



Horizon Community College

Year 9 Options

Information Booklet

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Everyone will study the core curriculum below:

English and English Literature
Mathematics
Double Science
RE
ICT
PE

Students are then able to choose 4 from the following list:

Art and Design
Business Studies
Catering
Child Development
Dance
Drama
Electronics
Extra Support for GCSE English
Extra Support for GCSE Mathematics
Food
French
Geography
Graphics
Health and Social Care
History
Horticulture
Media
Music
Music Technology
Performing Arts
Product Design
Resistant Materials
Spanish
Textiles
Third Science

There will be a selection of off-site courses using other providers for some students

Information about subjects

Art and Design

In Art and Design, students explore visual, tactile and other sensory experiences to communicate ideas and meanings. They work with traditional and new media, developing confidence, competence, imagination and creativity. They learn to appreciate and value images and artifacts across times and cultures, and to understand the contexts in which they were made. In art and design, students reflect critically on their own and other people's work, judging quality, value and meaning. They learn to think and act as artists, craftspeople and designers, working creatively and intelligently.

Business Studies

This course will introduce students to various aspects of the world of business. It will encourage them to consider the impact of the business environment, workplace organisation, human resources management and effective communication on the running of a business. Students will understand the nature of business and will actively experience the business environment. The course will introduce students to work related learning, provide them with an overview of the business sector, give them the technical knowledge and equip them with skills that they will need in the workplace.

Hospitality and Catering

The course will provide an opportunity for students to develop their knowledge and extend their skills within Hospitality and Catering in a vocational context. It is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress to further education. It will offer valuable preparation for those entering the world of work. The course encourages the investigation and study of hospitality and catering in a variety of contexts and uses a range of assessment techniques to enable students to respond through practical and investigative work.

Child Development

In Child Development, students are introduced to the various aspects of pregnancy, parenthood and care and health of the child. They develop an understanding of how a child develops physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially and how environmental factors can influence this. At present, the course is assessed through a mixture of external examination and internal assignments. The main assignment takes the form of a Child Study, in which students are expected to plan activities that are appropriate to the age and stage of development of a child up to the age of 5 years.

Dance

This course will help students develop as dancers, choreographers and performers by participating in a wide range of practical workshops. Students will develop an understanding of the basic physical and interpretive skills of dance and they will be able to demonstrate an awareness of appropriate styles and qualities of performance. They will also have a clear understanding of how to review their own progress in rehearsal and performance, and be able to analyse features such as lighting, costume and set design which contribute to the dance idea.

Drama

Drama is mainly practical but there is a written coursework element which backs up practical work. The course is exciting, innovative and fun! It is designed to develop respect between students therefore broadening communication skills, building confidence, and examining relationships through role-work and group projects. Students must show a willingness to: participate fully and co-operate with others in group situations; devise and perform plays to show to an audience; document thoughts and opinions on own work; offer constructive criticism to others about their performances; show commitment to the subject in all areas.

English and English Literature (CORE)

English is vital for communicating with others in school and in the wider world, and is fundamental to learning in all curriculum subjects. In studying English, students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing that they will need to participate in society and employment. Students learn to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others confidently and effectively. In studying English Literature, students experience the richness of literary writing in poetry, novels, short stories and plays. They learn to appreciate a wide range of literature and develop skills themselves as writers, poets and playwrights, understanding at the same time the importance of literature for the pleasure of expression and social comment.

Extra Support for GCSE English

The importance of English as a subject is obvious and some students, therefore, may decide to opt for extra lessons in English in order to ensure that they are successful in gaining at least a C grade in this subject. Opting for this will still allow students 3 option choices, but would give them greater opportunity and confidence in gaining this very important qualification.

Geography

The study of geography stimulates an interest in and a sense of wonder about places. It helps young people make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world. It explains where places are, how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact, and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected. It builds on students' own experiences to investigate places at all scales, from the personal to the global.

Health and Social Care

Through Health and Social Care, students will understand how people grow and develop throughout the life stages from birth, right through to later adulthood. They will also explore the personal relationships people have during their lives and understand the impact these relationships can have on an individual's health. Students will study the factors that affect health and wellbeing such as exercise, smoking, marriage, income, pollution etc and how physical health is measured e.g. blood pressure, hip/waist ratio, blood glucose levels.

