



WOODBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 3 GUIDED CHOICES COURSE INFORMATION 2026

You must complete your Guided Choices
on the SIMS Student App by:

Monday 27th April 2026

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CONTACT DETAILS

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Introduction

What is the Early Choices process?

At Woodbridge, students have a choice in year 9 of whether to continue with both of their languages or choose one language and one other subject.

The courses studied in year 9 are preparation courses for the GCSE or Technical Award to be taken in years 10 and 11. In most circumstances, the two choices made now will be two of the subjects that students continue with in years 10 and 11. They will make two further choices next year.

How is the year 9 curriculum organised?

There are three elements to the year 9 curriculum at Woodbridge:

Core Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mathematics • Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) • Life Studies • Physical Education 	All students must study these subjects in years 7-11
Foundation Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Geography • RE • Art • Drama • Music • Computing • Design and Technology 	All students must study all of these subjects in years 7-9
Two Early Choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • Spanish • German • Russian • Art and Design • Business • Child Development • Computer Science • Design and Technology (Product and Graphics) • Drama • Health and Social Care • Media • Music • Physical Education • Social Sciences (Psychology and Sociology) 	Students study two languages in years 7-8 and then pick two subjects from this list to study in years 9-11, <u>one of which must be a language</u> . These courses are preparation for GCSE or Technical Awards.

What proportion of the curriculum time is given to each subject in year 9?

The table below shows the subjects studied by students in year 9. The numbers indicate the number of lessons allocated in year 9 to the subject over the two-week timetable:

English	6 lessons	History	3 lessons	Drama	2 lessons
Maths	6 lessons	Geography	3 lessons	Computing	2 lessons
Science	6 lessons	RE	2 lessons	Design & Technology	3 lessons
PE (Core)	4 lessons	Art	2 lessons	Early Choice 1	4 lessons
Life Studies	1 lesson	Music	2 lessons	Early Choice 2	4 lessons

What will students study in the subjects they have chosen as their early choices?

Students will be preparing to study for the GCSE or Technical Award in the subjects they have chosen. A special preparatory course has been created for them. They will then, in most circumstances, go on to study these two subjects as two of their choices in years 10 and 11. The information in this booklet is about the GCSE or Technical Award course in each subject because, in most cases, the choice made now will be continued to the end of year 11 when students will sit these exams.

What is the difference between a GCSE and a Technical Award?

There is no difference in the difficulty or amount of subject content for GCSEs and Technical Awards. The Technical Awards we offer are the Cambridge National (CNAT) and Eduqas Level 1/2 Award. The difference is in how the students' knowledge and understanding of the subject is assessed. Technical Awards always have a greater proportion of non-examination assessment (coursework) than GCSEs. GCSEs are assessed mainly through written examinations at the end of the course.

Does my child have to continue with their early choices in years 10 and 11?

In most circumstances: yes. The Year 9 early choice course will lay an excellent foundation for the Year 10 and Year 11 courses. We strongly recommend that all students continue with their early choice subjects to GCSE or Technical Award as they will have had excellent preparation to do well in year 11.

Does my child have to study one language in year 9?

Yes. At least one language is compulsory for all students in year 9 as part of the National Curriculum. Students should choose the language that they feel they enjoy most and have had most success in years 7 and 8. They can, of course, choose both their languages if they wish. Most students will continue to study the language(s) they choose in years 10 and 11 to GCSE level, although a small number of students will be allowed to discontinue study of languages at the end of year 9.

Why should my child do two languages?

The opportunity to study two languages to GCSE is a unique feature of Woodbridge High School. Having two languages at GCSE is something that is common for students from grammar schools or independent schools, but rare for students who have studied in a comprehensive school. It allows our students to compete with students from these other types of school when applying to universities. The fact that students are dual linguists makes them stand out from the crowd.

The UK is really in need of young people with a greater range of language skills. Business leaders often talk about the problems they have finding native English speakers who are able to communicate in more than one language. They pay these people more than they pay those who do not have language skills.

Languages make travel easier and they make understanding other cultures easier. They broaden the mind and help us to understand how others see the world. This is increasingly important in today's world.

Therefore, if you currently study two languages in Year 8, and find them enjoyable, we strongly recommend that you study two languages into Year 9.

What if my child wants to study two languages and other subjects from the list?

If you want to study two languages, you must choose them both now. You cannot stop one for a year and then restart it. All of the other subjects on the list will be offered again next year and students may choose them then for GCSE if they wish.

Can my child choose two languages now and then stop one at the end of year 9?

Yes – this is possible. We would rather that students stuck with their early choices into years 10 and 11, but it is technically possible for students to stop one of their languages at the end of year 9 and choose another subject instead for years 10 and 11.

How does my child make their subject choices?

Your child will need to be registered with the SIMS Student App to allow them to access the SIMS Options package to enter their choices on. We will be emailing students the link to the SIMS Student App if they have not already registered. The link will come from noreply@sims.co.uk so they may need to check their junk folder. The SIMS Student App registration guide and log in guide can both be found on our school website www.woodbridgehigh.co.uk >> Students >> SIMS App. This is a separate app to the SIMS Parent App, which is for parents/carers.

