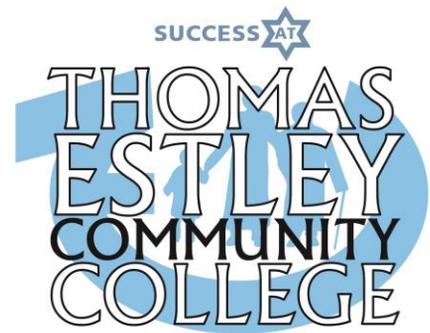


Thomas Estley KS4 Options 2026

**A Community of
Courage and
Commitment to
Success**

Community of Courage and Commitment to Success



Aiming to achieve our best

Taking full advantage of every learning opportunity

Showing resilience through our experiences and challenges

Seeking out our talents and following our dreams

Reaching out for opportunities to lead and encourage others

Making a positive difference and celebrating success

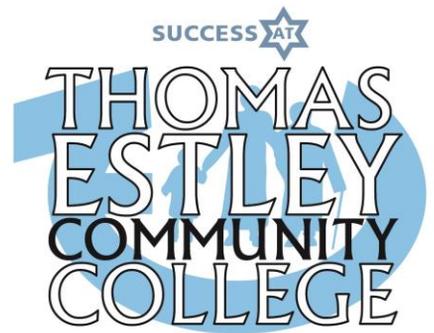
Including the whole community, sharing, caring and giving time as needed

Treating each other with kindness, fairness and respect

Finding space in our lives for fun, joy, praise and laughter



Contents



Principal's Welcome

Introduction

Core Subjects:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science Double Award

Social Studies

Physical Education (Core)

Option Subjects:

Art, Craft and Design

Business

Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE)

Child Development

Citizenship

Computer Science

Dance

Drama

French

Geography

Health & Social Care

History

Hospitality and Catering

IT: Creative iMedia

Music

Physical Education

Psychology

Religious Education (RE)

Resistant Materials

Separate Sciences

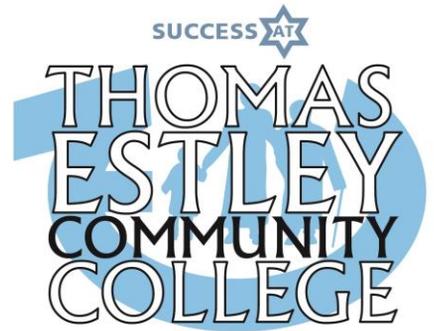
Separate Sciences (Twilight)

Spanish

Statistics

Textiles

Principal's Welcome



Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

Here at Thomas Estley, we aim to provide the best mix of support and challenge to help your child to achieve their academic potential whilst maximising their growth as a young person, ready to tackle the complex and competitive world of further study and work.

We are a '**Community of Courage and Commitment to Success**', passionate about working with our young people to enable them to develop skills to tackle the complex and competitive adult world and its challenges with courage and confidence, in order to make a positive difference to society whilst maximising their own life chances and opening doors for success.

Our specialist teaching staff provide a rich and well balanced curriculum, including a wide variety of GCSE and other option choices opening up future pathways for all. Choices include facilitating GCSE subjects for Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, supported by university led enhancement programmes and specialist opportunities for those with academic talents and future plans, as well as a wide range of academic and more practical subjects for those wishing to keep options open or pursue particular passions and interests. We are proud of the range of subjects on offer. The PSE option suits a minority of students, targeted through careful analysis, who would benefit from extra support and life skill development. Our large range of performing and creative arts subjects, two foreign languages and extra options such as Psychology, Health and Social Care and Child Development, allow those with a particular study profile to follow their dreams, whilst STEM subjects such as Separate Sciences, Computing, Statistics and Design Technology are the building blocks for future doctors, scientists, programmer and engineers.

Extra curricular subject based reinforcement and extension sessions, enrichment workshops, events, competitions, fixtures and visits, our established SSAT leadership programme and our Duke of Edinburgh and Sea Cadet leadership programmes enhance our core provision and allow our students to further develop leadership skills and experience.

Moving into Year 10 is a time to focus on two of our college values in particular:

- *Aiming to achieve our best*
- *Seeking out our talents and following our dreams*

and we commit to working with you at every level in achieving these two goals to maximise your future success.

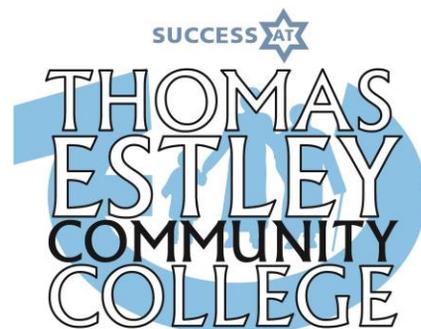
We look forward to working with you in this next, exciting step in your learning journey.

Yours sincerely

Mandi Collins, *Principal*



Introduction



Dear Students,

This Options booklet provides you with information about the range of Key Stage 4 courses which you will be able to study, based on current information about approved courses and specifications. Any national changes and developments may modify this offer slightly and, together with all schools locally and nationally, we cannot guarantee that the final options which we are able to offer will exactly match the information contained here. However, we expect few - if any - changes.

At Thomas Estley, we are confident in offering a high quality suite of GCSE and Vocational courses tailored to our learners' needs and supported by an experienced and capable staff. Our Key Stage 4 courses, alongside our pastoral provision, are designed to offer excellent support for future routes into further study and careers. Thomas Estley believe firmly that you deserve a high quality and comprehensive learning experience through studying a broad and balanced curriculum. Future educational and career opportunities need to be kept as open as possible, while ensuring that the curriculum reflects your needs, aspirations and abilities. All courses offered are taught by qualified and specialist staff, with a past record of excellent attainment and progress outcomes.

The government has introduced expectations and progress measures for secondary schools, which mean that all students must study GCSE courses in Maths, Science, English Language and Literature as well as a Humanities or Computer Science and Language within the overall range of subjects. You may then freely select a further 2 subjects. We will ask you to select 2 'reserve' subjects, in case the particular combination you have chosen is not available, though this is very rare.

In addition to the above, compulsory elements of the National Curriculum including Religious Education, Careers, British Values and Sex and Relationship Education are covered through our 'Modules' and weekly CRE lesson which all students will take. All students will also take part in core PE once a week.

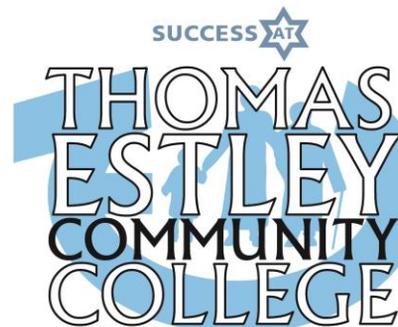
It is important to select options based on your ability and interests, as well as any future career plans. Teachers can offer invaluable advice and insight into their subject areas, and I would encourage you to have an open dialogue with your parents, tutors, career advisors and teachers in order to take full advantage of their experience and advice.

Janine Hartley
Assistant Principal



English Language

Exam Board: **AQA**
Specification: **8700**



Course Overview:

The course is divided into two components, each one culminating in an examination.

Language Paper 1 requires students to read and respond to questions on an unseen literary extract in the first half of the paper. Questions are focused and have different objectives linking to the awarding outcomes of 4, 8 and 20 marks. Being able to read and understand a reasonably complex text independently, select a range of ideas, and work methodically through writing is vital. The latter half of this paper requires students to write a creative narrative or descriptive piece; therefore, the course continually revisits the development of effective writing using imagination, description and accuracy.

The second Language paper requires students to read and compare two non-fiction texts in the first section; questions are specific and worth 4, 8, 12 and 16 marks (depending on the assessment objective of the question). The second half of this exam requires students to write to convey a viewpoint or argument. They may be asked to create a speech, a letter, a review, a report or an article, and they will be trained to consider and use rhetoric to get across their viewpoint in an engaging and persuasive manner. Students refine their approaches to these genres during the course whilst simultaneously building life skills for effective communication in adulthood.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Paper 1: Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing	Assessed in written exam: 1 hr 45 mins	50%
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	Assessed in written exam: 1 hr 45 mins	50%

Example Career Paths

Teaching, Advertising, Proof Reading, Administration, Law, HR, Hospitality and many more ...



