science leads to a highly diverse set of skills which are transferable to almost all career options. Below is a list of some careers which can be achieved through obtaining science qualifications.

- Medical (Doctor, dentist, nurse, vet, etc)
- Engineering (Aerospace, mechanical, chemical, etc)
- Teaching
- Research scientist
- Marine biologist
- University lecturer
- Law
- Finance

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy
EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

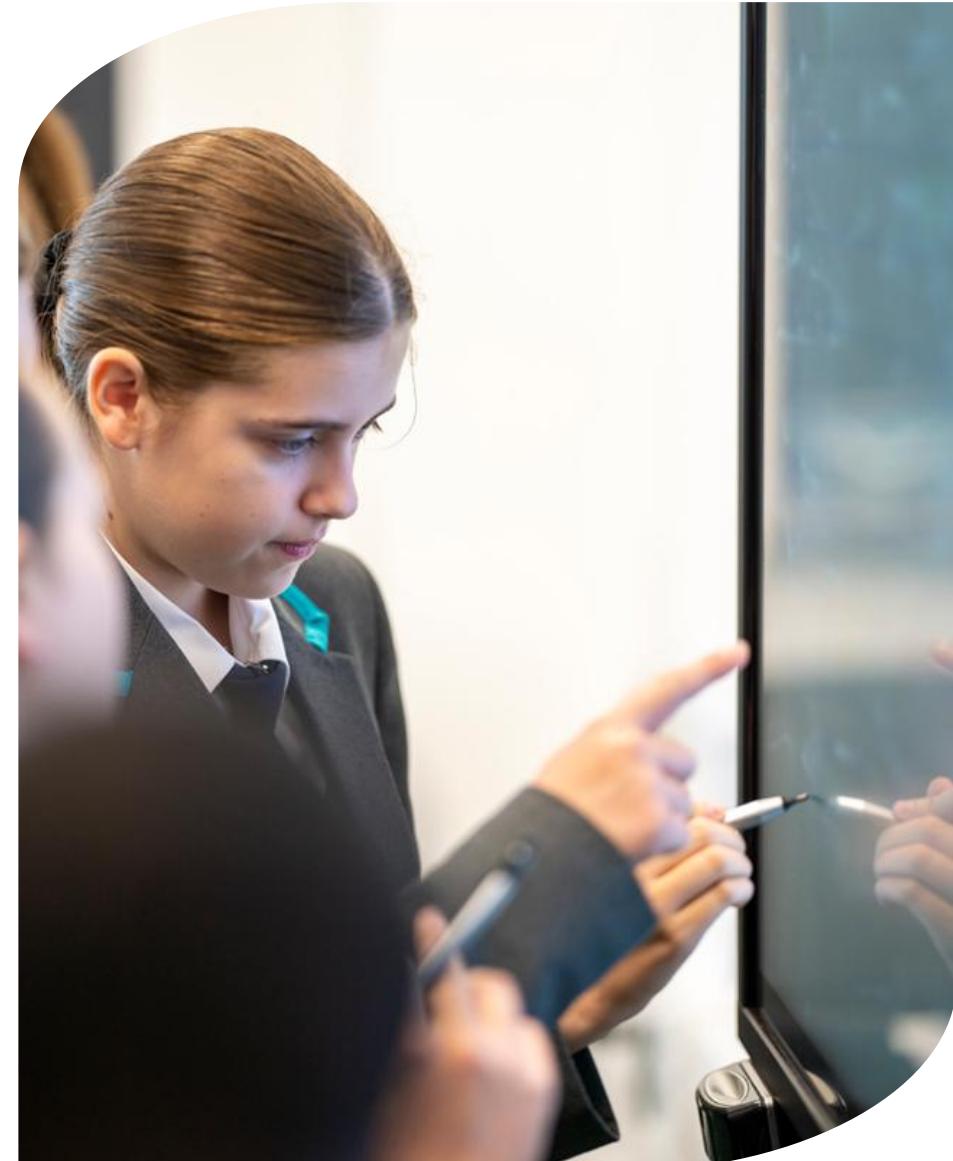
100% exam based

Total of 6 exam papers; 2 biology, 2 chemistry, 2 physics.
Each paper is 1 hour and 15 minutes and worth 70 marks
2 tiers of paper available.

Foundation tier allows a maximum grade of two level 5s. Higher tier allows a maximum grade of two level 9s.

Some assessment of practical skills which is taught through a range of compulsory core practicals and assessed within the exams.

