GCSE OPTIONS INFORMATION BOOKLET

RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL



GCSE Cohort 2027-29



Set heights in your heart.

RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Students, Parents/Carers,

It is very exciting to share with you your Options Booklet as you approach the transition from Year 9 into the upper school. You will see from this booklet, we have tried to be as clear as possible about the core subjects that you will be studying, as well as the subjects that you will be eagerly considering for your GCSE study.

It may seem like a difficult decision, but at this stage, I would always encourage students to choose subjects that they love and that they are curious about continuing to study. This is not the time to study a subject just because you think you "should" do it. You will be much more motivated, and ultimately considerably more successful if you are studying subjects that you enjoy, and that give you a buzz when you enter the classroom.

Your teachers will obviously offer advice on whether they feel you'll thrive in their subject, or advice on what next steps you might take beyond GCSEs.

We very much see this as a four year journey with you, as you choose the portfolio of subjects for years 10 and 11, with a view to how we will continue to support you through your A-Levels here. Now is the time to continue to build great relationships with your teachers, highly skilled subject practitioners, so that as you transition from KS3 into KS4 and then onwards into KS5 we can support you all the way.

I hope you enjoy this chance for a choice in what you'll be studying, reflect carefully and choose the subjects you know will offer you the most enjoyment and ultimately the most success!

Best wishes,
Mr M. Grady

How to use this booklet

This booklet has been carefully designed to provide you with information about each of the GCSE subjects offered at KS4. It is important you use this to aid in making an informed decision about **whether the subject is the right choice for you as an individual**.

Each subject profile contains specific details about the:

- exam board and specification
- subject content and knowledge
- methods of assessment (including non-examined assessment (NEA) requirements)
- number of examinations
- extra curricular opportunities
- home learning activities
- links to next steps and careers
- 2026 Summer GCSE examination series results
- subject specific entry requirements to study the subject at RH6

Important Information

Students will take 9 GCSE's in total.

***6** core subjects:*

- *English Language*
- *English Literature*
- *Mathematics*
- *Combined Science (equivalent to 2 GCSE's)*
- *one of French, Spanish or Latin*

*and **3** options subjects*

or

***7** core subjects:*

- *English Language*
- *English Literature*
- *Mathematics*
- *Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics (equivalent to 3 GCSE's)*
- *one of French, Spanish or Latin*

*and **2** options subjects*

Options subjects:

- French, Spanish or Latin (if not taken as part of the core subjects)
- Art and Design: Fine Art or Textile Design
- Music
- Drama
- Business
- Computer Science
- Physical Education
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- History
- Geography
- Philosophy and Religious Studies

Students need to select **2** reserve subject choices.

Compulsory for all students but not examined:

- Philosophy and Religious Studies (1 lesson a week if not taken as an option)
- Physical Education (non examined core PE of 3 lessons a week)
- Personal, Social and Health Education (1 lesson a fortnight)

Core Subjects

Overview



01 English Language
AQA 8700

At Rugby High School, pupils follow a combined two-year course leading to separate awards in English and English Literature.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8700/specification



01 English Literature
AQA 8702

At Rugby High School, pupils follow a combined two-year course leading to separate awards in English and English Literature.

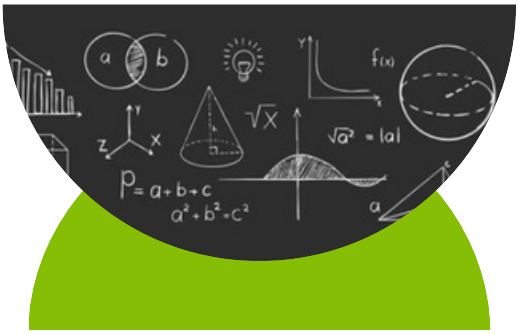
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification



02 Mathematics
Pearson Edexcel 1MA1

This course combines the use of traditional skills with practical applications and real-life situations.

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assesment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf



02 Additional Mathematics
OCR 6993

An extended qualification which all members of set 1 must study, covering material including calculus, at a level more common with A level.

https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/457916-specification-from-2018-.pdf



03 Combined Science
AQA 8464

Science option 1

Gain a balanced foundation in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, ideal for broad scientific understanding. Progression to A-level Sciences is achievable, however not all foundations are covered in as much depth as the Triple Science option.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-8464/specification



04 Triple Science - Biology
AQA 8461

Science option 2

Explore the building blocks of life, from cells to ecosystems, through engaging theory and practical investigations.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/biology/gcse/biology-8461/specification/specification-at-a-glance



04 Triple Science - Chemistry
AQA 8462

Science option 2

A course offering a deeper and more comprehensive exploration of Chemistry and a smoother transition for A-Level Chemistry.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/chemistry/gcse/chemistry-8462/specification/specification-at-a-glance



04 Triple Science - Physics
AQA 8463

Science option 2

Understand the principles that govern energy, forces, and the universe, combining theory with hands-on experiments. Progression to A-level Sciences is achievable and allows for a smooth transition.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physics/gcse/physics-8463/specification

Options Subjects

Overview



05 French
AQA 8652

GCSE French will prepare students for proficiency in the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing and will set the foundations for A level study, and use of French, out in the world.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-8652/specification



06 Spanish
AQA 8692

GCSE Spanish will prepare students for proficiency in the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing and will set the foundations for A level study, and use of Spanish, out in the world.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/spanish/gcse/spanish-8692/specification



07 Latin
Eduqas

A course which continues the study of the Cambridge Latin Course followed by some original Latin literature with its cultural and historical background.

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/1onbd1yb/eduqas-gcse-latin-spec-from-2016-e-170925.pdf

Students are required to study at least one language at GCSE; our offer includes one or more of French, Spanish and Latin.



08 Art and Design - Fine Art

OCR J170

A course covering a wide range of activities which may include drawing, painting, mixed media, photography, illustration and printing.

https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/220463-specification-accredited-gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176.pdf



09 Art and Design - Textile Design

OCR J174

A practical programme of study involving the creation, selection and manipulation of techniques across a variety of both traditional and contemporary mediums.

https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/220463-specification-accredited-gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176.pdf



10 Music

AQA 8271

Students will engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music, developing an understanding of its place in different cultures and contexts.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271/specification



11 Drama

AQA 8261

Students learn to collaborate, think analytically and evaluate. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas and refine their efforts in performance and devising, in conjunction with highly academic set texts.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/specification



12 Business

Pearson Edexcel 1BS0

Generating entrepreneurial spirit, this course will allow students to gain a comprehensive understanding of marketing, finance, operations and human resources.

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Business/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-business-spec-2017.pdf



13 Computer Science

OCR J277

A real in-depth understanding of how computer technology works, including programming.

https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf



14 Physical Education

Pearson Edexcel 1PE0

How do you do what you do in sport? What lifestyle choices do you make everyday? What impact do they have on physical, social or mental health? Let's find out...

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Physical%20Education/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/GCSE-physical-education-2016-specification.pdf



15 Food Preparation and Nutrition

OCR J309

To equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234806-specification-accredited-gcse-food-preparation-and-nutrition-j309.pdf



16 History
AQA 8145

History helps you understand why the world is as it is today, giving you skills to decide if you trust information and develop your own views and opinions.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/specification



17 Geography
Pearson Edexcel 1GB0

With the challenges of climate change, resource depletion, the search for sustainability, poverty and more, the world needs more geographers to understand these issues.

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Geography-B/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-2016-l12-geography-b-spec.pdf



18 Religious Studies
Pearson Edexcel 1RB0

Exploring both religious and secular perspectives in contemporary social and moral debates, your critical thinking skills will be tested and your world views challenged.

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Religious%20Studies/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/specification-gcse-l1-l2-religious-studies-b-june-2016-draft-4.pdf

Individual Subject Information



01 English Language

The English syllabus is a challenging and interesting course designed to develop students' ability in Reading, Writing and Spoken Language.

The aim is to enable students to become confident and critical readers of non-fiction and fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries and to practise creative, factual and argumentative writing, as well as to develop analytical and evaluative skills: you'll become an excellent communicator in all forms!

A separate grade is reported for Spoken Language, reflecting the students' communication and presentation skills.

