

GCSE Options Booklet

Courses Commencing
September 2022



Learn | Learn



Important Information

This booklet contains information for students and parents / carers. It is essential that both parties read it carefully and discuss it in detail.

Mr Fisher
Principal

NHGS Vision

NHGS is the school that everyone wishes they went to: where enthusiasm is infectious and excellence is standard; where co-operation is at the heart of all we do; where everyone strives to achieve their goals and is mindful of the right ways to do so.

We equip our students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to navigate life with confidence and set courses of their own choosing. Together, we develop the whole person by:

Living to Learn | Learning to Live

NHGS Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a school where our behaviours create excellence.

Key Strategic Objectives

To be a school where everyone is safe, is valued, and enjoys the highest possible level of personal well-being.

To be a school where students develop the skills, knowledge and attributes to navigate life with confidence and set courses of their own choosing.

To be a school where all students make excellent progress from their different starting points as a result of world-class teaching, learning and assessment.

Choosing your GCSE option courses is an important stepping-stone in your education. The purpose of this booklet is to give you the basic information you need to make the best choices you can. Making good choices will help you to be as successful as possible in your public exams at the end of Year 11. How well you do then can be important for determining what happens to you thereafter in terms of Sixth Form study, apprenticeships, University and / or employment. Take time to read this booklet carefully and to follow its advice. It is in your own best interests.

Be sure to understand what our core curriculum includes and then think about what option subjects will give you the best chance of success. Although we do not insist on you doing all of the subjects you need to complete the EBACC, we do strongly recommend it (Geography and/or History are important and well-respected academic subjects that many universities and employers like to know people have studied to at least GCSE level. If you are certain you want (or might want) to pursue a particular career (such as being a doctor or lawyer) you must do some research to make sure you understand what subjects will give you the best chance to follow your dream. If you don't know what you want to do in future (and that is fine!) you need to do the subjects you are likely to be best at. Higher grades at GCSE give you the greatest choice of courses and jobs later on, and will let you stay in control of your own destiny. If you are unsure what to do, talk to your family, your teachers, the careers adviser or a senior member of staff. There is lots of help available and this decision is too important to get it wrong because you feel embarrassed or awkward to talk about it.

Read through the Dos and Don'ts of choosing subjects with your family. The section contains really important advice – you will ignore it at your peril! Accept from the outset that we might not be able to provide you with exactly what you want to do – that, I'm afraid, is life! What we do know, from helping thousands of other students in the past, is that what we do offer is more than capable of opening up any course or career that you might want to pursue in the long-run. With hard work, dedication and concentration, you can achieve a combination of GCSE results that will set you up to thrive for years and years to come.

Kind regards,



Mr Fisher
Principal



Dear Parent / Carer

We hope you will find the information in this booklet helpful as you assist your child(ren) to make their option choices. Further help is available from staff at school, should you need it.


GCSE option choices are important as they can directly impact what students might or might not be able to do in future. Good choices will leave options for future study and future careers open, bad ones can close them down. Good choices can lead to better grades at GCSE, bad choices to worse grades. Although we do not insist on our students doing all of the subjects they need to complete the EBACC, we do strongly recommend it. Geography and History are important and well-respected academic subjects that many universities and employers like to know people have studied to at least GCSE level.

Our curriculum has proved itself as a route to success over the years. We can provide a route to almost any course or career that a student might wish to pursue in future, but it will not always be a direct route. Our funding and our facilities place a number of constraints on us and we cannot provide exactly what everyone might want. Please help us to guide your child towards longer term goals with an appropriate understanding and acceptance of what is possible for now and what will become possible in future through hard work, dedication and concentration – and compromise! Life is (hopefully!) a marathon, not a sprint.

It is really important that you read the Dos and Don'ts section and discuss it seriously with your child. Every year, some students make bad choices for the wrong reasons and, as a result, do less well than they might otherwise do when their results are published. This is why it is essential for us, the adults, to work together to guide some choices and avoid costly mistakes. Where this is necessary, we will be in contact with you and hope you will support our reasoning when we explain it to you. We are usually prepared to negotiate to get the best possible outcome!

Details of who to contact and how to contact them if you have questions or comments appear at the end of the FAQ section of this booklet. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have, no matter how big or how small. These choices are important and it is worth doing everything necessary to get them as 'right' as possible.

Kind regards,



Mr Fisher
Principal



We expect nearly all of our students to study 10 full GCSEs.

These 10 subjects are made up of our standard 'Core' offer, which comprises 7 subjects:

Combined Science * (worth 2 GCSEs)
English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Modern Foreign Language (an MFL (in French or Spanish***)
Religious Studies (RS) **

And 3 options subjects chosen from the following:

Art
Business
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography
History
Modern Foreign Language (a second MFL in French or Spanish)
Music
Physical Education (PE)
Psychology
Separate Sciences *

Information about each of these courses is provided later in this booklet.

- In addition to their GCSEs, all students also follow non-examined courses in PE and Religious, Personal and Social Education (RPSE);
- Students studying a second Modern Foreign Language in Year 9 will carry this on to GCSE level as one of their option subjects. They will have two further options to choose from the list above. The second MFL option is not available to students who have not studied two languages in Year 9;
- Nationally, there is some variability between the grading of certain subjects, but, in general terms, all of our GCSE subjects are of a similar standard. None should be considered 'easier' than others;
- In most cases, we require at least 16 students to opt for a course in order to guarantee to run it;
- In some subjects, staffing and facilities will dictate that we have to limit the number of groups / places. This is indicated on the subject page. Where too many students opt for a course, the school will determine the best / fairest way to allocate the places.

* Combined / Separate Sciences. For an explanation please see below and the subject information pages.

^p
** Religious Studies is studied across Years 9 and 10 and examined at the end of Year 10 (except in the case of students studying 2 MFLs).

*** Students will have been contacted if study of an MFL is not appropriate for them. They will study a GCSE in Media instead of an MFL

The EBACC

The EBACC is a 'composite qualification' achieved by students who get pass grades (4 and above) in English, Mathematics, 2 Sciences, a MFL and either History or Geography. We strongly recommend that all students should aim to achieve the EBACC, although we have not made all elements of it part of our Core Curriculum. We will expect students who do not opt for the subject(s) they need to complete the EBACC to have compelling reasons. For some universities and employers, it has currency as a marker of good all round academic ability. Nationally the Government expects 75% of students to at least attempt the EBACC, although this target is still some way off being realised. As a Grammar school, we should exceed that expectation.

The EBACC helps in applying to the most competitive universities and courses by making students stand out as having an academic background.

Combined / Separate Sciences

This can confuse some people! Whether students stick with Combined Science as part of the core curriculum or opt for more science through Separate Sciences, all students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The cognitive level of the sciences studied is lower in Combined Science and higher in Separate Science GCSEs. Students considering taking sciences at A Level or pursuing careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, engineering, etc. are strongly advised to take Separate Sciences. Students taking A Level sciences after doing Combined Sciences at GCSE will find themselves at a considerable disadvantage. We anticipate around 70% of NHGS students will take Separate Sciences. Students opting for Separate Sciences will choose 2 other option subjects, while students of Combined Science will choose 3 other options.