For more info please contact:
Jim Towey
toweyj@houltonschool.org.uk





Triple Sciences - Biology, Chemistry, Physics

What will I study?

As an option subject, pupils have the opportunity to extend their science curriculum. Pupils who take Triple science as an option will be aspiring to complete more content than the combined scientists in the same time. This means they will receive three GCSEs for Science.

Who would this course suit?

Pupils with:

- Strong analytical skills
- Strong levels of numeracy
- Good level of reading and comprehension
- Ability to write concisely and clearly
- The ability to respond positively to feedback

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

The study of science leads to a highly diverse set of skills which are transferable to almost all career options. Below is a list of some careers which can be achieved through obtaining science qualifications.

- Medical (Doctor, dentist, nurse, vet, etc)
- Engineering (Aerospace, mechanical, chemical, etc)
- Teaching
- Research scientist
- Marine biologist
- University lecturer
- Law
- Finance

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Biology/
Chemistry/Physics
EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

- 100% exam based
- Total of 6 exam papers; 2 biology, 2 chemistry, 2 physics.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes and worth 100 marks
- 2 tiers of paper available.
- Foundation tier allows a maximum grade of level 5. Higher tier allows a maximum grade of level 9.
- Some assessment of practical skills which is taught through a range of compulsory core practicals and assessed within the exams.

For more info please contact:

Jim Towey

toweyj@houltonschool.org.uk



Please note: It is a common misconception that pupils must study separate science if they want to pursue science at A-Level or beyond. Whilst studying separate science does help to bridge a gap between GCSE and A-Level, it is not an essential requirement for most Sixth Form colleges, and certainly will not be a requirement of Houlton Sixth Form. Universities are also unlikely to discriminate between pupils who have or have not taken separate science as a GCSE option, and will more often than not, look at attainment and subject choice at A-Level.

History



What will I study?

Thematic study: Migrants to Britain 1250-present day
British Depth Study: The Elizabethans 1580-1603
History Around Us: Kenilworth Castle
Period Study: The Making of America 1789-1900
World Depth Study: Living under Nazi Rule 1933-45

Who would this course suit?

Pupils keen on developing their:

- Research Skills: Ability to locate and analyze historical sources, both primary and secondary, to gather information.
- Critical Thinking: Capacity to evaluate historical events, arguments, and evidence, drawing reasoned conclusions.
- Essay Writing: Proficiency in crafting coherent and structured essays, effectively communicating historical knowledge and analysis.
- Chronological Understanding: Skill to arrange events and developments in chronological order, grasping their context and significance.
- Historical Interpretation: Capability to understand diverse historical perspectives and interpretations, fostering a well-rounded view of the past.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

- Legal Historian (Law): Combining legal expertise with historical knowledge, you can specialize in understanding the evolution of laws and legal systems, contributing to legal research and policy making.
- Journalist/Writer (Media): Apply your research and analytical skills to write historical articles, documentaries, or scripts, engaging audiences with fascinating stories from the past.
- Policy Analyst (Government): Historical understanding can inform policy decisions, making you a valuable asset in government roles, where you analyse the historical context of policy issues.

And many more besides! History is a great subject, highly valued by employers and offers a range of options for the future.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE History
EXAM BOARD: OCR B

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
Each component listed above is
worth 20%
3 x exams
2 x 1hr 45 mins 1x 1hr

For more info please contact:
Jamie Abbott
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Geography

What will I study?

Geography is more than just maps — it's the study of people, places, and the environment. You will explore how humans interact with the planet, why places are different, and how natural and human-made changes affect the world around us.

This geography course explores both the physical and human aspects of our environment. You'll examine natural forces such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and extreme weather, alongside their impacts on communities in case studies like Chile and Nepal, while also studying diverse biomes and how living things adapt. On the human side, you'll investigate urban growth, rural landscapes, migration, and resource management, including sustainable practices and urban regeneration, exemplified by a field trip to London Olympic Park. Through practical fieldwork in places like Hunstanton, you'll develop skills in data collection, analysis, and presentation, applying geographical knowledge to real-world challenges and preparing for AQA Paper 3.

Who would suit this course?

GCSE Geography is perfect for students who are curious about the world and enjoy exploring real-life issues. It suits anyone who likes maps, diagrams, and data, as well as those who enjoy practical activities like fieldwork.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Geography opens doors to a wide range of future opportunities. It provides a strong foundation for A-Level Geography and other Level 3 courses, as well as careers in environmental management, urban planning, surveying, meteorology, conservation, and international development.