English and English Literature are core subjects, and their popularity amongst students is evident from the numbers who go on to take English as an A Level subject.

Home learning

Activities include green pen responses to improve developing skill sets. Revising key terminology, completing English Language Paper 1 and Paper 2 past papers and finding facts/researching a topic of interest for the compulsory Spoken Language section of the course.

Extra curricular

Creative Writing Club. KS4 Reading Group. Creative writing competitions (local and national).

Careers

Career opportunities from studying English Language include, Journalist, Lawyer, Digital copywriter, Editorial, English as a foreign language teacher or Lexicographer, content creator and marketing, to name a few. The English Language qualification opens the doors for so many job opportunities.

GCSE Results August 2026

9 11.9% **9-8** 37.3% **9-7** 72.3%

"English Language at GCSE is a creative outlet for students and a way for them to expand their skills and vocabulary. Using class discussions to share analysis of texts is an excellent way to see others' point of view. We enjoy English Language because it helps us to communicate effectively and teaches us skills we can transfer to other subjects."

Year 10 Student Voice

"English Language is so beyond different to GCSE. It definitely improved our confidence and independence. From language diversity to child language acquisition we are constantly learning new things and challenging ourselves by sharing our opinions!"

Year 12 Student Voice





English Language specification QR code

Assessment

Spoken Language Assessment

Internally assessed (Pass, Merit or Distinction)

Paper 1 - 50%

1h45m - written examination
Section A – fiction reading.
Section B – creative and/or descriptive writing

Paper 2 - 50%

1h45m - written examination
Section A – Non-fiction reading skills
Section B – transactional writing skills



English Language - next steps

A level **English Language** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in English Language**.

A level **Psychology** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in both English Language and Mathematics**.



01 English Literature

English Literature is a fascinating subject, requiring students to respond to a range of texts critically and sensitively, and to explore writers' craft.

Prose, drama, and poetry will be studied in detail for the examinations, including a 19th century novel, a play by Shakespeare, a modern fiction or drama text and a poetry anthology.

Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills of synthesis and analysis. Through their study of Literature, they will develop their essay writing skills and an empathy for others and an understanding of the world around us.

Students are encouraged to attend theatre visits and workshops, which are arranged by the English department. They will also be expected to read widely beyond the set texts.

English and English Literature are core subjects, and their popularity amongst students is evident from the numbers who go on to take English as an A Level subject.

GCSE Results August 2026

9 18.8% **9-8** 44.4% **9-7** 75.2%

Home learning

This is a closed book examination, so part of home learning will be remembering key quotations from the set text studied. Other home learning will include green pen work to improve skill sets and wider reading of contextual factors that have influenced the time period a writer was/is writing in.

Extra curricular

KS4 Book Club, Poetry by Heart, Jessie Wright, Poetry Live, Shakespeare workshops and theatre trips on set texts studied.

Careers

Career opportunities include a variety of roles in writing, editing, publishing, and media, such as content creator, journalist, copywriter, and editor, public relations specialist and social media manager, editor of magazines, Other common paths involve education and research and the civil service The English Literature qualification opens the doors for so many job opportunities.

"In our English Literature lessons, we are exposed to a wide range of time periods and explore the context behind famous works such as Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. This allows us to discover the world around us in an intriguing and informative way. We really enjoy English Literature because it provides us with a wide range of different texts and worlds to understand."

Year 10 Student Voice

"English Literature at RH6 has been an eye-widening experience as the environment has truly been a place that allows for mutual respect and a natural flourishing of both academic and personal growth. More specifically, the way the course has been taught so far through interactive lessons and quality feedback has been beneficial in allowing me to understand where I'm at and where I hope to be heading"

Year 12 Student Voice







Assessment



English Literature specification QR code

Paper 1 - 40%

1h45m - written examination
19th Century novel and Shakespeare

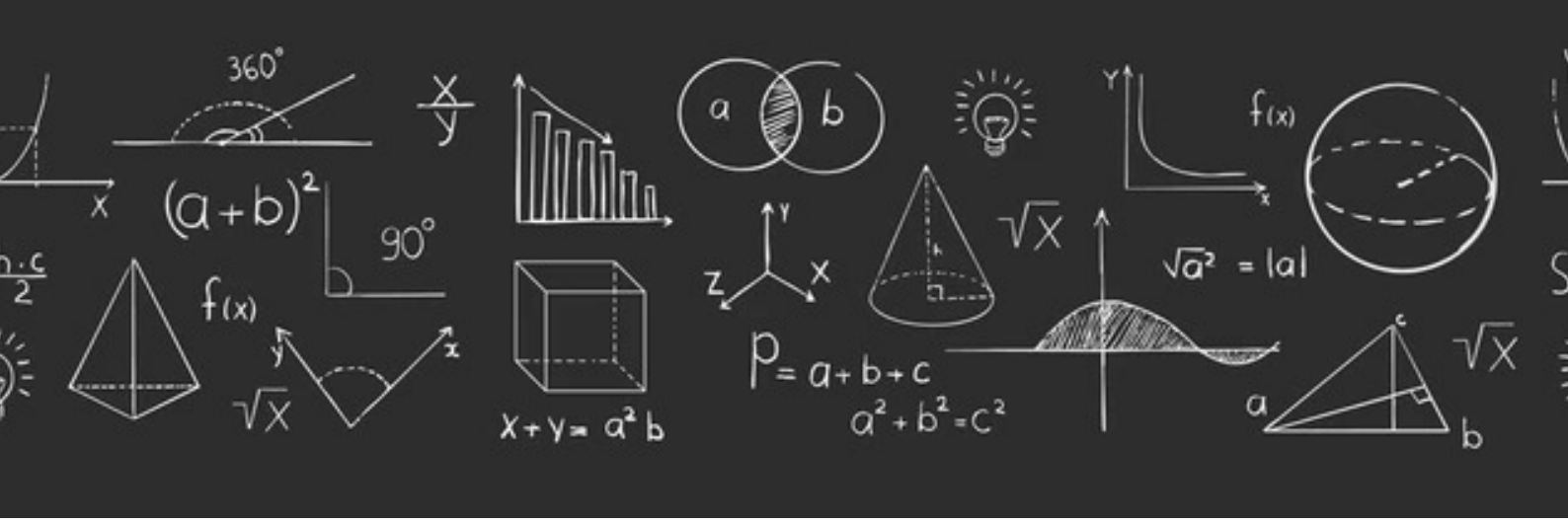
Paper 2 - 60%

2h15m - written examination
Modern novel or drama text, poetry anthology and unseen poetry

English Literature - next steps

A level **English Literature** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in both English Language and English Literature**.

A level **Sociology** is also offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are the same as those for studying A level English Literature.



02 Mathematics

The subject is taught in groups rather than in forms and you will be placed in a group in which you will receive teaching most appropriate to your needs.

There are two tiers of entry for Maths GCSE. You will be entered at the Higher Tier and you will sit three written examinations at the end of Year 11; one of which will be a non-calculator paper.

Additional Maths is an extended qualification which all members of set 1 must study. Information regarding membership of set 1 is outlined in a letter that goes out with the information in the lead up to Year 9 exams. It is a level 3 qualification, so it cover topics such as calculus, linear programming, and binomial distribution which are all AS level topics. This does mean it attracts UCAS points. It allows the most able mathematicians to be stretched beyond the GCSE course. It does aid transition to A level mathematics; in particular it helps manage the jump if you are also doing Further Maths at A level.

Home learning

A mix of exercises, online work and revision packs. It will always be application of already taught work.
Due to the demands of completing both GCSE Maths and FSMQ level 3 in Additional Maths, this requires additional home learning to be set.

Extra curricular

Students are entered annually into the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Careers

A GCSE in Maths is essential for all university courses, and an A in FSMQ is highly regarded by Universities. A Maths A level is also essential for a large number of University courses and the current requirement to study maths at Rugby High is a grade 7 or higher, though if you are considering an application to Oxbridge, even for non maths courses, a 9 will be helpful.

