



STANTONBURY
SCHOOL

Options for KS4
2026-2028
Information for Families

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Introduction

In September 2026 your child will be embarking on their Key Stage 4 courses leading to GCSE and vocational qualifications. In Year 10 all students will study a compulsory Core Entitlement of:

- ✓ English Language and English Literature
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Science (Double award)
- ✓ Physical Education (non-examined)
- ✓ PSHCE (non-examined)

Outside the Core Entitlement Curriculum, we believe it is important that they continue to study a broad and balanced range of courses as this will give them access to a greater range of careers and subjects post -16. Students will be able to follow a further three optional courses in addition to the Core Entitlement Curriculum.

At Stantonbury School we believe that the key to success will be ensuring that students undertake courses which are right for them. To provide fully for all our students we offer a range of academic (GCSE) and vocational (BTEC) courses. All the qualifications that we offer are Level 2 qualifications.

In addition, to help inform their decision making, the DfE have stated that students who secure good GCSE passes in English, mathematics, double science, a modern foreign language, and a humanities subject (history or geography) will achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). A good pass is defined as grade 5 or above.

Completion of the EBacc is not part of the entry requirements for 6th Form, however there are positive messages coming out of Higher Education institutions about the subjects included in the EBacc as facilitating subjects for entry to university and therefore this may be a significant factor in their decision making. The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open lots of doors.

Courses will be available from September 2026, but can be dependent upon sufficient demand, a specialist teacher, and provision. If students choose a course which must be cancelled, we will offer alternatives. Where courses are over-subscribed, or staff feel a student may benefit from a different route at Key Stage 4, they may have to accept another choice, however we aim to satisfy as many students as possible.

This booklet has been compiled to help you understand more about the courses on offer. Making your choices is important and you should make the most of the opportunities available to you in the next few weeks to ensure you make the right decision.

Stacy Morrow
SLT Lead

Samuel Hampton
Head of Year 9

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At Stantonbury, all students, regardless of background, prior attainment, SEN or EAL need will experience all of the 'Stantonbury 5 Entitlements' throughout their school journey.

The Stantonbury 5 Entitlements ensure that all students study a broad and balanced range of courses. Our Core Curriculum ensures full coverage of the Stantonbury 5 Entitlements:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)
- Arts
- Physical Wellbeing
- Global Citizenship
- Skills for Life

We encourage all students to pick their Option choices from a range of Stantonbury Entitlements, rather than specialise in one area.

	The Stantonbury 5 Entitlements				
	STEM	Arts	Physical Wellbeing	Global Citizenship	Skills for Life
Core Compulsory courses	GCSE Maths GCSE Combined (Science or Triple)	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature	Core PE (non-examined)	Core PSHCE (non-examined)	Core PSHCE (non-examined)
Open Optional choices	3d Design Computer Science	3d Design Art, Craft and Design Dance Drama Media Studies Music Photography Textiles	GCSE PE	French Mandarin History Geography Religious Studies Sociology	Food and Nutrition Child Development* Business Studies

* Courses marked with an asterisk are vocational awards and BTEC qualifications. Please refer to the Subject Information Pages for further information.

Due to the demands of the Computer Science GCSE, students will have to meet minimum entry criteria to select this option. This information can be found on the Computer Science information page.

You will find detailed information about all the courses later in this booklet.

Points for Students to Consider

We encourage students to reflect on these key questions to help them reach their decisions:

- Which subjects do I enjoy?
- Which subjects am I best at?
- What subjects will help my careers choice?
- Why am I making this choice?
- What do I really know about the course?
- How much coursework is involved in this course?
- What combination of subjects will give me greatest flexibility later?

You should think carefully before coming to any decision. You should read the whole booklet as you need to know what to expect from each subject you take and what is expected of you.

You are eligible to gain the "EBacc" – if you achieve 9-5 passes in *English, Maths, 2 Sciences, History or Geography and a language*.

Some key things to remember:

Each student should be realistic about matching their combination of subjects to their ability and should guard against either overrating or underrating themselves.

When picking options, a broad range of subjects is advisable to achieve a balance between arts, science, humanities, practical, aesthetic, and physical subjects.

Options need to be kept open for choices at 16+ and 18+. You are not just choosing subjects for the next two years. If you are looking ahead to higher education, it would be sensible to think about possible 'A' level subjects. Some subjects can more readily be taken up fresh at 'A' level whilst others are better taken at GCSE first.

The requirements for any possible career or course of further or higher education must be kept in mind. If you have a career in mind, you should research it in advance.

Adults are there to help, but ultimately students need to be making their own informed choices. It is essential that students make these choices based upon good information. Ill-informed choices are often regretted and forced choices are often resented.

In the options process, we ask students to prioritise 5 optional subjects. Students will end up learning 3 of these subjects, and we will try to meet their top three choices where possible. We ask that students enter their choices in two slots. Where possible, we aim to honour the Priority Choice Option.

1. The Priority Choice Option (Pick one subject)

All students pick one subject from the following choices:

French	History	Geography
Mandarin		

You will only be able to continue with the MFL that you have studied in years 7, 8 and 9. Please note that language options are only available in the Priority Option, so students who wish to continue learning French/Spanish/Mandarin must pick this as their choice here, but they can still pick History and/or Geography in the Open choices option to achieve the EBacc.

2. The Open Choices (Pick two subjects and two reserves)

Having made your choice from the Priority Options, we then ask you to select your top 4 preferences from all the remaining option choices. Students who would like to achieve the EBacc will need to pick the additional humanity subject (History/Geography) from the Open choice selection.

Photography	Drama	Media Studies
Child Development*	Music	History
Sociology	Religious Studies	Geography
Food and Nutrition	Business Studies	PE
Computer Science	Dance	
Art, Craft and Design or 3d Design or Textiles		

It is really important that student enter these choices in their order of preference (starting with the subject that they most want to do). We aim to meet your top two preferences, but you could end up with your reserve choices.

Please be aware that students can only pick one subject from the arts suite of qualifications: Art, Craft and Design/3d design/textiles. Photography can be combined with any of the arts courses.

We offer Computer Science as a GCSE choice, but there are strict entry criteria which must be proven to be selected for this course due to the high levels of mathematical understanding required. Please see the subject information page guide for further guidance.

Timeline: What happens when?

What	Who	Deadline
<p>Parents Evening Booking System opens</p> <p>By this time, we hope that you have had the chance to review the latest report with your child and take the opportunity to book appointments with subject teachers.</p>	Families	From Wednesday 4 February
<p>Year 9 Parents Evening</p> <p>Parents have the opportunity to discuss their individual child's progress with their current subject teachers in face-to-face appointments at school.</p>	Families	Thursday 26 February
<p>Trial Lessons</p> <p>We will be offering students the chance to attend "trial lessons" in subjects which they do not currently study. Students will be asked to nominate up to 2 subjects to join using an online Google form. Trial lessons will be timetabled for the week beginning Monday 10th February.</p>	Students	Friday 27 February to Tuesday 3 March
<p>Options Event</p> <p>We invite all students and families into school to meet with subject teachers for all Key Stage 4 courses. This is a great chance to talk to staff about the courses on offer and find out whether they will suit you. Please join our Presentation in the theatre, where all students will receive a hard copy of the Options booklet, and a review of the process.</p>	Mrs Morrow SLT Lead	Thursday 12 March
<p>Bromcom Options Online goes live</p> <p>Parents use their "My Child at School" login to log into their account and review the option choices with their child. Choices must be submitted online by the 18th March.</p>	Mrs Morrow SLT Lead	From Friday 13 March
<p>Deadline for submitting Options Choices</p> <p>We must have all choices submitted by 17:00 on Wednesday 18th March. The system will be locked at this time. If you do not submit your choices by this time, then your child risks not securing their preferred choices for GCSE.</p>	Families	Wednesday 18 March

In addition, during the options process the year 9 tutor team, including Mr Hampton and Ms Bullivant will be available to answer questions, and support students making their choices. During the week of Monday 16th March, tutors will be regularly in touch to check that students are on track to meet the deadline on Wednesday 18th March. If families are unable to access the Bromcom Options Online system, we will be able to submit choices on the student's behalf.