99 %

3 year average of 5 or more
passes at GCSE (4+)

NHGS GCSE “Mountain” Pathways

All students at NHGS have their own personal academic and career aspirations, most of them highly ambitious. It is part of the NHGS vision to ensure that, on leaving school, students can “set courses of their own choosing.” Getting yourself into that position is a bit like climbing a mountain. Mountains are all challenging to climb, but some have a greater degree of difficulty than others! Below, we set out three different mountain climbing challenges. Each of the challenges will lead to a slightly different summit. Which of the mountain challenges leads you to the summit of your choice? All three of the “mountains” on offer ensure that you will study a broad and academically rigorous curriculum, but each will provide a slightly different level of challenge, depending on your climbing skill-set! Please note that, although Everest is the highest mountain, it is not necessarily the hardest or most dangerous to climb!

Annapurna

This is our most academically challenging “mountain” and is as rigorous as anything students would come across in any secondary school. This is suitable for students who really want to push themselves and scale a testing and technically exacting academic summit. This “mountain” would ensure that students complete the EBACC.

GCSE Subjects studied in this pathway; French and Spanish, Separate Sciences, English Language, English Literature, Maths, Religious Studies and either History or Geography as an option choice. Academic and career aspirations this pathway would suit best; applications for Oxbridge, Medicine and Dentistry courses, applications for the most competitive university courses at the most competitive universities, applications for the most competitive apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships.

Nanga Parbat

This is also an academically challenging “mountain” that will ensure that students are super- stretched and develop all the skills and knowledge they need to be able to compete for the most competitive universities and job opportunities. This is suitable for students who have not chosen a second language but would still want to scale a very testing academic summit. The subjects chosen on this “mountain” would ensure all students on it would also achieve the EBACC.

GCSE Subjects studied in this pathway; French or Spanish, Separate Sciences, English Language, English Literature, Maths, Religious Studies and either History or Geography as an option choice.

Academic and career aspirations this pathway would suit best; applications for Oxbridge, Medicine and Dentistry courses, applications for highly competitive university courses or courses at highly competitive universities, applications for highly competitive apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships.

Everest

This “mountain” still contains significant academic challenge that will engage students in a broad and balanced curriculum (nobody is suggesting that climbing Everest is easy!). This is perhaps more suitable for students whose talents and/or interests lie away from the sciences, in creative subjects or social science subjects.

GCSE Subjects studied in this pathway; French or Spanish, English Language, English Literature, Maths, Religious Studies, Combined Sciences and three option choices from any subjects available.

Academic and career aspirations this pathway would suit best; applications for competitive university courses, applications for specific vocational or creative courses, degree apprenticeships and apprenticeship courses.

This is, of course, general guidance, and it is important for students to consider fully their own aspirations and aptitudes. If you would like further help talking through these “mountain” options, please contact Mr Kennedy in the first instance.

Choosing Your Options – DOs & DON'Ts

Do:

- Think about possible future careers and research what you need to study to pursue them. Try not to close any options down and remember that your current ideas might change in the coming years;
- Reflect on whether studying the EBACC will help you with later choices at university and beyond;
- Think about what you really enjoy and are good at;
- Talk with subject teachers and others who can tell you more about subject content and your likely suitability for a course;
- Talk at length with people you trust and who have relevant knowledge who can help you with these choices. Especially try to talk to employers and people who work in Higher Education to understand their perspectives on GCSE choices;
- Be open to suggestions from school and our guidance on the best combinations of courses for you. We have helped many, many people with these choices and can potentially save you from making mistakes you might later regret.

Don't:

- Do not pick a subject because you think it is 'easier' than others – it won't be!
- Do not pick a subject just because you like a particular teacher. We cannot guarantee they will be your teacher for the whole (or even any!) of a course.
- Do not make 'negative choices'. E.g. Do not do a 'new' subject like Psychology just because you don't like something like History. There are a lot of facts to learn and writing to do in both subjects. At least you have been studying History for the last 3 years and already have many of the key skills you will need to do well. Everything in Psychology will be new and you will only have 2 years rather than 5 to get to the same standard! This reasoning applies to other subjects too.
- Do not be influenced by what subjects your friends choose! Spend some time away from them, make some new friends and do the subjects that interest you. Be independent, not a sheep!
- Do not wonder about something and not ask a question to find out the answer. You might regret it later.
- Do not waste energy complaining about what you can't do! Make positive choices from the options in front of you and put yourself in the best position possible to do what you want later on.
- Do not pick too many 'new' subjects or subjects with non-examined assessment (NEA or as we used to call it, coursework). NEA in particular eats up your free time and your time to learn and revise your other subjects. Learning 'new' subjects completely from 'scratch' can also be very demanding. We only recommend choosing one.

FAQs

Why does our core curriculum contain:

A Modern Foreign Language?

We are a Grammar school and expect our students to take on tough academic challenges. Learning about other languages and cultures is fascinating and shows respect for others. Very few British people learn other languages so it will give you a real advantage in the job market.

Religious Studies?

This is consistently one of our most successful examination courses. In an increasingly divided yet shrinking world, tolerance and respect for others' views is essential. This course embodies many of the school's most important values (see our Vision and Ethos Statements).

Why can't students do both Art and Design & Technology?

The non-examined assessment will swamp you! If you need to discuss this further, talk to us!

Can you make a reasonable adjustment to meet my (child's) SEND?

Quite possibly. Please contact Mrs Alexander, our SENDCo, in the first instance.

Where can I find more information?

Further details can be found on page 29 of this booklet.

Key Contacts

Upper School Leader / Director of Careers and Student Experience
Mr Kennedy d.kennedy@nhgs.co.uk

SENDCo
Mrs Alexander j.alexander@nhgs.co.uk

School Administration
Mrs Greenwood s.greenwood@nhgs.co.uk



Core Subject – Combined Sciences

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>The Combined Science course involves students studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics and is worth two GCSEs when completed. The course covers much of the same material as studying Separate Sciences and maintains the academic rigour in science that employers and educational institutions value. Students can choose Combined Science for GCSE study and still be able to complete A-level science courses, but it is recommended that if students are thinking of applying for the most competitive university courses or to work in health professions or engineering they choose to study Separate Science courses at GCSE.</p> <div> <div> Biology <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology </div> <div> Chemistry <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Atomic structure and the Periodic Table 9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 10. Quantitative chemistry 11. Chemical changes 12. Energy changes 13. The rate and extent of chemical change 14. Organic chemistry 15. Chemical analysis 16. Chemistry of the atmosphere 17. Using resources </div> <div> Physics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Energy 19. Electricity 20. Particle model of matter 21. Atomic structure 22. Forces 23. Waves 24. Magnetism and electromagnetism </div> </div>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE.	<p>The main difference between studying Combined Science and Separate Sciences is that there is less content covered overall in the Combined Science course than when studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately. This means that students still receive a strong grounding in applying the scientific method and acquire a good grasp of all the topics covered in the different sciences, but do not tackle some of the hardest concepts of the separate courses.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Combined Science teaches many skills and a lot of knowledge that is relevant to many careers and also to life in general. We need scientific knowledge to understand the modern world and many of the challenges it presents, from climate change to pandemics!</p> <p>Combined Science is a choice that students may consider if they are unsure whether they wish to pursue science A-levels, but wish to keep options open about a potential future career in a science related course. Many students have used the Combined Science course as a springboard into roles in the Allied Health Professions and careers in STEM subjects and have found the skills developed invaluable in helping attain success on apprenticeship courses. Students who think they are likely to opt for A Level Sciences for their career choice would be better suited to opting for Separate Science GCSEs.</p>