GCSE Results August 2026

9	24.6%	**9-8**	61.9%	**9-7**	86.4%

“Doing Maths GCSE really helps you understand concepts that reflect in so many other subjects like Computer Science, Business and all 3 Sciences and even creative subjects like Textiles. In every lesson, teachers go through topics at a pace right for you, and they focus on making sure you know exactly what you are doing. Although the subject is mandatory, Maths can really help you outside the classroom too. It opens up a lot of future opprtunities.”

Year 10 Student Voice

"Doing additional maths made the jump to A Level a lot smoother."

Year 12 Student Voice

Mathematics specification QR code

Assessment

Paper 1

1h30m - written examination
Non calculator

Paper 2

1h30m - written examination
Calculator

Paper 3

1h30m - written examination
Calculator

All papers carry equal weighting.

Additional Mathematics specification QR code

Mathematics - next steps

A level **Mathematics** and **Further Mathematics** are offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 7 in Mathematics** (higher level).



03 Combined Science (Trilogy)

Combined Science offers a balanced study of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, ideal for students seeking a broad scientific foundation.

You'll cover key topics from each discipline and complete required practicals. Assessment is through six exams (two per subject), each lasting 1h15m.

Home learning

Homework includes mixed-topic questions, revision tasks, and practical write-ups

Extra curricular

Reading books like The Disappearing Spoon or watching documentaries/movies on topics such as Marie Curie or Apollo13.
Other examples are listening to science podcasts, following science news in magazines or online or creating a podcast on a science topic.
Visit Leicester Space Museum or Think Tank in Birmingham or complete a Silver CREST project in a lunch time club.

Careers

Combined Science supports progression to A-level sciences and careers related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)

GCSE Results August 2026

9 20.0% **9-8** 46.3% **9-7** 73.8%

"I'm pleased I chose this option as I'm not wanting to study Science at A-level and it gives me and extra subject to study which I wouldn't have been able to do had I chosen Triple Science."

Year 10 Student Voice

"Doing combined science allowed me space on my timetable to pick another subject at GCSE. I'm studying an A-level Science and whilst I have to do a bit more reading around the topics I covered less of at GCSE compared to the Triple Science students, I feel its going OK."

Year 12 Student Voice

Combined Science specification QR code

Assessment

Biology Paper 1 - 16.7%

1h15m - written examination (70 marks)
Topics 1-4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Biology Paper 2 - 16.7%

1h15m - written examination (70 marks)
Topics 5-7: Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Chemistry Paper 1 - 16.7%

1h15m - written examination (70 marks)
Topics 8-12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

Chemistry Paper 2 - 16.7%

1h15m - written examination (70 marks)
Topics 13-17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Physics Paper 1 - 16.7%

1h15m - written examination (70 marks)
Topics 18-21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Physics Paper 2 - 16.7%

1h15m - written examination (70 marks)
Topics 22-24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism.

The questions in each of the above will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.



04 Triple Science - Biology

Content & Delivery:

Biology explores the living world, from microscopic cells to complex ecosystems. You'll study topics such as cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis, genetics, evolution, and ecology.

Lessons combine theory with practical investigations, including required experiments that develop analytical and problem-solving skills. The course builds on KS3 knowledge and prepares students for A-level Biology and related fields.

Assessment is through two written exams at the end of Year 11, each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes and covering different topic areas.

Home learning

Regular home learning includes exam-style questions, online tasks, and practical follow up work to reinforce classroom learning and develop scientific literacy.

Extra curricular

Students are encouraged to read around the subject. In Year 11 they are welcome to attend the 6th Form group BioMedSoc – ideal for students considering Biological, Medical or Veterinary Sciences.

Careers

Biology opens doors to careers in medicine, healthcare, environmental science, genetics, biotechnology, and research. It provides a strong foundation for A-level sciences and university courses in life sciences.

GCSE Results August 2026

9 43.6% **9-8** 67.9% **9-7** 85.9%

“Biology is basically all about life, which makes it one of the most interesting and useful subjects you can take. If you’ve ever wondered how your body actually works, why animals do the things they do, how diseases spread, or how we can look after the planet, Biology is the subject that explains it all.”

Year 10 Student Voice

"To explore life at every level, from the cells in your body to the world's diverse ecosystems, revealing how all living things are connected."

Year 12 Student Voice

Triple Science - Biology specification QR code

Assessment

Biology Paper 1 - 50%

1h45m - written examination (100 marks)
Topics 1-4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Biology Paper 2 - 50%

1h45m - written examination (100 marks)
Topics 5-7: Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

The questions in each of the above will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

Science - next steps

A level **Biology** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in all science subjects**, even if you do not wish to pursue more than one at A level.
You also need to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Mathematics** (higher level) and a minimum of a **grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature**.



04 Triple Science - Chemistry

Content & Delivery:

Triple Science is an excellent choice for students with a genuine enthusiasm for science who are considering studying sciences at A level or pursuing careers in fields such as medicine, engineering, or scientific research.

In Chemistry, students explore the structure of the atom and how it influences chemical reactions. They develop an understanding of Chemistry in the real world, including the refinement of crude oil into petrol and diesel, the chemistry of the atmosphere and how it is changing, and the processes used to make water safe to drink worldwide.

Lessons combine theoretical learning with practical investigations, including required practicals that help develop analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. The course builds on knowledge gained at KS3 and provides a strong foundation for A-level chemistry and related pathways.

Assessment consists of two written examinations taken at the end of Year 11. Each exam lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes and covers different topic areas.

GCSE Results August 2026

9	43.6%	**9-8**	70.5%	**9-7**	92.3%

Home learning

Regular home learning includes exam-style questions, online tasks, practical follow up work to reinforce classroom learning.

Extra curricular

Students are encouraged to read around the subject. Pick topics that interest you, research some famous Chemists or look at current Chemistry research.

Careers

Chemistry is essential for careers in Medicine and Veterinary Science. It provides a strong foundation for studying Chemistry at A-Level.

"I enjoyed science in year 7, 8 and 9 so picking three science GCSEs was an easy choice for me. I have science lessons everyday and I have really liked it."

Year 10 Student Voice

"GCSE Chemistry has really prepared me for A-Level, students that took combined Science have found the jump between GCSE and A-Level far more difficult as there are several topics they have never seen. We also get to do more practical's which I enjoy"

Year 12 Student Voice

Triple Science - Chemistry specification QR code

Assessment

Chemistry Paper 1 - 50%

1h45m - written examination (100 marks)
Topics 1-5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

Chemistry Paper 2 - 50%

1h45m - written examination (100 marks)
Topics 6-10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

The questions in each of the above will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

Science - next steps

A level **Chemistry** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in all science subjects**, even if you do not wish to pursue more than one at A level.
You also need to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Mathematics** (higher level).



04 Triple Science - Physics

Content & Delivery:

Physics explains the laws of nature, covering energy, electricity, forces and motion, waves, atomic structure, and space physics.

Lessons combine theory with required practicals to develop problem-solving and mathematical skills.

Two 1h45m exams assess understanding at the end of Year 11.

Home learning

Home learning includes calculations, exam-style questions, and research tasks to apply concepts.

Extra curricular

Books: Read engaging, non-technical books that cover broad scientific topics, such as Bill Bryson's A Short History of Nearly Everything or popular physics books like Stephen Hawking's A Brief History of Time.
Documentaries & Movies: Watch science documentaries such as “The Secret Genius of” or programmes presented by Brian Cox. The films “Radioactive” and Apollo 13 are fantastic true stories.
Museums and Exhibitions: Visit Leicester Space Museum or Gaydon Motor Museum
Silver CREST project – lunch time club

Careers

Physics leads to careers in the fields of engineering, technology, astrophysics, medical physics and many more.

GCSE Results August 2026

9 34.6% **9-8** 60.3% **9-7** 87.2%

"I'm really enjoying Physics at GCSE - we get to really see how it relates to every day life and we have the opportunity to go into the topics in more depth than at KS3."

Year 10 Student Voice

"I'm really pleased I chose Triple Physics as we got to study the Space topic which isn't covered if you do Combined Science – it was really cool learning about the stars."

Year 12 Student Voice

Triple Science - Physics specification QR code

Assessment

Physics Paper 1 - 50%

1h45m - written examination (100 marks)
Topics 1-4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Physics Paper 2 - 50%

1h45m - written examination (100 marks)
Topics 5-8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics.

