



2024

**Year 9
Guided
Choices
Booklet**



West Norfolk
Academies Trust

**Springwood
High School**

Welcome to the 2024 Guided Choices process

Purpose of this booklet

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 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.

Contents

Pathways to success	3
How to complete your choices online	4
The core curriculum subject pages	5-13
The guided choice subject pages	15-46
FAQ's	47-48

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 their 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, 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 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. The majority of students will follow the **PURPLE** pathway.

All students on the **PURPLE** pathway will choose a humanities subject (History or Geography) and a modern foreign language in order to meet the requirements of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) certificate. Students on the **GREEN** pathway will study a humanities subject or a language, but may also 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 options 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, or you like the teacher!

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. You will be shown how to use this on Super Learning Day.

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

For **GREEN** pathway students, select one subject from the Humanities/MFL list and three others from the Additional Subjects 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 shows the SIMS options selection interface. At the top, there are buttons for 'Save', 'Show Notes', and 'Hide Notes'. Below this, a message states: 'You must chose 1 subject from the humanities list (history or geography), 1 subject from the MFL list (French, German or Spanish), and 2 subjects from the additional subjects list. You can also include too. Your additional subjects and reserves should be in order of preference.'

The interface is divided into three main sections:

- Humanities:** 'You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list'. It shows 'Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course' and 'History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course', both with 'Reserve' buttons. A note indicates both are also available in Additional Subjects Purple.
- MFL:** 'You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list'. It shows 'German GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course' and 'Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course' with 'Reserve' buttons, and 'French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course' with a 'Reserve' button. A note indicates all are also available in Additional Subjects Purple.
- Priority Choices:** 'Course priorities do not need to be sorted by preference.' It shows a list with '1 Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Humanities' and '2 French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course MFL'.
- My Choices:** 'To change your order of preference select a course and drag it to the position in the list you would like to move.' It shows '1 Business Studies'.

Please ensure that this is completed by **Tuesday 30th APRIL**

Where a subject cannot be supported owing to lack of numbers or "clash" of subjects, we will look at 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

	Pages
English Language and English Literature	6-7
Mathematics	8-9
GCSE Sciences	10-11
RE	12
PSHE British Values and SMSC	13

Videos

Via Form groups Google classroom "Year 9 GCSE guided choices" videos from all subjects have been uploaded to watch at home and discuss together.

English Language (Eduqas) & English Literature (AQA)

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 the response of those who read your writing.

What will I study?

In English Language, you will become familiar with 20th century fiction and be exposed to a range of texts and non-fiction writing styles from the 19th and 21st centuries. You will develop your ability to read and understand texts and write effectively in a range of styles.

In English Literature, you will study, in full, a Shakespeare play; a 19th century novel; a 20th century drama; and an anthology of poetry, spanning the late 18th century to the 21st century. As a student of English Literature, you will become a critical thinker, considering big ideas about the world and human nature that are perpetually relevant.

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.

English Language (Eduqas) & English Literature (AQA)

Why is English important

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.

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: for example, in law, journalism, or publishing, to name just a few.

If you do not gain a grade 4 or higher in English Language you are required to continue to study this alongside any post-16 courses you take. It is also a requirement for a sixth form place.

Any questions, please email Mrs L Clark at
l.clark@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Mathematics (AQA)

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.

GCSE Mathematics (AQA)

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.

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 Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm in B8. You can also email 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).

If you do not gain a grade 4 or higher in Mathematics you are required to continue to study this alongside any post-16 courses you take. It is also a requirement for a sixth form place.

Any questions please email Mrs C Loizou at c.loizou@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy or GCSE Biology, Chemistry, & Physics (AQA)

GCSE 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.

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy or GCSE Biology, Chemistry, & Physics (AQA)

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.

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.

Any questions please email Miss L Dawson at
l.dawson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 and 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.

Any questions please speak to your RE teacher, or email re@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

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 and 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.

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.

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.