Why study this subject?

English is a compulsory subject and increased levels of literacy are vital to students' progress in all subjects.

Most college courses, career paths and apprenticeships require a pass at GCSE level in English Language.

The subject itself enables students to explore their own creativity and to develop skills in inference and deduction, as well as developing life skills such as letter writing and effective written and verbal communication.

Head of English:

Mrs E Wileman

ewileman@thomasestley.org.uk

Literacy Lead for Reading across the School and Second in Dept:

Miss L Pole

lpole@thomasestley.org.uk

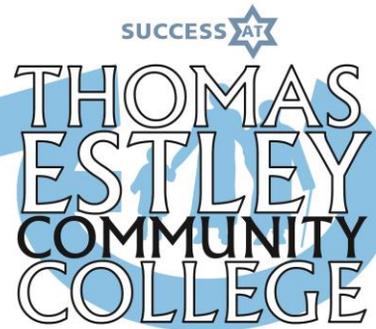
For more information:

Mrs E Wileman

ewileman@thomasestley.org.uk

English Literature

Exam Board: **AQA**
Specification: **8702**



Course Overview:

The course is divided into two components, each one culminating in an examination.

The first unit requires students to study a play by Shakespeare as well as read, understand and analyse a Victorian text. For both components, students will be expected to explore a specific extract from the text they have studied, as well as refer to elements of the whole text from memory in an extended writing piece/essay.

The second unit has three components: a Modern Play, the exam board's Poetry Anthology and Unseen Poetry. In the first third of the paper, students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose/drama text. In the second, students will answer one comparative question using a named poem printed on the paper and one other poem (from memory) from their chosen Anthology cluster. The last section requires students to answer one question on one unseen poem in isolation, and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19 th century novel	Assessed in written exam: 1 hr 45 mins	40%
Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry	Assessed in written exam: 2 hrs 15 mins	60%

Example Career Paths

Teaching, Journalism, Content Writing/Blogging, Creative Writing, Law and many more ...



Why study this subject?

GCSE Literature complements and strengthens the skills required for GCSE English Language.

The subject is compulsory at Thomas Estley and is taught alongside the GCSE English Language course.

Students will develop an appreciation and understanding of modern and classic texts as they study the course content.

Head of English:

Mrs E Wileman

ewileman@thomasestley.org.uk

Literacy Lead for Reading across the School and Second in Dept:

Miss L Pole

lpole@thomasestley.org.uk

For more information:

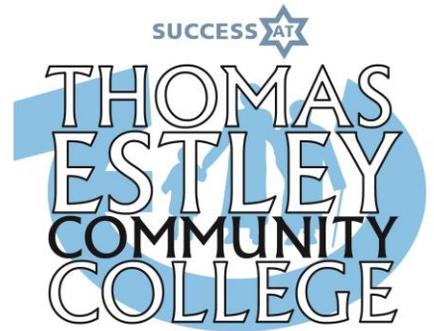
Mrs E Wileman

ewileman@thomasestley.org.uk

Mathematics

Exam Board: OCR

Specification: tinyurl.com/y7uh4rax



Course Overview:

You will have **8 set lessons per fortnight**, which will include **weekly skills** and **problem solving**. GCSE mathematics is a tiered qualification, with Foundation capable of achieving grades 1 to 5 and Higher 4 to 9. Hence the topics you study will be determined by your ability and the table below shows the weightings and breakdown.

Maths is assessed **by 3 ninety minute exams** totalling **300 marks**; two calculator papers and one non-calculator.

There is no coursework. Each area of maths builds upon the others as you progress. These topics will eventually weave together to establish *Fluency*, *Competency* and *Confidence* in mathematics, together with *Sound Reasoning Skills*.

Topic	Type	Weighting	
		Higher	Foundation
Number	How we write and manipulate quantities including Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. Also includes standard form and irrational numbers (numbers which are too big, too small or too clumsy to write using the normal decimal system)	15%	25%
Algebra	Generalising mathematical functions so that we can manipulate them. Skills covered include simplification, substitution, factorisation and rearrangement. Also includes topics like sequences, graph lines and	30%	20%
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change	How things relate to one another. Includes concepts like speed and acceleration as well as scaling things up and down. Also includes relationships between quantities	20%	25%
Geometry and Measures	Is the link between shape, space and measurement. It includes 2D and 3D objects and the links between angles, sides, area and volume. Also	20%	15%
Probability and Statistics	How we present and manipulate data, as well as how we interpret and work with chance and random events.	15%	15%

Why study this subject?

Mathematics is a compulsory subject. Like English, if you don't achieve a grade 4 at the end of year 11, you will be expected to re-take the subject. More importantly, maths is an essential tool for everyday life. Have you ever stopped to think how many times you use numbers every week? Employers obviously value the skills GCSE mathematicians have, including critical judgement, organisation and logical reasoning. It's not just about the numbers! Maths is an essential qualification for most jobs, and success in mathematics can lead to careers in Accountancy, Engineering, Computing, Science, Finance, Logistics or Business, to name but a few! It is a requirement of A level Maths but also compulsory for students taking other courses (such as Engineering, Sciences or Economics) to have a "good" GCSE pass. Our most able mathematicians will also be invited to study for **GCSE Statistics**, which takes place after school. This gives you a second, qualification in maths which is an ideal bridge to the statistical element to A level Maths —or just for the enjoyment of studying more Maths! It also links to many other subjects such as Economics, Business and Enterprise.

For more information:
Miss R Handley
rhandley@thomastestley.org.uk

Science Double Award

Exam Board: **AQA**

Specification: tinyurl.com/icpzduu

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Course Overview:

The trilogy science course provides a broad science curriculum in all three sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics and is relevant for all students including those thinking of taking science related A-levels. The students that opt for this course will complete ten science lessons every two weeks including both theory and practical work, culminating in **six 75 minute exams** at the end of year 11 and achieving **two** science GCSEs.

There is no longer any coursework in the science specification and instead students complete a number of *required practicals* which are assessed in their final exams.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Biology	2 x 75 min exams	16.7% per exam
Chemistry	2 x 75 min exams	16.7% per exam
Physics	2 x 75 min exams	16.7% per exam

Post-16 Progression

Achievement of a double award GCSE allows the students to progress onto an A Level in either Biology, Chemistry or Physics or onto a vocational course in all areas.

Example Career Paths

There are a wide range of science-based careers such as Airline Pilot, Beautician, Chiropodist, Dentist, Electrical Engineer, Forester, Geoscientist.



Why study this subject?

Science courses are designed to engage interest at every level by providing relevant and inspiring content plus opportunities to undertake scientific investigations and learn more about the scientific process.

For more information:
Mr R Corner
rcorner@thomasestley.org.uk

Social Studies

Exam Board: Not examined

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Course Overview:

All students throughout KS4 will study one hour a week.

Students will work on a 10 week cycle between subjects. These subjects are a legal requirement and we believe they will both inform students with the practical understanding of certain elements within life and give them the understanding and basis to becoming a well rounded citizen.

Topics include a rotation between:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Living in the Wider World

This is a combination of PSHE, RE and Citizenship



Post-16 Progression

AS – Humanities and Social Science subject

BTEC Level 3 – Vocational Pathways

Preparation for Higher Education and adult life

Example Career Paths

Teaching, Civil Service, Public Sector Work

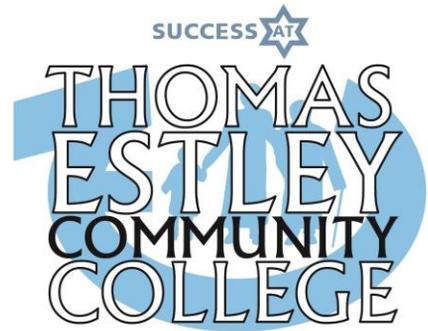


Why study this subject?

This subject will help students to articulate their views in class discussions and enable students to make reasonable responses to other students' views. It will help students learn about themselves and why they hold the views they do.

Physical Education (Core)

Exam Board: Not examined



Course Overview:

All students will have 1 lesson per week of core PE. This will give them an opportunity to build on the skills that they have learnt in Key Stage 3 and learn new ones. We will maintain our core values of offering a broad and balanced curriculum but also give pupils more choice on what activities they wish to take part in.