Core Subject – English Language

Exam Board	AQA		
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>English Language builds your communication skills and helps you to interact with and interpret the world around you. For English Language, students read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction from the last three centuries looking at a range of texts that reflect on the world we live in. You are trained to become perceptive and critical readers, and to write with impact and flair.</p>		
	<p>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</p> <p>Reading critically and responding to a modern fiction text. You are taught:</p> <p>Fact retrieval. Analysing language. Analysing structure. Evaluating writers' choices. Writing narrative and descriptive prose for impact. Writing for purpose in appropriate form and register. Writing clearly and coherently. Different writing structures. Spelling, punctuation and grammar.</p>	<p>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</p> <p>Reading critically and responding to two non-fiction texts from different eras. You are taught:</p> <p>Fact retrieval. Synthesis and inference. Analysing language Comparing writers' perspectives and methods. Writing to argue persuasively in essay, speech, leaflet, article and letter format. Writing clearly and coherently. Different writing structures. Spelling, punctuation and grammar.</p>	<p>Non-exam assessment: Spoken Language Endorsement</p> <p>As part of the GCSE, you will give a presentation on a topic of your choice, which will be awarded a mark that appears on your GCSE certificate. You are taught:</p> <p>Presenting clearly and coherently, and with impact. Using language creatively. Use of notes in oral presentations. Listening and responding with questions. Responding to questions and elaborating on ideas.</p>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE-successful in your subject at GCSE.	<p>You will build and develop the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selecting and synthesising information; • Separating fact from fiction and being alert to bias; • Analysis, interpretation and evaluation of ideas and the methods used to present them; • Writing in a range of styles and genres; • Organising texts and information effectively; • Technical accuracy in written expression; • Communication of ideas – both verbal and written – in articulate and precise Language; • Delivering an effective presentation. 		
Where will the course take you?	<p>The skills you develop here will support you in your A Level studies in different subjects and across all degree courses at University. Recently English A Level students have gone on to study; English Language and Literature, Speech Therapy, Criminology, Media and Journalism, Medicine, Law, Business, Politics, History, Art, Philosophy, Economics, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages amongst others.</p> <p>English Language skills are useful in every career: Business, Law, Education, Administration, Politics and Government, Medicine, Media, Sales and Marketing, and Journalism to name but a few.</p>		

Core Subject – English Literature

Exam Board	AQA	
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>Shelley once said that poetry is the “best words in the best order”, but study of English Literature takes you far beyond merely the study of words. It makes you think about what it is to be human; to understand why people act the way they do; and to explore the impact of history and other contexts on humanity. In addition, you’ll improve your well-being; regular reading is good for your health.</p>	
	<p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and 19th Century Fiction</p> <p><i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens</p> <p>Critical Reading Skills: Analysing form, language and structure. Critical Writing Skills: constructing argument, exploring interpretations, using quotation, applying knowledge of contexts.</p>	<p>Paper 2 : Modern Texts</p> <p><i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding <i>Love and Relationships or Power and Conflict Poetry</i> <i>Unseen Poetry</i></p> <p>Critical Reading Skills: Analysing form, language and structure. Critical Writing Skills: constructing argument, exploring interpretations, using quotation, applying knowledge of contexts.</p>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>The ability to argue is vital – you have to develop your own opinions and arguments about the texts.</p> <p>Reading skills of selection, synthesis, analysis and interpretation are key. The willingness to develop your awareness of history, philosophy and society are also vital.</p> <p>You will develop your analytical writing skills and learn to be really forensic in your approaches to texts.</p>	
Where will the course take you?	<p>The confidence you build in analysis and in constructing and articulating arguments is useful in multiple degree courses and careers – and is one of the reasons English Literature graduates are so attractive to the legal, political and business professions.</p> <p>Recently English A Level students have gone on to study; English Language and Literature, Ancient History, Criminology, Media and Journalism, Tourism, Law, Business, Politics, History, Art, Philosophy, Economics, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages amongst others.</p> <p>English Literature skills are useful in a wide range of careers: Law, Education, Business, Administration, Art, Politics and Government, Media, Sales and Marketing, and Criticism to name but a few.</p>	

Core Subject – Mathematics

Exam Board	<p>Edexcel (Pearson) 1MA1 Mathematics Higher tier.</p> <p>Highest attaining students may also be taught the additional content for the AQA Level 2 Certificate, Further Mathematics</p>
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>The aims and objectives of the GCSE in Mathematics are to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts; • Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems; • Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions; • Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context. <p>The qualification covers the following content headings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Number 2 Algebra 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change 4 Geometry and measures 5 Probability 6 Statistics <p>The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers. Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3. Each paper has a range of question types; some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.</p>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>The skills developed through the study of Mathematics are in high demand from employers. In addition to developing the ability to solve problems and think logically, the study of Mathematics provides opportunities to develop team-working skills, resilience, effective communication of complex ideas and the ability to use your own initiative. You will learn how to collect and analyse data and how to find efficient solutions to real life problems. These skills and techniques are also important in business, logistics and computer science.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Mathematics is a highly valued qualification by employers and universities. The vast range of degree courses and careers that require solid mathematical skills ensures that taking Mathematics to AS level or beyond will open doors to a world of opportunities.</p> <p>Mathematics underpins most of Science, Technology and Engineering and is also important in areas as diverse as Business, Accountancy, Banking, Insurance, Law, Nutrition, Sports Science and Psychology.</p> <p>Employability Skills</p> <p>The reason why so many employers highly value mathematics qualifications is mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results help you to formulate reasoned arguments. Importantly you will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data.</p> <p>Career Opportunities</p> <p>Mathematics qualifications are versatile and are well-respected by employers. Careers for people with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also often interesting and rewarding. People who have studied mathematics are in the fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career.</p>

