



Thornleigh
Salesian College

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

KEY STAGE FOUR COURSES 2026 - 2028

A guide to help you make the right decisions in your chosen subjects



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KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS 2026 - 2028

AN INTRODUCTION

Options time is an important point in your education, as this is the first time that you get to choose some of the subjects that you study over the next two years. It can be a difficult time as you feel the pressure to make the right decisions and are asked what it is that you want to do in the future. In most cases, your life will take many twists and turns so as long as you do as well as you possibly can in your studies, subject choices are not critical.

This booklet has been designed to provide you with the information to help make decisions. I would advise you to choose subjects that you have an interest in, that may help future progression routes and you can see yourself studying for two years. Please do not choose subjects because your friends are also choosing it or because you like the teacher.

VOCATIONAL COURSES - VOC.

This booklet contains information on Level 1 / 2 courses. This means that in every course you can get a grade ranging from 9 - 1 or Distinction* to Level 1 Pass. All GCSEs are graded 9 (highest) to 1 and are examined at the end of two years of study through examinations.

We also offer vocational qualifications such as BTEC, Cambridge Nationals and VCerts. These are equivalent to GCSEs and are recognised by colleges, universities and employers in the same way. However, they all include a significant amount of portfolio work or internal assessment which enables you to have your progress recognised at multiple points throughout the course.

All the decisions that you make regarding your options must be done in agreement with parents and teachers.



OPTIONS 2026

In order to best serve the interests and aspirations of students, the options process is designed to provide a broad and balanced programme of study which is appropriate to each student.

Students will be able to choose any 3 subjects from the list on page 5 except for where a selection is prohibited due to qualifications being too similar.

We will ask students to indicate 4 subjects in order of preference. Although students will only study 3 subjects, a 4th choice helps to provide flexibility in the event a course is not able to run or following an individual consultation. In this respect we will still be able to provide a programme of study which meets the needs of the student and for which they have indicated an interest.

The process to begin selecting options will begin on Thursday 26th February, immediately following parents evening when attendees will be provided with the QR code. Your support and involvement in the choices your child will make is essential in supporting them throughout the GCSE course, therefore it is essential that parents attend the parents' evening to speak with teachers and be given the code to choose their options.

If you are unable to attend parents' evening, then you must contact the school and speak with the year or curriculum team so that an alternative meeting time can be arranged.

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS 2026 - 2028

Students will study 3 option choices from the list below. We request they indicate 4 subjects in order of preference.

GCSE Art
GCSE Business
VOC. Child Development
GCSE Computer Science
VOC. Construction
VOC. Creative iMedia
VOC. Dance
GCSE Design Technology
GCSE Geography
GCSE Graphic Communication
VOC. Health & Social Care
GCSE History
VOC. Hospitality & Catering
GCSE Music
VOC. Performing Arts (Drama)
GCSE Photography
GCSE Physical Education
GCSE Separate Sciences
GCSE Spanish
VOC. Sport
Entry Level Maths, Entry Level English
& Level 1 Home Cooking

The following combinations are not permitted:
GCSE Computer Science and VOCATIONAL Creative iMedia
GCSE PE and VOCATIONAL Sport
GCSE Art and GCSE Graphics

No course is guaranteed to run - but if a viable number choose it we will run it. Once you start a course you can't change to something else.

Parents, on behalf of their child, will be asked to submit option choices online. Instructions for completing the options form which will be shared at parents evening on Thursday 26th February.

The deadline for completing options choices is Monday 23rd March.

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies invites students to consider challenging questions about beliefs about God, the importance of understanding different religious beliefs in the world today and explores how people of different faiths practice their beliefs. It develops your knowledge and understanding of Catholic Christianity and Judaism as well as looking at arguments for the existence of God as well as Relationships in the 21st Century. It also offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development.

Course Content

The course is made up of three papers:

Paper 1: Catholic Christianity - This covers four units which are Catholic Beliefs and Teachings, Practices, Sources of Wisdom and Authority and Forms of Expression.

Paper 2: Judaism - This paper covers two units which are Beliefs and Teachings and the second unit Practices.

Paper 3: Philosophy and Ethics - This paper covers two units which are Arguments for the Existence of God and the second unit covers Relationships in the 21st Century.

Throughout the course you will study each of these units in depth, exploring key beliefs and how they are put into practice today, as well as the diverse attitudes within Christianity and Judaism. You will also have the opportunity to take part in practical activities such as interviews and group sessions with people of different faiths as well as the sacraments such as reconciliation.

Assessment

All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11. All students will sit 3 papers:

Paper 1: Catholic Christianity worth 50% of their final grade.

Paper 2: Judaism worth 25% of their final grade.

Paper 3: Philosophy & Ethics, worth 25% of their final grade.

Each unit consists of 4 questions that require students to outline, explain and evaluate. Throughout the course students will complete practice questions in class as well as for homework.



Progression

Employers and Universities value Religious Studies very highly. The skills that are taught within Religious Studies are very useful in work, study and life. They will develop the skills of investigation, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, empathy, communication and debate - invaluable skills for job and university interviews. A study of GCSE Religious Studies lays a good foundation for further study of Religious Studies at A-level and will complement other related and popular A-Level subjects including History, Sociology and English. The skills that you learn will also be useful to you in any number of careers. Religious Studies is particularly relevant to anyone that wants to work with people in the civil service, teaching, youth work, social work, journalism, the police force, law, radio and TV.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening are essential in every aspect of life. Not only are they critical for many careers, but they also underpin successful study across all subjects and levels. Proficiency in English Language can open doors to countless opportunities, while also enriching your ability to communicate and express yourself. During this course, you'll develop into a confident reader, an accurate and fluent writer, and a skilled communicator in a variety of contexts.