There will still be a huge variety of lunchtime and after school clubs to be involved in as well as an emphasis on non-competitive, recreational sport. We encourage pupils to see their sporting activity as a lifelong journey and to have the knowledge and understanding to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Core Physical Education is a national curriculum requirement and as such full attendance and participation in every lesson is expected. Students must wear PE kit in Thomas Estley colours every lesson.



Why study this subject?

Physical Education helps students to develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies to live healthy and physically active lives at school and for the rest of their life. They learn 'in, through, and about' movement, gaining an understanding that movement is integral to human expression and can contribute to people's pleasure and enhance their lives.



For more information:
Ms S Kavanagh
skavanagh@thomastestley.org.uk

Art, Craft and Design

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/>

subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206

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Course Overview:

GCSE Art, Craft and Design, students must competently explore and create high quality work associated with areas of study from at least two titles listed below:

- Fine art: drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, mixed media.
- Graphic communication: design for print, typography.
- Textile design: art textiles, surface pattern.
- Three-dimensional design: sculpture, ceramics.
- Photography: portraiture, location photography, documentary photography, photo-journalism.

An important part of the course is critical and contextual studies where the work of artists and designers is explored and analysed.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Component 1 – A portfolio of work which will encompass skills based activities and a sustained project based around a theme, showing evidence of working in areas from two or more of the titles and taking into account the distinguishing features of Art, Craft and Design.	A non-exam assessment which is set and marked by the College and moderated by AQA	60%
Component 2 – Externally set examination with unlimited preparation time and a 10 hour examination , showing evidence of areas of study from one or more of the titles.	Externally set examination question, marked by College and moderated by AQA	40%

Post-16 Progression

There are BTEC, AS and A2 Level Courses in Art and Design available at local colleges for students who wish to continue with their studies in this field, as well as progression into Higher Education Courses.

Example Career Paths

Careers in the Art and Design field include, for example, photography, cartoonist, website design, graphic designer, interior designer, animation, product designer, fine artist and teaching.

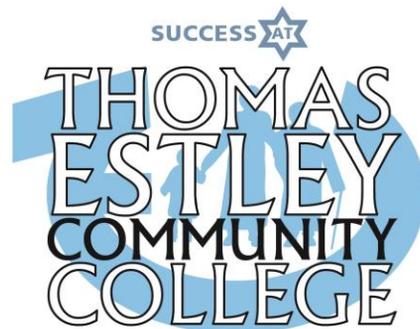


Why study this subject?

You are creative and have developed good drawing skills at KS3. You like to explore the work of Artists and Designers. You are imaginative, expressive and analytical. You must be prepared to attend art club sessions to complete work to a high standard as well as develop work at home to support your portfolio. You must be prepared to attend and contribute to any visits arranged to relevant Museums and Art Galleries.

An art pack of basic materials is available to purchase at the start of the course. Other materials and equipment are provided during lessons. However, you will be expected to continue with practical work at home, therefore, materials at home will be beneficial. An A3 folder is needed for transporting work safely.

For more information:
Mrs E Strudwick
estrudwick@thomasestley.org.uk



Course Overview:

You will start by exploring the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? You will learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and the people involved.

The you will move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? You will learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions you need to make when growing a business and working in a global business. You will learn about meeting customer needs, making marketing, operational, financial and human resourcing decisions and you will explore how the wider world impacts the business as it grows.



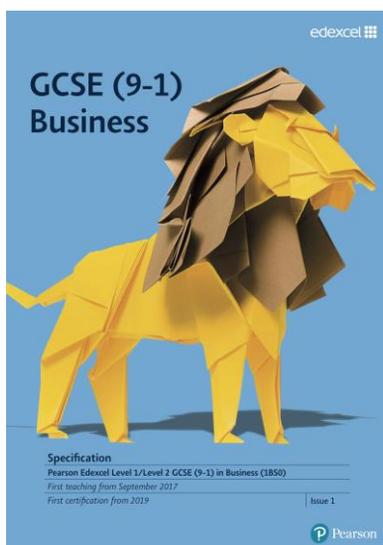
Unit	Type	Weighting
Paper 1 – Theme 1: Investigation Small Businesses	Exam (105 mins)	50%
Paper 2 – Theme 2: Building a Business	Exam (105 mins)	50%

Post-16 Progression

A Level and Level 3 BTEC in Business

Example Career Paths

Any business related profession, for example Accountancy, Law, Marketing, Leisure and Tourism,



Why study this subject?

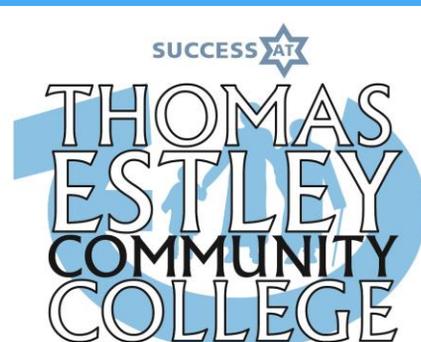
If you enjoy:

- Communicating and explaining your ideas
- Thinking creatively and making decisions
- Working with numbers to solve business problems
- Learning about the world of business through real and relevant local and international brands

Then the GCSE Business Course is for you.

Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE)

Exam Board: ASDAN Specification: tinyurl.com/y7hm85nd



Level 1 / 2 Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

Course Overview:

The Certificate in Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) is a nationally recognised qualification based on the development of personal, social and employability skills.

Level 1 - GCSE Equivalent grades 2 -3

Level 2 - GCSE Equivalent grades 5 - 6

This course suits learners who could benefit from developing literacy skills as well as personal skills like teamwork and project management, within a supportive and project-based environment. It develops skills which can be used to support GCSE study as well as providing its own national recognised accreditation.

Learners who would benefit from CoPE will be spoken to by our Inclusion Department.

Assessment style: portfolio of evidence, no exams, internal and external moderation.

Level 1 or 2 Certificate – To be completed in Year 10 and 11

* *students may have completed work in their year 9 specialism course*



CoPE

Certificate of Personal Effectiveness
Levels 1 and 2 student book



Unit	Type	Weighting
Working with Others, Oral Presentation, Problem solving	Continual Assessment	50%
Research, Improving own learning, Discussion	Continual Assessment	50%

Post-16 Progression

CoPE is recognised by employers and post 16 colleges as a skill and portfolio based qualification

Progression to BTEC Level 2/3 courses or A Levels

Example Career Paths

General preparation for Higher Education and working life

Why study this subject:

The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness qualifications will support young people to develop their confidence, wellbeing and personal resilience. They will help foster a positive mind-set and develop their ability to be independent learners who can both take initiative and work effectively with others.

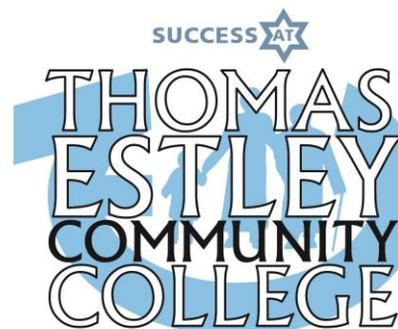
Young people who take the CoPE qualifications will be supported to explore and affirm their strengths and identities, and to empathise with and value the perspectives and contributions of others.



For more information:
Mrs D Curry
dcurry@thomasestley.org.uk

Child Development

Exam Board: OCR



Course Overview:

Cambridge National in Child Development is a varied and practical qualification which supports learners in post 16 study within the infant health, teaching and Child Care sector. This course develops the learners practical skills which can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.

Topics include: Pre-conception health and reproduction, antenatal care and preparation for birth, postnatal checks, postnatal care and the conditions for development, childhood illnesses and maintaining a child safe environment. You will learn how to create a safe environment for children from birth to five years in childcare settings. You will research and choose equipment that is suitable and safe for use and will learn about children's nutrition and dietary needs. The qualification also helps to develop other transferable skills, such as research and communication skills that will be valuable in other life and work situations. Final coursework projects are presented using a variety of ICT methods; therefore a competency and willingness to work with computers is essential.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Health and wellbeing for child development	Exam	40%
Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years	Coursework Project	30%
Understand the development of a child from birth to five years	Coursework Project	30%

Post-16 Progression

This qualification is designed to equip learners with the practical health and social care skills they need to progress to further general or vocational study.

