



**Year 9**  
**Guided Choices**  
**Booklet**  
**2021**





# Welcome to the 2021 Guided Choices process.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information on the qualifications you will study during Year 10 and 11 and provide you with a list of all of the subjects that you can choose.

You have already had a series of assemblies and sessions with your form tutor introducing the guided choices process and subjects. In this booklet, you will find further information about the options available to you.

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# Pathways to Success

The structure of Key Stage 4 has been designed to ensure that every student will follow a broad and balanced curriculum suited to his or her individual needs. We all have different strengths and weaknesses, and for some students a vocational course will allow a greater chance of success in Level 2 courses than a GCSE course, and will also be more enjoyable to study.

To advise you on which pathway to follow, we will review your attainment in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 across your core subjects. We want every student to finish Year 11 with a complete set of Level 2 qualifications that will take them on to their next stage, whether that is employment, training or Post 16 study. All of our Key Stage 4 Level 2 qualifications can lead to Key Stage 5 Level 3 further education courses.

All students follow the core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, RE, PSHE, British Values and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. There are two pathways available to students: a **PURPLE** pathway and a **GREEN** pathway.

All students on the **PURPLE** pathway will choose a humanities subject (History or Geography) and a foreign language in order to meet the requirements of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) certificate. Students on the **GREEN** pathway will study a humanities or a language and may choose both if they wish. Students opting for our vocational courses on the **GREEN** pathway will be given further guidance on the most appropriate humanities subject for them.

## ***How do you choose?***

Read the subject information in this booklet. Your form tutor will guide you through the process. Think carefully about your options but you should also talk to your teachers, parents or carers. Once you are happy, use SIMS Option On-Line to finalise your choices.

## ***Some things to think about:***

What are your strongest subjects? What are your weak subjects?  
Do you prefer practical tasks or reading and writing based tasks?  
Are you well organised and able to meet deadlines?  
Do not choose a subject or course just because your friends do!

# INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR CHOICES – SIMS OPTIONS

Go to: <https://www.sims-options.co.uk>, or the student app, and login using your school email account.

For **PURPLE** pathway students, select one subject from Humanities, one from MFL and two others from the Additional Subject list.

For **GREEN** pathway students, select one subject from the Humanities/MFL list and three others from the Additional Subject list.

Please select at least two reserves. **All selections should be made in order of preference.**

When you select your subjects, click on the subject itself if it is a main choice, or “reserve” if you want it as a reserve. Please select your main and reserve subjects in order of preference.

The screenshot displays the SIMS Options interface. On the left, under 'Humanities/MFL', three courses are listed: German, French, and Spanish, each with a 'Reserve' button. Below this is the 'Additional Subjects Green' section, listing Art, Computing, Business Studies, and German, also with 'Reserve' buttons. On the right, the 'Priority Choices' section shows 'German' as the first choice. Below that, the 'My Choices' section lists 'Business Studies', 'Geography', and 'Food Prep & Nutrition' in order of preference.

Please ensure that this is completed by **FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MAY**

Where a subject cannot be supported owing to lack of numbers or “clash” of subjects, we will look at your reserve choices and inform you and your parents of this. Please make sure that your reserve choices are also subjects you are prepared to study.

# The Core Curriculum

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Visit

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GHHXX0ZTJ-jugw0UTBH3LXoOBkCEJcpY?usp=sharing>

to watch videos about each subject!

# English Language & English Literature

*Both English Language and English Literature are very important subjects in all aspects of life, within school and beyond. Story-telling has been part of every culture for thousands of years. We are taught so many lessons through stories, and it is interesting to consider where these stories have come from: what influences a writer? How has the text been constructed, and why have such choices been made? As readers, we have the freedom to bring our own experiences to the text and find meaning in the words on the page, and it is this personal level of engagement that makes English such a beautiful subject. The ability to express oneself effectively is also extremely powerful, and you will see how language and structure can be used to shape your own reader's response.*

## **What will I study?**

In English Language, you will become familiar with 19<sup>th</sup> century fiction and be exposed to a range of texts and non-fiction writing styles from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. You will learn how to be a critical reader and effective writer. In English Literature, you will study, in full, a Shakespeare play; a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel; a 20<sup>th</sup> century drama; and an anthology of poetry, spanning the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As a student of English Literature, you will need to think about the relationship between the texts and the contexts within which they were written.

## **What skills will I need?**

A positive attitude and enthusiasm are essential for success. Additionally, you will continue to build on the skills that you have been developing across Key Stage 3, such as the selection of appropriate evidence; analysis of methods; and the ability to communicate appropriately for different purposes and audiences.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

There are two examinations for English Language and two examinations for English Literature. You will also be assessed on your ability to articulate your ideas verbally through the Spoken Language Endorsement.

## **Why is English important?**

Both English Language and English Literature allow you to hone your communication skills, both written and verbal: you will need to draw on these skills in everyday life, whatever you choose to do. Additionally, reading for meaning and understanding is important as you navigate your way through life. However, English is more than simply a functional subject: English encourages sensitivity and empathy, allowing you to grow in a personal sense. Not only this, you will be culturally enriched by this subject through your study of some of the most important works ever written.

**Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs L. Clark – [l.clark@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:l.clark@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

**What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

A good GCSE in English Language or Literature is your gateway to further education. Furthermore, demonstrating an ability to communicate well and look at things critically are highly valued skills across a range of interesting professions.

**Qualification:** GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

**Examination Board:** English Language = Edexcel; English Literature = AQA

# Mathematics

*Mathematics is a creative and highly inter-connected discipline that has been developed over centuries, providing the solution to some of history's most intriguing problems. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. Mathematics GCSE is simply one of the most important and useful qualifications you can get. The skills you develop are used in virtually all areas of life.*

## **What will I study?**

You will continue to develop your mathematical fluency. You will learn to reason mathematically and solve problems in a wide variety of mathematical and real-life situations.