After the deadline, no further choices can be made as the timetable work will begin to find a solution that meets the requirements of most students. We will confirm the student's courses in the summer term.

We cannot guarantee that changes requested after this process can be accommodated, and therefore we would encourage all students to take their time to make the right choices now.



STANTONBURY SCHOOL

Core Subjects 2026-2028

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English Language	09
English Literature	10
Maths	11
Combined Science	12
PSHCE (non-examined)	13
Physical Education (non-examined)	14

English Language

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Arts
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AQA 8700
QAN Code:	601/4292/3
Subject Leader:	Ms Szladicsek
Contact details:	k.szladicsek@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

The study of English Language is the exploration of how writers' viewpoints and ideas are shaped through their language and structural choices. You will develop your understanding of how to use the written and spoken word to achieve effects and to encourage your reader to think in different ways. It's all about how we communicate and develop meaning in what we say. We will support your exploration of a variety of different text types, both fiction and non-fiction and build on your skills in your own writing allowing you to communicate in a purposeful and effective way.

Assessment

At the end of Year 11 you sit two exams to formulate your grade. One paper is titled 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing' that looks at fiction texts, and the second explores 'Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives' through non-fiction texts and each is worth 50% of the final grade. Within the course of the two years, you will also complete a Spoken Language assessment which you will be awarded a separate Pass/Merit/Distinction for and involves you creating a presentation on a topic of your choice.

Would it suit me?

This GCSE enables students to develop their own creative writing, as well as formulating opinions on a range of different topics so they can argue their viewpoint effectively. It also exposes students to a range of texts that they might not typically choose to read.

Future Careers:

Studying English Language supports your preparation for most careers. The ability to communicate purposefully and effectively is something that most professions need and it's an important life skill. It is also very effective in developing transferable skills such as interpretive abilities, an understanding of how language works, close analysis, and the ability to construct a well-argued case. These are highly valued in a range of graduate careers such as Teaching, Business and Finance, Journalism, Publishing – even Politics.

English Literature

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Arts
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AOA 8702
QAN Code:	601/4447/6
Subject Leader:	Ms Szladicsek
Contact details:	k.szladicsek@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

English Literature is the study of written texts, including prose, plays and poetry, from across the world and across different time contexts. The study of English Literature focuses on analysis, debate and critical evaluation of the effects and intentions developed by writers. We study a range of texts covering current issues and themes that are relevant to the young people we teach. World renowned writers such as Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and J.B. Priestley form the main part of our study along with a broad range of poetry. Through English Literature you can broaden your understanding of the world and a wide range of cultural and intellectual traditions. The texts that students will study for English Literature are: An Inspector Calls, A Christmas Carol, Macbeth and poetry around the themes of Power and Conflict.

Assessment

At the end of Year 11 you sit two exams to form your final grade. The first paper focuses on Shakespeare and a pre-1900 text and the second explores modern texts and poetry. You will develop essay writing skills in building up to these exams and understand how to present an interpretation effectively.

Would it suit me?

This GCSE enables students to read a range of different texts, from different eras. It provides opportunities to debate the themes and ideas within the text and to consider their relevance to the world today, as well as exploring the context of when the text was written.

Future Careers:

The study of English Literature supports success in many different careers and industries; to understand the written word is to be able to communicate effectively. Some specific careers related to English Literature are Media and journalism, publishing, teaching and academic careers, advertising and marketing, careers in law, editing and proof-reading.

Maths

Stantonbury Entitlement:	STEM
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	Pearson Edexcel 1MA1 (Higher) and OCR (Foundation)
QAN Code:	601/4606/0 (Foundation – OCR) 601/4700/3 (Higher – Edexcel)
Subject Leader:	Ms Lomoro
Contact details:	b.lomoro@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

GCSE specifications in mathematics encourage students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. It also provides a strong mathematical foundation for students who go on to study mathematics at a higher-level post-16.

We have chosen OCR Mathematics for our foundation students to develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts and to apply them to problem solving. They should emerge from GCSE Mathematics with a confidence and fluency that will provide a firm foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives.

The Edexcel specification for our higher students is designed to develop confidence and competence in the use of mathematics. It encourages students to understand the importance of precision and rigour and the ever-increasing emphasis on application of mathematics in the real world. Students who intend to go on to A Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics will be able to progress with confidence and competence.

Assessment

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher (content is defined for each tier). The assessments will cover the following content headings: 1. Number 2. Algebra 3. Ratio proportion and Rates of Change 4. Geometry and measures 5. Probability and 6. Statistics Each student is permitted to take assessments in either the Foundation tier or Higher tier. The qualification consists of three equally weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. Each examination is taken over a 90 mins period. The assessment consists of 1 non-calculator and 2 calculator papers for each tier.

Future Careers:

Mathematics is applicable to nearly every industry today, from science and technology to business, retail, healthcare, and more. Professionals with advanced degrees in math are highly desirable for their mastery of certain skills—particularly for their critical thinking and problem-solving expertise. Some careers in mathematics include: Acoustic consultant, Actuarial analyst, Actuary, Astronomer, Chartered accountant, Stock broker, Data analyst, Data scientist, Investment analyst, Research scientist (mathematics), Secondary school teacher, Software engineer, Sound engineer, Statistician, CAD technician, Civil Service fast streamer, Financial manager, Game designer, Insurance underwriter, Machine learning engineer, Meteorologist, Operational researcher, Private tutor, Quantity surveyor and Radiation protection practitioner. Typical employers include: the NHS, local and central government, educational establishments, the pharmaceutical industry, IT companies, engineering companies, insurance companies, market research and marketing companies, finance, banking, and accountancy firms.

Science

Stantonbury Entitlement:	STEM
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AQA 8464
QAN Code:	601/8758/X
Subject Leader:	Mrs S Seda
Contact details:	s.seda@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

The AQA combined science trilogy is a Linear course allows students the opportunity explore the key concepts of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course provides a broad and in-depth understanding of the world around us, helping students connect theoretical knowledge to real world applications. It covers a range of scientific principles, from cellular biology to energy and forces, preparing students to further studies or a variety of career paths.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Cell Biology	Atomic structure and the periodic table	Energy
Organisation	The rate and extent of chemical change	Electricity
Infection and response	Quantitative chemistry	Particle model of matter
Bioenergetics	Chemical changes	Atomic structure
Homeostasis and response	Energy changes	Forces
Ecology	Organic chemistry	Waves
Inheritance, variation and evolution	Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter	Magnetism and Electromagnets
	Chemical analysis	
	Chemistry of the atmosphere	
	Using resources	

Assessment

At the end of Year 11, students will complete six exam papers: two for Biology, two for Chemistry and two for Physics. Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes long and consists of 70 marks. The exams assess knowledge for distinct topics within each subject area. Each paper contributes 16.7% to the overall GCSE grade, with students receiving two GCSE grades for Combined Science.