Example Career Paths

Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching, Childcare, Social Care, Physiotherapy, Mental Health Support, Social Worker, Police Officer, Civil Servant, Nursery Nurse, Speech Therapist



Why study this subject?

Working as a childcare professional needs an understanding of the care needs for children of all ages. This qualification will help you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills that will allow you to help and support those in your care, starting from preconception through to children aged birth to five years. It is important that childcare settings provide a safe and nurturing environment to care for babies and young children, as well as providing activities and support to help them develop.

For more information:
Mrs J Hartley
jhartley@thomasestley.org.uk

Citizenship

Exam Board: **Edexcel**

Specification: [bit.ly/2KPPFqS](https://www.edexcel.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/citizenship-studies)

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Course Overview:

Citizenship Studies is about how people take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally.

This GCSE gives students the opportunity to learn about power, democracy, the operation of government and the legal system, and the role of the UK in the wider world. Students will also experience taking citizenship action and learn from trying to make a difference themselves to their local area.

Citizenship is a chance for students to engage with their own thoughts and feelings about the world that they want to live in and how they can achieve that.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Living together in the UK	Two Exams (105 mins each)	50% each
Democracy at work in the UK		
How the law works		
Power and influence		
Taking Citizenship action		

Post-16 Progression

The knowledge gained and skills developed through this qualification are useful for a range of careers.

Example Career Paths

Campaigning/political activism, marketing, local government, civil service, social services, policy and probation, teaching, journalism and law.



Why study this subject?

The GCSE Citizenship course seeks to prepare students to become active citizens by raising awareness and understanding within students of their role in the world.

The course promotes students' personal and social development, making them more self-confident and responsible, in the classroom and beyond.

For more information:
Miss V Geraghty
vgeraghty@thomasestley.org.uk

Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR (J277)

Specification: bit.ly/2Y8lgY0

SUCCESS  AT

THOMAS ESTLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Grade 3- or higher in Maths at Spring Term Year 9 is required for this Course

Course Overview:

In Component 1 students study how processors work and investigate computer memory and storage. This knowledge helps to explore modern network layouts and how they function and ultimately build skills in the ever important realm of cyber security. Students investigate types of software and how computing affects ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues.

Component 2 considers the fundamental algorithms in computer science. Students develop a foundation in programming techniques. These techniques are used to produce programs and thoroughly test them to make them resistant to misuse.

Running alongside Component 2, is an independent coding project, solving a real-world problem is tackled to develop skills in designing, writing and testing programs. The project is aimed to develop students programming and problem solving skills whilst supporting students in understanding theory in Component 2.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Computer systems	Exam (90 mins)	50%
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	Exam (90 mins)	50%
Coding Project	Project	0%

Post-16 Progression

A Level Computer Science

Vocational qualifications, IT Level 3 or Digital Media Level 3

Apprenticeships in Computer Science or IT disciplines

Example Career Paths

Web Developer, Software Architect, Game Designer, Computer Security, Network Manager



Why study this subject?

Computer Science is a very practical subject – students will be able to use the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom on real-world problems. It is also a highly creative subject that calls on learners to be inventive. Students gain valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace. The syllabus encourages a deep understanding of problem solving and experience in creating logical and efficient solutions to computing problems.

Students will develop an ability to write down solutions to problems for other people to understand. The course provides a good grounding in mainstream computing theory and understanding. Computer Science integrates well with subjects across the curriculum.

For more information:

Mrs G O'Garro

go'garro@thomastestley.org.uk

Dance

Exam Board: **AQA**

Specification: bit.ly/yd6os9ey

SUCCESS  AT

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COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Course Overview:

GCSE Dance helps students to develop technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation. Students can go on to study dance related subjects at Further and Higher Education or can develop their careers in teaching, choreography and/or performance.

The course combines practical and written skills with a focus on choreography and performance, as well as analysis and criticism of dance.

During the course you will explore and develop your understanding and performance of Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Ballet, Samba and Contact Improvisation dance genres.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Critical Appreciation	Exam (90 mins)	40%
Dance Performance	Internal Exam/External Moderation	30%
Choreography	Internal Exam/External Moderation	30%

Post-16 Progression

AS/A2 Dance

BTEC/Diploma in Dance

Example Career Paths

Dance Performer/Teacher, Choreographer, Arts Journalist



Why study this subject?

Students who study dance for 3 hours, or more, a week are more kinaesthetically intelligent and self-aware. They have better communication skills, are more creative and better at problem solving, risk taking, making judgments in the absence of rules, and engage in higher-order thinking more often. Dance education provides an opportunity for students to recognize that there are multiple solutions to problems and fosters an individual's ability to better interpret interpersonal nonverbal communication. Moreover, it prepares students for careers in dance and other fields.

Need more? Opting for GCSE Dance will provide weekly access to subject that you love and are passionate about. Sounds good to me.

For more information:
Miss D Bancroft
dbancroft@thomasestley.org.uk

Drama

Exam Board: AQA

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Course Overview:

This course develops the skills that you have gained in Key Stage 3. You will engage in work that explores the self and the human condition through the practice of drama, developing your confidence and the ability to work empathically with others. Whilst the course is very practical and dynamic it will also include written reflection on the work undertaken. You will be given support in ways of doing this. This course will develop your:

- Performance skills through devised work and scripted pieces and the ability to work collaboratively to create an engaging performance for an audience



Unit	Weighting
Understanding Drama	40%
Devising Drama	40%
Text in Practice	20%

Post-16 Progression

AS/A2 Drama or Theatre Studies

BTEC National Award or Certificate or Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting)

Diploma in Creative Media (Level 3)

Example Career Paths

Actor, Theatre Technician, Director, Stage Manager, Event Organiser, Creative Industries such as promotions and advertising, Teaching and Lecturing



Why study this subject?

An important choice for those who wish to go into acting or experience other aspects involved in the theatre. This could be as a technical member of a company, stage managing or directing—there are many jobs available. It provides a platform for entry into the Creative Industry sector which has an estimated turnover of £70 billion.

Drama equips people with transferable skills that will benefit them in almost any job and in their social life; independence, discussion, collaboration, confident presentation and reflection are all key to any drama.

For more information:
Miss D Bancroft
dbancroft@thomasestley.org.uk

Geography GCSE OCR Geography B

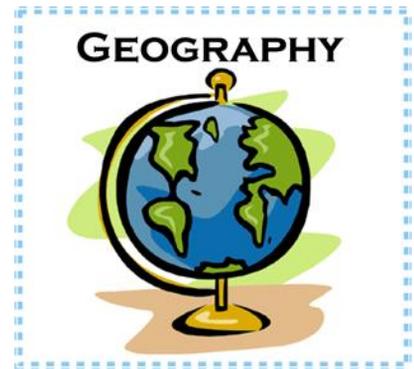
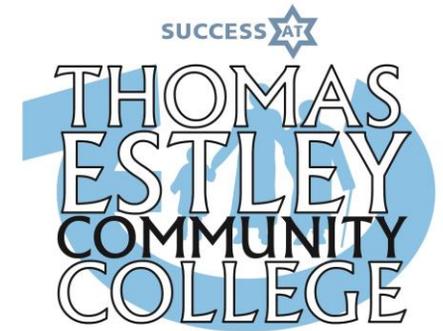
Specification code: J386

Course Overview:

In Geography we aim to enable learners to 'think like a geographer'. The subject of Geography aims to develop skills alongside subject content with framed enquiries to help develop students' understanding of specialised geographical concepts and current geographical issues.

The course promotes investigation of relevant, up-to-date case studies, examining the interactions between people and the natural world. It also develops and extends learners knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, at a range of different scales, through classroom-based learning and fieldwork.

Maths skills are embedded throughout the course which is an important element of the GCSE specification.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Our Natural World	Exam (1 hr 30 mins)	35%
People and Society	Exam (1 hr 30 mins)	35%
Geographical Exploration	Exam (1 hr 30 mins)	30%

Post-16 Progression

This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Geography, Geology or Development at A Level as well as BTEC Travel and Tourism (Level 3)

Example Career Paths

Strong links to careers in armed forces, leisure, conservation, planning, agriculture, forestry, meteorology, surveying, research, tourism, emergency services and teaching.