The questions in each of the above will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

Science - next steps

A level **Physics** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in all science subjects**, even if you do not wish to pursue more than one at A level.
You also need to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Mathematics** (higher level).



05 French

With the global nature of holiday travel, business and industry and the shortage of language skills in the UK, it has never been more important to have a sound knowledge, understanding and confidence in another modern language. French is an extremely useful and relevant subject, highly valued by employers, and will equip you with the necessary skills to learn other languages with ease in the future.

There are exams in all four skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing at the end of Year 11. In lessons you will develop your ability to speak spontaneously and with confidence and will learn to write on a variety of topics, building on the grammar studied at KS3. Topics will include the use of technology and social media, music and cinema, lifestyle and global issues, for example.

We aim to make your language lessons fun, interesting and relevant, and to equip you with useful, lifelong, practical skills which will be of benefit to you wherever you travel.

Students are required to study at least one language at GCSE.

Home learning

Students may be set a variety of tasks which may include vocabulary or grammar revision, translation, reading, writing or listening practice. Students will have access to an online textbook via Kerboodle.

Extra curricular

We aim to offer our students the opportunity to travel to the country of their chosen language, during their GCSE course. In recent years we have visited Paris and Versailles. Students are encouraged to mentor younger learners.

Careers

Studying languages can lead to specific careers such as translation, interpreting and teaching but are more widely linked to a range of careers in fields such as law, engineering, logistics, business and commerce, politics and travel. It is always an advantage to have a language on your CV!

GCSE Results August 2026

9	22.2%	**9-8**	44.4%	**9-7**	77.8%

"French GCSE is very interesting because you learn lots of grammar through translating engaging stories. You practise all of the different skills needed in the exam such as speaking and listening. Even if you only started learning it in Year 9 it will not affect your experience because you revisit all the important grammar points. I really enjoy learning about the different culture!"

Year 10 Student Voice

"I have always loved learning languages, both foreign and ancient, so carrying on my journey with the French language through A level French was a great opportunity for me to develop the special set of skills that come with learning languages like confidence in speaking and expressing yourself, boosting creativity and gaining a deeper understanding for the world in cultural and political aspects. The diversity in the range of topics that A level French teaches opens up many opportunities to express your opinions and listen to others' as well, so I think that taking French is a great way to get out of your comfort zone and develop the main skills that are very important for the future."

Year 12 Student Voice

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening - 25%

45m (50 marks)
Section A - listening comprehension (40 marks)
Section B - dictation (10 marks)

Paper 2: Speaking - 25%

10-12m + 15m supervised preparation time (50 marks)
Role-play (10 marks), reading aloud and short conversation (15 marks), and photo card discussion (25 marks).

Paper 3: Reading - 25%

1h (50 marks)
Section A - reading comprehension (40 marks)
Section B - translation from French into English (10 marks).

French specification QR code

Paper 4: Writing - 25%

1h15m (50 marks)
Q1 - translation of sentences from English into French (10 marks).
Q2 - writing in response to compulsory bullet points (15 marks).
Q3 - open-ended writing task from a choice of two questions (25 marks).

French - next steps

A level **French** can be studied at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in French**.



06 Spanish

With the global nature of holiday travel, business and industry and the shortage of language skills in the UK, it has never been more important to have a sound knowledge, understanding and confidence in another modern language. Spanish is an extremely useful and relevant subject, highly valued by employers, and will equip you with the necessary skills to learn other languages with ease in the future.

There are exams in all four skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing at the end of Year 11. In lessons you will develop your ability to speak spontaneously and with confidence and will learn to write on a variety of topics, building on the grammar studied at KS3. Topics will include the use of technology and social media, music and cinema, lifestyle and global issues, for example.

We aim to make your language lessons fun, interesting and relevant, and to equip you with useful, lifelong, practical skills which will be of benefit to you wherever you travel.

Students are required to study at least one language at GCSE.

GCSE Results August 2026

9	17.9%	**9-8**	59.0%	**9-7**	76.9%

Home learning

Students may be set a variety of tasks which may include vocabulary or grammar revision, translation, reading, writing or listening practice. Students will have access to an online textbook via Kerboodle.

Extra curricular

We aim to offer our students the opportunity to travel to the country of their chosen language, during their GCSE course. In recent years we have visited Seville and Cordóba. Students are encouraged to mentor younger learners.

Careers

Studying languages can lead to specific careers such as translation, interpreting and teaching but are more widely linked to a range of careers in fields such as law, engineering, logistics, business and commerce, politics and travel. It is always an advantage to have a language on your CV!

“In GCSE Spanish you have the chance to learn about the rich culture of Spain and expand your knowledge of the language you learn in KS3. It is a good subject choice and very enjoyable.”

Year 10 Student Voice

"Studying Spanish at A level is a culturally immersive experience, and I'm finding it really interesting and informative learning so much about the Hispanic world. It is also giving me the confidence to put my linguistic skills into practice when I travel"

Year 12 Student Voice

Spanish specification QR code

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening - 25%

45m (50 marks)
Section A - listening comprehension (40 marks)
Section B - dictation (10 marks)

Paper 2: Speaking - 25%

10-12m + 15m supervised preparation time (50 marks)
Role-play (10 marks), reading aloud and short conversation (15 marks), and photo card discussion (25 marks).

Paper 3: Reading - 25%

1h (50 marks)
Section A - reading comprehension (40 marks)
Section B - translation from Spanish into English (10 marks).

Paper 4: Writing - 25%

1h15m (50 marks)
Q1 - translation of sentences from English into Spanish (10 marks).
Q2 - writing in response to compulsory bullet points (15 marks).
Q3 - open-ended writing task from a choice of two questions (25 marks).

Spanish - next steps

A level **Spanish** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Spanish**.



07 Latin

GCSE Latin builds on the foundations of the Cambridge Latin Course, continuing into Years 10 and 11. Students deepen their understanding of Latin grammar and vocabulary while also exploring a range of original Latin literature. In Year 10, pupils consolidate their linguistic skills and study cultural and historical background topics together with beginning the Latin literature texts. In Year 11, they continue studying the set texts in Latin literature, learning how to analyse authors' style, themes and cultural significance. They also continue consolidating their Latin language skills, together with the background topics.

The course is assessed through three examinations:

- Language paper (50%) – testing translation skills, comprehension and understanding of grammar.
- Literature paper (30%) – studying selected original Latin texts.
- Civilisation (background) paper (20%) – exploring Roman society, culture and history.

There is no coursework. While Latin requires consistent effort, students who commit to regular study typically find it rewarding, manageable and highly enriching.

GCSE Results August 2026

9	42.9%	**9-8**	77.6%	**9-7**	93.9%

Home learning

Students will be set a variety of tasks which may include vocabulary learning, grammar learning, set text preparation and culture research. All of our resources can be found on cambridgescp.com or the GCSE Latin Eduqas page, meaning students have access to all of the information from home.

Extra curricular

Students studying Latin may take part in enrichment experiences to help bring the ancient world to life and support pupils' understanding of the course. For example, we run a trip to Bath every year, and give students the chance to travel to Italy or Greece! We also offer an Intermediate Certificate in Ancient Greek, run during lunchtimes, and studied over two years.

Careers

A GCSE in Latin is highly respected by employers and universities. Many students continue to A-Level Latin or Classical Civilisation, and it is valuable in fields such as law, journalism, business, computing, education and public service. Latin does not close doors; on the contrary, Latin is a subject which helps keep all your options open!

"Our lessons are very similar to those in Year 9, so it doesn't feel too much of a step up. Latin has helped me to understand how languages work and improved my confidence in English grammar. The stories and texts are really interesting and I can't wait to learn more."

Year 10 Student Voice

"Studying Latin GCSE gave me a strong foundation, and inspired me to continue to A-Level. I am currently enjoying learning about an ancient Roman lawyer, and I intend to study law at university in the future."

Year 12 Student Voice





Latin specification QR code

Assessment

Component 1: Latin Language - 50%

1h30m - written examination.
Section A -comprehension of the storyline (55%), Translation of a passage from Latin into English (35%). Section B - translation from English into Latin (10%)

Component 2: Latin and Literature Sources - 30%

1h15m - written examination (*open-book assessment)*
A prescription of Latin literature, both prose and verse, on a theme together with prescribed ancient source materials on the same theme. A choice of one of two themes is offered.