Would it suit me?

The Combined Science Trilogy is suitable for students of all abilities and interests. If you enjoy practical work, problem solving, and applying scientific principles to understand the world around you, this course will provide the foundation for further studies. It is ideal for students who want a well-rounded education in Science, preparing them for a wide range of future opportunities.

Future Careers:

Engineering, Sports, Education, Health care services, Mechanics, Music and the arts.

PSHCE

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Global Citizenship/Skills for Life
Qualification type:	Not examined
Exam board and specification:	N/A
Subject Leader:	Ms Woods
Contact details:	s.woods@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

PSHCE stands for Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education. In KS4 we mainly focus on the RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) and RE (Religious Education) elements of this compulsory subject. As of 2020 PSHE (RSE) became compulsory for all students at primary and secondary to be taught. Our curriculum reflects the government curriculum.

Assessment

There are no examinations in this subject. Students will complete self and peer assessment tasks throughout KS4.

Would it suit me?

The subject teaches life skills. You will look at key topics and consider your own values and how you wish to develop as an adult. It looks at Parenthood for example and you will learn the process of how someone can become pregnant and follow the cycle through to birth and what you do with a child and how you care for it (including the financial implications).

Future Careers:

Social Care, Health, Education, Family Planning, etc

Core Physical Education

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Physical Wellbeing
Qualification type:	Not examined
Exam board and specification:	N/A
Subject Leader:	Ms Smith/ Ms Mumford
Contact details:	e.smith@stantonbury.tove.org.uk r.mumford@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

In KS4 core PE we aim to prepare students for life after school, so that our pupils will be physically and mentally capable to compete and succeed within their chosen field. We will teach pupils the benefits of *teamwork, enthusiasm and self-care* as well as *emotional literacy, wellness and optimism*. Through a practical setting.

Pupils will be taught a range of sports and will take a leading role in coaching their peers and will experience life as a valued member of a team.

Students will have 2 lessons of PE each week, unless they take Triple Science. Students who follow the Triple Science course will only have 1 lesson of PE as they will do a sixth science lesson each week, in place of a core PE lesson.

How will this help me?

Our KS4 curriculum will be an opportunity to relieve stress and strengthen your emotional literacy. It will allow you to take control of your learning whilst improving your physical fitness and social wellbeing. You will demonstrate leadership skills and know what it is like to work in a functioning team. You will learn new skills, not only in sport but also in interaction and resilience.

Your teachers will work with you and the rest of your class to pick engaging lessons and sports to teach all whilst helping you prepare for your future.



STANTONBURY SCHOOL

Optional Subjects 2026-2028

Art: 3D Design	16	Geography	27
Art: Art, Craft and Design	17	History	28
Art: Textiles	18	Mandarin	29
Business Studies	19	Media Studies	30
Child Development*	20	Music	31
Computer Science	21	Physical Education	32
Dance	22	Photography	33
Drama	23	Religious Studies	34
Food and Nutrition	25	Sociology	35
French	26	Triple Science	36

* Courses marked with an asterisk are vocational and BTEC qualifications.

Art: Three-Dimensional Design

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Arts
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	EDUQAS C655QS Specification
QAN:	601/8087/0
Subject Leader:	Mrs Hodgson
Contact details:	n.hodgson@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the Course

This course builds upon the creative skills you developed in Year 9 and focuses on the exciting world of three-dimensional design. You will explore a wide range of materials and techniques, working on themes that allow you to experiment with design, prototyping, and creating functional and aesthetic objects, products, and environments. You will also have opportunities to develop skills in areas such as architectural design, product design, sculpture, and environmental design. The course encourages a personal approach, enabling you to explore your interests and develop innovative ideas. Our facilities include specialised workshops and a wide variety of materials to support your creative journey.

Assessment

A major advantage of this course is that it is entirely assessed through coursework completed in school—there are no written exams. Starting in Year 10, all the work you produce will contribute towards your final grade. You will work on several projects over the course, with your best work forming a portfolio that will account for 60% of your final GCSE grade. This portfolio is assessed as a non-examined component.

For the remaining 40%, you will respond to a theme set by the exam board. You will have just over six weeks to experiment and develop your ideas before producing a final, personal design solution. This forms your practical exam.

Would it suit me?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy creative problem-solving and are interested in exploring how design impacts the world around us. It complements other art and design-based subjects or provides a creative outlet alongside academic studies. If you are enthusiastic about designing and making and are keen to take a personal approach to projects, this course is a great choice.

Future Careers

Three-dimensional design can be both a passion and a pathway to a fulfilling career. The creative thinking, problem-solving, and presentation skills you gain will support your personal and professional development. Students who have studied three-dimensional design have gone on to pursue careers in fields such as architecture, product design, interior design, exhibition design, ceramics, and theatre and film production, among many others.

Please be aware that students can only pick one subject from the arts suite of qualifications: Art, Craft and Design/3d design/textiles. If you select 3D Design, then you cannot also select Art, Craft and Design or Textiles.

Art: Art, Craft and Design

Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	EDUQAS C650QS Specification
QAN:	601/8087/0
Subject Leader:	Nicola Hodgson
Contact details:	n.hodgson@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

This course will lead on from the work you have done in year 9. You will explore a wide range of arts materials and techniques and will get the opportunity to focus on developing your own style and skill in drawing, painting, graphics, textiles and three-dimensional work. You will be given themes and materials to focus on, but the course is designed to be highly personal and for you to take your own direction.

There are no limits to where your creativity can take you in this course and we are highly trained in all art forms to support you achieve your goals

Assessment

The benefit of this course is that it is entirely assessed on the work set in school, there are no written exams.

From day one in year 10 you will be producing work which will be assessed towards your final grade. You will work on several themes over the course and the combination of the best work from these will form a portfolio of work which will be assessed as a non-examined assessment. This equates to 60% of your final GCSE grade.

In Year 11 you will then have a theme to choose, set by the exam board, and have just over 6 weeks to complete experiments and tests before producing a personal response to the theme set. This forms your practical exam and is the final 40% of your GCSE grade.

Would it suit me?

This course would suit anyone who enjoys making and creating. If you have enjoyed the artwork set in Year 9 you will love this course. This course would complement those who are opting for performing arts or design courses, it equally supports those who are looking for a creative outlet to go alongside their other academic courses.

You will be expected to take the projects in personal directions, and we would like you to bring your own interests into lessons to choose the direction your work goes in.

Future Careers:

The arts can be a passion and a career. The creative thinking, presentation and communication skills will support your personal development and future career choices.

Students who have studied the visual arts have gone on to work as architects, designers, stage and set designers. The careers in the arts industry are endless and one of the largest sectors in the UK economy.

Art: Textiles

Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	EDUQAS C653QS Specification
QAN:	601/8087/0
Subject Leader:	Nicola Hodgson
Contact details:	n.hodgson@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the Course

This course builds upon the creative skills you developed in Year 9 and delves into the exciting world of textile design. You will explore the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched, or printed fabrics, gaining an understanding of fibres, yarns, and fabrics. The course offers opportunities to experiment with various techniques and materials across areas such as constructed textiles, digital textiles, dyed and printed fabrics, and stitched or embellished textiles. You will be encouraged to take a personal approach to your work, exploring themes and ideas that reflect your interests and inspirations. Our facilities include specialised equipment and a wide range of materials to support your creative development.