Understanding our planet and how humans interact, is critical to the survival of our species.

Why study this subject?

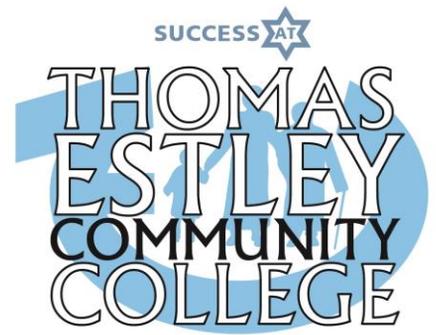
Many of the skills gained in GCSE Geography are easily transferable to further study and employment.

Which learners will Geography suit?

- Students who are naturally inquisitive about the world in which we live.
- Students that are committed to their own learning and development.
- Students who want to be able to interpret the world and understand the key processes that drive change.
- Students who want to develop problem solving skills that can be used in later life.

Health and Social Care

Exam Board: OCR



Course Overview:

Cambridge National in Health and Social Care is a varied and practical qualification which supports learners in post 16 study within the Health and Social care sector. The majority of accredited marks are made available through ongoing in class assessment and it suits candidates who prefer to work in this way.

We explore the essential values of care, communication within the health care sector, understanding body systems and disorders, child development, the nutrients needed for good health and using basic first aid.

Alongside these core elements students study therapeutic and creative approaches to care and public health promotion campaigns. Lessons are a mix of verbal debate, group study, independent research, exam preparation and teacher led dialogue.

Final coursework projects are presented using a variety of ICT methods; therefore a competency and willingness to work with computers is essential.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Principles of Care in Health and Social Care	Exam	40%
Supporting Individuals through Life Events	Coursework	30%
Optional Units – Art and Creative Therapy OR Political Health Campaigns	Coursework	30%

Post-16 Progression

This qualification is designed to equip learners with the practical health and social care skills they need to progress to further general or vocational study

Example Career Paths

Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching, Child Care, Social Care, Physiotherapy, Mental Health Support, Social Worker, Police Officer, Civil Servant, Nursery Nurse, Speech Therapy, Dietician, Play Worker, Counsellor



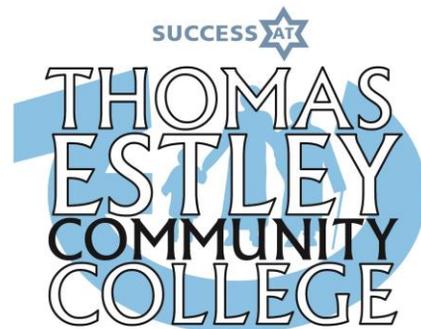
Why study this subject?

Health and Social Care explores personal development and the range of health and social care provision available through investigation and evaluation of services. Students will examine issues which affect the nature and quality of human life.

For more information:
Mrs J Hartley
jhartley@thomasestley.org.uk

History

Exam Board: OCR
Specification: SHP J411



Course Overview:

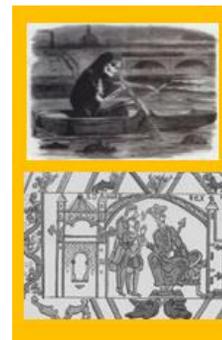
The People’s Health, c.1250 to present—This thematic study enables students to understand changes and continuities in public health in Britain.

The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087—This depth study allows students to understand the complexity of the Norman Conquest and the interplay of political, military, religious, economic, social and cultural forces in England.

History Around Us—Studying the history of Kenilworth Castle and how it developed over time.

The Making of America, 1789–1900—This period study follows the unfolding narrative of the making of America from the inauguration of the first president in 1789 to the end of the nineteenth century when the USA was set to become the world’s dominant power.

Living under Nazi Rule, 1933–1945 - This world depth study enables students to understand the impact of the Nazi dictatorship on people’s lives both within Germany and across occupied Europe.



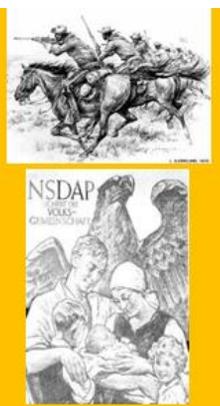
Unit	Papers	Type	Weighting
Unit 1 – The People’s Health c1250 to Present	Paper One – 105 mins	Unit 1 – First half of Paper One	20%
Unit 2 – The Norman Conquest c1066-1087		Unit 2 – Second half of Paper One	20%
Unit 3 – History Around Us – Kenilworth Castle	Paper Two – 60 mins	Unit 3 – The whole of Paper Two	20%
Unit 4 – The Making of America 1789-1900	Paper Three – 105 mins	Unit 4 – First half of Paper Three	20%
Unit 5 – Living under the Nazi Rule 1933-1945		Unit 5 – Second half of Paper Three	20%

Post-16 Progression

GCSE History enables you to take a wide range of qualifications at A Level. It is good preparation for further study of History, but also very useful in relation to Law, Psychology, Sociology and Politics.

Example Career Paths

Law, Journalism, Politics, Medicine, Media, Accountancy, Teaching, Tourism

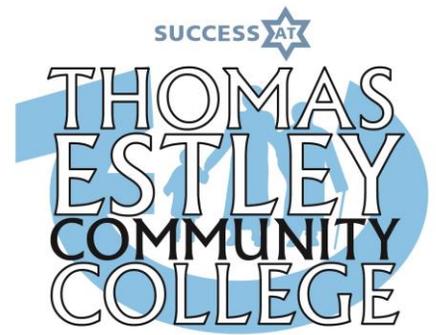


Why study this subject?

It is a qualification that is valued by employers, colleges and universities. Through the study of the past students will develop their skills of independent enquiry, communication, interpretation, and learn the value of reasoned argument. OCR’s GCSE (9–1) History B (SHP) will enable students to develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies. They will also engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent students and as critical and reflective thinkers. They will also develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context. Students will also develop an awareness of how and why different interpretations have been constructed about the past and be able to organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways.

Hospitality and Catering

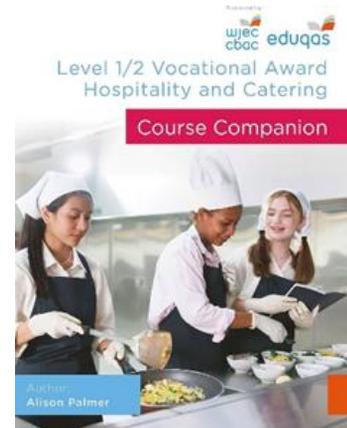
Exam Board: WJEC



Course Overview:

Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering equips students with theoretical knowledge about the hospitality and catering industry as well as enabling them to develop practical skills in planning, preparing and cooking a variety of dishes.

Hospitality and Catering is an exciting vocational award which will provide students with not just the life-long essential skill in being able to cook for themselves and others, but also develop their ability to plan nutritionally balanced meals that will suit a variety of specific dietary needs.



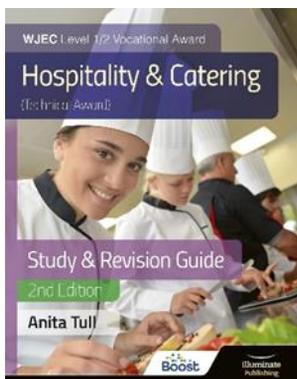
Unit	Type	Weighting
The Hospitality and Catering Industry This unit focuses on learning about different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the roles and responsibilities within the sector.	Exam (1 hour 20 mins)	40%
Hospitality and Catering in Action This unit develops students' practical skills for planning, preparing, cooking and presenting nutritional dishes meeting the clients' needs.	Internal Assessment (12 hours)	60%

Post-16 Progression

Catering College
Degree in Food Science, Science Degree
Hotel and Catering Degree

Example Career Paths

Chef, Catering Establishment Careers, Food Technologist, Food Scientist, Teacher of Food



Why study this subject?

The course has been designed with the aim of enabling students to gain a good foundation of knowledge, understanding and skills that are required by the Hospitality and Catering industry, which is a major employer of people in the UK and other countries.

Students will have the opportunity to develop a variety of skills, including food preparation and cooking skills, organisation, time management, planning, communication and problem solving.