Core Subject – Modern Foreign Languages

(MFL) French

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>Studying French gives you the opportunity to communicate with 220 million French speakers, over 5 continents. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. The GCSE French course is divided into three themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity and culture • Local, national, international and global areas of interest • Current and future study and employment <p>You will recognize many of the themes from Key Stage 3 and will continue to extend your knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures. The emphasis remains on communication and you will be hearing and using French regularly in the classroom to develop your skills in dealing with authentic situations.</p> <p>All formal assessment is taken at the end of Year 11, but regular internal assessment is undertaken throughout the course. The final GCSE grade, 9-1, will be awarded on the basis of four examinations, each worth 25% of the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listening, • speaking, • reading • writing
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>We have many able linguists at NHGS and a thriving modern languages department. An increasing number of students are now taking 2 languages at GCSE and if you are interested in languages and enjoy learning them, you should consider doing both French and Spanish.</p> <p>Skills you will develop through the course include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication skills; • Problem solving skills; • Accuracy and attention to detail; • Team working; • Creative thinking. <p>Language study is training in empathy; gaining a greater understanding of how the world looks from someone else's point of view.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Beyond GCSE, you can take A level French as one of your 3 A Level subjects. Many of our students go on to study French at University, either as a Single Honours Degree or as a Joint Honours, combining a language with a whole range of other subjects.</p> <p>The ability to speak French is an advantage in the job market, both at home and abroad. Studies show that over two-thirds of UK businesses value foreign language skills and many language graduates go straight into Business Services, Marketing, Advertising, Management, Banking or the Media. Language skills can lead directly into a career in Translating, Interpreting or Teaching, and are also in demand in areas such as Hospitality, Law, Journalism and publishing services.</p> <p>French degrees typically involve spending a year abroad and this can be an opportunity to find work in a field that interests you and gain relevant experience. Or why not use a French degree to become a famous author (JK Rowling) or newsreader (Fiona Bruce) (Huw Edwards).</p>

Core Subject – Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Spanish

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>Studying Spanish gives you the opportunity to communicate with 440 million Spanish speakers in 24 different countries. This makes it the second most spoken language in terms of the number of people who speak it as their mother tongue (only Mandarin Chinese has more native speakers). Spanish is spoken in Spain, throughout the Americas, as well as a few countries in the Caribbean, and Equatorial Guinea in Africa</p> <p>The GCSE Spanish course is divided into three themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity and culture • Local, national, international and global areas of interest • Current and future study and employment <p>You will recognize many of the themes from Key Stage 3 and will continue to extend your knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures. The emphasis remains on communication and you will be hearing and using Spanish regularly in the classroom to develop your skills in dealing with authentic situations. All formal assessment is taken at the end of Year 11, but regular internal assessment is undertaken throughout the course. The final GCSE grade, 9-1, will be awarded on the basis of four examinations, each worth 25% of the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listening, • speaking, • reading • writing
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p><i>We have many able linguists at NHGS and a thriving modern languages department. An increasing number of students are now taking 2 languages at GCSE and if you are interested in languages and enjoy learning them, you should consider doing both French and Spanish</i></p> <p><i>You will develop the skills needed to become a competent speaker acquiring the skills needed in this growing international global society.</i></p> <p><i>Skills you will develop through the course include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication skills; • Problem solving skills; • Accuracy and attention to detail; • Team working; • Creative thinking. <p><i>You will also develop an appreciation for the culture of other countries where Spanish is spoken and you will understand the importance of being tolerant, open-minded and empathetic in a multicultural society.</i></p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly in businesses that trade internationally. Some job options directly related to a degree in languages include: Interpreter, Secondary School Teacher or Translator. Jobs where a degree in languages would be useful include: Broadcast Journalist, Diplomatic Service Officer, Education Consultant, English as a Foreign Language Teacher, Logistics and Distribution Manager, Marketing Executive, Sales Executive or Tour Manager</p> <p>Also remember that many modern language degree programmes offer a year abroad. Some graduates wanting a long-term career using a language choose to take on a short-term role, such as teaching English, while living abroad and perfecting their language skills. Other temporary jobs that take you abroad may be helpful, such as those in tourism. Experience in areas such as administration and IT will also be useful for many jobs that use language skills.</p>

Core Subject – Religious Studies (RS)

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>All students will begin Religious Studies GCSE at the start of Year 9, leading to a full GCSE. Assessment will be through two written examinations at the end of Year 10 we study AQA Religious Studies GCSE Specification A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1. Study of beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity and Buddhism; • Component 2. Study of four religious, philosophical and ethical themes: The existence of God and revelation; Religion, peace and conflict; Religion, crime and punishment; Relationships and families. <p>In all parts of the course, students will be expected to think, act and speak philosophically, to listen to the views of others, to give reasons for their opinions and to develop critical and analytical skills. In addition to building up a body of knowledge to pass the exam, we aim to help our students become the kind of broadminded, sensitive and empathetic young adults our society needs.</p> <p>There are no controlled assessments or coursework. This GCSE will begin in Year 9 after Easter.</p>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>We believe that knowledge comes first in Religious Studies. We do not presume any prior knowledge of either Buddhism or Christianity and as such teach the main beliefs and practices of each faith from scratch.</p> <p>Once you have begun to learn the key knowledge you need, we start to get you to apply this to questions. Key skills at GCSE are analysis, evaluation and the ability to think critically about issues.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Many people think RS can only lead to a career as a Monk, Nun or RS teacher; this could not be further from the truth, however!</p> <p>The study of this discipline could lead you to the study of A Level Religious Studies or Philosophy. The skills you learn will also help you with subjects such as English or History.</p> <p>Most universities offer both philosophy and theology. Those who complete a degree in a related discipline often go on to a wide variety of careers. These include graduate training schemes, Banking, Teaching, Journalism, Counselling, Policing, Social Work and Youth Work.</p>

Options Subject – Art

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>Course: Art & Design (Fine Art) Our GCSE Course is rich in opportunities for students to develop new skills and explore contemporary and historical source material. Throughout the course students are encouraged to follow their own lines of interest and enquiry when developing their work. As a result, we see rich and varied outcomes ranging from large scale sculptures, Photography, textile pieces to animations and traditional paintings.</p> <p>Course Structure: Component 1: Coursework Portfolio (60%) and Component 2 (40%) Externally Set Assignment.</p> <p>Coursework Units: Still Life: <i>Photography and digital image manipulation (beginner), drawing for purpose (experimental, design & observational), painting, mixed media, lino printing and monoprinting.</i> Portraiture: <i>Tonal drawing, Photography, digital image manipulation (intermediate/advanced), stencil and spray painting</i> Natural Form: <i>Experimental drawing, working on prepared grounds, abstraction and surface pattern design, 3D Ceramic sculpture, plaster casting and carving. This unit includes a gallery visit along with at least one workshop with a practicing artist.</i></p> <p>Your portfolio will be assessed over four areas – <i>observation & recording (both written and practical), experimentation and ideas development, Artist research and your overall response to your chosen themes.</i></p> <p>In January in Year 11 AQA release details on the Externally Set Assignment. Students will choose a theme to study from the selection of starting points provided and produce work to evidence the four assessment objectives. The preparation period for this task is usually between 6-8 weeks resulting in 15 hours of controlled time in which students produce their final outcome unaided.</p>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE-successful in your subject at GCSE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good organisation skills and the ability to work independently are essential to the study of Art. • An appreciation of and interest in visual culture would be beneficial as it will enable you to tailor your work to your own interests. • A willingness to try new things and the ability to reflect on your own work and that of other critically. • A reasonably strong foundation in drawing will be helpful, however we do continue to build on this skill continually throughout the course. • The ability to work as a team ensures a safe, inspiring and productive studio environment.
Where will the course take you?	<p>GCSE Fine Art is a perfect foundation for further study at A-level, including Photography, Media and Product Design. This can lead to a number of exciting design based careers including Fashion, Interiors, Theatre, Retail, Graphics and Jewellery. Other career opportunities include Animator, Video Games Designer, Artist, Ceramicist, Illustrator, Curator, Photographer, Architect, Advertising & Publishing, Journalism, Hair & Make up Design & Teaching.</p> <p>As an Art student you will develop skills in problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly.</p>