Qualification: GCSE Geography
Exam Board: AQA (8035)

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment (35%)

Topics: Hazards, ecosystems, rivers, coasts

1 hour 30 minutes, written exam

Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment (35%)

Topics: Urban issues, population, resources, economic development

1 hour 30 minutes, written exam

Paper 3 – Geographical Applications (30%)

Fieldwork questions (based on Hunstanton and London trips)

Pre-release resources and exam questions

1 hour 30 minutes, written exam

For more information please contact:
Kyle Adams
adamsk@houlton.tlet.org.uk



French

What will I study?

The aims of this qualification are to:

- provide a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.
- develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards French and to recognise the importance of languages.
- provide a strong linguistic and cultural foundation for students who go on to study languages at a higher level post-16.
- develop students' ability and ambition to communicate independently in speech and writing with speakers of French for authentic purposes.
- develop students' ability to communicate independently about subjects that are meaningful and interesting to them
- build pupils' confidence and broaden their horizons, enabling them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries, develop new ways of seeing the world, and better understand relationships between the foreign language and the English language.
- enable pupils to become familiar with the multifaceted world of French speaking around the globe, and open a window into the contexts and cultures of the countries and communities where French is spoken.

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who are excited by speaking, listening, reading, writing in a new language.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Languages are more than words. This qualification promotes culture, communication and connection.

From the design of the speaking tasks, where communication is privileged, through to the use of authentic material to provide cultural context, we want students to understand that words are a springboard to discovering much more, and opening many doors, whether it be at university, in the world of work, or abroad on holiday.

A language at GCSE is a springboard for the future.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE French

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

- 3 papers assessing separately listening, reading and writing
- 1 speaking assessment conducted by a teacher.

For more info please contact:

Matthieu Raffy
raffym@houlton.tlet.org.uk





Spanish

What will I study?

The aims of this qualification are to:

- develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards Spanish to recognise the importance of languages.
- provide a strong linguistic and cultural foundation for students who go on to study languages at a higher level post-16.
- develop students' ability and ambition to communicate independently in speech and writing with speakers of Spanish for authentic purposes.
- develop students' ability to communicate independently about subjects that are meaningful and interesting to them
- build pupils' confidence and broaden their horizons, enabling them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries, develop new ways of seeing the world, and better understand relationships between the foreign language and the English language.
- enable pupils to become familiar with the wealth of culture the Spanish speaking world has to bring, delving into cultures of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who are excited by speaking, listening, reading, writing in a new language

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Languages are more than words. This qualification promotes culture, communication and connection. From the design of the speaking tasks, where communication is privileged, through to the use of authentic material to provide cultural context, we want students to understand that words are a springboard to discovering much more, and opening many doors, whether it be at university, in the world of work, or abroad on holiday.

A language at GCSE is a springboard for the future.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Spanish
EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
3 papers assessing separately
listening, reading and writing
1 speaking assessment conducted
by a teacher.

For more info please contact:
Carola Casanovas
rocacasanovasc@houlton.tlet.org.uk





Business Studies

What will I study?

GCSE Business can help you prepare for further and higher education. You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of a team. The Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry. All the Business rooms are equipped with Internet-linked PCs. You will be encouraged to use them to help carry out your research, to present your assessed work and to produce presentations.

You will be introduced to the world of small businesses and find out how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity and turn that into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective and manage money. You will also see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved. After understanding how small businesses are run your focus will be on larger businesses and the strategies businesses use to grow their business and make it profitable. There will be elements of Marketing, Production, Finance and Human Resources included in the course. You will understand how these different functions work in a business and their objectives.

There will be a lot more focus on the Finance aspect of a business where you will learn how to create cash flows and analyse breakeven graphs. The course will be challenging with some aspects of A level finance included such as average rate of return. The exams will expect you to write essay style answers using analytical skills and be able to conclude your answers with your opinion and be able to justify it. Unlike previous years there will be no controlled assessment in GCSE and there will be exams at the end of Year 11.

Who would this course suit?