For more information:

Mrs K Owen/Mrs M Keight

kowen@thomastestley.org.uk / mkeight@thomastestley.org.uk

IT: Creative iMedia

Exam Board: OCR (J834)

Specification: bit.ly/3FHFeAo

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Course Overview:

The UK is a world leader in the creative digital industries, such as in the creation of visual effects for films and computer games. The OCR Creative iMedia course has been designed to engage and enthuse young people with an interest in creative computing, for example digital graphics and animations, interactive multimedia products and computer games.

You will study 2 mandatory units and 1 optional unit.

- **R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry** —Students are introduced to the different media industry sectors and products, job roles, pre-production documents, file formats and the distribution platforms and media to reach audiences.
- **R094: Visual identity and digital graphics** - Building on the skills and understanding that they have developed in the previous unit, students learn about the importance of the application of visual identity and explore where and why digital graphics are used. They apply their knowledge and technical skills to create digital graphics based on a client brief.
- **R097: Interactive digital media** – In this unit you will learn to design and create interactive digital media products for chosen platforms using a fusion of media rich content including text, images, sounds, video and animation.



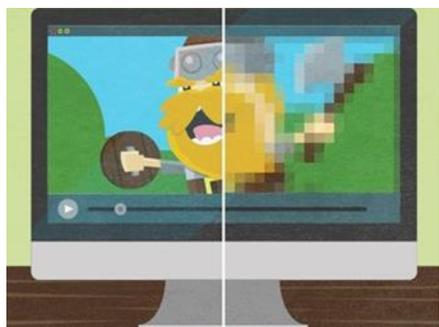
Unit	Type	Weighting
R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry	Exam (1 hour and 30 mins)	40%
R094: Visual identity and digital graphics	Internally assessed coursework	25%
R097: Interactive digital media	Internally assessed coursework	35%

Post-16 Progression

Apprenticeships
Junior roles in the IT Industry
A Levels
Level 3 vocational qualifications

Example Career Paths

Graphic Designer, Web Designer, Marketing,
Project Manager, Animation Designer



Why study this subject:

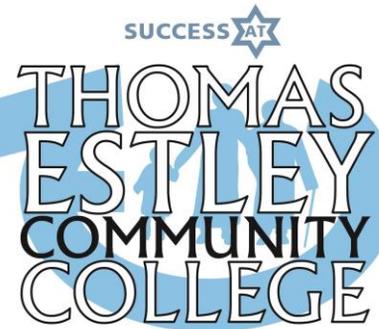
If you wish to study at Level 3, this will be an excellent pathway into further education, particularly in IT-related disciplines, media studies, and digital arts. The course develops creative writing and communication skills essential for academic progress and professional practice. It also supports progression into relevant apprenticeships. As a skills-based subject, Creative iMedia allows learners to demonstrate practical competence and technical ability, giving employers clear evidence of workplace readiness and future career success.

For more information:
Mrs G O'Garro
go'garro@thomasestley.org.uk

Music

Exam Board: **Eduqas**

Specification: <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/by5boopf/eduqas-gcse-music-spec-from-2016-d.pdf>



Course Overview:

If you like performing and appreciating music, this is a course for you!

This qualification will help support you in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills including performing, composing and appraising.

Through classes you will gain the skills to compose and analyse a piece of music, alongside performing. You will focus on the elements of music while exploring a wide range of musical genres.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Performing	Coursework	30%
Composing	Coursework	30%
Appraising	Examination	40%

Post-16 Progression

A Level and other Level 3 qualifications in Music and Music Technology
Theatre/Performance Skills

Example Career Paths

Song Writer, Performer, Sound Technician



Why study this subject:

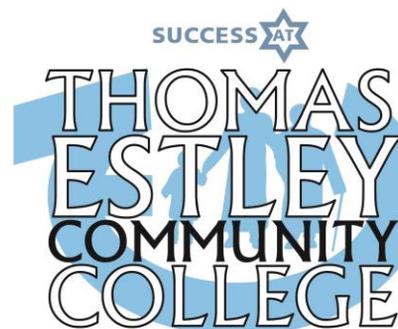
If you like music and are a keen performer then you will enjoy music GCSE. You will develop as a musician, learn how to compose a piece of music and continue your understanding of music.

From this course you will develop a combination of skills, develop your creativity and continue your practice dedication. These are all skills which can be transferable to the work place.

For more information:
Miss E Plumb
emiliaplumb@thomasestley.org.uk

Physical Education

Exam Board: OCR



There are no prerequisites for this course; however, students who regularly participate in team sport outside of lesson time (e.g. football or netball) are at a clear advantage and often achieve greater success in OCR GCSE PE.

Course Overview:

Theory Component 1:

Applied anatomy and physiology; Physical training

Theory Component 2:

Socio-cultural influences; Sports Psychology, Health, fitness and wellbeing

Practical: students are assessed internally in 8 sports and then the best 3 grades are forwarded for moderation: 1 team sport, 1 individual sport plus 1 of either

Analysing and Evaluating Performance:

piece of extended project work lasting 16 hours



Unit	Type	Weighting
Component 1	Exam (60 mins)	30%
Component 2	Exam (60 mins)	30%
Practical	Assessment – 3 sports	30%
Analysing and Evaluating Performance	Project	10%

Post-16 Progression

This GCSE is designed to enable students to enjoy and understand the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle and leads well into A Level PE, Psychology, Science and Sociology.

Essential for Sport University Courses

Example Career Paths

PE Teacher, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Leisure and Tourism, Coaching and Leadership, Sports Massage, Medical Disciplines, Occupational Therapy, Dietitian



Why study this subject:

GCSE PE is a gateway into all areas of the sport and leisure industry as well as studying sport and PE at University. The change to 70% theory and 30% practical enables students to learn about sport as a whole rather than relying on a strong practical performance. This course is for people with a love of sport as a whole, not just the practical elements.

A good working understanding of science, in particular anatomy and physiology, as the theory elements of this GCSE are very scientific. Because GCSE PE has moved towards a theoretical focus, 2 lessons will be theory based and 1 will be practical.

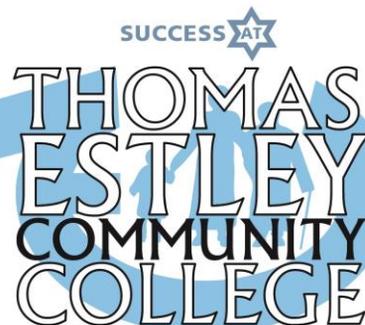
You need to play a range of sports regularly in your own time and play competitively in a minimum of one sport to a good standard. PE kit must be worn for every practical lesson.

For more information:
Miss S Kavanagh
skavanagh@thomasestley.org.uk

Religious Studies

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: Scan QR Code for more details



Course Overview:

In Religious Studies, students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture here in Leicestershire and the UK.

Throughout the course, students will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas and a deeper understanding of contemporary ethical issues. All these skills will help prepare them for further study, both in an academic and social context.



Topic	Type	Weighting
Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christianity• Islam	Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Component 2: Thematic studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationships and Families• Religion and Life• The existence of God and Revelation• Religion, Peace and Conflict	Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes	50%

Why study this subject?

Studying religious studies can help you understand the world around you, develop critical thinking skills, and gain a better understanding of other people's beliefs. It can also help you develop empathy and respect for others.

The UK is a multi-faith society and understanding our differences will help us live and work together peacefully!

Future Pathways

Religious Studies GCSE is a valuable qualification for anyone wishing to work in sectors of the employment market where communication skills are important. Jobs in the caring professions such as nursing, nursery work, social work or teaching, require skills of empathy and tolerance that Religious Studies fosters in its students. People who study Religious Studies also go on to careers in politics, the civil service, journalism, the media and the charity sector.

As an academic subject, Religious Studies complements other Humanities subjects such as History and Citizenship, as well as social science subjects like Sociology and Psychology.