Options Subject – Business

Exam Board	Edexcel
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>GCSE Business introduces students to core concepts and ideas related to the business world and equips students with the knowledge and skills to understand how businesses work and the environment they operate in.</p> <p>The course is split into two halves, with Theme 1 looking at how entrepreneurs identify business opportunities and establish themselves in the market and Theme 2 dealing with issues relating to the running and management of a business.</p> <p>Studying GCSE Business will give students an understanding of business in the third decade of the 21st Century as all content is focused on contemporary case studies and draws on the dynamic and ever-changing world of modern business.</p> <p>Students studying the course will be introduced to lots of new ideas and information that they may not have studied in KS3 but will be interesting and engaging. Topics such as spotting a business opportunity, understanding the external environment of the business and making financial decisions will all be discovered and related to real world context.</p> <p>This subject is limited to two groups of no more than 30 students.</p>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE.	<p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in the world around you and an appreciation of the impact businesses can have on lots of different people • A lively and enquiring mind and the willingness to undertake a brand new subject never studied before. • A clear and logical style of thinking to help you order your thoughts when Putting. your examination answers together. • Good mathematical skills to be able to cope with data analysis and presentation. • An ability to link the business ideas studied in class to the case studies that will come up in the examination. • To be able to cope with revising and learning large volumes of notes in this rigorous academic subject.
Where will the course take you?	<p>Business is the most popular degree course in the UK so starting a GCSE course may put students on a path towards study at A-level or university. While it is not essential to take Business at GCSE to study the subject at A-level, the grounding in business ideas that students receive in the GCSE course will help propel them on to further study of the subject.</p> <p>As apprenticeships become a more popular choice for students, GCSE Business can act as a stepping stone to the world of work by giving students an insight into numerous topics that may be useful once they are employed. These would include issues such as managing finance, dealing with customers, managing staff and ordering production. GCSE Business would help anyone thinking of taking a next step into work.</p> <p>As well as studying Business at university the most common courses students go on to attend are Finance, Marketing and Economics. The grounding GCSE Business gives in these areas helps students who want to study these subjects further and are excellent for careers in entrepreneurship, Accountancy, Business Management and Leadership.</p>

Options Subject – Computer Science

Exam Board	OCR
Overview of the subject at GCSE.	<p>Computer systems- this component will assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 Systems architecture • 1.2 Memory and storage • 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols • 1.4 Network security • 1.5 Systems software • 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology <p>Computational thinking, algorithms and programming- this component will assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 Algorithms • 2.2 Programming fundamentals • 2.3 Producing robust programs • 2.4 Boolean logic • 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments
Skills required to be successful at GCSE.	<p>You will not be programming or using a computer all the time in GCSE Computer Science lessons. You will need to have strong skills and subject knowledge in Mathematics and a solid interest in Physics and Electronics would also help. You will be required to create, read, amend and find errors in algorithms, which includes studying flowcharts and written pseudocode.</p> <p>You should be eager to demonstrate your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative thinking; • Presentation skills; • Problem-solving skills; • Communication skills; • Accuracy and attention to detail. <p>You must be an independent learner but also work with the teacher and group to be successful.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Degree apprenticeships are gaining popularity. You can apply for places once you have a Computer Science A-Level. Some students that have studied Computer Science at NHGS have gone on to do apprenticeships with large organisations such as Cisco. These organisations pay a salary as well as pay for the degree course and also offer extra qualifications which can be taken alongside your degree. It is also possible to find placements that will offer employment after successful completion of the degree.</p> <p>Qualifications in Computer Science can lead you to work in many areas which include:</p> <p>Graphic Designer / Virtual Reality Games Designer / Web Content Manager / Drone Pilot / 3D Printed Clothing Designer / Video Journalist / Social Media Strategist / Big Data Architect / Cyber Security Analyst</p> <p>You could also use your problem solving skills to work in various research projects.</p>

Options Subject – Design & Technology

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>The Design and Technology Department has recently completed Phase 1 of an exciting renovation, bringing the environment and facilities into the 21st Century and making it now a modern and stimulating department befitting the present day and beyond. We still have familiar workshop facilities such as a laser cutter, 3D scanner and 3D printer plus traditional hand tools and machines. In addition, we also have a thermoforming machine that will complete several processes such as dip coating, injection moulding and extrusion and a machine that will recycle plastic by shredding into granules and pressing into sheets ready to be re-used and transformed into a new product.</p> <p>Our department has <i>ICT facilities</i> to support various computer design programmes which include Fusion 360 and 2D Design. In the past, students have enjoyed our annual visits to Jaguar Land Rover and we regularly look for opportunities to offer new and exciting trips.</p> <p>Course content for GCSE D&T:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>New and emerging technologies</i> - <i>Materials and their working properties</i> - <i>Timber based materials</i> - <i>Metal based materials</i> - <i>Designing principles</i> - <i>Energy, materials, systems and devices</i> - <i>Common specialist technical principles</i> - <i>Polymers</i> - <i>Textiles based materials</i> - <i>Making principles</i> <p>In Year 10 you will complete an introductory course focusing on skills development, material properties and the design process. This will prepare students to produce a personal outcome to an exam board set controlled assessment (NEA task) which will be completed during Year 11. This controlled assessment forms 50% of the GCSE total mark.</p> <p>Examples of potential current outcomes range from a <i>water filter for a developing country, kitchen aids for arthritis sufferers and aroma scented sleepwear for students suffering with anxiety and sleep deprivation.</i> This process will be assessed in the following areas: identify and investigate, design brief and specify, generate design ideas, develop design ideas, realise design ideas and analyse and evaluate.</p> <p>At the end of Year 11 students will complete an exam paper (2 hours) in which their knowledge of core, specialist and design principles will be assessed. This forms the remaining 50% of the grade. The exam content has been split into three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Core technical principles</i> - <i>Specialist technical principles</i> - <i>Designing and making principles</i>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>A GCSE in Design & Technology is suitable for students who enjoy the creativity of the design process, the technical side of drawing, working with materials and manufacturing methods. Students are also expected to apply relevant maths and scientific knowledge, skills and understanding in our subject.</p> <p>Identified by UCAS, <i>‘the skills and qualities required but also gained, are all highly desirable by employers/institutions and excellent for applications, interviews and references’</i>. These include creativity, innovation, time management, organisation, discipline, perseverance, problem solving, team work and communication</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>This course leads perfectly onto <i>A-Level Product Design</i> offered in the Sixth Form and complements many core subjects as well as opening doors to a wide range of career choices including: Engineering, Architecture, Fashion Design, Quantity Surveyor, Industrial Design, Manufacturing, Interior Design, Construction, Product Design, 3D Design, Furniture Design, Graphic Design.</p>