## **What skills will I need?**

You will need a positive attitude, determination to succeed and enthusiasm for success. You will be building upon the skills you have developed in Key Stage 3.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

You will study either the foundation tier course or the higher tier course. We will continue to assess and monitor you in order to ensure that the tier you are studying is the right one for you so that you are able to achieve your full potential. There will be three examinations at the end of the course. Each paper is 90 minutes long and the maximum number of marks on each paper is 80.

## **Why is Mathematics important?**

Studying mathematics provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

Who to ask about this subject:

Ms C. Loizou – [c.loizou@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:c.loizou@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What support is available to me during the course?**

We provide after school revision support where you can get some additional help on any area of the course. These sessions occur on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday 3.30pm-4.30pm in B8. You can also email [maths@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:maths@springwoodhighschool.co.uk) for any additional support.

**What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

This course will enable you to apply your mathematical knowledge wherever relevant in mathematics, other subjects and real life (including financial contexts).

**Qualification:** GCSE Mathematics

**Examination Board:** AQA

# Science

*Science is about ideas relating to the material world and includes the components of what good science is: investigating, observing, experimenting or testing out ideas and thinking about them. The way scientific ideas grow through the course will enable you to build a deeper understanding of important scientific concepts. This will involve talking about, reading and writing about science plus practical opportunities and developing mathematical skills required for some aspects of the science course.*

## **What will I study?**

There are two routes offered in Science, determined by your aptitude for science throughout Key Stage 3:

### **Science trilogy (two GCSEs)**

### **Triple award (three GCSEs)**

Both courses cover the three science disciplines; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The majority of the subject content is common across the two routes, building on knowledge gained in Key Stage 3. The Triple award has some additional content and goes into topics in more depth, challenging students' skills.

## **What skills will I need?**

This is a core subject which is compulsory for all students and provides learners with the opportunity to develop their skills in communication, literacy, mathematics and the use of technology in a scientific context.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

Students will sit GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. There will be six exam papers; two biology, two chemistry and two physics. The question style on the papers include multiple choice, short answer and open response questions.

### **Science trilogy (two GCSEs)**

All papers are 1 hour 15 minutes and are worth 70 marks.

### **Triple award (three GCSEs)**

All papers are 1 hour 45 minutes and are worth 100 marks.

## **Why is Science important?**

Studying science will broaden your understanding of the world around you, may allow you to influence and develop accepted scientific knowledge, and will give you the skills needed to approach most matters in a reasoned and analytical manner.

**Who to ask about this subject:**

Miss L. Dawson – [l.dawson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:l.dawson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

**What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

This core course will allow students to take biology, chemistry or physics at A level or progress to a wide range of scientific vocational courses and qualifications. These courses can lead to a wide variety of degrees and employment in the medical, environmental and research industries, preparing you for practical and technological work in a vast range of industries, including health, sports, medical and technician work.

**Qualification:** GCSE Combined Science Trilogy or GCSE Biology/Chemistry/Physics

**Examination Board:** AQA

# Religious Studies

*The RE course supports your development as an individual, your study of other subjects and it helps you acquire knowledge and skills needed to pursue a range of careers. Read on for more!*

## **What will I study?**

There are three sections to this course: we study the world religions of Christianity and Hinduism, while in Themes we look at ethical issues like abortion and euthanasia.

## **What skills will I need?**

An enquiring mind, an interest in the world and in people - these are the most important skills needed. You need to be willing to consider different points of view, but explaining and backing up your own opinion is also part of this.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

Three exams, taken in Year 11. On one day, you will take the Christianity exam which is immediately followed by the Hinduism exam. On a separate day, you will take the Themes exam. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

## **Why is RE important?**

RE helps you understand people, and the decisions they make, sometimes in very difficult circumstances. In the modern world, everyone should be aware of people from different backgrounds; RE helps with this. We consider ethical issues such as divorce, racism, exploitation, war: these are real life problems which could affect anyone of us. RE also supports your studies in other subjects - English, History, Geography and many more.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Your RE teacher is best, or email [re@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:re@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

RE is useful for many qualifications and career choices. A Levels in other Humanities subjects, such as Sociology or History, and in English Literature are supported by our studies. People wanting careers in law or medicine will benefit from the ethical issues we study, and the skills at arguing we develop. In any job where you deal with people, the ability to understand their beliefs and background is vital.

**Qualification:** GCSE RE

**Examination Board:** AQA

# PSHE British Values & SMSC

*Personal, Social, Health and Economic education equips students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies required to live healthy, safe, productive, capable, responsible and balanced lives. It encourages them to be enterprising and supports them in making effective life decisions and career choices and in achieving economic wellbeing.*

## **What will I study?**

You will study a wide range of topics including: health and wellbeing; careers and employment skills; building positive relationships; respecting the community; British values.

Throughout the delivery of PSHE, students are asked to reflect, evaluate, challenge and clarify. A range of topics is covered through discussion and students are expected to develop their speaking and listening skills, become active participants and demonstrate empathy.

## **Why study PSHE British values and SMSC?**

Students explore a wide variety of opportunities to access a range of information to support them in making informed, well-balanced and positive choices about their future.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mr M. Scoles – [m.scoles@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:m.scoles@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

It equips you with the skills required to develop into a well-rounded and positive member of our community and helps equip you for the challenges ahead.

# Guided Choice Subjects

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Visit

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GHHXX0ZTJ-jugw0UTBH3LXoOBkCEJcpY?usp=sharing>

to watch videos about each subject!

# Art

*The Art GCSE will help you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills over a variety of media. During the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of art and contemporary artists, specialising in your chosen style in the final year.*

## **What will I study?**

The Art GCSE will help you to develop your technical skills in drawing, painting, printing and graphics with an option to do digital art. Over the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of a range of techniques specialising in your chosen media in Year 11.