Your child will be able to view and choose their options on the SIMS Student App from Friday 17th April when SIMS Options will go live. You should complete this with your child by Monday 27th April.

Who can help my child make the right decision?

Choosing subjects to study for the next three years is perhaps the most important life decision your child has had to make so far. Email Mr Clifton or other staff to help you with your decision.

I am worried that my child's decision is not right for them. Will what they have chosen be checked?

Mr Clifton will check each student's choices carefully. Progress data and current effort data will be considered. Students may be asked to meet with Mr Clifton to discuss their choices.

Will all the courses and subjects run and will all subject combinations be possible?

It is possible that courses may not run if there is insufficient take-up. Students are asked to make a reserve subject choice on their online form and this may replace a subject that does not run. Not all subject combinations will be possible. Once all the choices are in, Mr Clifton will begin to construct the subject blocks. It may be at this stage that the student's reserve subject will replace one of their chosen subjects.

When will I find out what my child will be studying in Year 9?

Mr Clifton will email all parents with the outcome of the process in June 2026.

Can my child change courses after they have started?

No. You will not be able to change your courses after the start of Year 9. You will be able to make changes until the end of Year 8 but only if there is space and it fits with your other choices.

Languages Courses

Students may only choose the languages which they have studied in Year 7 and Year 8. All students are required to study a language in Year 9.

FRENCH

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- You will learn about the culture of Francophone countries and to talk about topics such as Your Town and the Environment, Health and Fitness, Jobs and Future plans, Events and Celebrations
- Your teacher will speak to you in French and you will be expected to respond in French as much as possible
- You will be practising the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing
- Grammar and vocabulary learning will also play an important role throughout the course

Who is this course best suited to?

- Learning a foreign language can build your communication, interpersonal, intercultural, and public speaking skills
- French is for those who enjoy learning about other cultures
- Those who are willing to communicate their ideas and who have a desire to learn another language
- Those who can work independently to learn new vocabulary

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

The exam board is Edexcel and the two-year course leads to a GCSE qualification. You will be taught by a specialist French teacher for five hours over two weeks. There are foundation and higher tiers for all units.

This GCSE is a linear course which means that all the examinations are taken at the end of year 11.

- Speaking (25% of the overall mark) where you will take part in 3 tasks: Reading a text aloud and 2 follow-up questions related to the text, a role-play task and a picture description task with 2 follow-up questions related to the theme of the picture and finally a short unprepared conversation developed from the same thematic context as the picture
- Listening (25% of the overall mark) where you will hear short presentations, conversations and announcements and have to choose multiple choice answers or write short responses in English; a dictation task where you will demonstrate your ability to transcribe spoken French into written French.
- Reading (25% of the overall mark) where you will have to pick out key and detailed information from a range of texts, answer multiple choice and short answer questions
- Writing (25% of the overall mark) where you will have to complete one translation into English and answer extended response questions

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

After your Edexcel GCSE in French, you can choose to carry on and study French as an A Level subject, if you achieve the entry requirement of a grade 6. Having a language at GCSE and A Level will give you access to a wide range of jobs and further education in the future. Graduates in Modern Languages are amongst the most employable and the job opportunities are now far and wide across the world. Even having French at GCSE will make you stand out to certain employers. The job opportunities on offer to language graduates include tourism, government, politics, media, publishing, journalism, education, fashion or law.

In short, why should I take this course?

French is a great choice, regardless of what your plans are for the future. Not only will you have the ability to communicate in a different language, but employers, colleges and universities will look favourably on your application as languages are perceived to be a more challenging GCSE subject. Learning languages equips you with transferable skills which are suited to many fields; you will learn skills in oral communication, giving presentations and retrieving information from written texts, all of which are indispensable in a variety of jobs, such as International Business, Travel and Tourism, Publishing, Media and IT, Translation and Interpreting, Sales, Marketing, Teaching, Holiday Representatives, Tour Operators etc.

Who can I contact for further details?

Mrs Bemath, Head of French

GERMAN

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- You will be practising the 4 skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing at a higher level
- You will learn how to express yourself in the present, past, future and conditional; as well as being introduced to more complex grammatical structures
- You will learn how to write longer, more in-depth pieces of German
- You will be using authentic materials for reading and listening practice
- Topics studied include: Talking about role models, future ambitions, music festivals and favourite bands, playing instruments, part-time jobs, and the environment

Who is this course best suited to?

- Those who enjoy a challenge and want to stand out from the crowd with a German GCSE
- Those who are interested in finding out about and understanding about culture and traditions in German speaking countries
- Those who are linguistically curious and can absorb and understand new and complex ways of expressing ideas in a different language
- Those who are hard-working and can commit themselves to making the required effort to progress well in German

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

The exam board is Edexcel and the two-year course leads to a GCSE qualification. You will be taught by a specialist German teacher for five hours over two weeks. There are foundation and higher tiers for all units. This GCSE is a linear course which means that all the examinations are taken at the end of year 11.