Course Content

This course, assessed entirely by examination, will prepare you to master a wide range of reading, writing, and communication skills. You will study both fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th and 20th centuries, exploring the ways in which writers craft their work to engage and influence their audience. You'll analyse the language they use and evaluate the effects they create, becoming a more critical and thoughtful reader.

For writing, you will learn how to create compelling narratives and descriptions, developing techniques to captivate your audience. You'll also practise non-fiction writing, responding to statements with arguments, persuasive techniques, and explanations that clearly communicate your point of view. Speaking and listening tasks will further refine your ability to present your ideas clearly and confidently.



Assessment

The course is assessed through two examinations at the end of the year. In Paper 1, you will analyse a fiction text by answering structured questions and then write your own narrative or description inspired by a visual or written stimulus. Paper 2 focuses on non-fiction texts, where you'll compare two texts through structured questions and complete a piece of non-fiction writing, such as an argument or persuasive piece.

Progression

Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, are essential for success in school, work, and everyday life. The abilities you develop in English Language will enhance your performance across all subjects, as well as prepare you for further study at college or university. Whether you're aiming for a career in journalism, teaching, publishing, creative writing, or any role requiring strong communication, English Language will give you the tools you need to succeed. Most importantly, this course will help you to express yourself with clarity, confidence, and creativity in any situation.

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LITERATURE

English Literature allows you to explore some of the greatest stories, characters, and ideas ever written, all while developing your reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Through this subject, you'll gain a deeper understanding of human experiences and cultural issues, as well as a greater appreciation of language and storytelling. It's also an excellent way to ignite a lifelong love of reading and is perfect preparation for further study at A-Level and beyond.



Course Content

Throughout this course, you will study a range of fascinating texts. Shakespeare's *Macbeth* introduces you to a gripping tale of ambition, power, and its consequences. Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* offers an unforgettable journey of redemption, exploring themes of generosity and social responsibility. Priestley's modern drama *An Inspector Calls* uncovers hidden secrets while tackling important moral questions. Finally, the *Poetry Anthology* focuses on the themes of power and conflict, helping you analyse language, style, and structure. Alongside this, you'll develop the skills to confidently interpret and compare unseen poetry.

You will need to know these texts in detail for your exams, as they cannot be taken into the exam room with you. This means focusing on the key themes, characters, and moral messages of each text, while honing your ability to respond critically and analytically.

Assessment

English Literature is assessed through two examinations at the end of the course. The first exam focuses on *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol*, with essay questions requiring detailed understanding and analysis. The second exam is divided into three sections: an essay on *An Inspector Calls*, a comparison of poems from the anthology, and an analysis of two unseen poems.

Progression

The skills you develop in English Literature will benefit you far beyond the classroom. As well as enhancing your writing, vocabulary, and ability to think critically, this course is an ideal foundation for further study at A-Level and university. It can lead to careers in journalism, teaching, publishing, creative writing, and many other professions where analytical thinking and communication are essential. Above all, studying English Literature offers a chance to engage with some of the most influential works of all time, inspiring your imagination and broadening your horizons.

GCSE MATHS

INTRODUCTION TO MATHS

Mathematics is the means of looking at the patterns that make up our world and the intricate and beautiful ways in which they are constructed and realised. Numeracy is the means of making that knowledge useful. Mathematics contributes to the school curriculum by developing your ability to calculate; to reason logically, algebraically, and geometrically; to solve problems and to handle data.

Course Content

Topic Area	Foundation Tier (%)	Higher Tier (%)
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability and Statistics	15	15

Assessment

The GCSE course that you will follow is a linear course without coursework. You will sit three examination papers at the end of the course; one non-calculator and two calculator papers. You will be entered for either the foundation or the higher tier. Your GCSE examination will take place at the end of Year 11.



Progression

Mathematics is important for three reasons. Firstly, it creeps into nearly every other subject, including Science, Technology and Psychology, which in turn leads on to some of the highest paid careers. Secondly, a sound foundation in numeracy is crucial for your everyday life, in terms of problem solving, decision making and winning arguments. Finally and most importantly - Maths is fun. It allows you to be creative and conquer challenges.

GCSE SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE

The modern world would not be modern at all without the understanding and technology enabled by Science. For example, without Science we would not have electricity which would mean no mobiles, internet, Instagram or Twitter. We would not have fridges to keep food fresh, television to entertain us or even cars to travel in. A world without science would mean that we would still be living in a very different way to the way we live today.

Course Content

Science lessons are split into the subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Topics you will study in Biology will include cells, infection, homeostasis, inheritance and ecology. In Chemistry you will learn about atoms, bonding, the periodic table, chemical changes and analysis. Physics topics will include forces, energy, waves, electricity and magnetism.

In Science you will have the opportunity to develop a whole range of skills. These include: planning experiments; making observations; using scientific theories; evaluating risks; selecting apparatus; constructing tables and graphs; making predictions and using mathematical skills.



Assessment

All Science examinations will take place at the end of Year 11. There will be six examinations in total – 2 papers for each Science discipline.