Any questions please email Mr M. Scoles at m.scoles@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

Guided Choice Subjects

	Pages
Art	15
Art & Design: 3D Design	16-17
Business Studies	18-19
Computer Science	20-21
Construction in the Built Environment	22
Dance	23
Drama	24
Economics	25
Food Preparation and Nutrition	26-27
French	28
Geography	29
German	30-31
Hair and Beauty Therapy	32
Health and Social care	33
History	34
Information Technologies	35-36
Media Studies	37
Music	38-39
Music technology	40
Photography	41
Physical Education	42-43
Sociology	44-45
Spanish	46-47

Visit

Form google classrooms to view guided choices videos about each subject.

GCSE Art (AQA)

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 gain an understanding of a range of techniques before specialising in your chosen media in Year 11.

How will this course be assessed?

60% Coursework over two different units, throughout the course.

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

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

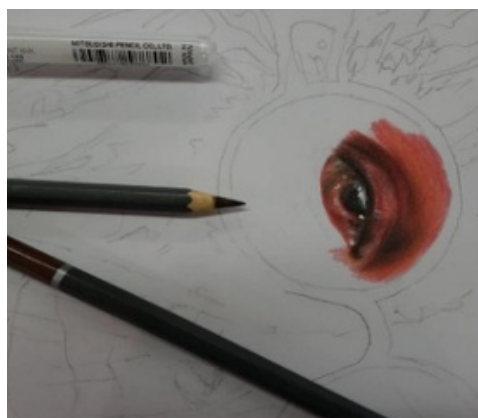
Advertising, animation, architecture, CAD design, digital design, art director, fashion, film and moving image, fine art, games design, graphics, illustration, interior design, photography, product design, visual effects.

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

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.



Any questions please email Mr L Eveson at l.eveson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Art and Design: 3D Design (AQA)

Three-dimensional Design GCSE is an inspiring new course that replaces Design and Technology. It is a GCSE which will take you through a creative journey to produce a range of three-dimensional outcomes; this could include work created using hand tools, specialist machinery and equipment, or Computer Aided Design & Manufacturing (CAD/CAM). The course is made up of two components: coursework and a final exam project. Coursework is completed throughout the course and focuses on drawing, the design process, contextual research and outcomes. For the final practical exam in April/May of Year 11, you are required to form a personal response to an AQA set brief, against four separate assessment objectives. You are also expected to keep a sketchbook for each 'assignment', to document evidence of the development of your ideas to its final outcome. You will also be required to respond to and analyse the work of designers that have connections with your own personal work.

Prior to the start of the course you will need to consider which of the following areas you will focus upon:

- Architecture Design,
- Product Design,
- Jewellery and Body Adornment,
- Designs for Theatre, Film and Television (e.g. costume and set design)

What skills will I need?

- Ability to draw and use the formal elements in Art
- Self-confidence, perseverance, self-discipline and commitment.
- Be able to work practically within your chosen area of skill

Owing to the nature of the subject and the strong coursework weighting, you need to be committed throughout, have good organisational skills and a personal interest in working practically to excel in this course.

How will this course be assessed?

- Coursework portfolio including two projects (60%)
- A final controlled assessment with sketchbooks (40%)

Throughout the course your work will regularly be assessed by your teacher. Final assessment of both units takes place at the end of Year 11, followed by an exhibition of work to celebrate achievement

GCSE Art and Design: 3D Design (AQA)

What will I study?

A range of materials: fabrics, wood, plastics, metal - 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. Practical skills: experimentation with materials, producing samples and prototyping. Evaluations: detailed written reports examining your own work from design annotations to on-going improvements.

Develop practical skills in assorted areas of 3D Design: architectural design, product design, jewellery and body adornment, designs for theatre, film and television – focusing on costume design for students interested in studying Fashion & Textiles.

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

GCSE Art and Design: Three-Dimensional Design develops your creativity, design, practical work and subject knowledge. It can lead to a wide range of vocational, technical and professional careers. Many students go on to further studies such as A-Levels in Graphics, Product Design, Textiles, 3D Design. BTEC in Engineering. Furniture Making, Site Carpentry, 2D and 3D CAD design. Creative Media HNC. Bench Joinery, Animation and Computer Illustration, Architecture and Interiors.

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.

Careers that can follow on from this qualification include: Product Designer, Architect, Fashion Designer, Graphic Designer, Carpenter, Engineer, Prop/Set Designer, Interior Designer, Game Designer, Furniture Designer, Construction Apprenticeships and Motor Industry Apprenticeships.