- Speaking (25% of the overall mark) where you will take part in 3 tasks: Reading aloud and a short unprepared interaction related to the text, a role-play task and a picture description task with 2 follow-up questions related to the theme of the picture as well as a short unprepared conversation developed from the same thematic context
- Listening (25% of the overall mark) where you will hear short presentations, conversations and announcements and have to choose multiple choice answers or write short responses in English; a dictation task where you will demonstrate your ability to transcribe spoken German into written German
- Reading (25% of the overall mark) where you will have to pick out key and detailed information from a range of texts, answer multiple choice and short answer questions
- Writing (25% of the overall mark) where you will have to complete one translation into English and answer extended response questions

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

After your German GCSE you will have the opportunity to continue your studies at A Level, if you gain the required grade at GCSE. The A level course continues to develop your language skills in greater depth, and this will be assisted by visits to the Goethe Institute in London and the opportunity to practise your language skills by watching modern German films and studying German literature. German is a very good subject to study as part of a degree course and can be combined with other subjects such as business. Jobs which you might choose include areas such as: International Business, Travel and Tourism, Publishing, Media and IT, Translation and Interpreting, Sales, Marketing, Teaching, Holiday Representatives, Tour Operators etc.

In short, why should I take this course?

GCSE German is a great choice, regardless of which career you may have in mind. You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public and using problem-solving strategies. German is a very popular option because of its widespread use in business.

Who can I contact for further details?

Ms Tann, Head of German

RUSSIAN

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- You will be practising and using your Russian with the four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking, at a continually higher level
- You will learn how to express yourself in the past, present, and future; as well as being introduced to more complex grammatical structures
- You will learn how to write longer, more in-depth pieces of Russian
- You will be using authentic Russian materials to improve your language abilities
- You will be studying the culture and history of Russia to complement your developing linguistic skills

Who is this course best suited to?

- Those who enjoy a challenge and want to stand out from the crowd with a Russian GCSE
- Those who are interested in finding out about more about Russian speaking countries
- Those who are linguistically curious and can absorb and understand new and complex ways of expressing ideas in a different language
- Those who are hard-working and can commit themselves to making the required effort to progress in a complex language, like Russian
- In order to take the Russian course, we ask that you have a command of the Russian alphabet and can read and write confidently

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

The exam board is Edexcel and the two-year course leads to a GCSE qualification. You will be taught by a specialist Russian teacher for five hours over two weeks. There are foundation and higher tiers for all units. This GCSE is a linear course which means that all the examinations are taken at the end of year 11.

- Speaking (25% of the overall mark) where you will take part in 3 tasks: A role play (not prepared in advance), questions on a picture, also not seen in advance, conversation based on 2 themes, prepared in advance
- Listening (25% of the overall mark) where you will hear short presentations, conversations and announcements and have to choose multiple choice answers or write short responses in English
- Reading (25% of the overall mark) where you will have to pick out key and detailed information from a range of texts, answer multiple choice and short answer questions
- Writing (25% of the overall mark) where you will have to complete one translation into Russian and answer extended response questions

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

Students with qualifications in Russian are very rare and highly sought after. Having Russian on your CV is a sign that you are a committed student who can achieve a qualification in a difficult language. Work opportunities with Russian customers or clients are readily available and varied. There are opportunities in foreign policy and international relations, natural resource management, finance, tourism, international law, music, sport and culture. Studying Russian to a higher level complements many other subject choices and assists applications to universities. Russian is considered to be an academically challenging “facilitating subject” by the Russell Group universities.

In short, why should I take this course?

It is a rare opportunity to challenge yourself by learning a fascinating language with a fascinating history and culture, that opens up many opportunities and will enrich your understanding of the world for years to come.

Who can I contact for further details?

Mrs R Clark, Head of Russian

SPANISH

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- You will broaden your ability to communicate in Spanish in a wide range of different situations
- You will learn new vocabulary to express ideas more accurately and in more depth
- You will practice the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing
- You will reach a standard of Spanish which will enable you to communicate in most day-to-day situations that could arise when travelling in a Spanish-speaking country
- You will learn different topic areas such as opinions on media, discussing future career plans, healthy living, children's rights and protecting the environment. You will work with authentic materials such as songs, video clips, literary texts, poems and movies.

Who is this course best suited to?

- Those who want to show future employers and education providers that they are capable of studying a language at an academic level
- Those who want to develop their linguistic knowledge and awareness of how languages in general work, which is a highly useful skill for later life
- Those who are enthusiastic about the idea of learning a second language to a level which will enable to communicate authentically

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

In Year 9, you will be assessed using a range of writing, speaking, listening and reading assessments. At GCSE, the exam board is Edexcel and the two-year course leads to a GCSE qualification. You will be taught by a specialist Spanish teacher for five hours over two weeks.

This GCSE is a linear course which means that all the examinations are taken at the end of year 11.

- Speaking (25% of the overall mark) where you will take part in 3 tasks: Reading aloud and a short unprepared interaction related to the text, a role-play task and a picture description task with 2 follow-up questions related to the theme of the picture as well as a short unprepared conversation developed from the same thematic context
- Listening (25% of the overall mark) where you will hear short presentations, conversations and announcements and have to choose multiple choice answers or write short responses in English; a dictation task where you will demonstrate your ability to transcribe spoken Spanish into written Spanish
- Reading (25% of the overall mark) where you will have to pick out key and detailed information from a range of texts, answer multiple choice and short answer questions
- Writing (25% of the overall mark) where you will have to complete one translation into English and answer extended response questions

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

You can progress to studying Spanish at GCSE. You can then continue studying Spanish as an A Level subject if you achieve a grade 6 at GCSE. If you choose to, you could continue your studies of Spanish at University, where Spanish can be combined with a wide range of subjects to degree-level, such as law, business, politics, economics, computing, science etc. Here, your language skills will give you a competitive advantage in whichever profession you choose to enter. Studying a language at GCSE (and at A-Level) is widely regarded as a subject which shows education providers that you are a hardworking, resilient and diligent student.