## **What skills will I need?**

- A good standard of skill in the subject.
- Being independent, motivated and able to set goals.
- Academic writing.
- Being creative and adventurous.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

60% Course work over two different units.

40% Exam: One 10-hour practical unit of work, completed over twelve weeks.

## **Why study Art?**

Art encourages self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity. It encourages critical thinking and problem solving and gives students a rounded portfolio of subjects. It helps in all creative careers; you need to study art at GCSE if you want to study it at A Level.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mr L Eveson – [l.eveson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:l.eveson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Advertising, animation, architecture, CAD design, digital design, art director, fashion, film and moving image, fine art, games design, graphics, illustration, interior design, photography, product design, visual effects.

**Qualification:** GCSE Art

**Examination Board:** AQA



# Business Studies

*The Business Studies GCSE will help you to gain knowledge and skills for the world of Business. Over the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of Marketing, Management, Finance and Business operations*

## **What will I study?**

Business Activity

Marketing

People

Operations

Finance

Influences on Businesses

## **What skills will I need?**

Problem solving

Creativity

## **How will this course be assessed?**

This course is assessed with two examinations at the end of Year 11.

## **Why study Business?**

A GCSE in Business Studies allows students to understand more about the business world. It will motivate and challenge students, and prepare them to make informed decisions about further study and career pathways.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs L. Pryer – [l.pryer@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:l.pryer@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

This course will enable you to study the subject further at A level or Level 3. You could then go on to study Business or a related area (Marketing or Finance) at Degree level, complete an apprenticeship or consider setting up your own business.

**Qualification:** GCSE Business Studies

**Examination Board:** OCR

# Computer Science

*The Computer Science GCSE will help you to gain knowledge, understanding, skills and encouragement to problem solve. Over the two-year programme, students will develop an understanding of how to problem solve and become competent in the use of a high level language such as Python. Students will also learn about how computers function and the interrelations between hardware components and performance –problems that will challenge your brain as well as your logic!*

## What will I study?

Paper 1 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.

Paper 2 requires students to apply the 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.

Students are given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) 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, particularly in component 02.

## What skills will I need?

- Excellent **maths** skills
- An inquisitive mind
- An ability to analyse problems and trace them to their core causes
- A systematic, logical approach to work and **problem solving**
- Accuracy
- An ability to anticipate and diagnose problems

## How will this course be assessed?

The unit is assessed through 2 written papers of 90 minutes, each worth 50% of the total GCSE:

J277/01: Computer systems

J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

### **Why study Computer Science?**

Computer Science teaches many transferable skills which are invaluable to studying other subjects. It allows students to stretch their capacity to reason whilst problem solving in a variety of scenarios and using various media. It covers a wide range of topics and allows students to express themselves in a structured way.

### **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs T. Churchyard – [t.churchyard@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:t.churchyard@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

Mr D. Manu – [d.manu@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:d.manu@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

### **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Technology is all around you and increasing its applications all the time!

Studying Computer Science at A Level opens up opportunities to study at university and go into careers such as; medicine, gaming, engineering, media, cryptology, art and design, software development, wholesale and retail, education, professional, scientific and technical fields, criminology, forensic science.

**Don't just observe history – be a part of it!**

**Qualification:** GCSE Computer Science

**Examination Board:** OCR



# Construction in the Built Environment

*The Construction in the Built Environment GCSE will help you to gain knowledge, understanding, skills and encouragement to build for a career in Construction or for life skills. Over the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of Safety and Security in construction and practical skills from 3 different trades; Carpentry, Bricklaying and Painting and Decorating.*

## **What will I study?**

You will study: Health and Safety in construction along with site security; how tools and materials are used; site documentation that allows the running of a project; practical skills, developing your hand-eye coordination and working to a high standard; building calculations.

## **What skills will I need?**

You will need patience but also practical skills you learned in Key Stage 3 Design Technology.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

Knowledge of Health and Safety with a computer based exam.

Practical Skills with a timed assessment.

Understanding of project planning with a written exam.

## **Why study Construction in the Built Environment?**

To learn new skills that will benefit you when you leave school. To open doors into a career in the construction world either as a tradesman or a site manager. Enjoy laying bricks to a high standard and building challenging models. Learn how to use different handsaws and chisels in carpentry along with machines in the workshop. Have fun finding out how to decorate properly using paint brushes and rollers.

Who to ask about this subject:

Mr J. Pightling – [j.pightling@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:j.pightling@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

You will have gained life skills that will enable you to do work around the house like DIY. You will also have the basic skills to progress into an apprenticeship in the construction industry, or further your skills and knowledge in an FE college on a specific trade.

**Qualification:** WJEC Level 2 Vocational Award Construction in the Built Environment

**Examination Board:** WJEC/Eduqas

# Dance

*The Certificate in Creative and Performing Arts (Dance Pathway) qualification offers practical learning in the dance sector; developing your physical skills as well as learning how to plan a successful production and how to review your performances.*

## **What will I study?**

You will respond to two briefs; one set by your teacher and one set by the exam board. You will work both independently and collaboratively to create two dance performances. Throughout the course, you will produce production plans, health and safety plans and review your performances in order to set targets for future improvement.

## **What skills will I need?**

Physical and expressive dance skills; evaluative skills; team work skills; problem solving; time management; commitment; and the ability to work independently.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

- 50% Ensemble Performance unit, internally assessed and externally moderated.
- 50% Live Performance unit, externally assessed.

## **Why study Dance?**

The balance of practical performance, creative and theory work makes this course attractive to students who prefer a hands on approach to learning or wish to select subjects with a range of learning approaches. The course is continuously assessed throughout the two years rather than an end of course exam.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs D. Paulo - [d.paulo@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:d.paulo@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

The structure and focus of the course will allow you to develop valuable skills which you will continue to use throughout your life like teamwork, discipline, critical thinking and confidence. It can also lead to a wide range of creative and performing careers. For those wishing to go to University, Springwood currently offers A Level Dance which can lead to Degree courses or HE Diplomas at Performing Colleges.