If you enjoy:

- communicating and explaining your ideas
- thinking creatively and making decisions
- working with numbers to solve business problems
- learning about the world of business through research and investigation

You will need to learn and apply your knowledge of key terms for the exam units. You will need to be confident in maths as you will be expected to perform calculations and construct graphs.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

You may decide to study a Business Studies course at A Level or college or choose an apprenticeship. The skills developed on the courses (giving presentations, gathering research, producing balanced written arguments and financial calculations) will help you in any future job or even to set up your own business. Past students have gone on to study many Business-related degrees such as Management, Marketing, Human Resources and Accounting.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Business Studies

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
Examinations Length

Paper 1, Theme 1 – Investigating small business

-Paper 2, Theme 2 – Building a business

Both papers have equal weighting of 50%:

1hr 45min each

For more info please contact:

Emily Strutt

strutte@houlton.tlet.org.uk





Computer Science

What will I study?

Offering an exciting, practical focus on real-life programming as well as the key theories behind Computer Science, this course develops pupils with relevant skills for the future.

Combining written and practical elements pupils will explore the theory of Computer Science within five of the six comprehensive topic areas, including computational thinking, networks, data representation and issues and impacts. The sixth unit allows pupils to analyse and solve problems by designing, writing, testing and refining programs.

Who would this course suit?

Pupils with:

Mathematical skills, willingness to develop new language skills, computer knowledge and technology skills, understanding of problem solving, enjoy creating solutions to problems, have an enquiring mind.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Computer Science
EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
Paper 1 – Principles of Computer Science
Written examination - 1 hour 30 minutes
50% of Qualification
75 Marks

Paper 2 – Application of Computational Thinking
Onscreen examination – 2 hours 50% of Qualification
75 Marks

For more info please contact:
Matthew Cresswell-Peters
Cresswell-petersm@houlton.tlet.org.uk

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

A-Levels and University lead to careers in Computer Programming, Teaching, App Development, Cybersecurity, Game Development, Website Design, Software Engineer, Network Deployment Engineer/ Manager, Data Analyst.





Design Technology

What will I study?

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

This GCSE allows you to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

You can work with a variety of materials such as woodwork, metalwork, plastics, 3D printing and much more!

Who would this course suit?

Pupils interested in:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Product Designer, Architect, Design Engineer, Robotics Engineer, UX Designer, Graphic Designer, Fashion Designer, Interior Designer, Industrial Designer, Video Game Designer, Art Director, Web Developer, Civil Engineer.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Design & Technology
EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
50% NEA, 50% EXAM

For more info please contact:
Ruth Woodcraft
woodcraftr@houlton.tlet.org.uk



Fine Art



What will I study?

Fine art practice is defined here as the need to explore an idea, convey an experience or respond to a theme or issue of personal significance.

- drawing
- painting
- sculpture
- installation
- lens-/light-based media
- photography and the moving image
- printmaking
- mixed media
- land art.

Who would this course suit?

Pupils with the ability to:

• develop their ideas through investigations informed by selecting and critically analysing sources. Within the context of fine art, students must demonstrate the ability to:

Use fine art techniques and processes, appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example:

- mark-making
- monoprint, collagraph and block printing
- assemblage
- construction
- carving
- film and video
- digital working methods

Use media and materials, as appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example:

- charcoal, pastels, pen and ink, crayons and pencil
- watercolour, gouache, acrylic and oil paint
- found materials
- clay, wood and metal
- digital imagery
- different papers and surfaces on which to work

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Artist, designer, animator, curator, gallerist, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, photographer, printmaker, art teacher, university lecturer, art therapist, Jewellery designer, arts management, fashion designer.

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QUALIFICATION: GCSE Art & Design

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Fine Art

EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS: 60%
PORTFOLIO, 40% ESA

For more info please contact:
Ruth Woodcraft

woodcraftr@houlton.tlet.org.uk





Food and Nutrition

What will I study?

The Eduqas GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who are able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.

- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Development Chef, Dietician, Animal Nutritionist, Food Technologist/Scientist, Restaurant Manager, Hospitality.

.....
QUALIFICATION: GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
EXAM BOARD: Eduqas

ASSESSMENT DETAILS: 50% EXAM, 50% NEA

For more info please contact:
Baldeep Devgun
devgunb@houlton.tlet.org.uk





Music

What will I study?

GCSE Music allows learners to explore more deeply the musical world that we live in. Learners will explore a wide range of different Musical styles and genres, from Western Classical Music, right through to Pop and Rock, as well as 'World' Music styles. Learners will begin to compose music, learning how to develop their ideas, and create full and effective compositions. Pupils will also Perform Music, specialising in their instruments further, and becoming more masterful on their instruments.

Who would this course suit?

Ideally pupils with grade 3 or working towards grade 3 in instrument or voice.