Any questions please email Miss E Markwell at
e.markwell@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Business Studies (OCR)

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 - such as the important skills of entrepreneurship, how to prepare a business plan, types of ownership, stakeholders and their power and finally how businesses grow.

Marketing – The role of the marketing department, how the department conducts research, what is segmentation and how the organisation targets one segment, finally the importance of the marketing mix.

People – The role of Human Resources, how organisations differ in working methods and structure, how businesses recruit and select new employees, methods of training, motivation staff and why retention is important.

Operations – such as differing methods of production, how quality is maintained, which consumer laws are adhered to and the importance of the location of a business.

Finance – The role of the finance department, where finance is sourced from, why break even is important and how to calculate it, cash and cashflow and finally revenue, costs and profit and loss.

Influences on Businesses – topical issues such as ethical and environmental considerations for businesses, how the economy can affect a business and finally globalisation.

What skills will I need?

Problem solving

Creativity

Independent thinking

Researching skills

GCSE Business Studies (OCR)

How will this course be assessed?

The course has ongoing assessments such as end of unit tests/ multiple choice questions and long and short answer questions, all preparing students for the two examinations at the end of Year 11.

These exams consist of multiple choice questions, short and long answer questions and some finance based calculations.

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.

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.

Any questions please email Mr J Holmes at
j.holmes@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Computer Science (OCR)

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 programming tasks during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, particularly in component 02.

How will this course be assessed?

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

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.

GCSE Computer Science (OCR)

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.

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.



Any questions please email
Mrs T Churchyard at
t.churchyard@springwoodhighschool.co.uk
or
Mr D Manu at
d.manu@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

Level 2 Technical award Construction in the Built Environment (WJEC/Eduqas)

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.

How will this course be assessed?

Practical Skills with a timed assessment and written evidence. 60% of qualification.

Unit 1 Introduction to the Built Environment online exam 1 hour 30 mins long. 40% of qualification

Any questions please email Mr J Pightling at j.pightling@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

What skills will I need?

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

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 or Bricklaying in the Sixth Form.

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 tradesperson or a site manager. Enjoy laying bricks to a high standard and building challenging models. Learn how to use different hand saws and chisels in carpentry along with machines in the workshop. Have fun finding out how to decorate properly using paint brushes and rollers.

Level 2 Certificate

DANCE

This vocational dance qualification offers practical learning into the dance sector, developing physical skills as well as learning how to plan for a successful production and reviewing performances.

What will I study?

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

How will this course be assessed?

Knowledge Unit, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Skills Unit, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Live Performance unit, responding to a brief, externally assessed.

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.

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.

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.

Any questions please email Mrs D Paulo at
d.paulo@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Drama (WJEC/Eduqas)

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.

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.



What skills will I need?

- Performance
- Analysis and evaluation
- Devising
- Collaboration
- Communication

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.

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.

Any questions please email Mr R Ellin at
r.ellin@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Economics (OCR)

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

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.

What skills will I need?

- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Researching
- Determination
- Numeracy

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.

Any questions please email Mr J Holmes at
j.holmes@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

or

Mrs J Cuss at
j.cuss@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (AQA)

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?

- Food Preparation – planning menus, developing production plans and preparing food.
- Food Safety – avoiding food spoilage and contamination.
- Nutrition and Health – the functions of nutrients and the link to health.
- Food Provenance – the field to fork journey of how food is produced and processed.
- Food Choice – including ethical, religious and socio-economic factors.
- 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

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (AQA)

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.

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.

Any questions please email Miss S Beech at s.beech@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE French (Edexcel)

Studying GCSE French, you will learn about French 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 French.

What will I study?

The course content is split into six key themes:

- My Personal World
- Lifestyle and Well-being
- My Neighbourhood
- Media and Technology
- Studying and My Future
- Travel and Tourism

What skills will I need?

Studying GCSE French, you will learn about French 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 French.

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.

Why study French?

Learning another language, such as French 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.

How will this course be assessed?

The course is assessed through 4 terminal exams.