In short, why should I take this course?

Spanish is a great choice, regardless of what your plans are for the future. Not only will you be able to communicate in a different language, but employers, colleges and universities will look favourably on your application as languages are perceived to be a more challenging GCSE subject.

Who can I contact for further details?

Ms E Zmirou, Head of Spanish

Other Subject Courses

This section contains information about the subjects you could choose for years 9, 10 and 11.

All of these subjects lead to a single award GCSE or technical award qualification.

Some subjects are timetabled to have a mixture of double and single lessons whilst some subjects have only single lessons.

The subjects available are:

- Art and Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Child Development
- Design and Technology (Product and Graphics)
- Drama
- Health and Social Care
- Media
- Music
- Physical Education
- Social Sciences (Psychology and Sociology)

ART AND DESIGN

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- How to improve your observational drawing and refine your technical control to a high quality
- Explore and learn how to refine your use of a variety of two and three-dimensional media including drawing, painting, printmaking, clay sculpture and some photography
- How to successfully develop a project through written and visual analysis of artists, crafts people and designers and use their work to inspire your own outcomes
- How to plan a successful and effective composition
- How to evaluate, review and reflect upon your work through written annotations

Who is this course best suited to?

- Those who love making, designing, drawing, imagining and creating things – a passion for Art!
- Fully committed students who are willing to work hard in lesson and at home
- Students who are open minded and willing to try new ideas and ways of working
- Students who are able to stick to deadlines and organise their time effectively
- Students who are able to persevere with a task even if it is difficult at first

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

Two components of work make up the course:

- Component 1 - Portfolio in Art and Design. This is two internally set projects = 60%
- Component 2 - The Externally Set Task = 40% of the marks. This is like a mini project with a shorter period of preparation time, which will lead to a 10-hour exam. In the exam, you will produce a final piece of work in response to the theme given by the exam board.

The 4 assessment objectives that both components are marked against:

- **Develop** ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources
- **Refine** work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- **Record** ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses
- **Present** a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

- A Level or Level 3 progression
- Foundation Diploma course in Art and Design (sandwich course often taken after A Level and before a degree)
- BA honours in Fine Art, Architecture, 3D Design, Animation, Illustration, Fashion Media and Marketing, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Game Arts, Jewellery, Creative Advertising and Brand etc
- Careers – architecture, graphic design, design for games, animation, VFX artist, illustration, set design, interior design, branding, advertising, corporate identity, fashion promotion, exhibiting artist, arts manager, art therapist, curation, jewellery design, industrial design etc

In short, why should I take this course?

Studying Art will give you a well-rounded set of skills as well as being fun. Art gives you invaluable problem-solving skills that can be transferred to other subjects. Students who are creative thinkers are able to approach a task in a multitude of ways, experimenting and exploring until they realise an outcome. Art teaches you to think with an open mind, find alternatives and tackle any situation with creativity. The creative industry is huge and all around you. From the clothes you wear, the built environment you live in, to the phone you use or computer games you play. They have all been designed by someone with a creative mind.

Who can I contact for further details?

Mrs Ward-Mills, Head of Art

BUSINESS

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

Year 9 Business gives students a clear introduction to how real organisations work in the modern world. Through case studies, practical tasks and examples of well-known companies and entrepreneurs, students build the foundational knowledge they need to understand businesses, the decisions they make, and the skills people use within them. This course prepares students for GCSE Business in Year 10, but it is a standalone programme designed to broaden their understanding of the wider world first. Areas covered are as follows:

1. Entrepreneurs

Learn how entrepreneurs spot opportunities, develop ideas and turn them into successful businesses.

2. Products

Explore how businesses design, develop and improve products to meet customer needs.

3. Campaigns (Marketing)

Discover how businesses promote what they sell, analyse real marketing campaigns and create your own simple ideas.

4. Finance

Understand the basics of business money - costs, revenue, profit and budgeting - and why finance matters.

5. Leadership

Study what effective leaders do, different leadership styles and how leadership shapes business success.

6. Teamwork

Develop teamwork and communication skills while learning how businesses rely on teams to get things done.

7. Business Life Cycle

See how businesses grow and change over time—from launch to growth, maturity and decline.

Who is this course best suited to?

- Students who are curious about how real businesses work, enjoy exploring case studies and want to understand the decisions companies make in the modern world
- Analytical learners who like examining evidence, solving problems and applying knowledge to real situations in areas such as finance, leadership and marketing
- Students who enjoy structured, academic study, including evaluating information, forming reasoned conclusions and building strong subject knowledge
- Anyone aiming for GCSE Business who wants strong foundations and confidence before starting the qualification in Year 10

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

This is a linear course, with all content assessed at the end of Year 11 in two written exam papers worth 50% each.