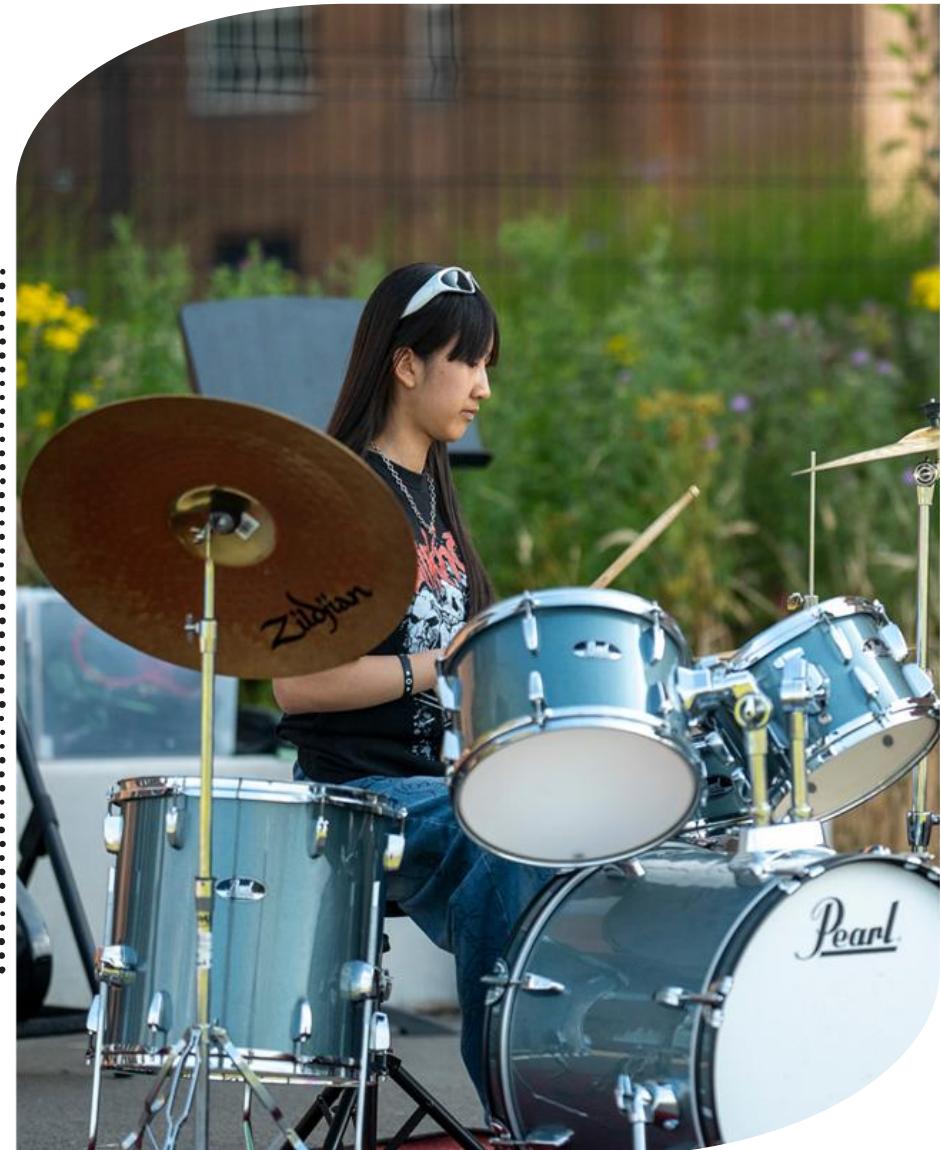
How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Music industry, performing arts, business, teaching.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Music
EXAM BOARD: OCR

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
Integrated Portfolio
(Performance and Composition) – 30%
Practical Component
(Performance and Composition) – 30%
Listening and Appraising
(80 Marks – 90mins written exam) – 40%

For more info please contact:
Peter Bridgwood
bridgwoodp@houlton.tlet.org.uk





Photography

What will I study?

- portraiture
- location photography
- studio photography
- experimental imagery
- installation
- documentary photography
- photo-journalism
- moving image: film, video and animation
- fashion photography.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Art & Design

Photography

EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS: 60%
PORTFOLIO, 40% ESA

For more info please contact:
Ruth Woodcraft
woodcraftr@houlton.tlet.org.uk

Who would this course suit??

Pupils interested in exploring art through the medium of photography or those interested in careers in media related industries.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Artist, designer, animator, curator, gallerist, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, photographer, printmaker, art teacher, university lecturer, art therapist, Jewellery designer, arts management, fashion designer.