Options Subject – Food Preparation & Nutrition

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>This is a fresh, exciting and creative course which focuses highly on <i>practical cooking skills</i> and equips students with an <i>array of culinary techniques</i>, as well as <i>knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety</i>. Here students are given the opportunity to apply knowledge, along with innovative ideas to plan, prepare, cook and develop dishes that are not only vital life skills but are show stoppers too.</p> <p>Assessment: The course is assessed in 3 ways</p> <p>Written examination (1hr 45 mins) weighting 50% - based on theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition from the 5 core topics.</p> <p>Controlled assessment - weighting 35% - students will have up to 3 hours to plan, prepare, cook, serve, and evaluate a broad set practical task following preparation to research, trial skills and modify suitable dishes. Students will submit a written portfolio including photographic evidence of the final three dishes.</p> <p>Practical Investigation – weighting 15% - students will produce a report, including photographic evidence, which shows understanding of the functional and chemical properties of ingredients based on evidence from practical work.</p> <p>The Five Core Topics are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food, Nutrition and Health – including sources and functions in the body of Macro- and micro-nutrients depending on age, gender, and lifestyle and diet related health risks. • Food Science - including an understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties and scientific principles of ingredients. • Food Safety – including principles when buying, storing, preparing, and cooking food • Food Choice – including how to make an informed choice about food and drink to achieve a healthy and balanced diet for particular groups of people including the impact of processing and technological developments in health and food production and the environment. <p>Food preparation skills are integrated into these 5 core topics and are based on a number of skill groups including; general practical skills, knife skills including, preparation of fruit and vegetables, use of the cooker and making doughs.</p>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>When considering whether to take Food Preparation and Nutrition you must consider your commitment to bringing ingredients to school most weeks, organisation, independence, creativity, technical ability, problem solving, time management, communication and the administration of your written folder work. These are the main topic areas you will learn throughout your GCSE.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Qualifications in Food Preparation and Nutrition at GCSE can lead you to a wide variety of career paths including University degrees and apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. There are a range of apprenticeships linked to food preparation and nutrition, such as: Bakery, Butchery, Food Technologist, Hospitality Catering, Hospitality Management, Front Office Manager and Food Manufacturing and Processing. Degree apprenticeships are gaining popularity due to organisations paying a salary as well as paying for the degree course and they also offer extra qualifications which can be taken alongside your degree. It is also possible to find placements that will offer employment after successful completion of the degree.</p>

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE.	<p>Paper 1 Physical Geography Exam <i>which accounts for 35% of the marks and lasts 1 hour 30 minutes.</i></p> <p>Students will answer three questions based on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the challenge of natural hazards</i> – Why do earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical cyclones and other climatic hazards occur? Students will need to know this in detail, as well as knowing how these issues are managed. • <i>Ecosystems</i>- what are the characteristics of rainforests, deserts or cold environments? How are these areas being used and what global implications does this have? • <i>UK landscapes</i>- What are the characteristic landforms of coastal and river landscapes in the UK? How are these areas being managed to protect them for future use? <p>Paper 2 Human Geography Exam <i>which accounts for 35% of the marks and lasts 1 hour 30 minutes</i></p> <p>Students will answer three questions based on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Changing Urban landscapes</i> - Students will study how cities develop differently in rich and poor countries and how different regions of the world manage peoples changing needs; • <i>Globalisation of the world economy</i>-you will learn why some areas of the world are seeing massive economic growth, yet other areas are stagnating? ; • <i>Managing global resources</i>- why are there imbalances in food, water and energy resources throughout the world? What challenges are there to access these resources in different countries? <p>Paper 3 Geographical Skills Exam <i>is 30% of the marks and is 1 hour and 15 minutes in length</i></p> <p>Students will be taught about investigation, communication, interpretative and presentational skills, which will be important for this examination. Students will also be tested on their 2 fieldwork enquiry days and a pre-release data booklet on this exam paper.</p>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE.	<p>You will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to come with a lively and enquiring mind; • Need to be able to demonstrate a high level of literacy skills to be able to answer the assessments using a high degree of accuracy; • Need to have good mathematical skills to be able to cope with the analysis skills and presentation skills needed in your assessments and fieldwork activities; • Have an ability to learn your case study details well to lift the quality of your extended answers; • Have an interest in current affairs so that you can apply ideas in your answers; • Be able to cope with revising and learning large volumes of notes in this rigorous academic subject.
Where will the course take you?	<p>Geographers offer a wide range of exciting opportunities, particularly the following key fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and Technical Services; • Leisure, Travel and Tourism; • Education, Social and Public services; • Business and Financial Services; • Information and GIS Services; • Management and Administration Services. <p>As a career it offers unrivalled opportunities for well paid jobs in a wide variety of settings, many with wonderful travel opportunities too.</p>

Options Subject - History

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>History at GCSE offers an exciting mix but keeps popular topics like Nazi Germany and the causes of WWII as well as a mix of British and world history, and ranges from the arrival of the Vikings up to the present day.</p> <p>Paper 1: Understanding of the modern world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany, 1890 - 1945: Democracy and Dictatorship Conflict and tension, 1918 – 39 <p>Paper 2: Shaping the Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Britain: Migration, empires and the people, c790 to the present day Medieval England: The reign of Edward I, 1272 – 1307 <p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> progress by engaging in discussions and analysing a wide range of different sources (audio, video, text, cartoons, paintings, and photographs). produce diagrams, write notes, highlight and annotate information sheets. read and use a range of excellent textbooks. be able to use GCSEpod to help your initial understanding and also for revision.
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>You will need to be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask questions about the past and consider relevant issues critically. Use a range of sources alongside your own contextual knowledge, considering sources' provenance. Think about how and why different interpretations have been constructed about people, events and developments from the past and why these have been seen as significant. Organise and communicate your ideas on paper and reach supported judgements. Continue to develop your own note taking techniques. Continue to develop as an independent learner, with critical and reflective thinking. <p>All topics build on the knowledge developed in KS3 History at NHGS.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Most potential employers (from Journalism to Law to Business and beyond) regard History as a very valuable GCSE. This is because it teaches the vital skills that they require (communication, decision-making, providing evidence as justification, attention to detail, research, analysis and an understanding of how the world works).</p>