There will be a mixture of questions types including multiple choice, short responses and longer written answers. Practical work is at the heart of Science so you will also be assessed on a selection of required practical techniques and investigations. You will be entered for either higher tier or foundation tier.

Progression

A good qualification in Science will open up a variety of career options for you, providing you with skills that will make you very employable.

You may decide to progress into post-16 learning by studying A-Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics or by choosing a more vocational qualification such as BTEC Applied Science.

Careers that require Science include Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, Pharmacy, Engineering and Analyst.

The fields you can work in are very varied so depending on what you are interested in you could be working with animals, astronauts, in video gaming or in sport. Remember, everything can be improved by the understanding of Science, so all types of work require scientists.

GCSE ART

INTRODUCTION TO FINE ART

Fine Art is a subject that develops your creativity and ability to express yourself. It is a skills based subject which requires independent investigation into ideas and techniques. An interest in Fine Art helps you to develop your appreciation of good design including colour combinations and aesthetic form.

Course Content

This course provides you with a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore your interests in Fine Art. You will produce practical and contextual work in one or more areas including drawing and painting, mixed media, sculpture, installation, printmaking and photography. This work will be produced as a portfolio of assignments. Each assignment should explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of Fine Art, from the past and from recent times.

You will be encouraged to experiment and try new materials and techniques whilst investigating and developing ideas. Final responses must be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate artistic skill and an understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

Assessment

There will be two elements of assessment to this course. The first will be a portfolio of work which is selected from all the work produced throughout the course. Towards the end of Year 11, the second element will be a controlled examination which will be a stand alone assignment. Time will be limited and the final piece will be completed in examination conditions



Progression

This course will prepare you well for continuation into A-Level Art then into careers which are not just drawing and painting. Advertising and media based jobs are encompassed under the heading of graphics along with illustration, photography, animation and CAD. Fashion, textiles, jewellery, furniture and product design all rely on artistic people.

GCSE BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

GCSE Business provides you with an excellent understanding of the business environment and organisations that operate in the UK and beyond.

It is a subject which is closely related to everyday life and gives you the opportunity to gain an insight into how businesses run; from initial set up to growing and expanding your business in the future.

Course Content

Over the course we will cover a wide range of topics, all of which are essential to understanding the requirements of running a successful business.

Topics include; marketing (how the price, promotion, product and place of sale of a product is decided), managing people (motivation, recruitment and law), operations management (customer service and controlling quality) and finance (cash flow, profit and company accounts).

You will also develop essential communication, IT and numeracy skills.

Assessment

You will sit two external examinations at the end of Year 11.

Each paper will consist of calculations, multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.



Progression

Many GCSE Business students choose to pursue their interest in the subject at A-Level. Beyond further education, there are a wide range of business related courses available to students wishing to continue their education at university.

Past students of Business have gone on to have successful careers in law, accounting, financial services, banking and advertising. Some of our students have also gone on to run their own business.

This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

VOC. CHILD DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION TO CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The BTEC Tech Award in Child Development is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry. During the course students will explore the sector whilst also having the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of child development.

You will study child development and growth up to the age of five. This includes how children learn through play, how to support children with additional needs by adapting activities to promote their development, and how to evaluate activities to ensure they best support all children to develop and to promote inclusion.

The qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE and is aimed at anyone who wants to learn more about the way a child develops. It gives the opportunity to develop skills and techniques that enable you to explore the importance of play in children's learning, and to support children's development holistically.

Course Content

The BTEC course is made up of a number of units:

- **Component 1:** Children's Growth and Development
- **Component 2:** Learning Through Play
- **Component 3:** Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop

Assessment

Component 1 is worth 30% of the final grade, it is assessed internally through an externally set assignment completed in controlled conditions.

Component 2 is worth 30% of the final grade, it is assessed internally through an externally set assignment completed in controlled conditions.

Component 3 is worth 40% of the final grade, it is assessed externally through an examination.

Progression

The course will support student's progression to further Level 3 BTEC Nationals and apprenticeships. It allows learners to acquire transferable skills that can be used within the sector and the wider environment. Many students go on to work in nurseries and schools.



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

In the digital age it is hard to think of any industries that Computer Science has not influenced. The number of jobs and careers in Computer Science are growing exponentially and it is estimated that there are currently 600,000 technical vacancies currently in the UK; predicted to rise to 1 million by the end of 2020. Computer Science GCSE provides students with outstanding career prospects and clear progression routes to A-Level Computer Science. This subject allows students to develop higher level problem solving skills which are cross transferable to other technical subjects.

Course Content

Studying a GCSE in Computer Science enables students to build skills that combine technology, science, mathematics and problem solving. It is a topic that prepares students for an industry which is booming, as well as an increasingly essential subject for employees in many sectors due to its influence on the workplace.

By developing technical programming skills alongside the theory of how digital systems work, it provides a creative and fulfilling exploration of the impact of digital technology on modern life.

Students are introduced to core principles of Computing and develop skills in problem solving and computational thinking. The qualification is split into two components, with students learning key algorithms and programming concepts using a text based language (Python), data representation using binary, hardware and software, computer architecture, communications and networking and the impact of digital technology on society. Students will learn how a computer functions and how to design their own programs to utilise the power of computers. It is both analytical and creative, and the best computer scientists can combine the two.