For more information:

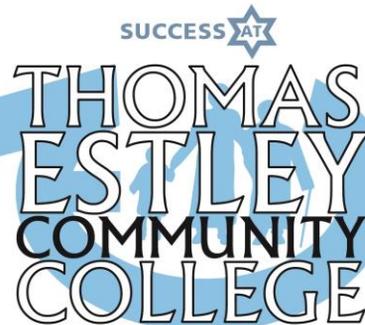
Miss Geraghty/Mrs Curry

vgeraghty@thomasestley.org.uk / dcurry@thomasestley.org.uk

Resistant Materials (Product Design)

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: tinyurl.com/yar8ly6m



Course Overview:

GCSE Design and Technology – Resistant Materials (Product Design) is a creative and hands-on subject where students learn how ideas become real products. Using materials such as wood, metal and plastics, students design and make practical solutions to real-life problems, developing their creativity, problem-solving skills and confidence along the way.

In Year 10, students study a mix of theory and practical lessons, including an optional taster day at De Montfort University. In Year 11, the focus shifts to the coursework element, which accounts for 50% of the final grade. Coursework is completed through a combination of workshop-based practical sessions and ICT suite lessons.

Students develop a wide range of transferable skills, including research, analysis, communication and evaluation, drawing on literacy and numeracy skills throughout the course. GCSE Design and Technology – Resistant Materials also helps students understand the wider influences on design, such as historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors, preparing them to take part confidently in an increasingly technological world.



Unit	Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Exam (2 hours)	50%
No Exam Assessment (coursework)	Design and Make Task (30-35 hours)	50%

Post-16 Progression

This Course opens up the opportunity to study Design and Technology subjects at a higher level, such as product design, graphics, architecture and engineering. It can also lead to engineering qualifications and apprenticeships.

Many of our students go on to study **A Level Product Design** or progress into **vocational pathways**, including construction, carpentry and electrical installation.

Example Career Paths

Design, Manufacture, Construction, Engineering, Architecture

Many employers want creative people and problem solvers, these skills will be developed through this GCSE Course.

Why study this subject?

Working within Design and Technology develops skills and capabilities beyond the subject's actual content, such as group working, decision making skills, independence, problem solving and resourcefulness.

These qualities are highly valued across all professions and jobs, as well as in the creative industries.

SECTION 10: DEVELOPING A CAD

When developing my design in SketchUp I have accurately applied the measurements that I plan to use when manufacturing the final product. This has helped me and my client to see the proportions of the toy in more detail and have the chance to refine the design choices before the final product.

These measurements were used in my design and high-quality product that had the same measurements as the final design.

Evaluation and client feedback of ideas

This was the first stage of developing this design in use. The first concept had the plane flying off the runway, displaying its ability to fly. Also, the height and the width fitted exactly on the shelf which my client specified they liked. My client also liked the 'runner' ability to light up with LEDs to add a visual element to the model, however, he said being on a shelf might make it difficult to plug in the power to the LEDs.

Client Feedback:

Advantage: The client liked the accurate flying look that the model had that with some LED illumination and a great amount of interest. It was also liked by the client that they liked the way the runner was incorporated into the design and they liked the way the runner was made as a runner but as an extra feature making it look interesting.

Disadvantage: From feedback I realized that the plane was too small to be a model of a real plane because of the curved shape and most of the planes were the same size and color so customers would not want to buy it. Also, there is no way to make the plane more interesting to use because it is too small to be a model of a real plane.

Client feedback conclusion: There are many problems to overcome with these designs and as soon as I fix one another is created therefore to be used it has been a struggle to make a design that fits the brief. Furthermore, they have required to create some designs with more plane variations that fit the theme and a choice can be made what fits their needs. Overall, the client said this is a good start, but changes were needed to make it the best product I could do.

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For more information:

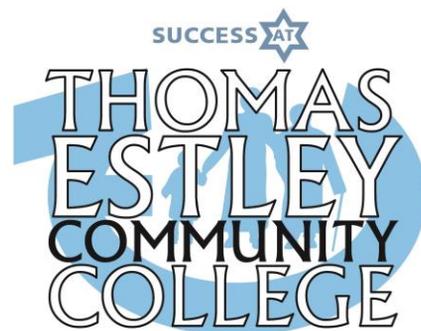
Mr C Curtis

ccurtis@thomastestley.org.uk

Separate Sciences (Twilight)

Exam Board: AQA

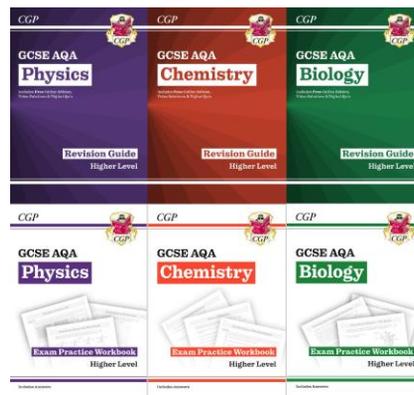
Specification: [tinyurl.com/uy7vzkb](https://www.tinyurl.com/uy7vzkb)



Grade 3+ or higher in Science in the Spring Term report is required for this Course for this Course and satisfactory attendance to the twilight sessions.

Course Overview:

This course is an accelerated version of the Separate Science – option-based route. Students opting for the twilight route will complete the full course in ten lessons and two twilight lessons every two-weeks, rather than the fifteen lessons offered in the option-based route. The benefit of this choice is that it does not take up an option block, allowing students to choose 4 other subjects to study, and ending Year 11 with one more GCSE that they would otherwise have been able to study.



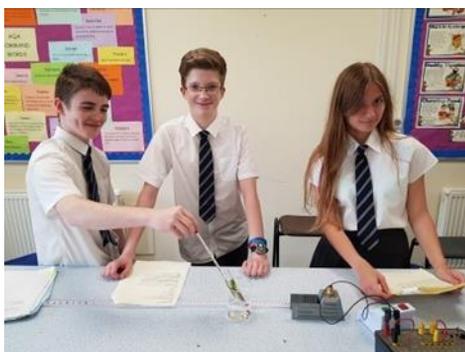
Unit	Type	Weighting
Biology (8461)	2 x 105 mins exams	50% per exam
Chemistry (8462)	2 x 105 mins exams	50% per exam
Physics (8463)	2 x 105 mins exams	50% per exam

Post-16 Progression

The additional GCSE provided by this route could be very beneficial when applying for highly competitive or prestigious courses.

Example Career Paths

Airline Pilot, Beautician, Chiropodist, Dentist, Electrical Engineer, Forester, Geoscientist plus many more science based careers



Why study this course?

Science courses are designed to engage interest at every level by providing relevant and inspiring content plus opportunities to undertake scientific investigations and learn more about the scientific process.

The triple course takes this further and allows our students to investigate key scientific principles in greater detail giving them a greater understanding of the world around them and ultimately a platform to accelerate their progress at KS5.

For more information:

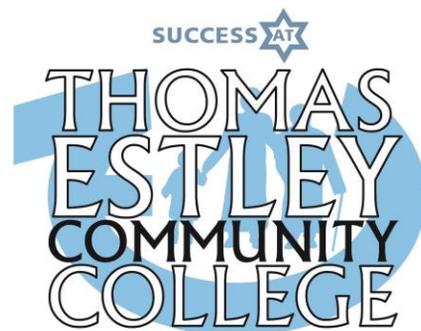
Mr R Corner

rcorner@thomastestley.org.uk

Separate Sciences

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [tinyurl.com/uy7vzkb](https://www.tinyurl.com/uy7vzkb)

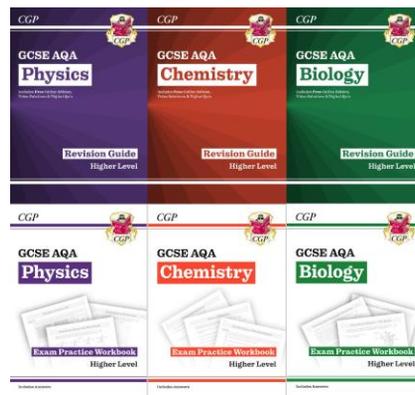


Grade 2+ or higher in Science in the Spring Term report is required for this Course alongside a consistently good attitude for learning score between Summer Year 8 and Autumn Year 9

Course Overview:

The triple science course allows students to study the complete double science course and then to delve even deeper into the subject giving them a better understanding of the scientific principles which govern our world. Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in 15 lessons every two weeks. Whilst it is not a requirement that students study triple science to be allowed access to science A-levels, the course does form an excellent transition to A-level study.

Students that study this course will sit six 105-minute exams at the end of Year 11 and will finish with 3 science GCSEs.