Options Subject – Music

Exam Board	Edexcel (Pearson)								
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>The Music course is split into non-examined assessment (60%) and an exam (40%).</p> <p>Performing (NEA) 30% of the qualification</p> <p>Students must perform as a soloist and as part of an ensemble. Students may choose to perform on any instrument and in any musical style.</p> <p>Composing (NEA) 30% of the qualification</p> <p>Students are given the opportunity to explore and develop their compositional skills alongside an understanding of how music is created. Students must submit two compositions: One composition is in response to a brief. One is a free composition.</p> <p>Appraising: External examination 40% of the qualification</p> <p>Students will develop their listening and appraising skills through the study of music across a variety of styles and genres.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Instrumental music 1700 – 1820</td><td>JS Bach: Brandenburg concerto No.5 Beethoven: Piano Sonata in C minor</td></tr> <tr> <td>Vocal Music</td><td>H Purcell: Music for a While Queen: Killer Queen</td></tr> <tr> <td>Music for Stage and Screen</td><td>S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (Wicked) J Williams: Main title: Star Wars IV</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fusions</td><td>Afro Celt Sound System: Release Esperanza Spalding: Samba EM Preludio</td></tr> </table>	Instrumental music 1700 – 1820	JS Bach: Brandenburg concerto No.5 Beethoven: Piano Sonata in C minor	Vocal Music	H Purcell: Music for a While Queen: Killer Queen	Music for Stage and Screen	S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (Wicked) J Williams: Main title: Star Wars IV	Fusions	Afro Celt Sound System: Release Esperanza Spalding: Samba EM Preludio
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Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>The ability to play an instrument or sing is essential. The ability to read music is desirable but not essential.</p> <p>You need to be confident in working independently which will help with the NEA. Music is a subject that provides all who take part in it with many skills. Besides developing performing, composing and aural skills which naturally are linked with the subject, students will develop skills through cross curricular links with Maths, History, English and Geography.</p> <p>Important personal skills such as teamwork, self-confidence, presentation and delivery, analysis (both subjective and fact based), understanding and study of different cultures develop naturally over the course which can then be used in future study of many other subjects.</p> <p><i>Studying GCSE music gives you skills that you will then be able to use in the future – no matter what you want to do! (F. Berry- current A-level student)</i></p>								
Where will the course take you?	<p>Our musicians have gone on to study in Performance, Musical theatre, Journalism, Sound Engineering/technician, Teaching/work with young People, Therapy, Youth Work. Employers recognise the creative and analytical skills that Music can develop in a young person.</p> <p>Music – more than just dots on a stave!</p>								

Options Subject – Physical Education (PE)

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>GCSE (9-1) PE includes the compulsory study of: Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training, Use of Data, Sports Psychology, Socio-cultural Influences and Health, Fitness and Wellbeing.</p> <p>The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for you to perform, and then through the academic study learn how to improve your performance through application of the theory. PE is developed through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on our own and others' everyday lives. You will learn the reasons why we do things and why some people outperform others – mentally and physically. We also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and gain an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.</p> <p>The theory work is assessed with two written papers totalling 156 marks in total (60%).</p> <p>Alongside this are the skills of PE, which are examined via the Non Exam Assessment (NEA) component involving practical activities and a written piece of coursework (40%)</p>
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>To be successful at GCSE PE you need to have a thirst and a desire to understand how the theory content can be applied to practical activities in sport. For example - the role of the musculoskeletal system plays in allowing a trampolinist to perform a 10 bounce routine in a competition.</p> <p>If you choose GCSE PE you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look to play / compete in at least 1 or 2 of your practical choices on a regular basis outside of school • Attend additional practical sessions laid on by PE to give you the opportunity of a third practical activity choice • Film evidence of core skills and competition to create a portfolio of evidence to back up the teacher's grade • Be able to demonstrate a thirst and desire to understand more about other activities other than your main choice • Listen on a regular basis to Radio 5 Live, Talk Sport or watch Sky Sports news; read newspapers such as the Times or The Guardian and open your mind to a world of sport! • Be able to and regularly access GCSE pod, BBC bite size AQA PE to develop those extra ideas/knowledge • Be interested in sport both practically and also theoretically. This is a must.
Where will the course take you?	<p>Successful application at GCSE level can lead onto A Level PE and Sport here at NHGS.</p> <p>Usual combinations with A Level PE can include Geography, Biology, Maths, Design and Technology, Psychology and Business Studies.</p> <p>This qualification also enables students to develop other skills such as critical thinking, communication, leadership and motivating others.</p> <p>Apprenticeship or employment post-18 in the fitness and health industry.</p> <p>University courses in Sports Science, Physiotherapy, PE and Sport degrees, plus teacher training in PE. Careers in sport and coaching, personal training, Physiotherapy and Applied Science.</p>

Options Subject – Psychology

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>Psychology is the scientific study of human thought and behaviour. In this subject students will develop theories about why people think and act the way they do. Students will make predictions about how people will act in the future based on what they know now. Students will ask whether it is our brains which make us who we are or our upbringing or our friendships. This course will ask students to draw on their own experiences, to be experimenters and test their ideas using scientific methods.</p> <p>Assessment The GCSE Psychology course is 100% exam taken at the end of Year 11, but regular internal assessment is undertaken throughout the course. There are two papers (both 1 hour 45 minutes) each worth 50% of the final grade. The examinations include multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and extended written 9 mark questions.</p> <p>Course content for GCSE Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory • Perception • Development • Research Methods • Psychological problems (mental health issues - depression and addiction) • Language, thought and communication • Social Influence • Brain and Neuropsychology
Skills required to be successful at GCSE.	<p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lively and enquiring mind and the willingness to undertake a new subject never studied before. • A good memory in order to learn a number of theories and studies in detail. • A high level of maturity and sensitivity- a number of the topics studied are socially sensitive and you need to be sensible and mature enough to cope with their content. • An interest in the world around you and people's behaviour so that you can apply your knowledge to real life situations. • The ability to argue – you have to develop your own opinions and arguments about the behaviour being studied and support these with evidence. • A high level of literacy skills to be able to read theories and studies and answer extended writing exam questions using a high degree of detail and accuracy. • Good mathematical skills to be able to cope with data analysis and presentation. • To evaluate theories and studies describing advantages and disadvantages of each one using examples and explanations as evidence to support your thinking. • To be able to cope with revising and learning large volumes of notes in this rigorous academic subject.
Where will the course take you?	<p>Psychology can lead to careers in Counselling, Teaching, Medicine, Advertising, Human Resources, Management, Social Services, and also Specific Psychology-careers such as Clinical or Forensic Psychology.</p> <p>GCSE Psychology can help prepare you for future A Level study.</p> <p>The combination of essay writing and mathematical skills that the subject develops prepares students really well for further study in a wide range of subjects. Students who go on to study Psychology at degree level similarly develop a broad range of skills which make them amongst the most employable of graduates on completing their degree.</p>