History

History fires pupils' curiosity and imagination, moving and inspiring them with the dilemmas, choices and beliefs of people in the past. It helps students develop their own identities through an understanding of history at personal, local, national and international levels. It helps them to ask and answer questions of the present by engaging with the past. Students find out about the history of their community, Britain, Europe and the world. They develop a

chronological overview that enables them to make connections within and across different periods and societies.

Horticulture

During this course all students will work in the school grounds to complete a variety of gardening tasks, the nature of which will be seasonal dependent. The course is mainly practical but some units have a small written component. Students learn to complete basic horticultural tasks such as sowing seeds, pricking out seedlings and planting container grown plug plants. The emphasis is on working safely, following standard procedures and working independently of adult help.

ICT (CORE)

The increasing use of technology in all aspects of society makes confident, creative and productive use of ICT an essential skill for life. ICT capability encompasses not only the mastery of technical skills and techniques, but also the understanding to apply these skills purposefully, safely and responsibly in learning, everyday life and employment. ICT capability is fundamental to participation and engagement in modern society. ICT can be used to find, develop, analyse and present information, as well as to model situations and solve problems.

Languages - French and Spanish

Languages are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work. Learning languages contributes to mutual understanding, a sense of global citizenship and personal fulfillment. Students learn to appreciate different countries, cultures, communities and people. By making comparisons, they gain insight into their own culture and society. The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for education, employment and leisure in this country and throughout the world.

Mathematics (CORE)

Mathematical thinking is important for all members of a modern society as a habit of mind for its use in the workplace, business and finance; and for personal decision-making. Mathematics is fundamental to national prosperity in providing tools for understanding science, engineering, technology and economics. It is essential in public decision-making and for participation in the knowledge economy. Mathematics equips students with uniquely powerful ways to describe, analyse and change the world.

Extra Support for GCSE Mathematics

The importance of Mathematics as a subject is obvious and some students, therefore, may decide to opt for extra lessons in Mathematics in order to ensure that they are successful in gaining at least a C grade in this subject. Opting for this will still allow students 3 option choices, but would give them greater opportunity and confidence in gaining this very important qualification.

Media Studies

The media (Television, Radio, Newspapers etc) play a significant part in our daily lives and are worthy of close scrutiny. Media is an exciting and challenging subject which encourages students to critically engage with and evaluate a broad range of media products. This course, seeking to develop creativity and confidence in a student's ability to think, question, create and communicate, uses a wide variety of approaches to develop student understanding of the media and gives them an excellent grounding for life beyond school.

Music

Music is a unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. Music forms part of an individual's identity and positive interaction with music can develop pupils' competence as learners and increase their self-esteem. Music brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of culture, past and present, music helps pupils understand themselves, relate to others and develop their cultural understanding, forging important links between home, school and the wider world.

Music Technology

Music Technology gives students an insight into the technology and equipment utilised in modern music production. Students will: develop an understanding of the music technology process; develop creative and technical skills; develop ICT skills both in the studio and through computer software; develop communication, time management and team working skills; develop a real understanding of working in a professional environment.

PE (CORE)

PE develops students' competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities that become a central part of their lives, both in and out of school. A high-quality PE curriculum enables all pupils to enjoy and succeed in many kinds of physical activity. They develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. When they are performing, they think about what they are doing, analyse the situation and make decisions. They also reflect on their own and others' performances and find ways to improve them.

Performing Arts

This is a practical course which gives students the skills and disciplines related to working in the performing arts. The course provides a broad introduction to all aspects of performance, including singing, acting and dance techniques, improvisation, devising and basic technical theatre. Research and a portfolio of work will support all practical assignments. Students will take part in a wide range of workshops, small and large scale productions and be encouraged to develop a good understanding of the discipline of live performance.

RE (CORE)

Religious education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops students' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions, and other world views that offer answers to these challenging questions. Students will develop their skills in discussing, listening to the opinions of others and presenting arguments. It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, and of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures. Many aspects of citizenship and PSHE will be covered within this core subject.

Science (CORE)

Science is an integral part of modern culture. It stretches the imagination and creativity of young people. It allows them to question themselves, others and the world in which we live. Through independent and group work, it facilitates an exploration of past, current and future

developments and the impacts of scientific work. Enquiring and curious minds can investigate and foster a wide range of scientific skills including safe practice, data collection, analysis and interpretation. The double award science qualification provides a broad and balanced understanding of all three sciences and serves as a good general qualification as well as one that will facilitate further study post 16.