Assessment

Two written papers are sat at the end of Year 11:

Component 1:

Computer Systems (50%)

Component 2:

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (50%)



Progression

In the digital age it is hard to think of any industries that Computer Science has not influenced. The number of jobs and careers in Computer Science are growing exponentially and it is estimated that there are currently 600,000 technical vacancies currently in the UK; predicted to rise to 1 million by the end of 2020. Computer Science GCSE provides students with outstanding career prospects and clear progression routes to A-Level Computer Science. This subject allows students to develop higher level problem solving skills which are cross transferable to other technical subjects.

This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

VOC. CONSTRUCTION

WHAT DOES THE QUALIFICATION COVER?

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in the following areas:

- **Construction technology**
- **Construction in practice**
- **Construction and design.**

This Tech Award complements the learning in GCSE programmes such as GCSE Design and Technology by teaching additional and specific skills in either brickwork or carpentry and joinery, and by providing a more applied area of study when looking at the different types of technologies being used in a real-world setting for low-rise construction

Assessment

The three components in the qualification give learners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the construction and built environment sector, and specialist skills such as interpreting and designing a low-rise construction to a brief, construction of a practical outcome to specification and ensuring quality of outcome at Levels 1 and 2.



What can the qualification lead to?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in

Construction and the Built Environment, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the construction or engineering sectors

The construction industry is one of the UK's most important sectors. In 2018 it employed, directly or indirectly, around 2.4 million people and accounted for £117 bn of the value to the UK economy. The range of jobs available is large, covering traditional craft trades, large civil engineering infrastructure projects, housebuilding, design and consultancy, and the professions such as architecture, management and surveying. Study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical application alongside conceptual study. There are also strong opportunities for post-16 progression in this vital sector.

VOC. CREATIVE IMEDIA

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE IMEDIA

If you are creative, innovative and enjoy developing graphics and interactive digital products then Creative iMedia is a subject for you. With close links to IT, this course has a hands-on approach to learning about digital technology, whilst exploring creative digital media. Creative iMedia equips learners with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning, and evaluation, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. The hands on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

Course Content

This course takes a media sector focused look at the digital industries including IT, web development, graphics development, interactive media and animation, with IT at their heart. Students will learn about the product life cycle and create a series of digital products for a given scenario. One of the core units develops students understanding of pre-production and the planning of digital media. Students will complete coursework units in website development, interactive media and graphics in a hands-on approach.

Assessment

The certificate consists of 3 units:

Creative iMedia in the media industry: 40% (Written Paper: 1 hour 15 minutes)

Digital Games: 30% (Coursework unit)

Interactive Digital Media: 35% (Coursework unit)

Progression

Students can progress onto many other Level 3 IT qualifications. The course opens doors for students to pursue careers in the IT, media, digital marketing, social media and the digital sector.



This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

VOC. DANCE

INTRODUCTION TO DANCE

BTEC Dance is studied in addition to the two core PE/Dance lessons that students will continue to receive each week. The course is for students that enjoy both the practical and theoretical elements of dance. You will be expected to regularly commit to extra-curricular dance and take part in live performances in front of an audience.

Course Content

Lessons are designed for you to develop as a dancer, a choreographer and a performer. Practical lessons will be focused on the development of specific skills and techniques required to be a performer, focusing on the work of existing professional choreographers in the industry.

The theoretical lessons will include coursework tasks, presentations and written evaluations, looking in detail into the work of the existing professional choreographers.



Assessment

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts. Internally assessed and moderated externally by Pearson. This is a 100% theoretical unit of work that follows a 'Pearson Set Assignment' requiring students to produce coursework for assessment. Students will learn about existing professional choreographers and how they create work for live performances.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance. Internally assessed and moderated externally by Pearson. This is a 70% practical, 30% theoretical split unit of work that follows a 'Pearson Set Assignment' requiring students to produce a dance performance which is assessed live. Students are assessed on their skills and techniques and also their ability to evaluate their progress and final performance.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief. Externally assessed by Pearson. Component 3 is studied in Year 11 after the completion of Component 1 & 2. Component 3 requires students to work in groups to choreograph their own live performance in response to a brief set by Pearson. This is a 60% 40% practical theoretical split. Alongside their practical choreography, students will be required to complete three 1 hour controlled written assessments to comment on their ideas and progress.

Progression

BTEC Dance can lead to post-16 study of BTEC Dance at Level 3 or A-Level Dance. This may lead to the study of dance related courses at many universities and progression towards a variety of careers, including performing arts, teaching, physiotherapy, coaching, sports psychology, journalism, healthcare professional, and many more.

This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

GCSE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

GCSE Design Technology is an exciting qualification which brings learning to life. You will develop a realistic understanding of the working world as well as a range of practical skills and detailed knowledge about manufacturing, product design, Isometric, 3D and orthographic drawing with a major focus on Computer Aided Design. This will enable you to have the ability to then use the laser cutter and the 3D printer to aid you in manufacturing your design.

Course Content

This course involves exploring design problems, generating, developing and communicating design proposals, planning the manufacture of high quality three dimensional products and testing them to evaluate their success. You will be actively encouraged to produce 'live' portfolio briefs, where a genuine need or situation has been identified, explored, and overcome within the boundaries of this course. Where possible you should include input from an outside source e.g. manufacturer, designer or any other relevant sector of sales / industry.