Paper 1: Influences of operations and Human Resources and Marketing on business activity

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

A Level Business Studies and/or Economics, a Level 3 Vocational Business course, or Apprenticeship.

A business qualification at Level 3 opens up a wide range of university courses, apprenticeships and employment routes. Many of our students go on to study accounting, marketing and business management.

In short, why should I take this course?

You'll start recognising why businesses make the choices they do, how companies grow, and what really drives success - giving you a wider, sharper understanding of the world than most Year 9s (and maybe a few adults!). Along the way, you'll pick up skills that matter in real life too: understanding money and finance, making smart decisions, and developing confidence in areas like leadership and working with others - all of which help you make better sense of a rapidly changing world, from the news you hear to the financial decisions you'll face in the future.

Who can I contact for further details?

Ms L Evans, Assistant Headteacher

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- The basics of paediatric first aid
- How babies and young children develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially, and the range of factors that impact that development
- How play activities can positively impact the development of babies and young children
- The nutritional needs of babies and young children
- Services which meet the needs of babies and young children

Who is this course best suited to?

- Students who enjoy managing their time and working independently on coursework tasks
- Students who enjoy practical activities and assessments as well as extended written tasks
- Students who are imaginative and able to apply practical knowledge and experiences to theoretical work
- Students who may enjoy working in Health, Social Care or Early Years settings in the future
- Students who enjoy working in small groups to create mutually beneficial outcomes

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

Child Development

Exam (40% of final grade) - underpins all of the other learning in this qualification. All students will learn the essential knowledge and understanding for child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks and care, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety.

Coursework 1 (30% of final grade) - students will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all of these needs. They will also gain knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices and be given the opportunity to evaluate dietary choices through a practical cooking activity.

Coursework 2 (30% of final grade) - students will gain knowledge of, and skills in, developing activities to observe development norms in children up to the age of five. The unit includes researching, planning, carrying out activities with children, observing and reviewing these activities, as well as an understanding of the development norms and the benefits of play. Students will observe children in an early years setting and plan/deliver appropriate activities to support development.

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

You can carry on studying Child Development and/or Health and Social Care Cambridge National courses in Years 10 and 11.

You may carry on studying Health and Social Care or Childcare at Level 3 at a local college or sixth form.

Some students choose to take an apprenticeship at level 2 or Level 3 in Child Care or within the NHS.

Many students go on to University to study subjects such as Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching, Social Work, Allied Health Professions, Human Biology, Psychology or Sociology.

Students progress to careers in the Health Services, Child Care, Teaching and Social Services, the Voluntary Sector and many other sectors.

Who can I contact for further details?

Ms Griffiths, Head of Health and Social Care and Child Development (lgriffiths@woodbridgehigh.co.uk)

Ms Payne, Teacher of Child Development and PE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- Develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work
- Look at the use of algorithms in computer programs
- Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts
- Develop computer programs to solve problems
- Evaluate the effectiveness of compute programs, the solution and the impact of computer technology in society

Who is this course best suited to?

- Students who are seriously considering a career in computer system development, computer programming or computer game development
- Students wishing to pursue Computing at A Level or in their chosen career field
- The course has been structured so that the first year will prepare learners by covering some content of the GCSE Computer Science course. This will provide a firm foundation before progressing onto the GCSE Computer Science course in Year 10
- The GCSE course is designed to provide learners with a broad understanding of the world of Computer Science and encourage them to develop computational thinking, algorithm and programming skills

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

Written Examination (100% of the final mark)

There are two written examinations at the end of the course each worth 50%. These examinations are intended to test the knowledge and understanding acquired during the period of the course.

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

Computer Science will help you move on to an A Level Computer Science course. These courses, in turn, can lead you on to a degree course in a computer related subject. You would then have the opportunity to take up a career as a programmer, software engineer, systems analyst, games developer, network manager or even help to develop the technologies of the future.

If you did not wish to progress onto a specialist Computer Science A Level course, the skills you have acquired at GCSE level will be of great benefit in any other subject area at A Level, for example Mathematics, Physics, Technology, Chemistry and Modern Foreign Languages. You would be able to create systems that would help you with your studies.

In short, why should I take this course?

We are currently living in the digital age; Computer Science will help you learn about critical thinking, analysis and problem solving. These skills can be developed further and transferred to other subjects in everyday life.

Who can I contact for further details?

Mr Brock-Carey, Head of Computer Science

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (Product and Graphics)

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

You will learn about a wide range of Design and Technology skills that will help you make a better-informed decision about whether to take Graphics or Product Design at GCSE.

- You will work on Graphics based projects in the first term, covering the essential knowledge and skills relating to Paper and Board.
- In the second term you will focus on Product Design based projects and learn essential skills and knowledge about Timbers, Metals and Plastics.
- In the third term you will learn about Systems, Electronics and Microcontroller coding and programming.