- Paper 1 = Speaking (25% of the total grade)
- Paper 2 = Listening and understanding (25% of the total grade)
- Paper 3 = Reading and understanding (25% of the total grade)
- Paper 4 = Writing (25% of the total grade)

Any questions please email Mrs N Bliss at
n.bliss@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Geography (AQA)

Studying Geography allows you to make sense of the world via the classroom. Alongside human and physical geography, we cover both natural and social sciences along the way. You will understand how geography impacts our everyday life and discover how important this subject is to overcome future global challenges.

What will I study?

You will study a range of topics in the disciplines of both human and physical geography. Our human topics include studying the economies of the world, the challenges cities face and looking at how resources need to be managed sustainably. Our physical topics cover natural hazards, we look at the ecosystems of hot deserts and tropical rainforests and we investigate the physical environments of rivers and coasts.

Your GCSE will also include a fieldwork opportunity where you will collect primary data to interrogate. This will be tested in the third of your exam papers.

How will this course be assessed?

Three public exams take place in the summer of Year 11. Each paper is 90 minutes long. Questions will be a mixture of geographical skills, short responses and essay style answers.

What will this course enable me to do afterwards?

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. It is also a facilitating subject that employers look out for. Our skills are in high demand across a range of job types.

Any questions please email the Geography faculty at
geography@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

What skills will I need?

You will need to be confident in a range of key geographical skills including, reading maps, interpreting photographs, numeracy and graphicacy, 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.

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 and awareness of sustainability to understand these problems and suggest solutions. Geographers will be highly sought after by employers and they will have a genuine opportunity to make a difference to the world.

GCSE German (Edexcel)

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 six key themes:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

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 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 German outside of school too.

How will this course be assessed?

The course is assessed through 4 terminal exams.

- Paper 1 = Speaking in German (25% of the total grade)
- Paper 2 = Listening and understanding 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)

GCSE German (Edexcel)

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 your 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.

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.



Any questions please email Miss H Andrews at h.andrews@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

Level 1/2 Technical Award in The Study of Hair and Beauty (VTCT)

This is a two year course delivering a combination of business ownership and entrepreneurial skills. It includes the anatomy of the hair, skin and nails and the functions of these. It also Explores careers pathways within the industry, business planning and marketing.

Ths students complete practicals that run alongside the theory classes and learn a range of practical skills such as: facials, manicure, nail art, make up, shampooing, setting hair and dressing, professional blow drying. Along with the communication skills required for the industry.

What will I study?

You will study a total of three units:

Business and entrepreneurship in the hair and beauty sector.

Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of business principles, marketing and entrepreneurship and different business opportunities within the hair and beauty sector.

Anatomy, physiology and cosmetic science.

Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of cosmetic chemistry, the role of the integumentary system and the development of hair and beauty products.

Design in the hair and beauty sector.

Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the purpose, principles and development of design briefs for the hair and beauty sector, including how to present and communicate design brief ideas and concepts to a range of audiences. Developing analytical, reflective and evaluative skills.

How will this course be assessed?

The qualification has an exam and one controlled assessment assignment.

The students receive their practical lessons within a fully equipped professional salon offering a beauty room and hair salon to allow them to see first hand if the salon environment is for them.

They then have the opportunity to continue study with the 6th form qualification in Hairdressing in year 12/13, alongside a salon placement.

Any questions please email the Mrs H Auker at

h.auker@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

Cambridge National Health and Social Care Award/Certificate Level 2 (OCR)

Health and Social Care is an exciting vocational course that allows you to get your teeth into everything to do with real-life situations. Students learn about real-life situations, such as legislation. EVERYTHING taught in Health and Social Care is important to everyday life, both in the workplace and outside, making this course ideal for anyone! Health and Social Care will inspire and equip students with transferable skills that are relevant to the sector and more widely. It covers the rights of individuals, person-centred values of care, how to protect individuals in various care settings, and learning about the impact of life events.

What will I study?

- R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings
- R033: Supporting individuals through life events
- R035: Health promotion campaigns

What skills will I need?

Researching, Planning, Presenting, Recording, Interpreting, Creativity, Determination, Literacy, Communication

How will this course be assessed?

It is assessed through one external exam and two coursework units graded as: Level 2 – Distinction* (2*), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)
Level 1 - Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), Pass (P1)

Why study Health and Social Care?

The Cambridge National in Health and Social Care 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 to maintain their dignity and sense of being valued.