Physical Education

What will I study?

60% theoretical graded
40% practical graded

Topics you will study:

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Use of data
5. Sports psychology
6. Socio-cultural influences
7. Health, fitness and wellbeing

Practical – 1 team, 1 individual and another of either team or individual.

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who enjoy:
Literacy, Numeracy, ability to participate in practical sports, ideally playing a sport outside of school regularly (team/or individual), understanding of theoreticalconcepts.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Further education – A level Physical Education, BTEC, university, apprenticeships, coaching qualifications PE teaching, Sports Coach, Physiotherapist, Journalist, Photographer, Sports Therapist, Leisure Centre/Gym Manager, Sports Development Officer, Sports Marketing/PR/SocialMedia



QUALIFICATION: GCSE Physical Education

EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Paper 1 – The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Written exam – 1 hr 15 minutes

Paper 2 – Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport

Written exam – 1 hr 15 minutes

Non Exam Assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport + Written coursework analysis & evaluation
Assessed by teachers
Moderated by AQA

3 sports (1 team, 2 individual/ or 2 team, 1 individual = 30% of GCSE
Written coursework = 10% of GCSE

For more info please contact:

Abbie Hartfield

hartfielda@houlton.tlet.org.uk



Psychology

What will I study?

Psychology is the study of human behaviour and the human brain - why we do the things we do. So if you are interested in people, and want to learn more about what makes us tick – then Psychology will be a good choice for you. Psychology is a Science, it looks at experiments that psychologists have done, what they were trying to find out, and how successful their experiments have been and you will be asked to devise and carry out experiments, to see what you can find out about people's behaviours and minds. Psychology is also an opportunity to discover how unpredictable and amazing human beings are, and to explore further how much our brain controls us... or how much we control our brain.

Students will cover 8 units which aim to give a broad understanding of key psychological concepts and approaches.

1. Memory
2. Perception
3. Development
4. Research Methods
5. Social influence
6. Language, thought and communication
7. Brain and neuropsychology
8. Psychological problems

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who have enjoyed PHRSE and enjoy discussions, debates, and finding out why people behave in certain ways. Pupils who enjoy science and enjoy thinking creatively and thinking of imaginative responses. Pupils who have a good memory – there's lot of content! Pupils who are determined and like a challenge. Psychology is new to you all!

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Psychology is a hugely popular subject in KS5. If you choose this, it shows that you are interested in people and human behaviour. Psychology relates well to other Social Sciences subjects such as Law and Sociology, as well as other subjects such as humanities and some aspects of science. Psychology study gives you skills of analysis and perception, and a better understanding of human beings and why we may behave the way we do. This means that any career involving interactions with people, could benefit from Psychology. This could involve almost any career – but often Psychology graduates may find themselves working in areas such as teaching and social work, and the separate disciplines of Psychology itself, such as:

- Educational Psychology
- Sports Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Health Psychology
- Occupational Psychology
- Counselling Psychology
- Forensic Psychology

QUALIFICATION: GCSE Psychology
EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour
Written exam - 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour.
Written exam - 1 hour 45 minutes

For more info please contact:
Emma Clark
clarke@houlton.tlet.org.uk





Religious Studies

What will I study?

GCSE FULL –

Component 1: The study of religious beliefs, teachings, and practices

Component 2: Thematic studies(4 in total)

Short Course –

Section A: The study of religions: beliefs and teachings

of two religions from the following:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Judaism
- Buddhism.

Section B: Thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies:

- Theme A: Relationships and families
- Theme B: Religion, peace and conflict

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who are curious about different beliefs, values and cultures, and who enjoy exploring big questions about life, morality and society. It is ideal for those who like discussion, reflection and critical thinking, and who want to understand how religion influences people, communities and world events. This course is also well suited to anyone considering careers in education, healthcare, law, social care or any role that involves working with diverse groups of people.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

An education in Religious Studies opens doors to students. It may offer the opportunity to specialise in a specific field of religious studies such as political science, philosophy and the law which lead to a wide range of industries such as business, government, medicine, non-profit, counselling, careers within the law and lecturing.



QUALIFICATION: GCSE Religious Education

EXAM BOARD: AQA

FULL COURSE ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Paper 1 - The Study of Religions
Written exam - 1 Hour 45 Minutes

Paper 2 - Thematic Studies
Written Exam - 1 Hour 45 Minutes

SHORT COURSE ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Paper 1 - The Study of Religions and Thematic Studies
Written Exam - 1 Hour 45 minutes

For more info please contact:

Dupinder Ghatora
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Sociology

What will I study?