Component 3B: Roman Civilisation - 20%

1h - written examination.
A prescribed topic of Roman Civilisation. A choice of one of two topics is offered.

Latin - next steps

A level **Latin** and **Classical Civilisation** are offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Latin**.



08 Art and Design - Fine Art

In the GCSE Art and Design course the emphasis is as much on the creative process as on the end product. Drawing is also an essential skill in the development process, from initial visual research, recording from primary sources, through to the translation of ideas into finished designs.

The Coursework Assignment which is worth 60% of the marks involves creating a work journal/sketchbook showing a range of skill-based tasks, personal design work, contextual references, experimentation and the development of ideas culminating in a final outcome to be completed by January Year 11.

The Externally Set Assignment, worth 40% of the overall marks, is given to the students in January of Year 11 and requires the creation of a new work journal based on a chosen starting point from the OCR question paper, culminating with the completion of a final outcome during a 10-hour, 2-day examination which follows the normal pattern of the school day.

GCSE Results August 2026

9	33.3%	**9-8**	57.1%	**9-7**	76.2%

Home learning

Contextual art history research, annotation to support the development of ideas, producing studies to further develop technical ability and documenting your journey throughout your sketchbook.

Extra curricular

Year 10: a visit to Oxford to view a wonderfully eclectic array of inspiring artwork/artefacts at the prestigious Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology and the Pitt Rivers Museum.
Year 11: a trip to the prominent V&A museum, helping support students to discover and ignite their own unique ideas in response to their Externally Set Assignment.
At RHS, students regularly take part and win awards in gallery exhibitions such as the annual Rotary competition.

Careers

Studying GCSE Art can open up a wide range of career opportunities within the creative industries. Careers can include: architecture, video games design, illustration, curation, restoration, artist, teaching, art therapy, cinematography, special effects makeup and many more. Studying Art develops creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving, boosting confidence, emotional intelligence, and self-expression.

"I chose GCSE art as it helps me to develop my creative and practical skills, that I can use in many other subjects. In art you have lots of creative freedom when choosing themes, artists, and medias, which is why I enjoy it. I recommend doing art if you have a passion for it, as having three lessons a week improves your technique significantly. Overall, art is such a fun and engaging subject, and I think you should consider it."

Year 10 Student Voice

"Art is such a rewarding subject, being able to create something unique is such an amazing feeling; always remember that you are allowed to be proud of your own art! It's very easy to see all the flaws and things that need improving but if you step back and realise that it is your creation and something to be proud of, you'll see it in a different light. As hard as it can be sometimes, it does require commitment and time and you must have a passion and interest in art as that triggers many other ideas and is immensely helpful later on down the line. It has taught me to embrace my creativity and use it in my art and out, in my day to day life, it is so incredibly useful and it has definitely shaped who I am."

Year 12 Student Voice







Art and Design - Fine Art specification QR code

Assessment

Portfolio - 60%

120 marks - *Non-exam assessment (NEA)* Internally assessed and externally moderated.
Practical work showing personal response to a set starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus.

Externally set assignment - 40%

80 marks + 10h supervised practical examination.
Non-exam assessment (NEA) Internally assessed and externally moderated.
A response based on one of the options provided in the early release paper, each with a range of written and visual starting points and stimuli.

Fine Art - next steps

A level **Fine Art** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Art or Textiles**.
Alternatively, if you have not studied GCSE Art, a place on the course may still be offered based on a review of a **personal portfolio** of work.



09 Art and Design - Textile Design

The wide range of activities covered may include: weaving, knitting, crochet, jewellery, felting, embroidery, beading, constructed forms, appliqué, silk painting, batik, and printing. In Art Textiles the emphasis is as much on the creative process as on the end product.

The Coursework Assignment which is worth 60% of the marks involves creating a work journal/sketchbook showing a range of skill-based tasks, personal design work, contextual references, experimentation and the development of ideas culminating in a final outcome to be completed by January Year 11.

The Externally Set Assignment, worth 40% of the overall marks, is given to the students in January of Year 11 and requires the creation of a new work journal based on a chosen starting point from the OCR question paper, culminating with the completion of a final outcome during a 10-hour, 2-day examination which follows the normal pattern of the school day.

GCSE Results August 2026

9	16.7%	**9-8**	33.3%	**9-7**	58.3%

Home learning

Contextual art history research, annotation to support the development of ideas, producing studies to further develop technical ability and documenting your journey throughout your sketchbook.

Extra curricular

Year 10: a visit to Oxford to view a wonderfully eclectic array of inspiring artwork/artefacts at the prestigious Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology and the Pitt Rivers Museum.
Year 11: a trip to the prominent V&A museum, helping support students to discover and ignite their own unique ideas in response to their Externally Set Assignment.
At RHS, students regularly take part and win awards in gallery exhibitions such as the annual Rotary competition.

Careers

Studying GCSE Textiles can open up a wide range of career opportunities within creative industries. Careers can include: fashion design, interior design, surface pattern, textile design, pattern cutter, jewellery design, costume designer, garment technologist, illustrator, stylist and many more. Studying Textiles develops creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving, boosting confidence, emotional intelligence, and self-expression.

"I highly recommend taking Textiles GCSE as it gives you the opportunity to be as creative as you want in many different forms! One big benefit is that there is no revision as the final exam is a practical but you do have to do project work throughout the course. Although this is a lot of work, if you genuinely enjoy it you will love doing it."

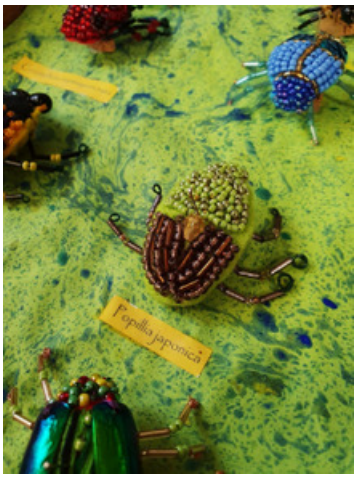
Year 10 Student Voice

"I chose A level Textiles because it provides me with a creative skill set and allows me to study vastly different areas that my other A levels don't explore. I really enjoy the coursework-based aspect of the course as it is a breath of fresh air from my exam-based subjects. I think Textiles is a great subject choice at A level as it's a great creative outlet that explores a variety of techniques and approaches."

Year 12 Student Voice







Art and Design - Textile Design specification QR code

Assessment

Portfolio - 60%

120 marks - *Non-exam assessment (NEA)* Internally assessed and externally moderated. Practical work showing personal response to a set starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus.

Externally set assignment - 40%

80 marks + 10h supervised practical examination.
Non-exam assessment (NEA) Internally assessed and externally moderated.
A response based on one of the options provided in the early release paper, each with a range of written and visual starting points and stimuli.

Textile Design - next steps

A level **Textile Design** can be studied at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Textiles or Art**.
Alternatively, if you have not studied GCSE Textiles, a place on the course may still be offered based on a review of a **personal portfolio** of work.



10 Music

The content of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language is taught through four Areas of Study (AoS), each containing set works. Students will focus on set works from two different AoS; these are wide ranging and include The Western Classical Tradition, Popular Music, Traditional Music and 20th Century Music. Students are also required to appraise unfamiliar music through wider listening.
Set works include Beethoven's First Symphony (Western Classical Tradition) and three songs by Esperanza Spalding (Contemporary Cultural Music).

Performing music: One performance must be as a soloist and one piece must be as part of an ensemble.
A minimum of four minutes in total is required, of which a minimum of one minute must be the ensemble performance.

Composing music: Two musically convincing compositions must be developed. One composition must be in response to an externally set brief and the other a free composition.
A minimum of three minutes of music in total is required.

GCSE Results August 2026

9 50.0% **9-8** 75.0% **9-7** 87.5%

Home learning

Home learning includes regular practice of an instrument/voice, creating new compositional ideas, researching styles of music, listening to a wide range of music, and listening/music theory exercises.