Options Subject – Separate Sciences

Biology

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>Biologists are scientists who study the natural world and all the living things in it, from the largest mammals down to our very own microscopic DNA. They try to understand how animals and organisms work (including humans), how we evolved and the things that can make us sick or improve our health. Biologists use this knowledge to do things like trying to stop the spread of disease, tracking down natural resources, improving public health, animal care and conservation and to work out the true impacts of things like pollution.</p> <p>Subject content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell biology; • Organisation; • Infection and response; • Bioenergetics; • Homeostasis and response; • Inheritance, variation and evolution; • Ecology.
Skills required to be successful at GCSE	<p>As with the other sciences, Biology helps you to build up research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills. If you study Biology, you will likely find yourself working on group projects, which will help you build your teamwork and communication skills too.</p> <p>Transferable skills you can gain from studying biology include data investigation, excellent numeracy and good research skills.</p> <p>The Biology course does have considerable content and therefore regular revision and review of the material is essential and you will need excellent independent study skills to succeed.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Careers using Biology</p> <p>Biology is a key subject for lots of STEM careers, particularly in Healthcare, Medicine and jobs involving plants or animals. The list is pretty long and includes: Nursing, Dentistry, Forensic Science, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Botany, Environmental Science, Zoology, Geology, Oceanography, Pharmaceuticals, Energy, Teaching, Science Writing, Genetics and Research. Biology is excellent preparation for non-scientific careers, thanks to the skills it provides – everything from analytical thinking to writing reports.</p>

Options Subject – Separate Sciences

Chemistry

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE	<p>The GCSE Chemistry course will introduce students to the following chemical principles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter is composed of tiny particles called atoms and there are about 100 different naturally occurring types of atoms called elements. • Elements show periodic relationships in their chemical and physical properties and these periodic properties can be explained in terms of the atomic structure of the elements • Atoms bond by either transferring electrons from one atom to another or by sharing electrons • The shapes of molecules (groups of atoms bonded together) and the way giant structures are arranged is of great importance in terms of the way they behave <p>All formal assessment is taken at the end of Year 11, but regular internal assessment is undertaken throughout the course. The final GCSE grade, 9-1, will be awarded on the basis of two written examinations only. The examination includes multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.</p> <p>Course content for GCSE Chemistry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources
Skills required to be successful at GCSE.	<p>To be successful in GCSE Chemistry it is expected that students should have the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reasonable standard of maths to be able to cope with calculations and reasonable written English and comprehension skills; • An interest in learning about the applications of science in the world around us; • Resilience and a willingness to work hard throughout the course. <p>The Chemistry course does have considerable content and therefore regular revision and review of the material is essential and you will need excellent independent study skills to succeed.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Chemistry is at the root of many cutting-edge scientific discoveries, new processes and products. Transferable skills you can gain from studying chemistry include data investigation, excellent numeracy and good research skills. Chemistry A-level is classed as a facilitating subject which is a subject that is most often required by top universities. It would complement the following common degree courses with transferable skills or useful background knowledge: Geography/Engineering/Physics/Biology/Medicine/Maths/Psychology/Computer Science/ Architecture.</p> <p>Careers using Chemistry Medicine, Veterinary Practice and Nursing, Teaching, Engineering, Pharmaceuticals, Physiotherapy, Sports Science; Nursing, Marine Biology, Geology, Surveying. Careers are available in manufacturing (particularly in Agrichemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Paints, Perfumes, Food, and Plastics) and in areas such as Forensics, Environmental Protection, Chemical Engineering and Healthcare. Chemistry students' problem solving skills are useful for many other areas, too, such as Law and Finance.</p>

Options Subject – Separate Sciences

Physics

Exam Board	AQA
Overview of the subject at GCSE.	<p>The GCSE Physics course will introduce students to the following physical principles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of models, as in the particle model of matter or the wave models of light and of sound • The concept of cause and effect in explaining such links as those between force and acceleration, or between changes in atomic nuclei and radioactive emissions • The phenomena of ‘action at a distance’ and the related concept of the field as the key to analysing electrical, magnetic and gravitational effects • That differences, for example between pressures or temperatures or electrical potentials, are the drivers of change. <p>All formal assessment is taken at the end of Year 11, but regular internal assessment is undertaken throughout the course. The final GCSE grade, 9-1, will be awarded on the basis of two written examinations only. The examination includes multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.</p> <p>Course content for GCSE Physics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure 5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism and electromagnetism 8. Space physics
Skills required to be successful at GCSE.	<p>To be successful in GCSE Physics it is expected that students should have the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reasonable standard of maths to be able to cope with calculations and reasonable written English and comprehension skills; • An interest in learning about the applications of science in the world around us; • Resilience and a willingness to work hard throughout the course <p>The Physics course does have considerable content and therefore regular revision and review of the material is essential and you will need excellent independent study skills to succeed.</p>
Where will the course take you?	<p>Careers using Physics</p> <p>Physics will help you to build up your problem solving, research, and analytical skills. With these skills you’ll be able to test out new ideas plus question and investigate other people’s theories, which is useful for any kind of job that involves research or debate.</p> <p>Physics is a really useful subject for the majority of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers and you’ll find Physicists everywhere, in Industry, Transport, Government, Universities, the Armed Forces, the Secret Service, Games companies, Research Labs and more. Physics is especially helpful for jobs that involve building things and developing new technologies, including: Engineering (civil, mechanical, aerospace, chemical, electronic, nuclear, automotive), Astronomy, Robotics, Renewable Energies, Computer Science, Communications, Space Exploration, Science Writing, Sports and Games Technology, Research and Nanotechnology.</p> <p>The numeracy and logical thinking acquired through studying physics can be a starting point for a whole range of careers.</p>

What is MyDirections?

MyDirections provides young people with the information they need to make decisions about the future. Each user has their own unique login and password and will access careers information tailored to their age and interests. All students at NHGS have been provided with their username and password by Mr Kennedy and should have activated their account in January 2022. Designed for use by young people in Year 7 up to the age of 19, MyDirections includes articles relevant to all the different stages of career planning. In addition, local events and opportunities are advertised on the website's home page, outside of the login and password.

How do I use the website?

Students can login to the website here (<https://ck.mydirections.co.uk/login>) and use the information provided by Mr Kennedy to login. The first time a young person logs in to the site, they will be asked to complete a simple assessment about their career readiness. This information can be used by a careers adviser to identify those who might need extra support. Users are then asked to choose from 21 subjects, 5 routes and 19 sectors that interest them. A brief explanation about each option, ensures young people understand their choices before making their selection. MyDirections generates content associated with the user's preferences and recommends other articles that may be of interest. Young people can alter their choices at any time - and also select if they are 'undecided'.

What is on the website?

For Year 9 students considering GCSE options the Directions 2022 booklet in the MyDirections portal will be particularly useful. The Directions 2022 booklet gives impartial information and advice on making choices for GCSE courses and provides students with activities to help them make informed decisions. As well as providing factual information, MyDirections also encourages young people to think about careers they may not have thought of, by linking the subjects they have selected to a wide range of careers and courses. Useful websites related to the sectors and subjects they have chosen, enables users to undertake further detailed research should they want to.

In addition to tailored content, MyDirections also includes articles about general topics - for example, using labour market information, choosing qualifications and attending a careers event. A CV builder is available to all users and job search articles cover everything from where to look for vacancies, through to starting your first job or apprenticeship. Information about how a young person can contact their careers adviser is prominent on every page.

NORTH HALIFAX GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ETHOS STATEMENT

We create excellence by being :



Living to Learn | Learning to Live





SEND Inclusion Award

2019–2022



The Quality in Careers Standard >>>>



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