Design Technology is a good option to choose for someone who would like to build on their design and make skills. If you have skills within graphical design and good presentation abilities, via free hand drawing and Google Sketch Up you will enjoy this course. It is an additional bonus if you are able to communicate your ideas using a variety of media skills.

Assessment

Your assessment for GCSE Design Technology will be split in to the following main areas, design / making and an external examination.

Your design theme will be set by the exam board but you will be able to influence this brief to make a 3D practical product that will be useful for everyday life.

Your portfolio will include different design ideas and when the portfolio is combined with the making it will make up 50% of your total GCSE mark. The other 50% of your grade will be made up from an external examination which lasts for 2 hours.



Progression

Higher Education institutions view the subject very favourably as it indicates curricular diversity and an ability to use a wide range of skills. If you study Design Technology you will be able to progress further into careers in engineering, design and architecture, graphic design etc. providing an excellent balance of creative studies with some of the more theoretical subjects offered.

This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

VOC. FOOD & HOSPITALITY

INTRODUCTION TO WJEC FOOD AND HOSPITALITY

If you enjoy cooking and creating new food products then Vocational Food and Hospitality is the subject for you. On this practical hands-on course, you will learn how to create a wide range of food products; gaining an experience of food handling, preparation, cooking and presentation.

The Vocational Food and Hospitality course has been designed to support learners who want to learn more about food and nutrition. Alongside this, you will gain an experience of the different types of employment in which you could use this qualification in the future from chefs, to sports nutritionists or food technologists working for supermarket chains developing new products.

Course Content

The examination unit looks at exploring the sector and the different types of food styles served. Students will gain an understanding of the different roles within a business and the factors that can affect their success. The exam contains a range of questions and also asks students to respond to situations that can occur within a food business.

This course starts by studying the different types of foods and their functions within the body, learning how to prepare and adapt recipes to cater for the needs of the target market. The structure has been designed to develop learners' skills in the examination unit which they can then put into practice in Year 11 when designing, planning and creating their own menu to meet a design brief. Students will be expected to take part in weekly practical sessions creating a variety of products that they can take home and enjoy.



Assessment

Unit 1 is worth 40% of the final grade, it is externally assessed through an examination.

Unit 2 is worth 60% of the final grade, it is assessed internally through an externally set assignment completed in controlled conditions.

Progression

Where the Vocational Food and Hospitality is achieved together with other relevant Level 2 qualifications, such as GCSEs in English and Maths and Science, learners can go on to study at college or university or land themselves an apprenticeship.

You may find yourself working as a head chef or designing meals for supermarkets.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY

Geography is one of the most highly regarded subjects by employers and prestigious universities across the world. There are an endless amount of key skills and opportunities that a GCSE in Geography will enable you to learn, such as a deep analysis of the ever changing world around us. Geography is all around us... everywhere you look... every conversation you have... It's all Geography! Some of the topics you will study at GCSE will be a continuation of some of the amazing topics we have studied at KS3, such as Natural Hazards and the ever changing Economic and Urban worlds we live in. We don't just stop there, we then focus on growing your knowledge and introducing new topics that are vital to understanding the world around you as you leave Thornleigh Salesian College. Our aim is to share with you our passion and enthusiasm for a subject that will truly help you understand our dynamic world. At Thornleigh Salesian College, GCSE Geography is a popular and successful choice amongst students- one which we are very proud of.

Course Content

GCSE Geography consists of 3 examined units:

Paper 1	Challenges with the Physical Environment	1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 2	Challenges in the Human Environment	1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 3	Geographical Application and Skills	1 hour 30 minutes

Assessment

- All examinations will be at the end of Year 11.
- All papers will require written extended answers.
- For P3, there is an exciting opportunity for a fieldwork trip where we bring our learning from the classroom into reality.

Progression

GCSE Geography will help you successfully progress towards many academic courses such as A-Levels and Degree Courses. The skills you will learn in Geography are incredibly valuable, transferable and can be used in many fields including Engineering, Law, Environmental Consultancy, Teaching, Tourism, Medicine and even within Business and Media. A successful qualification in Geography will open up a variety of exciting career prospects.



This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

GCSE GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Graphic Communication is a subject that uses creative flare to communicate ideas with others. It is a practical subject which requires independent investigation into ideas and existing products. An interest in design and current technologies will help you to appreciate the importance of images and text in the fast paced world of today.

Course Content

This course provides you with a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore your interests in Graphic Communication. You will learn a range of research, photographic, typography and photo editing skills throughout the course. This work will be produced as a portfolio of assignments. Each assignment should explore relevant images relating to a range of artists or graphic products from the past and from recent times. You will be encouraged to experiment and try new techniques whilst investigating and developing ideas. Final responses must be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate an ability to communicate visually.

Students will learn a range of digital design techniques using Photoshop and Indesign to develop designs for products such as posters, website layouts, book covers and packaging.

Assessment

There will be two elements to this course. The first will be a portfolio of work which is selected from all the work produced throughout the course.

Towards the end of Year 11, the second element will be a controlled examination which will be a stand alone assignment. Time will be limited and the final piece will be completed in examination conditions.



Progression

This course will prepare you well for continuation into A-Level then into careers which are many and varied. Advertising and media based jobs are encompassed under the heading of graphics along with illustration, photography, animation and CAD. Fashion, textiles, jewellery, furniture, product design all rely on artistic people.