Extra curricular

Students can participate in a range of performing opportunities at school and in the local area: music workshops, School Choir, Orchestra and Show Band, Music trips, Battle of the Bands.

Careers

Careers that may lead on from a qualification in Music include performing, composing, producing, teaching and therapy, as well as business roles like artist management, marketing, or technical positions such as sound engineering, live event production, and instrument repair.

"Music lessons are relaxed and fun, and you spend time playing and practising your own instrument (vocals included) and listening to famous composers' work, analysing what techniques they use and how you can apply them in your own work. It's really enjoyable, and GCSE Music is a great choice!"

Year 10 Student Voice

"Music is one of my passions and it's amazing to be able to further explore at A Level. I enjoy every lesson due to being able to discover new music in a wide diversity of styles, while also analysing the deeper nuances and complexities of pieces you might already know, providing a newfound sense of appreciation for it."

Year 12 Student Voice



Music specification QR code

Assessment

Component 1: Understanding music - 40%

1h30m (96 marks) - written examination with listening exercises.
Section A: Listening - unfamiliar music (68 marks)
Section B: Study pieces (28 marks)

Component 2: Performing music - 30%

72 marks Non-exam assessment (NEA) Internally assessed and externally moderated.
Performance 1: Solo performance (36 marks)
Performance 2: Ensemble performance (36 marks)

Component 3: Composing music - 30%

72 marks Non-exam assessment (NEA) Internally assessed and externally moderated.
Composition 1: Composition to a brief (36 marks)
Composition 2: Free composition (36 marks)

Music - next steps

A level **Music** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Music**.



11 Drama

The specification provides as much opportunity as possible for students to do what they like best – participate in performance. All students devise drama. All students explore texts practically and work on two text-based performances.
Students can choose to develop as a:
• performer
• designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets)
• performer and designer.

Whichever option they choose, students can be sure to gather many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.

At RHS, students explore a range of stimuli that are suited to their interests to inspire creative and exciting theatrical work. Performance texts also change according to the cohort to ensure that students perform challenging roles, catered to their individual needs and strengths. Our set text is The Crucible by Arthur Miller.

Home learning

Home learning includes tasks such as research, reading and watching plays, learning lines, developing scripts, and practice essays.

Extra curricular

Students have the opportunity to watch a range of plays via Digital Theatre Plus, participate in school productions, share work with other schools, watch performances at local theatres and further a field.

Careers

Careers that lead from a Drama qualification include the performing arts, media, business, law, advertising, sales, hospitality, and tourism amongst many others.

GCSE Results August 2026

9 55.6% **9-8** 61.1% **9-7** 94.4%

"Drama is a great GCSE because it is fun and creative, and you get to experiment with loads of different techniques and styles. It also helps you build confidence, work well with others, and explore ideas in a very engaging way!"

Year 10 Student Voice

"Drama is a dysfunctional family made by people of all kinds united by the redemptive power of theatre. But seriously, Drama is the BEST option to study for it encourages collaboration, creativity and is a supportive ensemble of all people from day one. Drama improves confidence, it never has a dull-moment with the exciting themes and plays to explore with two, might I say, very helpful, fun and supportive teachers."

Year 12 Student Voice



Drama specification QR code

Assessment

Component 1: Understanding drama - 40%

1h45m (80 marks) - written examination *(open-book assessment)*
Section A: multiple choice (4 marks) Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play (44 marks) Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (32 marks)

Component 2: Devising drama - 40%

80 marks Non-exam assessment (NEA) Internally assessed and externally moderated.
Devising log (60 marks)
Devised performance (20 marks)

Component 3: Texts in practice - 20%

40 marks externally marked performance.
Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks) as either a performer or designer.

Drama - next steps

A level **Drama and Theatre Studies** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Drama**.
Alternatively, if you have not studied GCSE Drama, you need to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in English Literature**.



12 Business

The aim of the Business department is to generate an entrepreneurial spirit in students that is substantiated with sound theoretical knowledge. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the four main functions within a business namely, Marketing, Finance, Operations and Human Resources. This breadth of knowledge provides students will all the basic understanding they need to start their own business in the future.

The course is divided into two units, which helps the students analyse different types and sizes of organisations. In Year 10, the course focuses on the journey entrepreneurs will take from their original idea for a business through to launching it to market. We look at the challenges they face, from researching the market, to organising finance and finally to choosing the appropriate launch strategy for their products. Then in Year 11, we switch our attention to larger businesses and the challenges they face in the modern day, considering aspects such as globalisation, methods of business expansion and working with staff and suppliers to improve your company. By the end of the course students will possess the skills and knowledge required to run their own company if they choose to, or have a greater understanding of the potential roles available to them in business in the future.

GCSE Results August 2026

9 15.6% **9-8** 31.3% **9-7** 50.0%

Home learning

Home learning focuses around consolidating knowledge from lessons and regular end of unit tests help students to develop their exam technique. Other assignments in the course will include poster making and preparing presentations for the class.

Extra curricular

Students will be invited to take part in different national business competitions during the course. As a group we take an educational trip to Cadbury world in December of Year 11 with a talk on marketing and distribution along with a tour of the factory.

Careers

Business is very multidimensional with regards to careers routes. As previously mentioned, the course introduces students to different aspects and skills within all organisations so they may find their passion for their future career development.

"I love Business because it provides me with many key life skills such as problem solving and analysing markets, whilst also giving me an in depth understanding of why businesses make certain decisions."

Year 10 Student Voice

"A lot of people are scared about taking Business Studies as it isn't taught lower down in the school, but it's probably the most rewarding subject you can take. You realise that you do know a lot more about the content of the course than you think, whether it is due to general knowledge or the understanding of businesses. I am now taking both A Level Business and Economics in Year 12"

Year 12 Student Voice

Business specification QR code

Assessment

Theme 1: Investigating small business - 50%

1h45m (90 marks) - written examination
Topics 1.1-1.5: Enterprise and entrepreneurship; Spotting a business opportunity; Putting a business idea into practice; Making the business effective; and Understanding external influences on a business.

Theme 2: Building a business- 50%

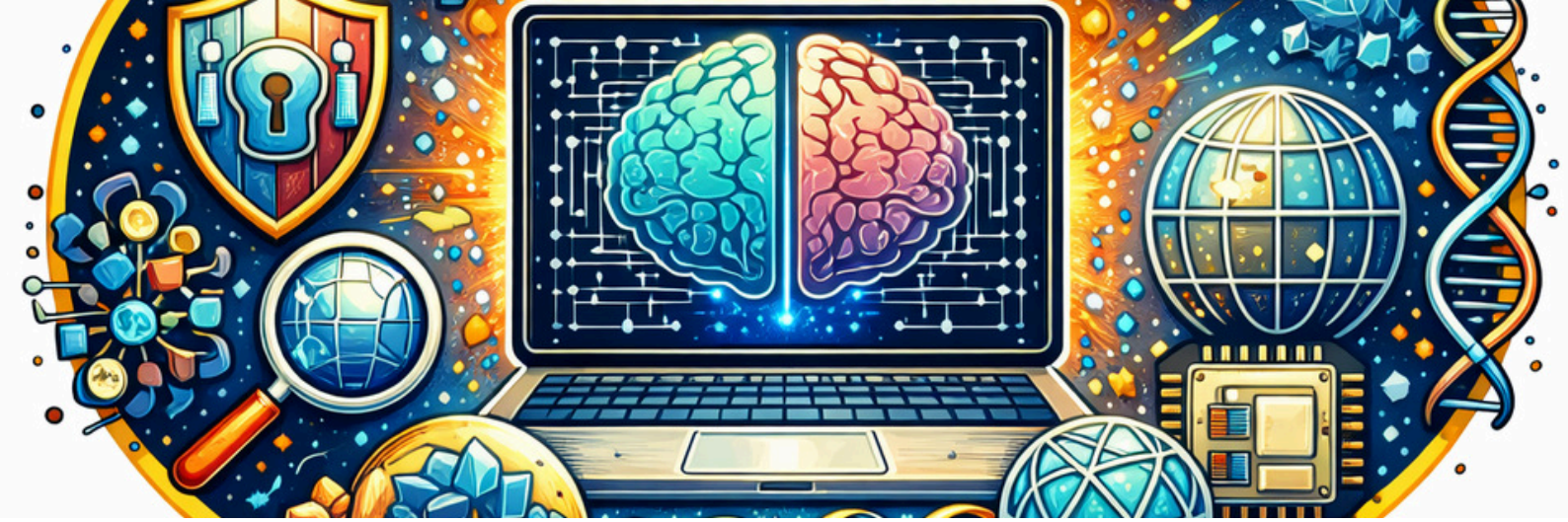
1h45m (90 marks) - written examination
Topics 2.1-2.5: Growing the business; Making marketing decisions; Making operational decisions; Making financial decisions; and Making human resource decisions.