You will studies a number of topics including

- 1.The sociological approach
- 2.Social structures, social processes and social issues
- 3.Families
- 4.Education
- 5.Crime and deviance
- 6.Social stratification
- 7.Sociological research methods

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who enjoy History, English, PHRSE and Religious Studies would almost certainly enjoy this course. This would be a great course to support with social sciencesoptions in the future such as law, anthropology, politics or criminology.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

An excellent grounding for university study or careers in the law, police and public sector.

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QUALIFICATION: GCSE Sociology
EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
Paper 1: The sociology of families
Written exam - 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and devience and social stratification.
Written exam - 1 hour 45 minutes

For more info please contact:
Emma Clark
clarke@houlton.tlet.org.uk





Creative iMedia

What will I study?

Pre-Production techniques: You will learn the planning processes used in the creative and digital media sector, including how to respond to a brief, managing timeframes and deadlines as well as techniques to aid you in creating media products. These skills will be used in the following units: Creative iMedia in the Media Industry (compulsory), Visual identity and digital graphics (compulsory).

After these two compulsory units one of the following units will be taught:

Characters and comics (optional), Interactive digital media (optional), Animation and Audio (optional) Visual Imaging (optional), Digital Games (optional).

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

You can use this course to apply for level 3 college and sixth form courses (such as media studies), apprenticeships or jobs in the creative media sector. The vocational qualification is equivalent to a GCSE and develops practical and transferable skills like digital presentation, research and problem solving which are valued in fields such as graphic design, games development and web development.



Who would this course suit?

This course will suit young people who have strong computer skills, good time management and an interest in digital media. It is ideal for those who enjoy hands-on practical work mixed with theory work and who want to develop transferable skills like research, planning and communication, skills ideal for careers in the creative and digital sectors.

Level 2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia.

Exam board: Cambridge

Assessment details:

R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry

Written exam paper – 1 hour 30 minutes

R094: Visual identity and digital graphics

Centre-assessed tasks, OCR moderated

Duration: Approx 10-12 hours

1 of the listed optional units below (selected by centre)

R095: Characters and Comics

R096: Animation and audio

R097: Interactive digital media

R098: Visual imaging

R099: Digital games

All optional units are:

Centre-assessed, OCR moderated,

Duration: Approx 10-12 hours

For more information please contact:

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Matthew Cresswell-Peters

Cresswell-Petersm@houlton.tlet.org.uk



Health & Social Care

What will I study?

Pupils complete three units:

2 units are mandatory: Principles of care in health and social care settings

Supporting individuals through life events

And then one of either:

Creative and therapeutic activities Health promotion campaigns

Who would this course suit?

Pupils will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used in the health and social care sector. The course will also help students to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the health and social care sector. The qualification will help students to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as: communicating effectively with individuals or groups.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

The skills students will develop will help their progression onto further study in the health and social care sector. This may be Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as the Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care; A levels in psychology, biology or sociology and apprenticeships for example: Adult care worker, Allied Health, Profession Support, Health and Social Care, Healthcare science assistant, Maternity and Paediatric Support. This qualification will also enable progression onto a T Level, such as Health and Healthcare Science.



QUALIFICATION: Level 2 Award in Health & Social Care
EXAM BOARD: OCR

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Students are assessed by one external exam (June of year 11) and 2 NEA's. These are set externally, marked internally and then moderated by OCR. Assessment windows are January and June. A proposed schedule would be:

Year 10

January – Supporting individuals through life events (NEA)

Year 11

January – Optional unit (NEA) June – Principles of care in health and social care settings (External assessment)

All results are graded as:

Level 2 – Distinction* (*2), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2) Level 1 – Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), Pass (P1) and Fail/Unclassified.

For more info please contact:
Emma Clark
clarke@houlton.tlet.org.uk



Performing Arts: Acting

What will I study?

Component 1

Exploring the Performing Arts. You will develop and understand the requirements of being an actor or designer looking at different performance scripts and styles. You will study professional practitioners and plays and create your own performances of these as an actor/ designer.

Component 2

Developing Skills and Techniques of the actor. You will take part in acting and design workshops leading to a final scripted performance as an actor/ designer.

Component 3

Performing to a Brief. You will work as part of a team to create your own devised Drama performance in response to a given brief set by the exam board.