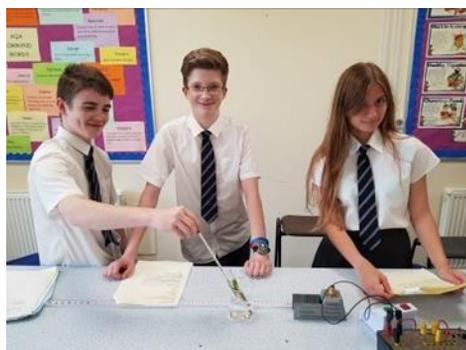
Unit	Type	Weighting
Biology (8461)	2 x 105 mins exams	50% per exam
Chemistry (8462)	2 x 105 mins exams	50% per exam
Physics (8463)	2 x 105 mins exams	50% per exam

Post-16 Progression

Achievement of a triple award GCSE allows the students to progress onto an A Level in either Biology, Chemistry or Physics or onto a vocational course in all areas.

Example Career Paths

Airline Pilot, Beautician, Chiropodist, Dentist, Electrical Engineer, Forester, Geoscientist plus many more science based careers



Why study this course?

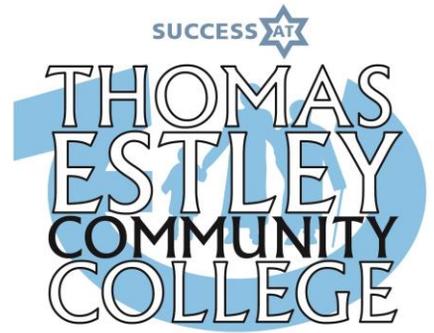
Science courses are designed to engage interest at every level by providing relevant and inspiring content plus opportunities to undertake scientific investigations and learn more about the scientific process.

The triple course takes this further and allows our students to investigate key scientific principles in greater detail giving them a greater understanding of the world around them and ultimately a platform to accelerate their progress at KS5.

For more information:

Mr R Corner

rcorner@thomastestley.org.uk



Grade 2+ or higher in Spanish at AP2 Year 9 is required for this course.

Course Overview:

The course will build on the experiences of Key Stage 3 and will further develop your ability to use Spanish effectively for the purpose of practical communication.

Topics at GCSE include:

- My Personal World
- Lifestyle and Wellbeing
- My Neighbourhood
- Media and Technology
- Studying and my Future
- Travel and Tourism



The GCSE course is divided into four skills areas (see below) and all exams to be taken at the end of Year 11.

Unit	Type	Weighting
Listening (Comprehension, Dictation)	Exam (45 mins Foundation/60 mins Higher)	25%
Speaking (Read Aloud, Role Play, Picture Task)	Exam (7-9 mins Foundation/10-12 mins Higher + planning time)	25%
Reading (Comprehension, Translation)	Exam (45 mins Foundation/60 mins Higher)	25%
Writing (Extended Writing, Translation)	Exam (1 hr 15 mins Foundation/1 hour 20 mins Higher)	25%

Post-16 Progression

A foreign language GCSE is required to continue languages at KS5 or beyond.

You can study a language alongside another subject at university and spend a year abroad.

Example Career Paths

Catering, Travel and Tourism Industry, International Business, Journalism, Education, Politics, Banking.



Why study this subject?

There are a range of reasons why studying a language can be beneficial to you.

In our global economy, foreign language skills are becoming increasingly important and boost employability.

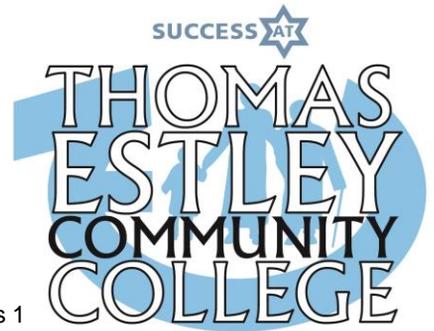
Studying a language at GCSE increases your opportunities for places in higher educational institutions where there is increased competition nationally amongst students.

Statistics

Exam Board: **EDEXCEL**

Specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/statistics-2017.html>



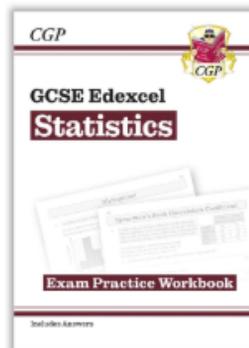
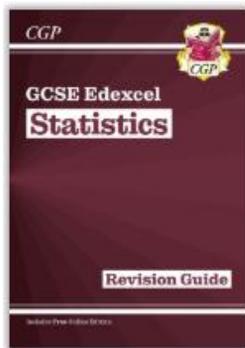
Course Overview:

You will have **5 set lessons per fortnight**, which take place during the school day. GCSE Statistics is a tiered qualification, with Foundation capable of achieving grades 1 to 5 and Higher 4 to 9. We would aim to enter everyone into the higher tier exam.

Grade 3- or higher in Maths in the Year 9 assessment is required for this course.

Statistics is assessed by **2 ninety-minute exams** totalling **160 marks**; both are calculator papers.

There is no coursework. A lot of Statistics includes concepts that you will have seen in your normal maths lessons but there is a lot of new content too.



Why study this subject?

Studying GCSE Statistics is important for a variety of reasons, both academically and in terms of real-world applications. Here are several key points:

1. Supercharge Your Skills

Data Detective: Learn how to collect, interpret, and present data like a pro—skills that are in demand everywhere.

Problem-Solving Power: Make smart decisions based on real evidence. Logical thinking is your secret weapon in a data-driven world.

Confidence with Numbers: Build a strong foundation in handling numbers and patterns, making maths feel easier and more approachable.

Think Critically: Spot misleading data and make informed choices - skills that matter in everyday life and future careers.

2. Boost Your Maths GCSE Grade

Did you know that studying GCSE Statistics can **significantly improve your Maths GCSE performance**? Here's how:

- Many topics in Statistics overlap with the **higher tier Maths content**, giving you extra practice and confidence.
- You'll master concepts like probability, averages, and data interpretation; key areas that often trip students up in Maths.
- Students who take Statistics often report feeling **more prepared and less stressed** for their Maths exams because they've already tackled similar problems.

It's like having a head start; while others are learning these ideas for the first time in Maths, you'll already be ahead!

3. Open Doors to Amazing Careers

- **Business & Finance:** Marketing, banking, and investment analysis rely on data.
- **Healthcare:** Help shape medical research and public health decisions.
- **Engineering & Technology:** From product testing to tech development, statistics is everywhere.
- **Social Sciences:** Psychology, sociology, and economics all depend on data analysis.

4. Your Next Steps

- **A Level Statistics or Maths:** GCSE Statistics gives you a strong foundation for advanced study.
- **Vocational Courses:** Business, Health, and Engineering courses all include statistical elements.
- **University Degrees:** Data science, economics, psychology, and more. Statistics is your passport to success.

In short: GCSE Statistics isn't just another subject, it's your chance to **boost your Maths grade, gain real-world skills, and open doors to exciting futures.** Why wait? Make the smart choice for Year 10 and Year 11!

For more information:

Miss R Handley

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Course Overview:

The Design and Technology – Textiles GCSE places a great emphasis on understanding and applying design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes, mainly using Textiles, that solve real and relevant problems, considering others’ needs, wants and values. The process they will go through will have an element of practical work, but the emphasis of this GCSE is on design and idea development. They will also use many skills from other subject areas like literacy and numeracy skills within analysis, communication and evaluations.

GCSE Design and Technology– Textiles will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors



Unit	Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Exam (2 hours)	50%
No Exam Assessment	Design and Make Task (30-35 hours)	50%

Post-16 Progression

This Course opens up the opportunity to study Design subjects at a higher level or further education, such as Fashion, Contour Design, Interior Design, Product Design. It can also lead to engineering qualifications and apprenticeships.

Example Career Paths

Fashion, Costumer, Interior Design, Product Design, Footwear Design, Tailoring and bespoke Textiles, Technical Textiles.

Many employers want creative people and problem solvers – these skills will be developed through this GCSE.



Why study this subject?

Working within Design and Technology develops skills and capabilities beyond the subject’s actual content, such as group working, decision making skills, independence, problem solving and resourcefulness.

These qualities are highly valued across all professions and jobs, as well as in the creative industries

