

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE OPTIONS PROCESS

Thursday 18th January: Options process begins

To begin the options process this options booklet and an introductory assembly will be shared with all Year 9 students. In addition, options subjects that currently teach Year 9 will devote some lesson time to giving an explanation and/or demonstration of their subject at GCSE level.

Thursday 25th January: Year 9 Options Evening (6:00pm – 7:30pm)

This very popular event will include the opportunity to attend an informative talk about the options process. In addition, staff will be available on subject stands for every options subject, to offer advice and answer questions and enable your child to start producing a shortlist of the subjects they may wish to study in KS4.

Tuesday 20th February: New Subject Carousel

Some option subjects are not currently taught in Year 9. To allow all students the chance to experience these subjects and make an informed choice for their options preferences, we will run a carousel of experience lessons during this Wednesday.

Thursday 7th March: Year 9 PTCE

Year 9's Parent Teacher Consultation Evening represents a further chance to discuss option preferences with your child's current subject teacher. A letter will be sent out nearer the time with full details and appointments will be booked in the normal way.

Friday 8th March: Options preferences form can be returned

Options forms will not be accepted until after all information events. There will then be a week in which options preference forms can be returned to the school office. Please feel free to contact your child's tutor, individual subject teachers or Ms Pospieszalski if you have any further questions during this time.

Friday 15th March: Deadline for completed forms to be returned

The choices system is <u>not</u> done on a first come first served basis. All preferences submitted before this deadline will be considered equally. Options preferences submitted after this deadline may not be possible as the allocations process will have already been started.



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January 2024

Dear Year 9 Student,

This is an exciting time. In your first three years at Larkmead you have studied a wide range of subjects, developing knowledge, skills, confidence and other attributes. You will take all of this into the next phase of your education as you continue with core subjects and apply to specialise in a smaller range of courses in greater depth. These courses and GCSE qualifications will be an important stepping stone to your future, and it is important that you work with the school to make carefully considered decisions.

When it comes to choosing courses for Key Stage 4, you should look for:

The subjects you are good at or think you will be good at

The subjects that you will enjoy

The subjects that may help you to follow a particular career path or ambition

In producing this booklet, we have endeavoured to provide a wide range of courses to suit the skills and interests of as many of you as possible. We want you to be able to study a balanced range of subjects, although there are some restrictions on the combination of subjects that you can choose. These are explained on the following pages. You will work with your Tutor and Director of Learning so that you are able to make fully informed choices that will lead you to success in the summer of 2026.

For each subject we have summarised what the subject is, the skills and attributes it requires, the topics covered and the way it is taught. It is very important that you read all this information carefully, before you make any choices, so that you can make the most of Year 10 and 11 and succeed.

It is possible that we may not be able to allocate you your first four preferences in the order you state them, so your application will need to include more than four in total. Sometimes two subjects you want to study must be put on at the same time and some subjects are often oversubscribed. If a subject is oversubscribed, your attitude to learning in that subject and your likely outcome compared to your target (the progress you will make) might affect whether you are allocated a place on a course.

This term there will also be opportunities to find out more about each GCSE subject, especially those that are new to you. Finally, the application system is not done on a first come first serve basis, so you don't have to rush the process. We want you to take time to think about your future carefully and for you to talk with your tutor and teachers.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Dennett Headteacher Ms J Pospieszalski

tospieszarski

Director of Learning Year 9

THE LARKMEAD KS4 CURRICULUM 2023-2025 DETAILS OF COURSES

CORE SUBJECTS

All students will have to study these subjects.

- GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE
- GCSE MATHEMATICS
- GCSE SCIENCE (Combined Science or Triple Science)
- CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (non-examined)
- PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM (non-examined)

In addition, Core Philosophy and Religion topics are taught through the personal development curriculum

GCSE OPTION PREFERENCES

You will be asked to indicate at least four option subjects and include at least two further preferences that you would like to study. When you do so, you will need to consider whether you wish to take subjects that count towards the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), described in more detail below. No matter what subjects you write down as preferences, you will be asked to choose at least six as we cannot guarantee that we will be able to allocate you your first four preferences.

In line with national education policy, the vast majority of students are expected to study a core combination of subjects including the core subjects listed above and one other subject chosen from History, Geography, Triple Science or a Language. For this reason, Preference 1 on the options form will be:

Preference 1

Please circle one subject from the list below

French Geography	History	Spanish	Triple Science
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Remaining preferences can be chosen from the complete list of subjects opposite including, if applicable, other subjects you wish to study from the list of five above.

The English Baccalaureate

According to the Government's website, "The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers." The EBacc subjects are English Language and Literature, Maths, the Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language, and either History or Geography. The government's ambition was to see at least 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and 90% by 2025.

To follow the suite of subjects known collectively as the EBacc, you will be asked to say that this is your intention. In addition, your preferences will need to include a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography, making sure that these subjects are high up on your preference list.

Alternative Curriculum

For a small number of students, a traditional academic programme may not meet their needs. If this is the case, the curriculum may be adapted. This may include the opportunity to replace an option choice with an Alternative Programme or Supported Learning. Please speak to your Director of Learning or the SENCO to discuss this further.