**Qualification:** RSL Level 2 Certificate in Creative and Performing Arts (Dance Pathway)

**Examination Board:** RSL



# Design and Technology

*The Design and Technology GCSE is a two-year programme, during which you will develop an understanding of design – expanding and developing your subject knowledge – and learn a variety of practical skills, techniques and processes.*

## **What will I study?**

- A range of materials: fabrics; wood; plastics; metal; new and emerging technologies and many more, learning about their working properties, applications, and how to work with them.
- Develop drawing, design and creative skills.
- Research and produce detailed written analysis of other designers'/artists' work to inspire your own ideas.
- Sustainability issues with manufacturing materials and the impacts they have on the planet.
- Develop practical skills in all areas of D&T: Graphic design; textiles and fashion; resistant materials; computer aided design and manufacturing; laser cutting.
- Industrial manufacturing processes.
- Practical skills: experimentation with materials; D&T practical skills; producing samples and prototyping.
- Evaluations: detailed written reports examining your own work from design annotations to on-going improvements to samples and prototypes.

## **What skills will I need?**

Your D&T experience in Key Stage 3 should provide you with the basic practical skills you need – drawing and creativity skills along with problem solving skills.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

The GCSE is awarded on completion of:

- A Contextual Challenge, which is released at the end of Year 10 for completion in Year 11, with 50% of your total marks awarded for a controlled Non-Exam Assessment (NEA).
- The remaining 50% of your total marks are awarded for a written examination based on all areas of D&T.

## **Why study Design and Technology?**

The blend of design and practical work, problem solving, research, and theory work makes this course attractive to students who enjoy the hands-on approach of learning by doing. It also suits students who prefer the challenge of class-based controlled assessments rather than courses that are only assessed by final year examinations.

**Who to ask about this subject:**

Miss E. Markwell – [e.markwell@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:e.markwell@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

**What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

GCSE Design and Technology develops your creativity, design, practical work and subject knowledge. It can lead to a wide range of vocational, technical and professional careers. Many D&T students go on to further studies in Sixth Form, College, and University, with others taking a vocational route through apprenticeships. Some examples of work that a D&T qualification can lead on to include:

Engineering

Architecture

Carpentry

Fashion and Textiles

Graphic design

Illustration design

For those interested in going to University, Springwood Sixth Form offers a BTEC Level 3 (A-Level equivalent) course in Fashion and Textiles which can lead to degree courses or advanced apprenticeships within the Fashion industry.

**Qualification:** GCSE Design and Technology

**Examination Board:** AQA

# Drama

*The Drama GCSE will help you to understand how theatre is created and performed. By exploring the work of a diverse set of theatre practitioners, you will develop the skills that will enable you to create your own unique piece of drama.*

## **What will I study?**

You will study a set text through a series of practical workshops and an additional text for performance. You will also learn about the design elements of theatre – costume, set, lighting and sound.

## **What skills will I need?**

Performance, analysis and evaluation, devising, collaboration and communication.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

40% is a devised piece of drama, a written portfolio and evaluation of the performance.

20% is a practical performance exam of two scenes, often in the form of a duologue.

40% is a written exam about the set text and live performance you have seen.

## **Why study drama?**

If you are a student who enjoys being creative, working with others and has a desire to explore performance and texts, as well as wanting to learn about all aspects of design - drama is the subject for you.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mr R. Ellin - [r.ellin@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:r.ellin@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

This course develops your soft skills: team work; problem solving; creativity, as well as giving you a better understanding of human behaviour and empathy; all of which are vital for all aspects of work and life.

**Qualification:** GCSE Drama

**Examination Board:** WJEC/Eduqas



# Economics

*The Economics GCSE will help you to gain knowledge and skills of the real world. Over the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of The National and Global Economy, Competition between Firms, Government decisions and Financial Markets.*

## **What will I study?**

Business Activity	Economic Growth
The Role of Markets and Money	Unemployment
Supply and Demand	Fair distribution of income
Competition	Globalisation
The labour market	International trade

## **What skills will I need?**

Problem solving  
Creativity  
Researching  
Determination  
Numeracy

## **How will this course be assessed?**

This course is assessed with two examinations at the end of Year 11.

## **Why study Economics?**

A GCSE in Economics allows students to understand more about the world that we live in and how it operates. The subject motivates and challenges students, preparing them to make informed decisions about further study and career pathways.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mr J Holmes – [j.holmes@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:j.holmes@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

Mrs J Cuss – [j.cuss@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:j.cuss@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

This course will enable you to study the subject further at A Level; go on to study Economics or a Business related area (International Business or Finance) at Degree level; complete an apprenticeship or understand how to start your own business.

**Qualification:** GCSE Economics

**Examination Board:** OCR

# Food Preparation and Nutrition

*The Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE will develop your love of food and your cooking skills. Over the two-year programme, you will tackle a wide range of advanced recipes, gain an understanding of the food science behind successful cooking and develop the knowledge to make informed food choices – including the link between nutrition and health and the how food is produced and processed.*

## **What will I study?**

1. Food Preparation – planning menus, developing production plans and preparing food.
2. Food Safety – avoiding food spoilage and contamination.
3. Nutrition and Health – the functions of nutrients and the link to health.
4. Food Provenance – the field to fork journey of how food is produced and processed.
5. Food Choice – including ethical, religious and socio-economic factors.
6. Food Science – investigating the chemical and functional properties of food.