Assessment

A significant advantage of this course is that it is entirely assessed through coursework completed in school—there are no written exams. From the beginning of Year 10, all the work you create will contribute towards your final grade. You will develop projects across several themes, with your strongest work forming a portfolio. This portfolio will account for 60% of your final GCSE grade and will be assessed as a non-examined component.

For the remaining 40%, you will respond to a theme set by the exam board. Over a six-week period, you will explore and experiment with ideas before producing a final, personal textile-based outcome. This forms your practical exam.

Would it Suit Me?

This course is perfect for students who are passionate about exploring creative processes and techniques in textiles. It complements other art and design-based subjects or provides a hands-on, imaginative outlet alongside academic studies. If you enjoy working with fabrics, experimenting with patterns and textures, and creating unique designs, this course would be an excellent fit. You will have the opportunity to take your projects in a personal direction, showcasing your creativity and individual style.

Future Careers

Textile design can be both a creative passion and a gateway to exciting career opportunities. The skills you develop, including creative problem-solving, attention to detail, and presentation, will enhance your personal and professional growth. Students who have studied textile design have gone on to careers in fashion design, interior design, costume design for theatre and film, textile production, and surface pattern design, among many other roles in the creative industries.

Business Studies

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Skills for life
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	Edexcel 1BS0
QAN Code:	60301211
Subject Leader:	Mr Edu
Contact details:	c.edu@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

The Edexcel GCSE in Business is an ideal choice for ambitious students seeking to develop a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic business world. Tailored for aspiring entrepreneurs and future business leaders, this course provides a robust academic foundation, preparing students to make informed decisions about further education and career opportunities.

The course equips students with the skills and knowledge required to analyse real-world business scenarios critically. It focuses on two overarching themes: Investigating Small Business and Building a Business, allowing students to explore the foundations of entrepreneurship as well as the challenges of scaling and managing larger organisations. Students will study the four key functional areas of business: finance, operations, marketing, and human resources. This engaging and thought-provoking curriculum fosters creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, empowering students to excel in both academic and practical business contexts.

Assessment

There are two exams which are taken at the end of Year 11; each exam is worth 50% of the total grade.

Would it suit me?

The Edexcel GCSE in Business provides students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding across a range of business contexts, from small enterprises to large multinational corporations operating at local, national, and global levels. Students develop a critical awareness of how these contexts shape business behaviour and decision-making processes.

Future Careers:

Studying Business equips students with versatile skills that are invaluable in both personal and professional contexts. Whether combined with other disciplines or pursued independently, Business Studies provides a competitive edge in an increasingly globalised job market. A GCSE in Business can open doors to a wide range of career opportunities, including but not limited to:

- Marketing Manager: Developing and executing strategies to promote products and services.
- Finance Professional: Managing budgets, investments, and financial planning for organisations or individuals.
- Entrepreneur/Sole Trader: Establishing and managing your own business venture.
- Business Sector Roles: A diverse array of positions across operations, sales, management, and consulting.
- Accountant: Overseeing financial records, ensuring compliance, and advising on fiscal matters.

Business Studies provides the foundation for success in various roles, making it a highly adaptable and sought-after qualification.

Child Development

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Skills for life
Qualification type:	Cambridge National
Exam board and Specification:	OCR J809
QAN Code:	603/7114/6
Subject Leader:	Ms Smith
Contact details:	e.smith@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

This is for students who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of the skills and requirements needed to support a child's development. It involves both theoretical and practical elements.

Unit R057: Health and well-being for child development- Students will learn about the importance of pre-conception health and reproduction, antenatal care and preparation for birth. They will also learn about postnatal care, postnatal checks, childhood illnesses and creating a child safe environment.

Unit R058: Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years– 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, including how to prepare a bottle feed for a baby. Students will then learn to evaluate their practises and provide recommendations for improvement.

Unit R059: Understand the development of a child from one to five years- Students will gain knowledge of the physical, intellectual and social development norms of children and their stages of play from one to five years. Students shall also observe, plan and evaluate play activities for a child in the given area of development.

Assessment

Examination and non-examined assessment. One examination (R057) worth 40% and two non-examined assessment units (R058 and R059) totalling 60%. The exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes comprising of multiple choice, short, medium and extended response questions. The non-examined assessment involves students completing set tasks issued by OCR under controlled conditions in relation to the topics covered in R058 and R059 above.

Would it suit me?

Good English reading and writing skills and the ability to analyse case studies and written materials is important. Students will be required to continue assignment work outside of lesson time; therefore students should be self-motivated and organised.

Future Careers:

By following this course, you will be able to access further training within care services, e.g. nursery working, nursing, care assistants, midwifery and working with children. Students may also progress onto advanced courses in subjects such as Health & Social Care or Children's Play, Learning and Development. Apprenticeships at Intermediate and Advanced level are also available in this sector.

Computer Science

Stantonbury Entitlement:	STEM
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	OCR J277
QAN Code:	601/8355/X
Subject Leader:	Mr Ramnarain
Contact details:	p.ramnarain@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

GCSE (9–1) Computer Science is relevant to the modern, changing world of computing, it is designed to boost essential computing skills for the 21st century. Computational thinking as its core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence, applying the academic principles, they learn in the classroom to real-world systems in an exciting and engaging way.

Students will understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. They will analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs. They will think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically, understanding the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another. Students will also understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society and apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

Assessment

Computer Science is assessed through two written examinations. Each exam is worth 50%. Practical programming is a core skill which continues to be a focal point of the GCSE course. Students are required to develop programming skills as part of the GCSE. These skills reinforce and support access to the content in the GCSE written examinations.

Would it suit me?

Learning is delivered through a creative blend of practical and theoretical lessons. Students are given the opportunity to design, write, test and refine programs using a text-based high-level programming language. If you are a logical thinker, who has an aptitude for solving mathematical problems this could be the course for you.

Due to the demands of this course, outcomes from assessment data will be factored into the selection process. If you apply for this course, but do not meet the criteria, you will be placed in your reserve option choice.

Future Careers:

Computer science can lead to lucrative careers in many different fields including software engineering, website development, programming and information security. With skills ranging from programming languages to report writing, the skills you will learn in this degree can be applied to many job roles, including, Database administrator, Software developer, Computer hardware engineer, Computer systems analyst, Computer network architect, Website developer and Information security analyst.

Dance

Qualification type:	BTEC
Exam board and specification:	Pearson - Technical Award in Dance
QAN Code:	603/705413
Subject Leader:	Kelly Cirket /Amy Ridley
Contact details:	k.cirket@stantonbury.tove.org.uk a.ridley@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

All 3 strands of performance, composition and appreciation have been introduced to students at Key Stage 3. During Key Stage 4 they are developed and build in complexity.

- **Performing:** Students will develop their own personal performance through improving physical, technical and expressive skills. Students will perform a choreographed group piece as well as a group repertoire performance work.
- **Composing:** Students will learn how to choreograph and create their own dances. Students will work on producing creative and original movement material.
- **Appreciating:** Students will learn how to describe, interpret and evaluate both their own and professional dance work. Students will study a number of professional works in a range of dance styles such as Contemporary, Hip Hop and Cultural dance.

During the Dance course students will take part in several performances at Stantonbury School and other theatres around the country. Although there is some written work (understanding professional repertoire, choreographic process, evaluations etc) much of the course is performance-based work. This means that students will be expected to attend rehearsals, and performances.