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

After you leave Springwood this course would enable you to enter the Health and Social Care profession through apprenticeships or study at Level 3 in Vocational courses such as Cambridge Technical, BTECs, A Levels and Degrees in various subjects including psychology, biology, and sociology. This course can lead to careers such as paramedic, nurse, teacher, social worker, etc.

Any questions please email Miss C Lister at
c.lister@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE History (Edexcel)

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

How will this course be assessed?

100% exam-based across three exams.

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.

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.

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.



Any questions please email the Mr C Whitlam at
c.whitlam@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies Level 1/2 Certificate (OCR)

Our Cambridge National in IT will inspire and equip students with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the IT sector and more widely. It covers the use of IT in the digital world, Internet of Everything, data manipulation, human-computer interface (HCI) and augmented reality.

What will I study?

Unit 1: IT in the digital world

In this unit, students will learn theoretical knowledge and understanding to apply design tools for applications, principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing in different contexts when creating IT solutions or products. Students will understand the uses of Internet of Everything and the application of this in everyday life, cyber-security and legislations related to the use of IT systems, and the different types of digital communications software, devices, and distribution channels.

Unit 2 : Data manipulation using spreadsheets

In this unit, students will learn the skills to be able to plan and design a spreadsheet solution to meet client requirements. They will be able to use a range of tools and techniques to create a spreadsheet solution based on their design, which they will test. Students will be able to evaluate their solution based on the user requirements.

Unit 3 : Using augmented reality to present information

In this unit, students will learn the purpose, use and types of augmented reality (AR) in different contexts and how they are used on different digital devices. They will develop the skills to be able to design and create an AR model prototype, using a range of tools and techniques.

Students will also be able to test and review their AR model prototype.

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

Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies Level 1/2 Certificate (OCR)

How will this course be assessed?

The unit is assessed through 1 written paper of 90 minutes, and 2 centre-assessed tasks (this is in response to scenarios designed by the examination board carried out over a period of 10-12 hours of controlled conditions.).

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.

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.



Any questions please email Mrs T Churchyard at
t.churchyard@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

or

Mr D Manu at
d.manu@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Media Studies (Eduqas)

In our GCSE we explore a diverse range of media texts so we can understand our modern world. We consume media products every day, and in this course, you will gain the analytical skills necessary to understand them but also the creative skills necessary to create them too.

What will I study?

You will study a range of modern and historical media texts (adverts, film posters, music video, newspapers, video gaming, crime drama, magazines etc). We will research the companies which make these products, we will understand how they use media language to construct representations and finally how audiences are affected by them.

How will this course be assessed?

This course is 70% examination and 30% coursework.

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

A good GCSE in Media Studies is your gateway to further education or apprenticeship. Furthermore, demonstrating an ability to communicate well and look at media critically are highly valued skills across a range of interesting professions. You will also have the production skills necessary to work towards careers in the Media.

What skills will I need?

A positive attitude, enthusiasm, be able to work in teams and communicate your thoughts and ideas. You may also have media production skills, although that will be learnt throughout the course. It is also advantageous to have a knowledge of the wider world too.

Why study Media Studies?

We live in a world where media entertains, shocks, informs, manipulates, excites, and through which we live and record our lives. This is true of all the generations in our society. If you want to understand our world – then take Media Studies.

Any questions please email the Mr G McKenzie at g.mckenzie@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Music (Eduqas)

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 Appraising, Performance and Composition. For the listening and appraising element, you will enhance your knowledge of everything musical gained in years 7-9 including the history of music (in all styles including classical and ‘pop’), learn what makes music ‘work’ and technology. You will also look at 2 set works in more detail: “Badinerie”, a Classical piece by J. S. Bach and “Africa”, a pop song by the band Toto. You will develop your performance skills by working both in, and out, of lessons and this can be on any instrument (including singing) or you can use Music Technology to ‘sequence’ your performance into the computer. Finally, you will learn some compositional skills in a variety of styles so that you can create your own music.

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 this has to be something you are prepared to do but this can be on anything from Bass Guitar to Flute; you can sing, or you could use Music Technology. Ideally you should be having lessons on your chosen instrument, but this is not compulsory. Whilst you do not need any formal exam passes on your chosen instrument, you should be capable of performing at a minimum of Grade 3 level by February of year 11, this is usually about 2 years’ worth of learning. It is helpful if you can read music notation, but if you don’t we can help you 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 by your teachers. There is one written paper making up the other 40% which examines your knowledge of the musical world in general.