## **What skills will I need?**

Your cooking experience in Key Stage 3 provides you with the basic practical skills you need.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

The GCSE is awarded on completion of:

- 50% written examination
- 35% controlled assessment based on a practical examination and written report
- 15% controlled assessment based on a food science investigation and written report

## **Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?**

The blend of practical work, scientific investigations and theory work makes this course attractive to many students who enjoy the hands-on approach of learning by doing. It also suits students who prefer the challenge of class-based controlled assessments rather than courses that are only assessed by final year examinations.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs N. Thompson – [n.thompson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:n.thompson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

### **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

The GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition gives you skills for life. Being able to prepare nutritious meals for yourself and your family is vitally important. It can also lead to a wide range of vocational, technical and professional careers. For those wanting a career in hospitality and catering, it provides the foundation for catering studies at FE College. Springwood offers an A Level course in Food Science and Nutrition which can lead to degree courses or advanced apprenticeships with food manufacturers developing and testing food products.

**Qualification:** GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

**Examination Board:** AQA



# French

*Studying French will offer students the opportunity to build strong literacy skills through second language acquisition. It is rich in both linguistic and cultural knowledge, which is delivered through high quality teaching. We will encourage students to explore the Francophone world whilst also boosting their linguistic and literacy competencies.*

## **What will I study?**

The language studied at Key Stage 3 is developed with students learning to express themselves in different tenses using an increased range of vocabulary. This is learnt through five main themes:

1. Identity and culture
2. Holiday and travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations, study and work
5. International and global dimension

## **What skills will I need?**

Listening, speaking, reading and writing are the four language skills we need to develop for communication in French as well as the knowledge acquired in Years 7, 8, and 9.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

The four skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – will be assessed at the end of Year 11; each skill making up 25% of the final assessment.

## **Why study French?**

French is:

1. a world language - Build on your learning in Key Stage 3. Join more than 300 million people who speak French across 29 countries and five continents.
2. a language for the international job market – The ability to speak French opens doors to employment in France and in other French-speaking parts of the world.
3. a language for travel – France is the world's top tourist destination, attracting more than 87 million visitors a year.
4. the other language of international relations – As well as being a working language, French is an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts.

**Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs N. Bliss – [n.bliss@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:n.bliss@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

Mrs C. Hardy – [c.hardy@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:c.hardy@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

**What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Studying French increases your future employability. The skills and rigour involved with studying languages are highly regarded by universities for various courses.

**Qualification:** GCSE French

**Examination Board:** Edexcel



# Geography

*Studying geography gives you the opportunity to travel the world via the classroom, learning about both natural and social sciences along the way. You will understand how geography impacts everyday life and discover the key opportunities and challenges facing the world.*

## **What will I study?**

The topics studied are incredibly diverse and include rainforests, population change, earthquakes, tropical storms, Nigeria, rivers, changes in development, climate change and sustainable living.

## **What skills will I need?**

You will continue to develop your skills using maps, interpreting photographs, undertaking fieldwork, presenting, role play and debating. You will improve your literacy through essay writing and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

Three public exams, each between 75-90 minutes, take place in the summer of Year 11. Questions will be a mixture of short response and more essay style answers.

## **Why study Geography?**

The world's challenges, such as climate change or how we house people in growing megacities, will become increasingly more important during your working life. Businesses need workers who have the geographic skills to understand these problems and suggest solutions.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

For general enquiries, please email [geography@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:geography@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Many students continue to A Level. The subject is also widely accepted as a good balancing subject – a bridge between the arts and sciences - giving you flexibility accessing courses in other subjects after GCSE.

**Qualification:** GCSE Geography

**Examination Board:** AQA



# German

*Studying GCSE German, you will learn about German culture through a range of interesting topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. The course will also help you learn how to get by as a tourist speaking German.*

## What will I study?

The course content is split into five key themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension.

All themes are studied in the context of the students' home country and that of countries where German is spoken. Topics are studied through four key skills: listening; speaking; reading; and writing.

## What skills will I need?

You will need to have studied German at Key Stage 3. If you have then you already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar that you will need for GCSE. You will need to be committed to practising your German outside of school too.

## How will this course be assessed?

The course is assessed through four terminal exams at the end of Year 11.

**Paper 1 = Listening and understanding in German** (25% of the total grade)

**Paper 2 = Speaking in German** (25% of the total grade)

**Paper 3 = Reading and understanding in German** (25% of the total grade)

**Paper 4 = Writing in German** (25% of the total grade)

## Why study German?

Learning another language, such as German allows you to:

- Learn many skills useful to a wide range of careers.
- Add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want.
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it.
- Be useful to you in the field of Medical research, Science and Mathematics.

**Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs S. Curcillo – [s.curcillo@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:s.curcillo@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

**What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Taking GCSE German means you will:

- Be in a stronger position to get a job with companies with international links, or improve employability if you would like to work or study abroad.
- Be able to study A Level German to further your knowledge of the language and culture.
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to.

**Qualification:** GCSE German

**Examination Board:** Edexcel



# Hair and Beauty

*The Hair & Beauty GCSE will help you to gain knowledge, understanding and skills and allow you to be creative in practical ways. Over the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of Hair & Beauty science, ways to run a business and create an image based on a themed event, along with the skills and attributes required to work in the industry.*

## **What will I study?**

You will study a total of four units:

- The Science of Hair & Beauty
- Responding to a design brief
- Hair & Beauty Research project
- Understanding the Hair & Beauty Sector (written Exam)

## **What skills will I need?**

It is useful if you have a creative flair and have an interest in the Hair & Beauty industry

## **How will this course be assessed?**

Three written assignments (each assignment accounts for 25% of your final grade)  
Written Exam (also worth 25%)

## **Why study Hair & Beauty?**

Hair & Beauty is a creative subject that allows you to show and develop creative skills as well as prepare you with skills and attributes needed to work in the industry. It helps you learn about hair and skin types and suitable products and ingredients for these. The qualification also looks at different ways to run a business giving you a good knowledge and understanding and routes into the industry.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs H. Auker – [h.auker@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:h.auker@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

After completion of the course you could stay and continue Hairdressing in Sixth form. The course will give you an insight into the industry. You could also study Beauty therapy and media Makeup.