Assessment

The course is coursework based and students will study three units. The coursework will be in the form of assignments that are set by the exam board and will use practical skills students will develop from across the course. Some parts of the assignments will need to be completed under exam conditions.

Would it suit me?

The Dance course is suitable for students who have an interest or passion for Dance. Dance is a fresh and vibrant course which includes popular performance and choreography, alongside a diverse and accessible professional works to engage and inspire students.

Future Careers:

There are many possible careers within the Dance industry that this course can prepare students for. The list below is not exhaustive but provides a few examples of possible job roles: Performer, choreographer, teacher, dance journalist, dance movement therapist, dance film maker, dance project coordinator, dance press and public relations officer, costume/set designer and dance photographer.

Drama

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Arts
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	Edexcel 1DR0
QAN Code:	601/8491/7
Subject Leader:	Mrs Moodie/ Ms A Ridley
Contact details:	p.moodie@stantonbury.tove.org.uk a.ridley@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

The Arts are crucial to everyone's lives especially in the current climate where most of us are making the most of streaming sites such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, reading books and plays etc to escape reality. GCSE Drama could be one of the first stepping-stones for anyone who would like to explore the art form in more detail or to pursue a dream of being on stage or television.

GCSE Drama is broken down into 3 main components of study:

1. Component 1 is a Devising Unit, covered in year 10, similar in style to the one covered in Year 9. You will be given a Stimulus (source of inspiration) to work from and from there, you are able to do whatever you want with the story! There is also a section of this Unit which looks at different styles of performance through the various practitioners throughout the years including (but not limited to) Brecht, Stanislavski, and Frantic Assembly.
2. Component 2 is a text-based Unit which focuses on the actor using 2 extracts from known scripts and applying their acting skills to it. This unit follows on from many aspects of KS3 performance and challenges the actor to perform as though they were a professional actor. This component is mainly looked at in Yr 11.
3. Component 3 is a Unit that tasks you with 2 parts. The first is to study a play in full, exploring its themes, understanding the characters and getting to grips with the story as a whole. The second part is to watch a piece of live theatre to experience professional theatre. Looking at lighting, sound, staging, costuming, directing and acting. Explored throughout both year 10 and 11.

Assessment:

Each of the above components of the course are assessed, Component 1 will have you perform your devised piece in our Theatre and then write a portfolio about your experiences and devising process. Component 2 will also be performed in our theatre with an external examiner coming to watch your performances. Component 3 is a written exam at the end of the course.

Would it suit me?

The Drama course is suitable for students who have an interest or passion for Drama or performance. Drama is a subject where you can stretch your creative muscles and build skills such as: collaboration/teamwork, public speaking, self-discipline, cultural appreciation, time management alongside many more.

Future Careers:

There are many possible careers within the Drama industry that this course can prepare students for. The list below is not exhaustive but provides a few examples of possible job roles: Performer, director, teacher, theatre journalist, film maker, stage manager, costume/set designer.

Food and Nutrition

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Skills for life
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AQA 8585 Specification
QAN Code:	601/8421/8
Subject Leader:	Ms Blidgen
Contact details:	c.blidgen@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

The new Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE will help you to develop a greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. You will also learn about food from around the world, through the study of British and international culinary traditions as well as developing an understanding of where food comes from (food provenance) and the challenges surrounding food security. You will master culinary skills and appreciate the science behind food and cooking.

Assessment

There will be one exam for this qualification, which will assess your knowledge of the theory behind food preparation and nutrition. The exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes long. 50% of the GCSE. The second part of the assessment will be non-examination assessment and will consist of two tasks, involving practical work. 50% of GCSE.

Task 1: Students will carry out an investigation into the scientific principles that underpin the preparation and cooking of food. This task will provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and practically apply your understanding of the science behind cooking. You will practically investigate ingredients and explain how they work and why.

Task 2: Students will plan, prepare, cook, and present a 3-course menu. This task will provide you with an opportunity to cook up a storm and showcase your creativity and cooking skills.

Would it suit me?

The skills you develop through the study of food preparation and nutrition will support your study of a wide range of other subjects and can be studied in combination with any other GCSE course. In terms of subject knowledge, the nutrition and health may particularly complement the study of biology and physical education. Food preparation and nutrition also helps you to learn how to work independently and manage your time – skills valued by both higher education institutions and employers alike.

Future Careers:

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will equip you to go on to further study. After taking this course, you could embark on AS or A-level study, begin an apprenticeship or perhaps begin employment in the catering or food industries.

French

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Global Citizenship
Qualification type:	GCSE
QAN Code:	610/2790/X
Exam board and specification:	AOA 8652
Subject Leader:	Ms Ciornei
Contact details:	c.ciornei@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

With developments in communication systems and transport making the world seem ever smaller, the ability to function in a second European language for both leisure and work is becoming ever more important. The French GCSE course covers up to date topics, including:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

'People and lifestyle' cover the following three subtopics: Identity and relationships with others; healthy living and lifestyle; education and work. Popular culture covers the following three subtopics; free-time activities; customs, festivals and celebrations and celebrity culture. 'Communication and the world around us' include the following subtopics: travel and tourism, including places of interest; media and technology; the environment and where people live.

By studying GCSE French, students will not only be able to communicate and share their ideas with French-speaking people but also enhance their cultural knowledge and add an international dimension to their choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for.

Assessment

Assessment is set in the context of the three themes. There are 4 exams which are taken at the end of Year 11, one in each skill area listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each exam is worth 25% of the total grade. The speaking exam is a one-to-one exam assessment with the class teacher.

Would it suit me?

The study of a language requires a degree of resilience and perseverance! You will need to be open minded and ready to participate in lessons, which may take you out of your comfort zone. Risk takers are particularly welcomed!

Future Careers:

The study of French is a skill that you can use in both your personal life and future career. It can be combined with any other subject to give you an international edge in the working world. Common combinations include French with Journalism, Politics, History, Business in fact almost anything!

Careers that you might consider as a French specialist include teacher, translator, copywriter or any other career in a French speaking country. Of course, many students chose to study French simply because it is useful when on holiday!

Geography

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Global Citizenship
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	Edexcel B 2GB01
QAN Code:	50046743
Subject Leader:	Ms Eisa
Contact details:	n.eisa@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

Geography is about the world around us, how it works and what makes it special and unique. In the course you will learn new transferable skills that can be applied in real situations and help you in your future career prospects. These include writing at length, maths and science application, and use of ICT such as GIS (Geographical Information Systems).

Assessment

There are 3 examinations at the end of the GCSE course:

Paper 1 - Global Geographical Issues (Hazardous Earth, Development Dynamics, Urbanising World)

Paper 2 - UK Geographical Issues (Rivers, Coasts, Urban Environment, Fieldwork)

Paper 3 - People and the Environment (Resource Management, Forests Under Threat, Decision Making)

Would it suit me?

Geographers are enquirers and critical thinkers. Research plays a big part in geographical study and fieldwork skills are essential. In addition to this you should be able to

- write at length, answering essay style questions
- remember facts and figures so that you can apply case study knowledge throughout your exams
- be able to apply maths and science knowledge throughout
- be able to work independently as well as in groups - you will regularly need to access the independent study materials such as Seneca
- approach the course sensibly - for example, you will need to be trusted to conduct fieldwork in an unfamiliar environment

Future Careers:

Geography helps students to understand the world around them and think about how they can impact the future of the planet.