By the end of the year, you will have:

- learned about the subject and gained a wide range of practical skills through “focused practical tasks” and design projects
- improved your drawing and CAD/3D modelling skills
- made innovative, quality products that will prepare you for your final GCSE coursework project
- learned about a variety of materials and processes including Smart Materials and CAD/CAM
- developed skills to help you innovate and problem solve, and communicate with others
- developed an understanding of influences and trends in design
- learned to design and make using a range of software on our network of PCs and CAD/CAM
- used equipment such as the Roland CAMM1 cutter, 3D CAD/CAM milling machine, laser cutter and 3D printers
- covered essential elements of the core theory content for the GCSE courses to enable improved understanding of the topics that will be examined in Year 11

Who is this course best suited to?

The course is focused on skills associated with researching, designing, creativity, problem solving, originality, innovation and imagination, as well as enjoying making quality products. The course is aimed at:

- anyone who is interested in designing and making quality products
- those interested in pursuing creative careers in all areas of design, illustration and architecture

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

During Year 10 and Year 11 you will complete the following units:

- Unit 1 - written exam paper
- Unit 2 - Design and Make Non-Examination Assessment

The Non-Examination Assessment accounts for 50% of the GCSE grade. The remaining 50% of the grade comes from the written exam paper.

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

You can go on to study A Level Product Design at Woodbridge if you gain a grade 6 or higher in Product Design or Graphics at GCSE.

This could lead on to a degree or an apprenticeship and an exciting career in a variety of areas such as engineering, architecture, product design, industrial design, animation, robotics, interior design, computer design, furniture design, jewellery design, animation, software technician or construction.

In short, why should I take this course?

If you are a creative thinker who enjoys coming up with unique ideas and solving problems, and likes drawing and designing with computers, this is the course for you.

You will get the chance to work with a wide range of different materials to produce quality products that will help you understand what Graphics and Product Design GCSEs will involve.

Technology is progressing rapidly, requiring a generation of young people who can innovate and solve problems. Climate issues, medical technologies, new and emerging products, space travel...you could be the person with the ideas that shape the future.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) qualifications are highly sought after, and opportunities in Design and Technology are exciting, evolving and rapidly growing.

Who can I contact for further details?

Ms Rivers, Head of Technology (mrivers@woodbridgehigh.co.uk), Mr Prosser (eprosser@woodbridgehigh.co.uk)

DRAMA

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- You will devise original performances from a variety of stimuli using the influence of various styles of theatre
- You will create an immersive escape room, work with masks and puppets, stage a play, perform a monologue and create your own pantomime!
- You will attend live theatre trips that help support your learning
- You will develop your knowledge and practice of theatrical skills, techniques and conventions including off-stage roles
- You will develop performances of contemporary and classical theatre texts; working on building characters to bring to the stage
- You will analyse and evaluate live theatre and how what you have seen can impact an audience and your own ideas for performance

Who is this course best suited to?

- The course is best suited to those that are creative, innovative and excellent at working with others
- The course is also fantastic to those looking to develop their confidence, build upon their communication skills and obtain high standards of oracy
- Participants who are also interested in completing a GCSE in lighting, sound, set, costume hair and make-up design
- You must have excellent attendance, punctuality and commitment to undertake a drama course
- Candidates will be expected to work, perform and be assessed in groups. For these reasons, students must be hard-working, team players and dedicated to their studies.

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

Component 1 (40%) Internally Assessed

Devised performance in response to stimulus using the influence of a theatre practitioner. This component is assessed through:

Performance (15 marks of 60)

Written Portfolio (30 marks of 60)

Evaluation (15 marks of 60)

Component 2 (20%) Externally Assessed

Performance of two extracts from a given text. This component is assessed through:

Performance (60 marks)

Component 3 (40%) Examination

Students will be expected to answer a variety of questions based on a set text and review a piece of live theatre seen. The exam is worth 60 marks.

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

A qualification in Drama is not only for those thinking of pursuing a career in the arts, but also for those wanting an outlet for their creativity and self-expression. The course is approached practically through all components giving students a crucial opportunity to learn using their imagination, innovation and independence. A drama qualification can impart students with transferable skills applicable to career paths such as multi-dimensional communication, confidence and conflict resolution.

We also offer outstanding support, guidance and expertise to those looking to progress in to the arts at not only GCSE, but A level, university, drama school and beyond!

In short, why should I take this course?

Drama is an excellent option for anyone looking for an enriching course that is creative, collaborative and challenging.

Who can I contact for further details?

Miss Farr, Head of Drama

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- How to support individuals and apply basic first aid procedures to individuals who are showing signs of illness or injury. You will learn how to assess the scene of an emergency situation for signs of danger and risks. You will also know the information that is necessary for contacting the emergency services.
- How to support individuals to adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle. You will learn how to create a Health Promotion campaign, will run the campaign and will later evaluate the impact that it has had.
- How professionals use therapeutic and creative activities to support the development and mental/physical health of a range of service users.

Who is this course best suited to?

- Students who enjoy managing their time and working independently on coursework tasks
- Students who enjoy practical activities and assessments as well as extended written tasks
- Students who are imaginative and able to apply practical knowledge and experiences to theoretical work
- Students who may enjoy working in Health, Social Care or Early Years settings in the future
- Students who enjoy working in small groups to create mutually beneficial outcomes

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

Health and Social Care

Exam - R032: Principles of care in health and social care. In this unit, students will learn about the importance of the rights of service users, person-centered values and how to apply them.