VOC. HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

This course gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect this, such as major life changing events like marriage or parenthood. You will learn how people adapt to these changes as well as the types of support available to help them. You will also learn about the different health and social care services, and about 'care values' and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get the care they need. You will be able to demonstrate these care values practically. The course is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about health and social care; giving you the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and techniques and to review your own performance in demonstrating 'care values'.

Course Content

The BTEC course is made up of a number of units:

Unit 1: Supporting Individuals through Life Events

Unit 2: Health Promotion

Unit 3: Principles of Care in Health and Social Care Settings

Assessment

Component 1 is worth 30% of the final grade, it is assessed internally through an externally set assignment completed in controlled conditions.

Component 2 is worth 30% of the final grade, it is assessed internally through an externally set assignment completed in controlled conditions.

Component 3 is worth 40% of the final grade, it is assessed externally through an examination.

Progression

The course will support student's progression to further Level 3 BTEC Nationals and apprenticeships. Students then often diversify into many different health care professions. The course allows learners to acquire transferable skills that can be used within the sector and the wider environment.



This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

GCSE HISTORY

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY

GCSE History is one of the most highly regarded subjects by employers. It offers you to develop skills of analysis and evaluation, in addition to giving you a greater understanding of the past. Some of the topics you study we continue to develop from Key Stage 3, such as why William of Normandy won the Battle of Hastings, and why the Nazis targeted Jewish people. We also take an in-depth look at how injured soldiers were treated on the Western Front during the First World War.

We then look at new topics, like why people migrated west across the United States, and how this caused conflict with the Native Americans already there. We also look at how the provision of medicine has changed over time, considering why people used leeches to try and treat disease, and why the NHS was created in 1948. At Thornleigh Salesian College, GCSE History has been a consistently popular and successful choice amongst students.

Course Content

GCSE History consists of three examinationined units:

Unit 1	• The History of medicine 1250-present day • Trenches of World War One
Unit 2	• England 1050-1088 • The American West 1835-1895
Unit 3	• Germany 1918-1939

The skills you will develop are factual recall and the ability to explain, evaluate and support different points of view. All units are assessed by a written paper.

Assessment

All examinations will be at the end of Year 11.

All students will sit 3 papers of around 1 hour 30 mins each.

All papers will require extended answers.

Progression

GCSE History can help you to progress towards many courses such as A-Levels and a degree. The skills you will learn in GCSE History can be used in many jobs including teaching, the police, journalism, law, museum work and the media. In fact GCSE History is highly regarded by all employers and course providers.



GCSE MUSIC

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC

Music is a popular subject option at GCSE. It is highly regarded by colleges and employers as a subject where students demonstrate high level thinking skills, practical skill and improved confidence. The practical course provides creative and exciting opportunities to explore your interests in Music. Students with the greatest success have an interest in performance and have instrumental or vocal lessons, if they choose to sing. If you don't already have lessons we can help to arrange these with you. Music is 60% practical coursework, 40% exam and most homework are practice or listening tasks. The main areas of assessment performing, composing and listening we have touched on in Years 7, 8 and 9 and we revisit them in more detail across the course.

Course Content

With the performing skills you have developed over KS3 and with lots of practice and determination, you should reach a great standard of performance. In Year 11, you submit two recordings: a solo piece and a group piece. You choose the pieces and these are 30% of your marks. You have a wide range of performing and composing opportunities to explore the four key areas: The Concerto Through Time; Rhythms of the World; Film Music; Conventions of Pop and Rock Music. In Year 10, you submit one composition; it's free choice and can be in any style, for any instruments and/or voices. The second composition, completed in Year 11, is set by the board; together they are 30% of your marks; using music technology as a compositional tool will continue too.

Assessment

Performing and composing tasks are completed and recorded throughout the course. In February of Year 11, you will select coursework recordings to submit for assessment.

Coursework:

Performing 30%: One solo and one group performance. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Composing 30%: Two compositions. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Examination: Listening and Appraising 40%: Written/listening in Year 11. Externally marked.

Progression

GCSE Music lends itself well to other subjects and studying Music improves verbal memory and literacy skills along with supporting mental health. Many of our past students have gone on to further study at college whether A-Level or BTEC courses and have then pursued careers in Medicine, Law, Journalism, Music Performance, Composition and Sound Engineering.



This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

VOC. PERFORMING ARTS (DRAMA)

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA

The study of Drama can help you to develop transferable skills that you can take into any career. You will develop inter-personal skills, communication skills, confidence, co-operation and creative thinking.

Drama provides a unique environment for developing independent thinking. You might wish to go into a job where experience of Drama is useful, or where you can use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as retail, travel and tourism, sales and marketing or any career that involves meeting people face to face, as well as careers in the Performing Arts Industry.

Course Content

In Drama, you are taught a variety of different performance styles and acting skills which you can then apply to your own devised drama work. You also perform a range of scripted plays, which are sometimes comedies and sometimes tackle more serious subjects.

You also study how music, sound effects and lighting can create a brilliant performance and you get plenty of opportunities to perform a wide range of theatrical pieces. You will be assessed mainly through your performance pieces but you will also need to complete a written examination.

Assessment

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts. Internally assessed and moderated externally by Pearson. This is a theory based unit in which students will learn about existing practitioners and how they create work for live performances.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance. Internally assessed and moderated externally by Pearson. This is a 70% practical, 30% theory, students are assessed on their skills and techniques but also their ability to evaluate their progress and final performance.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief. Externally assessed by Pearson. Students work in groups to devise their own live performance in response to a brief set by Pearson. This is a 60% 40% practical theory split. Students will be required to complete three 1 hour controlled written assessments as part of this component.