**Qualification:** Level 2 Certificate in Hair and Beauty Therapy (VRQ)

**Examination Board:** VTCT

# Health and Social Care

*The Health and Social Care qualification will help you to gain knowledge and understanding of the Health Care Industry and how it meets the needs of people of all ages. Over the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of the Health and Social Care Sector*

## **What will I study?**

- Essential values of care.
- Communicating and working with individuals in health and social care and early years settings.
- Using basic first aid procedures.
- Understanding body systems and disorders.

## **What skills will I need?**

Researching

Creativity

Determination

Literacy

Communication

## **How will this course be assessed?**

It is assessed through one external exam and three coursework units.

## **Why study Health and Social Care?**

The Cambridge National Health and Social Care Award introduces students to the specialist knowledge and skills needed to work in various care settings.

Underpinning the qualification is a focus on core values and communicating with individuals so as to maintain their dignity and sense of being valued.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mr J. Holmes – [j.holmes@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:j.holmes@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

This course would enable you to enter the Health and Social Care profession through apprenticeships or study at a higher level through BTEC's, A Levels and Degrees in a range of subjects including Paramedic science.

**Qualification:** Cambridge National Health and Social Care Award/Certificate Level 2

**Examination Board:** OCR

# History

*The History GCSE will help you to gain a better knowledge and understanding of the past and, through that, a much better understanding of the present day. Over the two year course, you will develop the skills needed to successfully navigate the different interpretations of the past.*

## **What will I study?**

We study five units in total: Medicine in Britain; The British sector of the Western Front – injuries, treatment and the trenches; Anglo-Saxon and Norman England; The American West; and Weimar and Nazi Germany

## **What skills will I need?**

Enthusiasm for the subject and an enquiring and empathetic mind. Literacy skills will be needed to decipher different interpretations of the past.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

100% exam-based across three exams.

## **Why study History?**

It is the study of everything that has ever happened. What could be more exciting! Learning about the past makes us better people, far more informed about the present day.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mr C. Whitlam – [c.whitlam@springwoodhighschool@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:c.whitlam@springwoodhighschool@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Anything! History is a traditional, academic subject which employers and universities value very highly. There is not a single job where the literacy, analysis and evaluation skills you learn in History will not be useful. More directors of FTSE 100 listed companies have a History degree than any other subject.

**Qualification:** GCSE History

**Examination Board:** Edexcel



# Information Technologies

*The Cambridge Nationals in Information Technologies Level 1/2 will help you to gain skills, both interpersonal as well as technical, enabling you to be prepared for careers involving time management, teamwork, project planning with an acute awareness of security issues and methods of preventing them. Alongside this, students will experience a range of applications gaining the knowledge of not only how to use them but how to distinguish between packages to select the correct choice!*

## **What will I study?**

### Unit 1:

Students will gain a knowledge of hardware and software applications. They will become competent with a variety of data manipulation tools and techniques whilst experiencing first-hand the principles of the Project Life Cycle, the phases, interaction, inputs and outputs. Whilst using these skills, an awareness of the risks, legal, moral, ethical and security issues will be developed.

### Unit 2:

Students create a technological solution that processes data and communicates information, following the phases of the project life cycle using different hardware and software technologies to create an integrated technological solution. They develop practical skills such as carrying out a SWOT analysis, creating GANTT charts, developing online surveys, and presenting data through web-based technologies.

## **What skills will I need?**

- An awareness of the variety of Communication methods
- Organisation
- Analytical Abilities identifying key aspects from a scenario
- Creativity
- Project Management
- Perseverance
- Problem Solving
- Resourcefulness

## **How will this course be assessed?**

The unit is assessed through 1 written paper of 105 minutes, and 1 centre assessed task – this is in response to a scenario designed by the examination board and carried out over a period of 20 hours in controlled conditions. Each unit is worth 50% of the total qualification.

### **Why study Information Technologies?**

Data Manipulation and Project Management are vital skills for success in employment and higher education and are among the key transferable skills required by employers. The course cultivates students understanding of these skills through the development of creative products to solve real world data problems. Taking this qualification will prepare students for a career in a data driven future.

### **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs T. Churchyard – [t.churchyard@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:t.churchyard@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

Mr D. Manu – [d.manu@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:d.manu@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

### **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Studying Information Technologies helps students gain skills employers are expecting employees to have such as word processing and DTP skills – creating and editing business documents, data entry skills using applications such as spreadsheets and databases, security and privacy issues particularly when using search engines and emails. Students will be able to progress to level 3 qualifications

**Qualification:** Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies Level 1/2 Certificate

**Examination Board:** OCR



# Music

*By choosing Music as one of your GCSE subjects, not only will you develop your knowledge and understanding of a wide range of different music, but you will also gain lots of vital skills that will help you in your other subjects – independent learning, team working, performance and presentation skills, listening, confidence and creativity. Not only that, but future employers and universities are attracted to people who have a qualification in a creative subject, and Music is regarded as the most desirable and academic creative subject.*

## **What will I study?**

There are three areas that you will study – Listening and Analysing, Performance and Composition. For the listening element, you will study 8 set works in a wide variety of styles, from a song by the band Queen to baroque music by Bach, Film Music from Star Wars to music from South America and Piano music by Beethoven to a song from the musical ‘Wicked’ by Steven Schwartz. You will develop your performance skills on your chosen instrument (including singing), and learn some compositional skills in a variety of styles.

## **What skills will I need?**

First and foremost, you need a love of music and a desire to learn more about how music works. You do need to perform, so you should be learning an instrument (this can be anything from Bass Guitar to Flute, or sing, and ideally should be having lessons on your chosen instrument. Whilst you do not need any formal exam passes on your chosen instrument, you should be capable of performing at a minimum of Grade 4 level by Easter of Year 11. It is helpful if you can read music, but if you don’t you can soon gain that skill during the first term.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

60% of the course is Non-Examined Assessment – both Performance and Composition are practical units which are internally marked and assessed. There is one written paper making up the other 40% which examines your knowledge of the set works that you have studied.