Students will also learn about the importance of effective communication skills when providing care and support for individuals using care settings and the procedures and measures used to protect service users and service providers such as safeguarding, hygiene and security.

Coursework 1 - R033: Supporting individuals through life events. In this unit, students will learn about life stages and the factors that affect them. They will understand expected and unexpected life events and the impact they will have on physical, social/emotional and socio-economic aspects in an individual's life. Students will research the service providers and practitioners that can support individuals, recommend support and justify how this will meet the needs of a specific individual.

Coursework 2 - R035: Health promotion campaigns. In this unit, students will have the opportunity to explore the various public health challenges the country faces, the approaches used to encourage health and wellbeing and the importance of this to society. They will understand the factors affecting a healthy lifestyle so that campaigns can be designed to target different groups of people.

Students will also learn how to plan and deliver their own small-scale health promotion campaign and how to evaluate their planning and delivery.

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

You can go on to study Health and Social Care or ChildCare at Level 3 at a local college or sixth form, or take A Levels in related subjects such as Sociology or Psychology. You can follow Professional Childcare or Healthcare courses such as a T Level diploma before working in an Early Years setting. You could work as an Apprentice in an Early Years or Social Care setting. Many of our students carry on studying Health and Social care before going on to university to study Psychology, Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedic Science, Social Work, Counselling or Teaching for example.

In short, why should I take this course?

- You prefer coursework and practical assessment to written exams
- You enjoy carrying out research and developing your own ideas
- You have an interest in Health Care, Social Care or Early Years and may consider working in one of these environments in the future

Who can I contact for further details?

Ms Griffiths, Head of Health and Social Care and Child Development (lgriffiths@woodbridgehigh.co.uk)
Ms McNamee-Obi, Teacher of Health and Social Care

MEDIA

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

You will study 3 units to teach you the skills to understand the theoretical framework of Media Studies.

Unit 1: Media Language and Representation

- You will analyse how images, layout, written language, and design communicate meaning on adverts, film posters, and TV shows
- You will also analyse how media products represent people, groups, and ideas

Unit 2: Media Industries and Audiences

- You will learn about the newspaper, radio, and video game industries and how they target audiences

Unit 3: Technical codes and practical skills

- You will learn how music videos create meaning through technical codes
- You will create your own magazine front cover using your knowledge of media language and representation

Who is this course best suited to?

This course is ideal for students who:

- Have strong writing and analytical skills
- Enjoy creative tasks (designing adverts, videos, or game concepts)
- Are interested in film, TV, journalism, podcasts, music, games, social media, or anything within the media and creative industries
- Want a mix of practical and written work

You need to be curious and willing to explore how media messages are constructed.

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

Component 1: This will cover the analysis of media language and representation of print media including magazines, film posters, newspapers, or print advertisements. You will also need to study the film, newspapers, radio, and video games industries, how they target audiences and why audiences engage with these industries. You will complete a 1hr 30mins exam at the end of year 11, which will be worth 40% of your qualification.

Component 2: This component focuses on understanding media forms and products in relation to television and music (music videos, music artists and their online media presence). You will need to study media language, representation, media industries, audiences, and media contexts in relation to the TV and music products. You will complete a 1hr 30mins exam at the end of year 11, which will be worth 30% of your qualification.

Component 3: For this component, you will create an individual media production aimed at a specific audience, responding to a choice of briefs set by WJEC. You will apply your knowledge and understanding of media language and representation throughout the creation process. This is your non-exam assessment and will be worth 30% of your qualification.

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

GCSE Media can lead to A-Level Media, Film Studies or creative digital courses. Future careers include:

- Film and TV production
- Journalism
- Advertising and marketing
- Graphic design
- Social media management
- Radio / podcasting
- Game design
- Photography
- Public relations
- Digital content creation (YouTube, TikTok, Twitch etc.)

Media is a highly employable field because **every industry now relies on digital communication.**

In short, why should I take this course?

- It's creative, interesting, and very relevant to real life
- You learn how media influences the world around you
- You get to analyse films, TV, music videos, radio, adverts, newspapers, magazines, and games
- You develop practical skills in design and media production
- It keeps lots of career and A-level pathways open
- And most importantly – it's fun and varied!

Who can I contact for further details?

Miss Tagoe, Head of Film and Media Studies (dtagoe@woodbridgehigh.co.uk)

MUSIC

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

In Year 9 Early Option Music you will continue to develop your Performance, Composition and Listening skills.

Performance: You will regularly prepare ensemble performances with increasing independence. Regular solo performances are also an important aspect of the course, showcasing your development throughout the year through singing or on an instrument of your choice.

Composition: You will use compose using Musescore and Bandlab both alone and in a group. We work in depth with online DAWs (digital audio workstations) to create and record music through sampling, editing and producing. This includes jingles, backing tracks and interviews for radio station, creating the perfect pop song and using everyday sounds we here in a school environment to create a piece.

Listening: Most of our knowledge of music comes from the ability to identify and understand the different layers. Throughout the year, you will learn how to identify instruments, write out rhythms, and evaluate what is heard in extracts of different genres of music.

Who is this course best suited to?

Year 9 Early Option Music is well suited to anyone who has enjoyed Music lessons in Year 7 and Year 8. It is for those who enjoy being creative and using technology to write music.