Progression

Students who study Drama may decide to go on to complete A-Levels in Drama or Theatre Studies, they may also pursue Level 3 qualifications in Performing Arts. Career choices may mean that you find yourself on the West End stage or Broadway! The transferrable skills that you develop will help you whatever career you decide to pursue as you will be a more confident individual with great communication skills.

GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is a subject that develops your creativity and ability to express yourself. It is a practical subject which requires independent investigation into ideas and other photographers. An interest in Photography helps you to develop your appreciation and look more closely at the world around you.

Course Content

This course provides you with a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore your interests in Photography. You will learn a range of research, photographic, lighting and photo editing skills throughout the course. This work will be produced as a portfolio of assignments. Each assignment should explore relevant images relating to a range of photography from the past and from recent times. You will be encouraged to experiment and try new techniques whilst investigating and developing ideas. Final responses must be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate Photographic and editing skills and an understanding of different processes and terminology.

Assessment

There will be two elements of assessment to this course. The first will be a portfolio of work which is selected from all the work produced throughout the course. Towards the end of Year 11, the second element will be a controlled examination which will be a stand alone assignment. Time will be limited and the final piece will be completed in examination conditions.



Progression

This course will prepare you well for continuation into A-Level Art then into careers which are not just taking photographs. Advertising and media based jobs are encompassed under the heading of Graphics which includes photography, animation and CAD. You could be designing your own catalogues and spreads in no time!

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE PE is studied in addition to the two core PE lessons that you will continue to receive each week. You must have a strong academic background due to the largely theoretical nature of the course and you will be expected to regularly commit to extra-curricular practices, represent school teams and also participate in sport outside of school.

Course Content

Over the duration of the course, you will cover 7 main areas of study: applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences and health, fitness and well-being.

You will also study traditional practical activities that will contribute to your overall grade during practical lessons. The focus in Year 11 becomes coursework based where you will be expected to produce an analysis of performance in one of your chosen practical activities.

Assessment

Assessment for the theoretical side of the course comes through two written examinations which are taken at the end of Year 11. Each examination lasts for 1 hour and 15 minutes and is worth 30% of your overall grade.

Practical assessment is based on performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). A piece of coursework is also required and practical assessment contributes to the remaining 40% of the overall grade.

Progression

GCSE PE can lead to post 16 study of the Extended Certificate in Sport at Thornleigh Sixth Form or other sports related college courses. This may lead to the study of sport related courses at many universities and progression towards a variety of careers, including physiotherapy, sports management, fitness instructing, coaching/teaching, dietician or nutritionist, sports psychologist, biomechanics, healthcare professional, and many more.



This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE

Separate (or triple) science allows students to study Biology, Chemistry, and Physics as separate GCSE subjects, whereas combined science combines all three subjects into one course. Studying separate science results in students gaining three separate science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These separate sciences are suitable for those who enjoy the hard work and practical activities involved in the study of science and a real passion to learn concepts in greater depth. Studying separate sciences at GCSE allows students to unpick how the world around them works and consider how advances in science have led to some incredible breakthroughs. The implications and impact on our world of scientific advances will also be studied. This course is designed to provide good transition to study multiple sciences at A-level.

Course Content

The separate science option involves the study of extra topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as studying those from combined science in more depth.

Additional content present in separate science includes: The use of antibodies in medicine, sustainable food production, nanoscience, the science of polymers, space science and the behaviour of infrared radiation.

Within the separate science courses, you will have the opportunity to develop a whole range of skills. These include: planning experiments; making observations; using scientific theories; evaluating risks; selecting apparatus; constructing tables and graphs; making predictions and using mathematical skills.

Separate science includes the same topics as combined science with a selection of topics from each discipline having extended subject material and a higher maths demand and so requires a huge amount of commitment. We expect students who chose this option to be willing to complete independent study outside of the classroom.



This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCE continued

Assessment

The three separate science GCSEs are all assessed in Year 11 through two 1hr 45 minute exams per discipline (six science examinations in total for separate science).

As with combined science, this suite of qualifications includes both foundation tier and higher tier papers. There will be a mixture of question types which will include multiple choice questions, short answers, and longer extended answers worth up to 6 marks.

The exams all follow the same format regardless of subject or tier.

Practical work is at the heart of science so you will also be assessed on a selection of required practical techniques and investigations. Students will be assessed on 28 practicals in total across all three disciplines; 7 of these are unique to the separate science course.

Students will be awarded separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and therefore could attain the same grade in all three or attain different grades depending on their performance. You will receive a grade between 1 and 9 for Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE. There is no coursework in GCSE Science.

Progression

Students choosing to study separate sciences are most likely to progress into post-16 learning by studying at least two subjects from our suite of A-level science options: A-Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

The range of careers requiring qualifications in science is wide-reaching. Careers that require Science include Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, Pharmacy, and Engineering. While separate science is not essential to apply for these courses, some students find the greater depth of content included in the course helpful.

GCSE SPANISH

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

Our society is changing, communication happens all the time and not everyone speaks English - it's a multilingual, multicultural world. No matter what career you choose, if you have learnt a modern language, you will have a real advantage as languages improve the quality of your life and your understanding of how other people live and think. Languages not only improve your communication skills but they enable you to develop key life skills, such as problem solving, social interaction, creativity and memorisation.