Geographers are amongst the most employable of all university graduates, as can be seen in numerous Guardian league tables. Geographers enter finance, business, or the sciences, as well as careers such as working for charities or town planning. Geographers are at the forefront of climate studies and environmental protection. Other possible career routes include the travel and tourism industry, economics, journalism and architecture. At a time when numerous companies are looking at their carbon footprint and sustainability, we are a valuable resource. A good grade in GCSE Geography shows you have sound analytical skills, which are highly respected by employers and universities.

History

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Global Citizenship
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	Edexcel 1Hi0
QAN Code:	601/8092/4
Subject Leader:	Mr Mernagh
Contact details:	w.mernagh@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

This course will build on the skills you have developed throughout KS3. It covers a wide range of topics that will ensure you are engaged in your learning, and you further develop your historical skills and understanding of the complexity of the factors that shape modern society. The course will offer you opportunities to explore different themes and concepts while promoting your knowledge of British and world history. The aim of the course is to help you become an independent learner and a critical and reflective thinker.

Assessment

The course will be assessed at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 makes up 30% of the course, Paper 2 40% of the course, and Paper 3 30% of the course respectively. Each paper comprises of a variety of questions, from Source analysis to interpretations and essay writing.

Throughout your two-year studies, you will practise exam questions to master the exam technique and be able to access primary/secondary sources and interpretations effectively. Your lessons will also include tasks of retrieval nature to help you consolidate your learning. At the end of each module, you will also have a summative assessment to assess your skills and knowledge, in preparation for the GCSE exams at the end of KS4.

Would it suit me?

This course would complement students interested in history, civil and political rights, activism, and politics. It is also suitable for students who are interested in exploring the changing nature of society and drawing substantiated conclusions based on personal research and enquiry. The course will help you become an advocate for change offering you the conceptual foundation necessary to reach informed decisions. You will also be expected to bring in your own experience and opinions and engage in respectful conversations that might challenge your viewpoints.

Future Careers:

Your passion for history can lead you into a successful career. Studying history offers the springboard for personal development through the development of cognitive, communication and transferable skills.

Students who have studied history have gone on to have success in a wide range of careers including becoming a history teacher, a researcher, an archivist, a political advisor and many more. If you are an aspiring individual, this course will give you the confidence, knowledge and skills to embark on a rewarding learning journey.

Mandarin

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Global Citizenship
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AQA 8673
QAN Code:	603/1210/5
Subject Leader:	Ms Ciornei
Contact details:	c.ciornei@Stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

The Languages for the future report by the British Council has identified Mandarin Chinese as the second priority language among the ten most important languages for the UK's future. Learning Mandarin Chinese provides young people with an understanding of a unique culture as well as the feeling of empowerment to be able to explore opportunities beyond Europe and English-speaking countries.

The Mandarin Chinese GCSE course covers up to date topics, including 'Identity and culture' (sub-topics: relationships, technology, free-time activities, festivals in Chinese-speaking countries,) 'Local, national and international and global areas of interest' (subtopics: your town, voluntary work, the environment, travel,) and 'Current and future study and employment' (sub-topics: studies, life at school, jobs.)

By studying GCSE Mandarin Chinese, students will not only be able to communicate and share their ideas with Mandarin-speaking people but also enhance their cultural knowledge and add a wide international dimension to their choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for.

Assessment

There are 4 exams which are taken at the end of Year 11, one in each skill area –listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each exam is worth 25% of the total grade. The speaking exam is a one-to-one exam assessment with the class teacher.

Would it suit me?

The study of a language requires a degree of resilience and perseverance! You will need to be open minded and ready to participate in lessons, which may take you out of your comfort zone. Risk takers are particularly welcomed!

Future Careers:

The study of Mandarin Chinese is a skill that you can use in both your personal life and future career. It can be combined with any other subject to give you a wide international edge in the working world. Common combinations include Mandarin with Journalism, Politics, History, Business in fact almost anything!

Careers that you might consider as a Mandarin specialist include teacher, translator, professor, businessman or any other career related to a Chinese speaking area.

Of course, many students chose to study Mandarin simply because it is different from other European languages and their unique culture!

Media Studies

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Arts
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AQA 8572
QAN Code:	603/2105/2
Subject Leader:	Mrs Ridley
Contact details:	a.ridley@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

GCSE Media is an exciting course that looks at a variety of different sources within Media ranging from print design work to film and TV, to gaming and music videos. During this course students will gain a solid understanding of Media Language, Media representation, Media industries, and Media audiences. Over the course of the GCSE you will develop your theoretical understanding of media, including how to analyse texts to explain how they communicate meaning to the audience. You will also practically apply your understanding of the theoretical framework to a broad range of production tasks in preparation for your NEA coursework. You will complete production tasks such as print based advertising using Photoshop, produce test sequences for TV dramas and films, produce extracts for music videos, creating websites, and much more.

Assessment

There are 2 written exams which are taken at the end of Year 11 - Media One and Media Two and they will be based on the Close Study Products covered across the course. The two exams make up 70% of the grade for the GCSE. In addition to the written exams there is a practical NEA coursework task which is launched in the summer term of Year 10 and is worth 30% of the overall GCSE grade.

Would it suit me?

Students wanting to take the course should have a passion for Media and its various forms such as online, print and film. Students must be creative and think outside the box. Students should be self-motivated to explore relative media products in relation to the CSPs they are studying to provide themselves with a wider understanding of the context each CSP was created in. Students should also be willing to try out creative tasks such as filming, exploring camera angles, film editing, the use of Photoshop to design and create their own media print and much more.

Future Careers:

The course can lead to many opportunities, such as students entering higher education to complete undergraduate and postgraduate courses at university. Many of our students go onto study Media related courses at university including some going to RADA and the BFI Film Academy, both prestigious courses for postgraduate students looking to study film at a higher level. This could lead to careers such as television broadcasting, journalism and web design, and much more.

Music

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Arts
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	Eduqas 601/8131/X
QAN Code:	601/8131/X
Subject Leader:	Mr Cormican
Contact details:	a.cormican@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

Music is an integral part of everyone's daily lives. Everyone listens to music and relies on this art form to comfort and console us, to lift us up, and to soundtrack the important events in our lives.

GCSE Music is an exciting course that looks in detail at music in its infinite variety. Over the course you will develop as both a solo and ensemble performer, refine your ability to compose original music, and study music from the Western Classical tradition, stage and screen, popular genres, and traditional cultures from around the world.

The course follows directly from the work undertaken in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Assessment

Performing (30%): Two performances (one solo, one ensemble)

Composing (30%): Two original compositions – one in response to an exam brief

Listening (40%): A written listening examination covering the topics studied in years 10 & 11

All external assessment takes place at the end of Year 11

Would it suit me?

This course would suit anyone who is interested in music and has enjoyed the subject at Key Stage 3. It is particularly suitable for students who are learning to play a specific musical instrument and enjoy performing both as a soloist and as part of a group, as well as students who enjoy creating their own music.

Future Careers:

The opportunities presented by studying this course are infinite. In the past, students have gone on to study music at university, as well as become theatrical actors and singers. Students have also gone on to work in the film and television industry as composers, directors, and even presenters. Others have gone on to success as performers in bands and as soloists.