It is also aimed for pupils who are interested in widening the genres they listen to, and to understand what makes up a piece of music to recreate it themselves. You do not need to have had singing or instrumental tuition, but you must be prepared to work hard at developing your instrumental or vocal skills.

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

GCSE Music is structured into three Units, which include Performance, Composition and Listening.

These are:

Unit 1 – Solo Performance and Free Composition (30%)

Unit 2 – Ensemble Performance and Composition to a Set Brief (30%)

Unit 3 – Listening Paper (40%)

Unit 3 includes music from the following topics:

- Rhythms of the World (Samba, Calypso, Bhangra, Indian Classical Music, Middle Eastern Folk Music, African Drumming)
- Conventions of Pop (Rock n Roll, Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads, Solo Artists from 2000)
- Film and Video Game Music
- The Concerto (Classical Music – Baroque, Classical and Romantic)

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

GCSE Music leads to a variety of further study and career options:

- A Level Music, Music Technology or BTEC Level 3 Music
- Music is accepted as a strong academic subject by universities, including Oxbridge and Russell Group, and develops many analytical, as well as musical, skills
- Further study in arts administration, dramatic/expressive arts, music performance, music composition, music technology, music recording
- Further employment in the music/arts industry, arts administration, media, music performance/composition, music education

In short, why should I take this course?

You should take Early Option Music if you want to develop your musical skills and think you will enjoy the course. It is a mix of practical and written work, and you will have several projects to share as mp3s to your friends and family!

Who can I contact for further details?

Ms Brock-Carey, Head of Music

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Physical Training
- Socio-cultural Influences
- Analysing and evaluating performance
- Practical performance of PE

Who is this course best suited to?

- Students who have an interest in all areas of PE
- Students who enjoy biology within science
- Students who compete in sport outside of school
- Students who are interested in sports coaching

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

Theory test - Paper 1: Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Physical Training = 30%

Theory test - Paper 2: Socio-cultural Influences, Sports Psychology and Health, Fitness and Well-being = 30%

Practical assessment: 3 activities (a combination of team and individual sports) = 30%

Coursework – Analysing and Evaluating Performance = 10%

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

A GCSE in Physical Education at grade 9 to 6 will enable students to go on to study A Level Physical Education. Another opportunity is the CTEC Level 3 in Sport.

There are many career opportunities in sport and recreation. Careers now recognising PE as an important qualification include physiotherapy, sports medicine, sports science, sports psychology, sports centre management and sports therapy.

In short, why should I take this course?

Do you have a keen interest in the workings of the human body and mind?

Would you like to learn how to train the human body to be a successful sports performer?

Then GCSE PE is for you.

Furthermore, if you are participating in regular physical exercise or sport outside of school then you can enhance your practical ability whilst also learning how to analyse and evaluate your own performance.

Who can I contact for further details?

Mr Mahoney, Head of PE

SOCIAL SCIENCES (Psychology and Sociology)

What are the main things I will study in Y9?

Social Science is an engaging subject that introduces students to the study of human behaviour and society. During the course, students will explore key areas of psychology, including topics such as memory, social influence, and mental health, with a focus on understanding conditions like anxiety and depression. They will also study important areas of sociology, examining how families, education systems, and different social perspectives shape the world around us. The subject encourages students to think critically, analyse evidence, and develop a deeper understanding of both individual behaviour and wider social issues.

There will be opportunities for students to look through key psychological research studies as well as research and case studies linked to sociological research.

The Social Sciences course will also have strong links to the topic of research methods, which is a key foundation when conducting psychological and sociological research.

Who is this course best suited to?

- Students who enjoy writing extended essays
- Students who enjoy thinking critically and enjoy discussion
- Students who would like to engage with wider reading and published research in the psychological and sociological field
- Students who enjoy studying biology and science as there are strong elements of biology within the psychology aspect of the Social Sciences course

When I get into Y10 and Y11, what is the structure of the course and the assessment?

- Written examination
- Psychology - Studies and Applications (Paper 1 and Paper 2)
- Sociology - Paper 1 and Paper 2
- No coursework

What careers or further study can I go on to if I take this course?

- Clinical psychology
- Clinical research
- Civil service
- Teaching
- Human Resources

In short, why should I take this course?

Do you have a keen interest in the workings of the human mind and how this affects our behaviour?

Would you like to understand how the world we live in can affect our behaviours, attitudes and opinions?

Do you enjoy biology and studying how the brain could also impact our behaviours and explain certain psychological phenomenon?

Then this is the course for you.

Who can I contact for further details?

Ms Sohota (Head of Social Science)

Subject Locations

WYNNDALE BUILDING	
W20	Design and Technology (Product and Graphics)
W30	Health and Social Care Child Development

SPORTS HALL	
Sports Hall Classroom	Physical Education

RODING ARTS CENTRE	
R14	Art and Design
R6	Computer Science
Performance Theatre	Drama
R5	Music

MALLARDS BUILDING	
M2.12	French Spanish
M2.14	German Russian
Training Room (MH2)	Media
M1.5	Social Sciences (Psychology and Sociology)

BUSINESS CENTRE	
B4	Business Studies