Course Content

Over the course you will study 3 key themes including a variety of topics

Theme 1 - People and Lifestyle

- Identity and relationships with others
- Healthy living and lifestyle
- Education and work

Theme 2 - Popular Culture

- Free time activities
- Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Celebrity culture

Theme 3 - Communication and the World Around Us

- Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live

Assessment

There are four components to GCSE Spanish: listening, speaking, reading and writing and each are worth 25% of the final grade.

You will have the opportunity to complete either the foundation or higher tier. In the exams, you will respond to a range of written and audio texts, with all instructions in English so you can feel confident about what the questions are asking of you.

You will also demonstrate your understanding of accurate pronunciation through new phonics-based tasks such as reading aloud and dictation which you have had experience of already at Key Stage 3.

Progression

Studying a language gives a very positive impression about you as a student and is viewed as an impressive achievement.

People in jobs who know other languages are called on to travel and exchange information with people in other countries throughout their careers and employers are searching for any asset that separates us from the rest of the crowd. A modern foreign language is that asset.



This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

VOC. SPORT

INTRODUCTION TO SPORT

Sport is studied in addition to the two core PE lessons that you will continue to receive each week. The BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Sport is focused towards a more vocational approach to sport. The course is most suitable for students that enjoy the practical and theoretical elements of sport and physical activity.

Course Content

Lessons are designed to explore the principles and concepts of sport in both a practical and theoretical context. The course is primarily classroom based and demands a variety of styles of assessment, such as written essays, presentations and a written exam. Students will also have to plan and undertake practical elements of study, such as planning and conducting a warm-up for a specific user group, as well as demonstrating skills and techniques in a chosen sport, then planning and delivering a coaching session.

Assessment

The course will focus on the following components of work:

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity
Internally assessed and externally moderated by Pearson (worth 30% of the overall grade). Students will learn about different user groups and the barriers they face, how to overcome them, technology and equipment in sport, and how to plan and conduct a warm-up for specific individuals. Assessment will be both theoretical and practical.

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance
Internally assessed and externally moderated by Pearson (worth 30% of the overall grade). Students will complete an essay and presentation to explain how components of fitness are used in their chosen sport, the impact they have and how rules and roles vary in each sport. Students will then design and deliver a coaching session in their chosen sport.

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants in Sports and Physical Activity (worth 40% of the overall grade). Students will complete a written exam in the summer of Y11 including areas such as the components of fitness, fitness testing methods, training methods and how exercise affects individuals.

Progression

BTEC Sport can lead to post 16 study of the BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport at Thornleigh Sixth Form or other sports related college courses. This may lead to the study of sport related courses at many universities and progression towards a variety of careers, including: physiotherapy, sports management, fitness instructing, coaching / teaching, dietician or nutritionist, sports psychologist, biomechanics, healthcare professional, and many more.



This course will run if it is selected by a viable number of students.

ENTRY LEVEL MATHS, ENTRY LEVEL ENGLISH & LEVEL 1 HOME COOKING

INTRODUCTION TO ENTRY LEVEL MATHS, ENTRY LEVEL ENGLISH & LEVEL 1 HOME COOKING

A small cohort of students will be offered the option of taking this bespoke combination of courses. During this option students will study Entry Level Maths, Entry Level English and Level 1 Home Cooking, all of which will be assessed and allow students the opportunity to gain three additional qualifications.

Course Content

Entry Level Maths follows the same exam board as the Maths GCSE so students study not only functional Maths skills but also transferable skills for the Maths GCSE paper they will also be sitting.

Entry Level English follows the same exam board as the English GCSE so students study not only basic English skills but also transferable skills for the English GCSE paper they will also be sitting.

Level 1 Home Cooking skills provides every student the basic skills and knowledge to be able to cook for themselves in a healthy, cost-effective way. Students will learn about food safety and hygiene, basic kitchen equipment and how to prepare ingredients.

Assessment

Both the Entry Level Maths and English courses will be assessed through external assessments which will be prepared for in class time.

The Level 1 Home Cooking course will be assessed through coursework which is teacher assessed.



Progression

Students are able to progress to Level 2 courses from this range of qualifications they will be able to obtain.

SUBJECT LEADER CONTACT DETAILS

If you have watched the 'Options' videos on our website and read the course outline within this booklet and still have further questions, please see below for the contact details of the relevant subject leaders.

GCSE Religious Studies

slloyd@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE English Language

ppritchard@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE English Literature

ppritchard@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Maths

myoussouf@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Science

rjones@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Art

rwilliams@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Business

jmanning@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

VOC. Child Development

hgrimmer@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Computer Science

cwhalley@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

VOC. Construction

lcox@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

VOC. Creative iMedia

catkinson@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

VOC. Dance

dgavin@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Design Technology

lcox@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

VOC. Performing Arts (Drama)

jeccleshare@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

VOC. Food & Hospitality

hgrimmer@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Geography

jstocks@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Graphic Communication

rwilliams@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

VOC. Health & Social Care

hgrimmer@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE History

jtopham@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Music

hbirtley@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Physical Education

dgavin@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Photography

rwilliams@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

GCSE Spanish

elyon@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

VOC. Sport

dgavin@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

Entry Level Maths,
Entry Level English &
Level 1 Home Cooking

vanthony@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

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