Physical Education (PE)

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Physical Wellbeing
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	Edexcel 1PE0
QAN Code:	601/8161/8
Subject Leader:	Ms Smith
Contact details:	e.smith@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

GCSE PE is based on the theory of sport and fitness. The course is predominantly theoretical. However, you will need a keen interest in team sports and individual sports. We will cover Anatomy and physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training, Sports Psychology, Socio-cultural Influences and Health, Fitness and Wellbeing

Assessment

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems (36%)

Students explore how parts of the human body function during physical activity and the physiological adaptations that can occur due to training. They also develop skills in data analysis, and an understanding of the principles of training, why we train in different ways and how training plans can be made to optimise results and prevent injury.

Component 2: Health and Performance (24%)

Students develop their knowledge of the social-cultural and psychological influences on levels of participation in sport, and how sport impacts on society more broadly. This includes the individual benefits to health (including diet), fitness and well-being of participating in physical activity, as well as the influences of commercialisation, sponsorship and the media.

Practical Performances (Non exam assessment) (30%)

Students are assessed in performing in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer. They will be required to demonstrate their skills in isolation/unopposed situations and demonstrate their skills in a formal/competitive situation while under pressure.

Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) (10%)

Students are required to demonstrate their ability to analyse and evaluate performance through the creation of a six- to eight-week personal exercise programme (PEP) in order to improve/ optimise performance in a chosen physical activity.

Would it Suit Me?

- The study of a physical education will require interests in team sports and individual sports, as a player/performer or official.
- You will enjoy your favourite sports and be introduced to a variety of different sports, which will enable you to improve your own performance.
- 60% of the course is theory based, and you will need an interest in learning about the human body, anatomy and its movements, as well as sports psychology.

Future Careers:

Athlete, Events Manager, Health Trainer, Leisure Centre Manager, Outdoor Activities Instructor, PE Teacher, Personal Trainer, Physiotherapist, Primary School Teacher, Sport and Exercise Psychologists, Sports Agent, Sports Coach, Sports Commentator, Sports Professional, Sports Scientist, Sports Journalist.

Photography

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Arts
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	EDUQAS C656QS Specification
QAN:	601/8087/0
Subject Leader:	Mrs Hodgson
Contact details:	n.hodgson@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

This course will lead on from the art work you have done in year 9. You will explore a wide range of arts materials and techniques and will get the opportunity to focus on developing new skills in photography. You will be given themes to explore using studio lighting and digital editing alongside other art skills. The course encourages you to find personal directions for you to produce your work. We have a dedicated computer suite, photographic studio and a wide range of arts materials for you to learn how to tell your stories and document and discover what you find interesting.

Assessment

The benefit of this course is that it is entirely assessed on the work set in school, there are no written exams. From day one in year 10 you will be producing work which will be assessed towards your final grade. You will work on several themes over the course and the combination of the best work from these will form a portfolio of work which will be assessed as a non-examined assessment. This equates to 60% of your final GCSE grade. You will then have a theme to choose, set by the exam board, and have just over 6 weeks to complete experiments and tests before producing a personal response to the theme set. This forms your practical exam and is the final 40% of your GCSE grade.

Would it suit me?

This course would complement those who are opting for other arts courses, it equally supports those who are looking for a creative outlet to go alongside their other academic choices. If you love taking pictures and want to learn how to do more with them this course will suit you. You will be expected to take the projects in personal directions and want to bring your own interests into lessons to choose the direction your work goes in.

Future Careers:

The arts can be a passion and a career. The creative thinking, presentation and communication skills will support your personal development and future career choices. Students who have studied photography have gone on to have success in a wide range of careers including photojournalism, cinematography, fashion journalism, forensic science and the visual arts.

Religious Studies

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Global Citizenship
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AQA 8062
QAN Code:	601/8400/0
Subject Leader:	Mrs Allen
Contact details:	al.allen@stantonbury-tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

Religious Studies helps students understand diverse beliefs and values, promoting empathy, respect and critical thinking. By exploring faith traditions and ethical questions, Religious Studies builds self-awareness and helps students appreciate their identity and perspectives of others. Trips to places of worship, religious historical sites and interfaith events enhance learning, allowing students to see how religion shapes communities and cultures. These experiences deepen understanding, encourage curiosity, and foster global citizenship.

Assessment

Students choose two religions from: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, or Sikhism. Themes taught include relationships and families, religion, peace, and conflict, the existence of God and revelation, crime, punishment, and social justice. Final written exams include two separate 1 hour and 45 minutes papers weighed equally at 50%.

Would it suit me?

Religious Studies is suitable for anyone in any profession as it encourages a deeper understanding of diverse cultures, ethical frameworks, and human experiences. This knowledge enhances critical thinking, empathy, and communication skills. It promotes a sense of identity and self-worth, understanding others. It also promotes empathy and respect for different worldviews developing critical thinking, builds skills for analysing complex ideas.

Future Careers:

Education, Law, Journalism, Social Work, Healthcare, Politics, Diplomacy, Charity or Non-Governmental Organisations Work and Religious Leadership.

Sociology

Stantonbury Entitlement:	Global Citizenship
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AQA 8192
QAN Code:	603/0798/5
Subject Leader:	Mrs D'Cruz
Contact details:	d.d'cruz@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

GCSE Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions. By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and make deductions
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world

Students study key ideas of classical sociologists including Durkheim, Marx and Weber, referencing their view of the world and their contribution to the development of the discipline. Students will also learn how to apply various research methods to different sociological contexts. They will be introduced to sociological terms and concepts concerned with social structures, social processes and social issues.

Assessment

To enable your students to show their breadth of knowledge and understanding, we've created a simple and straightforward structure and layout for our papers, using a mixture of question style.

Paper 1	Paper 2
Section A – Families	Section A – Crime and Deviance
Section B – Education	Section B – Social Stratification

Would it suit me?

You are fascinated by popular trends, and you wonder what makes them so appealing. You frequently find yourself thinking about the consequences of trends. You like talking to people about what is going on in their lives, what they think about the world and the issues that course through it.

Future Careers

Sociology will prepare you for the following careers:

- Police and probation services.
- Local and central government.
- Social and market research.
- Charitable, counselling and voluntary organisations.
- Public relations, journalism and communications.
- Media and marketing.

GCSE Physics Information (Triple Science)

Stantonbury Entitlement: STEM
Qualification type: GCSE
Exam board and specification: AQA 8463
QAN Code: 601/8752/9
Subject Leader: Miss S Mukarakate

Contact details: s.mukarakate@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

The AQA GCSE Physics course is a linear qualification that provides students with a thorough understanding of the physical principles that govern the world and universe around us. Students will explore fundamental concepts in energy, forces, matter, and space, developing both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The course enables students to understand and apply physics in real-world contexts, laying a strong foundation for future scientific study and a wide range of careers.

Topic	Description
Energy	Study of different energy stores, transfers, conservation and efficiency.
Electricity	Exploration of electrical circuits, current, voltage and power.
Particle Model of Matter	Understanding of the properties of solids, liquids and gases and changes of state.
Forces	Investigation of motion, forces, Newton's laws and momentum.
Waves	Study of the properties and behaviour of sound, light and other waves.
Magnetism and Electromagnetism	Understanding of magnetic fields, electromagnets and their applications.
Space physics	Exploration of the universe, stars, planets and space exploration.

Assessment

Students will complete two exam papers at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1: Covers Topics 1-4 (Energy, Electricity, Particle Model, Forces) and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.
- Paper 2: Covers Topics 5-8 (Waves, Magnetism, Electromagnetism, Space Physics) and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Each exam paper is weighted equally, contributing 50% to the overall GCSE grade. Both papers assess distinct topic areas.