Third Science

Students who have a particularly avid interest in science and wish to devote a greater proportion of time to studying it may choose a third science option which allows discrete accreditation in physics, chemistry and biology.

Technology

In design and technology students combine practical and technological skills with creative thinking to design and make products and systems that meet human needs. They learn to use current technologies and consider the impact of future technological developments. They learn to think creatively and intervene to improve the quality of life, solving problems as individuals and members of a team. Students can do this by studying:

- **Electronics:** Electronics is a course designed for students who are interested in making useful products, which contain electronic circuits. Students will use and become familiar with individual components. Activities will involve testing circuits, soldering and making printed circuit boards. An interest in how things work is essential. This course is not designed for potential electricians, but for pupils who would like to develop a further knowledge of circuits and individual components. The controlled assessment will involve developing a circuit of the student's own design into a useful product.
- **Food:** Students will learn how to prepare, cook and store food safely. They will study the factors affecting consumer choice. They will learn how to cook and discover how food works in the body. Students will cover the following topic areas, using practical work as a tool wherever possible to enhance learning: nutrition, diet and health throughout life; nutritional, physical, chemical and sensory properties of food in storage, preparation and cooking; techniques and skills in food storage, preparation and cooking; factors affecting consumer choice; food hygiene and safety.
- **Graphics:** Graphic Products develops student awareness, knowledge and understanding of the everyday images that we see in the world around us. Graphics can be used to enhance many forms of media, from buttons on webpages, to road signs to typefaces on leaflets. Graphic Products students will not only work to produce 2D imagery but will also produce 3-dimensional graphic objects. Students will be given the opportunity to develop a range of graphic techniques including computer-aided-design, which will help them in the solution of greater design problems.

- **Product Design:** Product Design is the process of creating a new product to be sold. It is concerned with the efficient and effective generation and development of ideas through the design process. Students will learn to conceptualize and evaluate ideas, making them tangible through products in a systematic approach. They will develop a range of graphic and practical skills that will help them in the solution of design problems. The role of a Product Designer is to combine art, science and technology to create three-dimensional goods.
- **Resistant Materials:** Resistant Materials allows students to specialise in the design and production of products made from timbers, metals, plastics and composites. Each of these materials has its own characteristic working properties such as strength, malleability, conductivity, toughness and durability. Through their studies students will improve their knowledge and understanding of these and will learn about the range of manufacturing methods, processes and finishes that are appropriate for each material. Students will follow the design process to research, design, develop, produce and evaluate their own ideas. They will work independently to plan and execute practical tasks to produce 3D products.
- **Textiles:** Students who study Textiles will be given the opportunity to specialise in designing and making activities delivered through textiles. Students will learn to produce fashion pieces, accessories and furnishings in a creative and innovative way. During the course they will learn about the range of manufacturing and decoration techniques suitable for different textiles. Additionally, students will study sustainability in design, by looking at product life cycles and considering the impact of human design and manufacture on the environment.

Except in exceptional circumstances, the following rules for the 4 option choices will apply:

- Students opting for Technology can only choose **one** of the technology subjects: Electronics, Food, Graphics, Product Design, Resistant Materials **or** Textiles.
- Students opting for Performing Arts can **not** also opt for Music, Music Technology, Dance or Drama
- Students can only opt for **two** of the following performing arts subjects: Music, Music Technology, Dance and Drama
- Students opting to study a language must opt for the language they have studied for the previous 3 years. Gifted linguists may opt for both French and Spanish
- Students can **not** opt for both Health and Social Care and Child Development

The English Baccalaureate.

The English Baccalaureate is a measure which recognises where students have secured a grade C and above in what is currently a narrow range of GCSEs:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Double Award Science (at least two Cs)
- French or Spanish
- History or Geography

The English Baccalaureate route is optional for students; however, parents should bear in mind that the English Baccalaureate could become a desirable qualification for students intending to study at university, and indeed, many employers may come to view it as measure of some worth.

Students, should they choose the English Baccalaureate route, still have two option choices in addition to a language and humanity.

In advising students and parents about option choices we will continue to recommend subjects and routes that are best for the individual student concerned. It is essential that students continue to enjoy their curriculum and choose subjects that will give them the best possible chance of success and enable them to follow their chosen pathways in the future.



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Extra Support for GCSE Mathematics	
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