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who are:

- Analytical and evaluative skills
- Vocal and physical characterisation
- Collaborative abilities

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

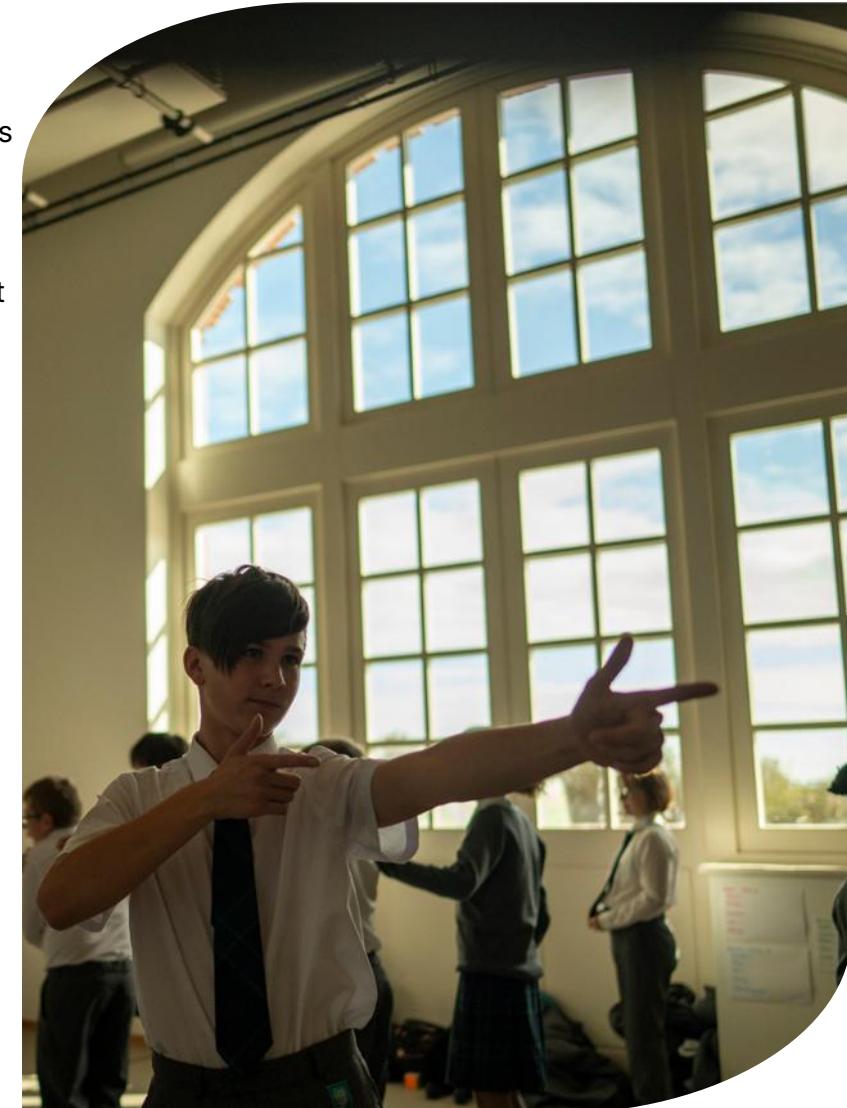
- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3 e.g. BTEC National in Performing Arts, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education.

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QUALIFICATION: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts
EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:
Component 1 (30%)
Component 2 (30%)
Component 3 (40%)

Assessment: Components will be assessed using the following grading system: Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass.

For more info please contact:
David Bird
birdd@houlton.tlet.org.uk





Performing Arts: Dance

What will I study?

This qualification is for students who want to gain performing arts knowledge and skills in practical, real-world contexts. The course has three components:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts – Learn about the work of performing arts professionals and how performances are created.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques – Improve your performing arts skills by recreating dance routines.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief – Work in a group to create and perform a piece based on a given brief.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

After completing this course, you could:

Study A Levels or vocational Level 3 qualifications like a BTEC National in Performing Arts. Prepare for careers such as performer, choreographer, director, dance teacher, arts administrator, or dance therapist.



Who would this course suit?

This course suits students who are adaptable, creative, organised, and good team players. You'll need physical fitness for dance performances, resilience, and the ability to take on feedback and improve.

QUALIFICATION: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance)

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Component 1 (30%): Internal assignment, completed in about 12 hours under supervision.

Component 2 (30%): Internal assignment, completed in about 15 hours under supervision.

Component 3 (40%): Externally set and marked task, completed in 3 hours after 12 weeks of preparation.

For more info please contact:
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