## **Why study Music?**

Studying Music is different to any other subject. In your lessons you will be mixing with other people who love music. This creates a unique and relaxed classroom atmosphere! Many students leave their music lessons happier and less stressed than when they came in. They go to their next lesson with a positive attitude and a different outlook because they have been totally absorbed in their music. Students are more likely to succeed and achieve a higher grade in a subject that they are both good at and enjoy.

**Who to ask about this subject:**

Mr P. Strudwick – [p.strudwick@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:p.strudwick@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

**What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Whether you decide to make music your career or not, studying GCSE Music will always be viewed by employers and universities as something very desirable. If you do decide to make music your career choice, there are many possibilities – teachers both on instruments and in the classroom, publishing, recording, arranging, marketing and promotion, composition as well as performing. The entertainment and music industry is one of the biggest employers in the UK.

**Qualification:** GCSE Music

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

# Photography

*The Photography GCSE will help you to gain knowledge, understanding, and technical skills in both photography and Photoshop. Over the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of a range of professional editing techniques and will complete both location and studio photography experiences.*

## **What will I study?**

- Photoshop techniques including masking, composite photography, smart filters, blend modes, levels, curves, editorial layouts and processes.
- Camera techniques and settings; how to use aperture/shutter speed and ISO.
- The work of a range of photographers and genres.
- Portrait, landscape, architectural, fashion, documentary and product photography.

## **What skills will I need?**

- You need to love taking photographs.
- Being independent, motivated and able to set goals.
- Enjoy working on the computer.
- Academic writing.
- Being creative and adventurous.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

60% Course work over two different units.

40% Exam: One 10-hour practical unit of work, completed over twelve weeks.

## **Why study Photography?**

You can be creative without drawing.

It will give you a range of highly desirable professional skills used in industry.

It will develop practical, academic and communication skills.

It's fun and rewarding.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mr L. Eveson – [l.eveson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:l.eveson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

**What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Advertising and marketing; digital arts; designer – fashion, graphics, illustration, interior; digital marketing; editing; film work; professional photographer; stylist; web designer; VFX artist.

**Qualification:** GCSE Photography

**Examination Board:** AQA



# Physical Education

*The GCSE Physical Education qualification will continue to develop your love of physical activity and sport. Over the two-year programme, you will experience a wide range of topics, gaining an understanding of the interrelationship between the body, exercise, health, fitness and performance within amateur and elite sport.*

## **What will I study?**

### **Component 1:**

1. *Applied anatomy and physiology* – structure and functions of the Musculo-skeletal and Cardio-respiratory systems and the short-term effects of exercise on these systems.
2. *Movement Analysis* – levers, planes and axes.
3. *Physical training* – the relationship of health and fitness, fitness components, principles and methods of training, the long-term effects of exercise, sports injuries and their prevention.

### **Component 2:**

1. *Health, fitness and well-being* – physical, emotional and social health, consequences of a sedentary lifestyle, energy use, diet, nutrition and hydration.
2. *Sport Psychology* – the classification of skills, practice structures, goal setting and SMART targets, guidance, feedback and mentally preparing for performance.
3. *Socio-cultural influences* – engagement patterns of different social groups, commercialisation, ethical and socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport.

## **What skills will I need?**

Physical skills, problem-solving, communication, resilience, teamwork, academic writing, decision-making, self-reliance, analytical and evaluative skills.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

The GCSE is awarded on completion of:

- 60% - 2 externally examined written papers: Component 1 and Component 2
- 30% - 3 Practical Performances (1 team, 1 individual, 1 free choice): internally assessed and externally moderated.
- 10% - Personal Exercise Programme (PEP): internally assessed and externally moderated.

### **Why study Physical Education?**

This is an interesting and challenging learning experience. In it, we introduce key sporting ideas and show how these interact with practical performance. You will gain insights into the relationships they have with each other throughout the course. However, please be aware of the theoretical nature of the course, with practical lessons being kept to a minimum, despite the title of the course.

### **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mrs T. Blandford – [t.blandford@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:t.blandford@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

### **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

The GCSE in Physical Education gives you skills to be able to keep yourself physically fit and healthy for everyday tasks or for optimising performance in sport. For those wanting a career in sport and health, it provides the foundation for sport and coaching courses at FE College. Springwood Sixth Form offers an A Level in Physical Education, which can lead to degree courses within Teaching, Science, Health, Fitness and Leisure management.

**Qualification:** GCSE Physical Education

**Examination Board:** Edexcel



# Rockschool

*The “Rockschool” Level 2 Tech Award for Music Practitioners course will help you to gain knowledge, understanding, skills and confidence to perform in either a band or as a solo artist. Over the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of Music Performance, Music Analysis, Song writing and the Music Industry.*

## **What will I study?**

Throughout the course you will study three units:

Unit 1: Musical Knowledge

Unit 2: Rehearsal Skills

Unit 3: Live Music Performance

## **What skills will I need?**

The core skills required for this course are:

- Passion for Music
- Organisation
- Good communication skills
- Desire to play an instrument (if you do not already play one)

## **How will this course be assessed?**

The course is assessed internally on two coursework units and one externally assessed exam performance. We have written tasks throughout all coursework assignments, however, students do not sit a written exam paper.

## **Why study Rockschool?**

Rockschool helps develop your musical knowledge in many areas from performance, songwriting and musical analysis. Students find Rockschool a really enjoyable subject to learn and often want to develop their knowledge further after their GCSE's.

## **Who to ask about this subject:**

Mr P. Cuss – [p.cuss@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:p.cuss@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Rockschool will give you the skills required for A Level Music based subjects. We offer both A Level Music and A Level Music Technology at Springwood Sixth Form. Some students have also completed a Level 3 BTEC performance course at COWA.