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.

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.

Any questions please email Mr R Norman at r.norman@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

NCFE Level 1/2 Music Technology

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology is designed for learners who want an introduction to the music technology industry that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the music technology industry or progress onto further study. Over the two-year programme, you will develop an understanding of Music Technology, Music Analysis, Songwriting and Music Industry Careers

What will I study?

The course is split into 5 areas:

Content area 1: Introduction to music technology and the music business

Content area 2: The digital audio workstation (DAW)

Content area 3: Musical elements, musical style and music technology

Content area 4: Sound creation

Content area 5: Multitrack recording

How will this course be assessed?

The qualification has 2 assessments externally-set by NCFE: one non-exam assessment and one written examined assessment.

What skills will I need?

The core skills required for this course are: A passion for Music, an interest in computers and exploring new software and an open mind in listening to new musical styles.

Why study Music Technology?

Studying Music Technology offers a blend of musical and technical skills, allowing you to explore sound production, recording, and digital composition. It provides a gateway to innovative careers in music production, audio engineering, and multimedia, shaping the future of music creation and expression.

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

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- A Level Music (this will support progression to higher education)
- Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Music Technology
- Level 3 Certificate in Music Technology

Any questions please email the Mr P Cuss at
p.cuss@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Photography (AQA)

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.

How will this course be assessed?

60% Coursework over two different units.

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

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.

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.

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.

Any questions please email the Mr L Eveson at l.eveson@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Physical Education (Edexcel)

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:
- 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.
- Movement Analysis – levers, planes and axes.
- 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:
- Health, fitness and well-being – physical, emotional and social health, consequences of a sedentary lifestyle, energy use, diet, nutrition and hydration.
- Sport Psychology – the classification of skills, practice structures, goal setting and SMART targets, guidance, feedback and mentally preparing for performance.
- 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.

GCSE Physical Education (Edexcel)

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.

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.



Any questions please email Mrs T Blandford at t.blandford@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Sociology (AQA)

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.



GCSE Sociology (AQA)

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.

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.

Any questions please email Mrs L Fletcher at l.fletcher@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

GCSE Spanish (Edexcel)

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)

GCSE Spanish (Edexcel)

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.

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.



Any questions please email the Mrs C Hannah at
c.hannah@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. *What are BTECs, Cambridge Nationals, NCFE and VTCT level 1/2 technical awards?*

A. These are all vocational qualifications - broad and engaging Level 1/2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills. Gaining a level 2 pass is broadly equivalent to a grade 4 GCSE.

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. Coursework does not make a subject easier, and for any subject with coursework and assessment points across the two year your attendance should be above 95% to keep up to date.

Q. *Are vocational subjects worth the same as GCSE subjects?*

A. All choice subjects are worth the same: one GCSE. ASDAN is the only exception.

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 or above, plus English Language and Maths at Grade 4 or above, along with particular grades required for your chosen A levels.

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 your main and reserve choices in order of preference, and any reserves are choices that you are willing to study.

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 the Autumn 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. *I want to do what my friend has chosen.*

A. Only choose subjects that you enjoy and will be useful for your career aspirations. Try to keep your choices as broad as possible.

Q. *I want to be on the green pathway but have been put on the purple pathway.*

A. The government has set targets for schools to achieve 90% of students studying the EBACC. We are therefore increasing the number of students accessing the EBACC annually. We have looked carefully at those student who must take it and believe all of the students will have success. It still allows two further choices to be made, and these can be made freely

Q. *Can I study a humanities subject and an MFL subject if I am on the green pathway?*

A. Yes you can. Select one subject in the MFL/Humanities section and the other within your other 3 choices

Q. *I can already speak, write and read in a language that is not studied at Springwood. Can I take a GCSE in this?*

A. Yes, this can be possible. It is important to speak with Miss Hannah or Mr Wills about this as soon as you can and we will then we see if it is possible.

Remember to always choose 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

Remember, you must complete your Choices, using
SIMS-Options online, by
Tuesday 30th April

Notes page

Notes page

Notes page