Paper 1 is based solely on the knowledge from Unit 1 (Year 10), and paper 2 is on the knowledge from Unit 2 (Year 11). Both include multiple choice, calculation, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Sections B and C are based on real life, relevant business contexts and examples.

Business - next steps

A level **Business** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in both English Language and Mathematics**.

A level **Economics** is also offered at RH6. The subject specific entry requirements are the same as those for studying A level Business.



13 Computer Science

Computer Science develops a precise understanding of how computational systems work, covering programming, algorithms, data representation, hardware, networks, cybersecurity, and the ethical use of technology. Pupils study both the theoretical principles that underpin modern computing and the practical techniques required to design, write, test, and refine programs.

Lessons combine direct teaching with guided problem-solving, structured programming tasks, technical demonstrations, and opportunities for pupils to work independently on controlled projects. Pupils learn to break problems into logical steps, construct efficient algorithms, and implement them using a high-level language such as Python.

Theory topics are explored through clear exposition, applied examples, and short analytical tasks, ensuring pupils can explain concepts with precision.

Throughout the course, pupils develop computational thinking, resilience, and disciplined technical accuracy, preparing them for further study or industry-based work in a rapidly evolving digital environment.

GCSE Results August 2026

9 37.8% **9-8** 59.5% **9-7** 73.0%

Home learning

Home learning includes short programming exercises, retrieval practice, written theory responses, and focused revision tasks designed to consolidate lesson content and strengthen long-term retention.

Extra curricular

Pupils can take part in small programming challenges, enrichment talks, online problem-solving activities, and optional reading that explores emerging technologies, computing history, and real-world applications of algorithms.

Careers

Computer Science supports progression into software development, data analysis, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, digital engineering, and IT infrastructure roles. It establishes foundational skills valued in technical industries, research sectors, and any profession requiring logical thinking and computational precision.

“I’ve never regretted a minute of it. It’s wonderful, very well explained and easy to keep up with.”

Year 10 Student Voice

"The content has always been explained in a way that is really clear and relatable."

Year 12 Student Voice

Computer Science specification QR code

Assessment

Paper 1: Computer systems - 50%

1h30m (80 marks) - written examination
Topics 1.1-1.6: Systems architecture; Memory and storage; Computer networks, connections and protocols; Network security; Systems software; and Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - 50%

1h30m (80 marks) - written examination
Topics 2.1-2.5: Algorithms; Programming fundamentals; Producing robust programs, Boolean logic; and Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

The papers above consist of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.

Computer Science - next steps

A level **Computer Science** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Mathematics**.



14 Physical Education

The GCSE Physical Education course presents the ideal opportunity for students who wish to put greater emphasis on personal performance, as well as acquiring theoretical knowledge of the subject.

You will have three lessons a week (on top of your three core PE lessons). GCSE lessons will be a mix of theory and practical. Some of what you will study includes; the structures and functions of body systems, impacts of nutrition and training methods, influence of society/media/sponsorship, planes and axes of movement, as well as the feedback and guidance given to all stages of learners and the outcomes of each.



GCSE Results August 2026

9 42.9% **9-8** 64.3% **9-7** 78.6%

Home learning

As we encourage you to have active and sporty lives outside of school, the vast majority of our theory work is covered in lessons, including the written NEA. Independent regular recall of previous topics is always encouraged though, be that through reading over class notes, and/or creating your own revision resources.

Extra curricular

Clubs - GCSE students have Badminton and Netball lunch sessions in the Autumn term, that they are expected to attend in order to get the best assessment mark.
Trips - In Year 10 we go to Birmingham to watch the Yonex Badminton Championships where we see truly inspirational levels of play. Then in Year 11, once all content is covered, we organise a fun trip to Stratford to have a go at Bungee Fitness.

Careers

Careers are ever growing in this field. There are opportunities in areas including; performance, media, science and operations. So whether you are business minded or want to work directly with athletes, there are many roads this could lead down.

"GCSE PE is one of my favourite subjects as I really enjoy learning about the science behind sports as well as taking part in physical activity. Doing exercise lets me take a break from lots of learning in a classroom which is one of the reasons why I chose GCSE PE."

Year 10 Student Voice

"When choosing my GCSE options, I had limited knowledge of what GCSE PE involved; however, after the first few lessons, I quickly realised it would become one of my favourite subjects. The course perfectly combines my passion for playing sport with learning how the body works in an engaging and enjoyable way. Although I previously struggled to decide what I wanted to do in the future, studying GCSE PE has helped me gain clarity and inspired me to pursue a career in sport."

Year 12 Student Voice

Assessment

Physical Education specification QR code

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems - 36%

1h30m (80 marks) written examination
Topics 1-4: Applied anatomy and physiology; Movement analysis; Physical training; and Use of data

Component 2: Health and Performance - 24%

1h15m (60 marks) written examination
Topics 1-4: Health, fitness and wellbeing; Sport psychology; Socio-cultural influences; and Use of data

Component 3: Practical Performance - 30%

105 marks (35 marks per activity)
Completion of three physical activities from a set list. One must be a **team** activity. One must be an **individual** activity. The final activity can be a **free** choice.

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) - 10%

20 marks Non-exam assessment (NEA) Internally assessed and externally moderated.
Production of a PEP including: Aims and planning analysis; Carrying out and monitoring the PEP; and Evaluation of the PEP

Components 1 and 2 consist of multiple-choice, short-answer, long-answer and one extended writing question in each component.

Physical Education - next steps

A level **Physical Education** can be studied at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in English Language and Biology**.



15 Food Preparation and Nutrition

Key Areas of Study;
The course content is divided into four main sections:
Nutrition: The relationship between diet and health, the functions of macronutrients and micronutrients, energy balance, and the specific dietary needs of different life stages and groups.

Food (Provenance and Choice): Where food comes from (sourcing, production, processing), factors influencing food choices (cultural, ethical, economic), food security, and British and international culinary traditions.

Cooking and Food Preparation: The scientific principles of cooking (heat transfer, functional properties of ingredients like gelatinisation and coagulation), sensory properties of food, and food safety and hygiene.

Skills Requirements: The practical development and mastery of a wide range of cooking skills and techniques, including knife skills, using raising agents, and dough preparation.

GCSE Results August 2026

9	20.0%	**9-8**	66.7%	**9-7**	100.0%

Home learning

Home learning will be a combination of theory and research, for example, completing worksheets, exam-style questions, conducting research, revising for tests or exams and writing reports to explain scientific principles.

Extra curricular

The UCB Food College trip for Year 10 perfectly aligns with career exploration, allowing students to see where further education in food can lead and gain valuable hands-on experience in professional settings.
The Cadbury World trip for Year 11, run with the Business department, provides insightful real-world context for food manufacturing, product development, history, and the commercial aspects of the food industry.

Careers

Studying Food can provide links to a range of career areas such as: culinary and hospitality, food science and technology, product development scientist/researcher, nutrition and health.

"I really enjoy Food and think that its really worth taking if you enjoy cooking. It has a good balance between the theory and the practicals, which is really nice if you have taken any heavy content subjects. It can be helpful if you want to go into fields like medicine (nutritionist) or a food scientist and it's a good skill to have."

Year 10 Student Voice





Food Preparation and Nutrition specification QR code

Assessment

Component 1: Food Preparation and Nutrition - 50%

1h30m (100 marks) - written examination
Topics: Nutrition; Food provenance and food choice; Cooking and food preparation; and preparation and cooking techniques.