**Qualification:** RSL Level 2 Tech Award for Music Practitioners

**Examination Board:** RSL

# Sociology

*Over the two year programme, you can expect to develop your critical thinking and analytical skills, hone your essay writing, and broaden your understanding of sociocultural issues such as poverty, gender identity, and ethnicity. GCSE Sociology will empower you to explore various aspects of Western culture and society, ask big questions, and truly open your mind and eyes in the process.*

## **What will I study?**

**Unit 1: Families and Households** – topics on childhood, domestic violence, changing family patterns, marriage and divorce, and family life in a global context.

**Unit 1: Education** – topics on different types of school, the hidden curriculum, school experiences depending on class, gender and ethnicity, and marketisation.

**Unit 2: Crime and Deviance** – topics on sociological explanations for offending, changes in crime rates, punishment for crime, and who is more likely to commit crime.

**Unit 2: Social Stratification** – topics on poverty in the UK, racism and hate crime, and explanations for social inequalities.

You will also learn about the different sociological research methods (observations, interviews, official statistics, etc.) sociologists use when conducting research studies. This will be covered within the topics above so that you are introduced to them at the most appropriate time.

## **What skills will I need?**

Good English skills such as reading tricky texts, essay writing, analysis, evaluation, and a varied vocabulary. Critical thinking skills and an ability to challenge your own beliefs and attitudes. Open mindedness and tolerance for other points of view.

## **How will this course be assessed?**

Formal assessment - 2x 1hr 45min written exams at the end of Year 11.

## **Why study Sociology?**

Have you ever wondered how someone else's life experiences differ to yours, and why? Have you ever watched the news and asked yourself why some things are reported and not others? Have you ever questioned why a handful of people are billionaires, and billions of people live in poverty? Have you ever witnessed a crime and thought about what drove the individual to behave in the way they did?

A natural curiosity such as this might be what led you to Sociology. Sociology answers the big questions and allows us to make sense of the society we are living in, while arming us with the information to form our own opinions on everything we explore. Sociology is relevant to everyday life, current affairs and the cultural and political climate of the moment.

**Who to ask about this subject:**

Miss L. Fletcher – [l.fletcher@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:l.fletcher@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

**What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Many of our students opt to continue Sociology at A Level, in combination with another one of our Social Science courses – Psychology or Criminology. A GCSE in Sociology will provide you with strong foundations for pursuing further studies in areas such as History, Politics, Law and English. A Sociology qualification can open up pathways to careers in criminal justice, social care, education, government, charity work and research among many others.

**Qualification:** GCSE Sociology

**Examination Board:** AQA



# Spanish

*Studying GCSE Spanish, you will learn about Spanish culture through a range of interesting topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. The course will also help you learn how to get by as a tourist speaking Spanish.*

## What will I study?

The course content is split into five key themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

All themes are studied in the context of the students' home country and that of countries where Spanish is spoken. Topics are studied through four key skills: listening; speaking; reading; and writing.

## What skills will I need?

You will need to have studied Spanish before at Key Stage 3. If you have then you already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar you'll need for GCSE. You will need to be committed to practising your Spanish outside of school too.

## How will this course be assessed?

The course is assessed through 4 terminal exams.

**Paper 1 = Listening and understanding in Spanish** (25% of the total grade)

**Paper 2 = Speaking in Spanish** (25% of the total grade)

**Paper 3 = Reading and understanding in Spanish** (25% of the total grade)

**Paper 4 = Writing in Spanish** (25% of the total grade)

## Why study Spanish?

Learning another language, such as Spanish allows you to:

- Learn many skills useful to a wide range of careers.
- Add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want.
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it.

## Who to ask about this subject:

Mrs C. Hannah – [c.hannah@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:c.hannah@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)

## **What will this course enable me to do after I leave Springwood High School?**

Taking GCSE Spanish means you will:

- Be in a stronger position to get a job with companies with international links, or improve your employability if you would like to work or study abroad.
- Be able to study A Level Spanish, to further your knowledge of the language and culture.
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to.

**Qualification:** GCSE Spanish

**Examination Board:** Edexcel



# Frequently Asked Questions.

- Q. What are BTECs, Cambridge Nationals, VRQs and RSL certificates?**  
A. These are all vocational qualifications - broad and engaging Level 2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills.
- Q. What is the main difference between a vocational qualification and a GCSE?**  
A. A vocational subject is a course that is partly assessed through coursework. Typically, it suits students who perform better in classwork than in examinations, providing they work to complete all the tasks set. Most subjects are examined at the end of the course. However, vocational courses can be examined at other points during the two years.
- Q. Are vocational subjects worth the same as GCSE subjects?**  
A. All choice subjects are worth the same: one GCSE.
- Q. If I do a vocational qualification, can I still get into Springwood Sixth Form?**  
A. Yes, as long as you have a minimum of three GCSEs or equivalent at grade 5, plus English and Maths at Grade 4.
- Q. Will I get all of my first choices?**  
A. While most students do get their first choices, we do have to allocate some back-up(reserve) choices, so it is important that you select reserve choices that you are willing and able to do and in order of preference.
- Q. If I start a subject and later realise that I have made a mistake, what can I do?**  
A. This happens to some students every year. There are only three weeks at the start of term when we look at requests for changes and make them if we can. Sometimes subject groups are full and students are unable to move but we do our best to help. By the end of the first three weeks of the autumn term, we have to stop making any changes, as you will have missed too much work to begin a new subject.
- Q. I want to do what my friend has chosen.**  
A. Only chose subjects that you enjoy and will be useful for your career aspirations. Try to keep your choices as broad as possible.

Remember to always chose your subjects in order of preference.

Don't choose a subject just because your friend does it, or you like the teacher!

We hope that these FAQs help you.

If your question is not covered here, please contact the school, initially by email to:  
[guidedchoices@springwoodhighschool.co.uk](mailto:guidedchoices@springwoodhighschool.co.uk)