In addition to the exams, students will complete a series of required practicals, which will be assessed in the exam papers as well including investigating infrared radiation, investigating electrical components and investigating the reflection and refraction of light. These practical skills will be assessed in both exam papers and are integral to the course.

Would it suit me?

GCSE Physics is ideal for students who have an interest in how the world and the universe function. If you enjoy problem-solving, experimenting, and applying logical thinking to complex concepts, this course will be a great fit for you. If you are considering A-level Sciences, studying GCSE Physics will provide you with the essential foundation needed for further study. The course is particularly suited to those with a natural curiosity about the natural world, space, and how physical laws govern everything from everyday objects to celestial bodies.

Entry Requirements

We will decide your suitability for studying GCSE Physics based on assessment data, attitude to learning and homework completion from your current teacher. These should be of a high standard to be selected for Triple Science options. If you choose Triple Science as an option but do not meet the entry requirements, you will not be selected for this course and may end up being placed in your second choice.

Future Careers:

A GCSE in Physics can open the door to a wide range of exciting career opportunities, related to:

- Astrophysics
- Medical Sciences
- Engineering
- Nanotechnologist
- Sound Engineer
- Clinical Scientist
- Aerospace
- Renewable Energy

Whether you pursue further studies or enter the workforce directly, Physics provides a solid foundation for numerous cutting-edge fields that require strong analytical and problem-solving skills. This is a highly commended course for Further and Higher-Level studies.

GCSE Biology Information (Triple Science)

Stantonbury Entitlement:	STEM
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AQA 8461
QAN Code:	601/8752/9
Subject Leader:	Miss A Rimmer
Contact details:	a.rimmer@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the course

The AQA GCSE Biology course is a linear qualification designed to provide students with a deep and comprehensive understanding of biology. Students will explore key biological concepts and develop the skills needed to understand living organisms and their interactions with the environment. This course enables learners to appreciate the fundamental processes that govern life, preparing them for further study or a variety of careers in the biological sciences.

Topic	Description
Cell biology	Study of the structure and function of cells, including cell division.
Organisation	Understanding how cells form tissues and organs, and the role of enzymes.
Infection and Response	Exploration of pathogens, immunity, vaccinations, and the use of antibiotics.
Bioenergetics	The processes of photosynthesis and respiration, and their role in energy production.
Homeostasis and Response	How the body maintains internal balance and responds to external changes.
Inheritance, Variation and Evolution	The principles of genetics, inheritance, natural selection, and evolution.
Ecology	Study of ecosystems, biodiversity, and the interdependence of organisms.

Assessment

Students will be assessed through two exam papers at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1: Covers Topics 1-4 and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.
- Paper 2: Covers Topics 5-7 and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Each exam paper is weighted equally, contributing 50% to the overall GCSE grade. In addition to the exams, students will complete a series of required practicals, which will be assessed in the exam papers as well. Some required practicals include using a light microscope, investigating the rate of photosynthesis and the effect of temperature on the rate of decay of fresh milk.

Would this Course Suit Me?

GCSE Biology is ideal for students with a curiosity about the natural world and an interest in understanding how living organisms' function. If you have a passion for biology, enjoy problem-solving, and are keen to understand how the body works and interacts with the environment, this course will provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary for further study. If you are considering A-level sciences, studying GCSE Biology will lay a strong foundation, helping you prepare for the more advanced concepts you will encounter at Key Stage 5.

Entry Requirements

We will decide your suitability for studying GCSE Biology based on assessment data, attitude to learning and homework completion from your current teacher. These should be of a high standard to be selected for Triple Science options. If you choose Triple Science as an option but do not meet the entry requirements, you will not be selected for this course and may end up being placed in your second choice.

Future Careers

A GCSE in Biology can open doors to a wide range of exciting careers, including:

- Veterinary Science
- Dentistry
- Medical Sciences
- Healthcare Services
- Marine Biology
- Ophthalmology
- Pharmacy
- Environmental Science
- Research and Education

This qualification provides a solid foundation for those interested in pursuing higher education or careers where biological knowledge is essential. This is a highly commended course for Further and Higher-Level studies.

GCSE Chemistry Information (Triple Science)

Stantonbury Entitlement:	STEM
Qualification type:	GCSE
Exam board and specification:	AQA 8462
QAN Code:	601/8757/8
Subject Leader:	Miss S Potluri
Contact details:	s.potluri@stantonbury.tove.org.uk

Introduction to the Course

The AQA GCSE Chemistry course offers students a comprehensive understanding of the role chemistry plays in the world around us. This linear course enables students to develop a thorough understanding of core chemical principles and their practical applications. Through engaging lessons, students will explore topics such as atomic structure, chemical reactions, and the use of natural resources. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the skills needed to analyse chemical phenomena and apply their knowledge in real-world contexts.

Topic	Description
Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table	Understanding the structure of atoms, the periodic table, and trends in the elements.
Bonding, Structure, and the Properties of Matter	Exploring different types of chemical bonding and how they affect the properties of materials.
Quantitative Chemistry	Focus on calculations in chemistry, including moles, concentration, and the conservation of mass.
Chemical Changes	Investigation of different chemical reactions, including acids and bases, and the reactivity of metals.
Energy Changes	Study of exothermic and endothermic reactions and the energy changes involved.
The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change	Exploration of factors affecting reaction rates and the equilibrium of reversible reactions.
Organic Chemistry	Understanding the structure, properties, and reactions of organic compounds, including hydrocarbons.
Chemical Analysis	Methods of identifying and analysing substances, including chromatography and titration.
The Chemistry of the Atmosphere	The study of the Earth's atmosphere, climate change, and the impact of human activity.
Using Resources	Investigating the use and conservation of natural resources and their sustainable alternatives.

Assessment

GCSE Chemistry is assessed through two exam papers taken at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1: Covers Topics 1-5 and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.
- Paper 2: Covers Topics 6-10 and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Both papers are weighted equally, each contributing 50% to the final GCSE grade.

In addition to the exams, students will complete a series of required practicals, including investigating the electrolysis of a solution, purifying & testing water and preparing a salt. These practical skills will be assessed in both exam papers and are integral to the course.

Would this Course Suit Me?

GCSE Chemistry is ideal for students who are interested in pursuing A-level sciences and want a strong foundation for further study. If you enjoy problem-solving, experimentation, and understanding the chemical processes that govern the natural world, this course will prepare you for the depth of study required at Key Stage 5. It is perfect for those with a passion for scientific discovery and a keen interest in how chemistry influences everyday life.

Entry Requirements

We will decide your suitability for studying GCSE Chemistry based on assessment data, attitude to learning and homework completion from your current teacher. These should be of a high standard to be selected for Triple Science options. If you choose Triple Science as an option but do not meet the entry requirements, you will not be selected for this course and may end up being placed in your second choice.

Future Careers

A GCSE in Chemistry can lead to a variety of exciting and rewarding career paths, including:

- Veterinary Science
- Dentistry
- Medical Sciences
- Healthcare Services
- Engineering
- Analytical Chemistry
- Environmental Chemistry
- Forensics
- Pharmacy

This qualification serves as a stepping stone to numerous professions where a solid understanding of chemistry is essential. Whether you pursue further education or enter the workforce, chemistry will be an invaluable tool in many fields. This is a highly commended course for Further and Higher-Level studies.



STANTONBURY SCHOOL

If you have any questions regarding the Options process, please send these to:

enquiries@stantonbury.tove.org.uk