Component 2: Food Investigation Task - 15%

45 marks Non-exam assessment (NEA) Internally assessed and externally moderated. Assessing the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food, demonstrating practical skills and knowledge. One task selected from set task titles.

Component 3: Food Preparation Task - 35%

105 marks Non-exam assessment (NEA) Internally assessed and externally moderated.
Assessing the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.
One task selected from set task titles.

Food - next steps

There is currently no A level **Food** qualification available nationally.
Many students who wish to pursue a career in Food opt to study A level **Biology or Chemistry**, both of which are offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements for these are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in all science subjects**, even if you do not wish to pursue more than one at A level.



16 History

Content and Delivery:
Germany, 1890 – 1945 covering the period from Kaiser Wilhelm II until the end of WW2; this unit looks at the changing fortunes of the German people, including the causes and impacts of WWI, new outlook of Weimar Germany and experiences of people under Nazi control.

Conflict and Tension, 1918 – 1939; this module looks in detail and the international situation between the First and Second World Wars particularly focusing on the peace treaties at the end of WWI and the growing international tension that ultimately leads to the outbreak of war again in 1939.

Health and the People, c.1000 – the present day; Health and the People is very much a breadth topic, covering themes across the development of medicine in the last millennium, such as surgery and knowledge of anatomy, treatment and prevention of disease and public health.

Elizabethan England, 1568-1603; our study of Elizabethan England looks in depth at Tudor life covering social aspects such as attitudes towards the poor, religious change as Elizabeth seeks to consolidate the Reformation and political events such as rebellions aimed at removing her from power.

GCSE Results August 2026

9 21.2% **9-8** 54.5% **9-7** 75.8%

Home learning

In History home learning may include learning of new material using the online text book, consolidation of knowledge such as revision for factual tests and completion of exam questions.

Extra curricular

Extra-curricular opportunities vary from year to year dependent on the Historic Environment topic being studied but can include online discussion with historians or trips to relevant sites.

Careers

History GCSE is a gateway to many different career options. As a subject which enables critical thinking and the ability to develop and communicate an argument it is seen as providing significant key skills. Traditionally those studying History have entered law, teaching, journalism and politics but many students who are looking at STEM careers also value the ability to show their skills in more extended writing.

"I'm really glad I chose History because I'm enjoying learning about the world and gaining a wider perspective on why it's the way it is today. I'm learning analytical skills at the same time which is useful."

Year 10 Student Voice

"It covered a wide range of topics which was intriguing. It was fun and we thoroughly enjoyed it."

Year 12 Student Voice

History specification QR code

Assessment

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world - 50%

2h (84 marks) - written examination
Section A: a choice of four period studies, each with a focus on two key developments in a country's history over at least a 50 year period. Section B: a choice of five wider world depth studies. These focus on international conflict and tension.

Paper 2: Shaping the nation - 50%

2h (84 marks) - written examination
Section A: a choice of three thematic studies, which look at key developments in Britain over a long period. Section B: a choice of four British depth studies incorporating the study of a specific historic event.

History - next steps

A level **History** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in History**.
Alternatively, if you have not studied GCSE History, you need to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in English Language**.
A level **Politics** is also offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in English Language**.



17 Geography

Geography helps you to understand the World's biggest challenges, from Climate Change and Resource Management to Urbanisation and Global inequality. Studying GCSE Geography offers an engaging mix of physical and human topics. Could you be someone who helps society solve these issues and have a positive impact on the future?

Are you...

- Keen to understand the changing world?
- Able to work independently and as a team?
- Someone who likes varied and engaging lessons?
- Willing to have your own opinion and justify it in an exam?

Do you...

- Enjoy Year 9 Geography?
- Want an opportunity to learn outdoors?
- Like learning about how and why life is different around the world?
- Take an interest in natural disasters?

If so, you should strongly consider studying Geography!

GCSE Results August 2026

9	28.8%	**9-8**	57.6%	**9-7**	84.8%

Home learning

Regular home learning includes exam-style questions, research tasks, data interpretation and revision. Students are encouraged to read Geography magazines and follow the news closely to keep up to date with current geographical events.

Extra curricular

Two fieldwork days to Carding Mill Valley and Birmingham provide hands-on experience in physical and human geography. Students are also encouraged to enter the Young Geographer of the Year Competition run by the Royal Geographical Society, which one of our students won in 2024.

Careers

Geography develops transferable skills for a wide variety of careers including: law; business; medicine; engineering; architecture; planning and conservation. Through GCSE Geography, you will develop a wide range of academic and transferable skills valuable for any A Level. Employers value geographers for their analytical thinking, problem-solving and ability to understand social, economic and environmental challenges.

"Geography has become one of my favourite subjects, not just because of the content but because the teachers are lovely and accommodating. The content is understandable and taught in an organized way. Geography is a great choice!"

Year 10 Student Voice

"Studying Geography helps you feel more connected to what is happening around the World. Through Geography, I have gained a deeper understanding of the differences between countries, which I hope to use in my future career."

Year 12 Student Voice

Geography specification QR code

Assessment

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues - 37.5%

1h30m (94 marks) - written examination
Topics 1-3: Hazardous Earth; Development dynamics; and Challenges of an urbanising world.

Component 2: Geographical Issues - 37.5%

1h45m (94 marks) - written examination
Topics 4-6: The UK's evolving physical landscape; The UK's evolving human landscape; and Geographical investigations - including **one** physical fieldwork investigation and **one** human fieldwork investigation.

Component 3: People and Environment Issues - 25%

1h30m (64 marks) - written examination
Topics 7-9: People and the biosphere; Forests under threats; and Consuming energy sources.

The components include multiple-choice questions, short open, open response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Geography - next steps

A level **Geography** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in Geography**.



18 Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies will not only develop your knowledge and understanding of religion in the 21st Century, it will also enrich your understanding of the world you live in. By exploring both religious and secular perspectives in contemporary social and moral debates, your critical thinking skills will be tested and your world view will be challenged! The course requires students to grapple with controversial issues and asks you to really think about the wider implications of different beliefs and practices for the human experience. Some questions you will think about include:

- Is it ever ok to end a human life?
- What does gender mean in the 21st Century?
- Is there such a thing as necessary evil?
- When is it ok to start a war?
- What's wrong with idolatry?
- How should criminals be treated?

The course involves the study of:
Religion and Ethics, covering:
Christian Beliefs
Marriage and the Family
Living the Christian Life
Matters of Life and Death
..and **Religion, Peace and Conflict**, covering:
Islamic Beliefs
Peace and Conflict
Living the Islamic Life
Crime and Punishment

GCSE Results August 2026

9 45.5% **9-8** 72.7% **9-7** 90.9%

Home learning

Home learning activities typically include wider reading and producing written responses to a range of questions. Students are also encouraged to explore topical material through research and discussion.

Extra curricular

Beyond the classroom, students can hone their critical evaluation skills by getting involved in running philosophy debate clubs and taking part in external tournaments, such as the prestigious Ethics Cup, where Religious Studies GCSE students have formerly competed.

Careers

Religious Studies aims to equip you with skills that allow you to stand out as an independent thinker, preparing you for a diverse range of careers where sensitivity towards others, or an ability to respectfully challenge the ways people think and act might be required. Examples include law, journalism, medicine, social work, and creative industries.

"Religious Studies is great because you can learn about other peoples perspectives while gaining a greater understanding of your own beliefs."

Year 10 Student Voice

"A-level Religious Studies has been useful to expand my critical thinking, helping me to see different perspectives in new ways. The support I've received has been incredible!"

Year 12 Student Voice



Religious Studies specification QR code

Assessment

Paper 1: Religion and Ethics - 50%

1h45m (102 marks) - written examination
Christianity - Beliefs; Marriage and the Family; Living the Religious Life; and Matters of Life and Death

Paper 2: Religion, Peace and Conflict - 50%

1h45m (102 marks) - written examination
Islam - Beliefs; Crime and Punishment; Living the Religious Life; and Peace and Conflict

The papers include short open, open response and extended writing questions.

PRS - next steps

A level **Philosophy and Religious Studies** is offered at RH6.
The subject specific entry requirements are to achieve a *minimum* of a GCSE **grade 6 in English Language**.

RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL

GCSE Cohort 2027-29