List of Option Subjects

- GCSE ART AND DESIGN
- GCSE BUSINESS
- GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE
- GCSE DANCE
- GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (Resistant materials, Graphics or Textiles)
- GCSE DRAMA
- GCSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION
- GCSE FRENCH
- GCSE GEOGRAPHY
- GCSE HISTORY
- GCSE MUSIC
- GCSE PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION
- GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY
- GCSE SOCIOLOGY
- GCSE SPANISH
- GCSE SPORTS STUDIES
- GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE*

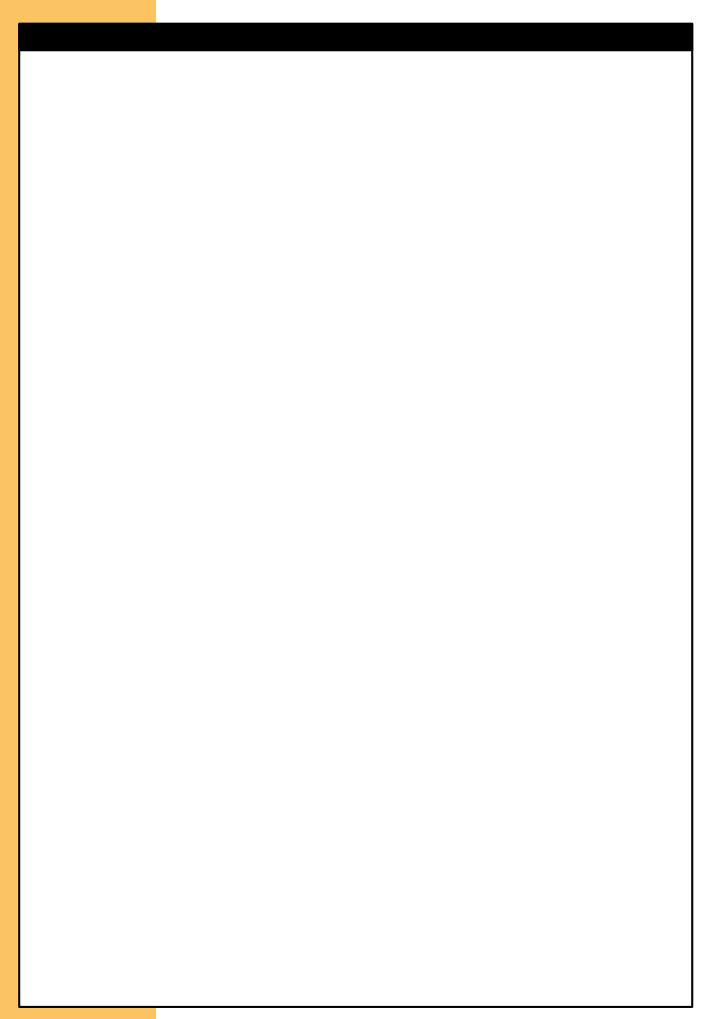
^{*}GCSE Triple Science counts as one option subject in addition to the Core Science allocation.

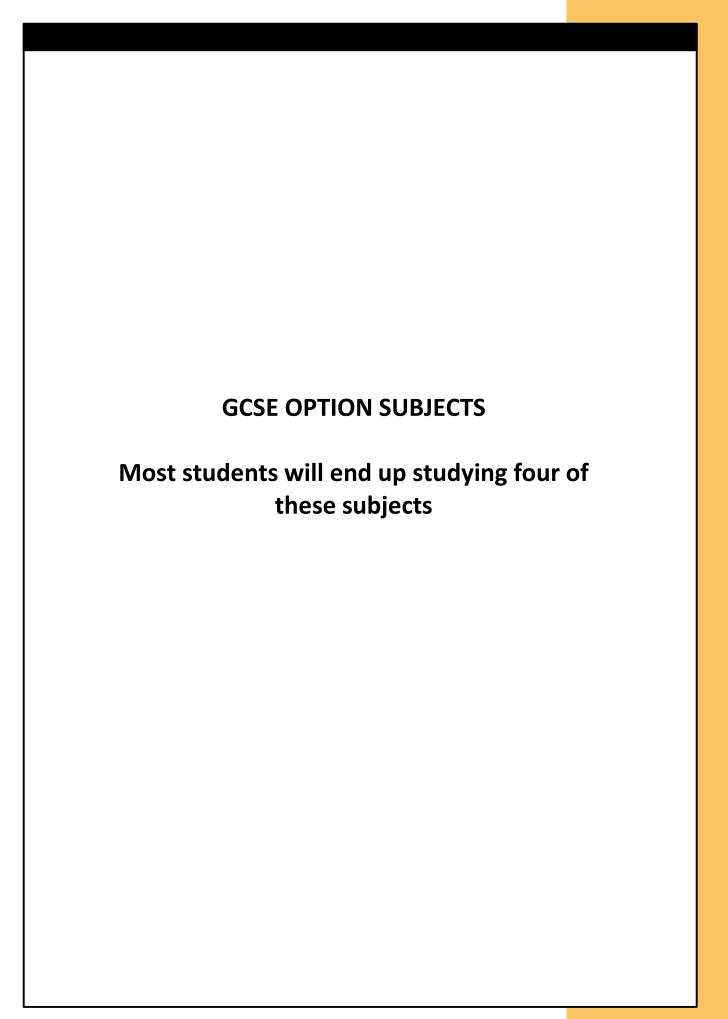
10 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF ABOUT EACH SUBJECT

- 1. What will I learn about in the subject?
- 2. Does the subject sound interesting to me?
- **3.** What <u>Skills and Attributes</u> do I have that would help me to be successful in the course? List the Skills and Attributes and consider to what extent they apply to me.
- 4. Do the learning opportunities and **Topics Covered** appeal to me?
- **5. What is the <u>Lesson Structure</u> and <u>Assessment</u> arrangements and do these suit me? Consider whether it involves a lot of writing, performance, practical, controlled assessment, etc.**
- **6.** If there anything listed about which I feel uncomfortable and need to find out more? List any questions you have and, for each, who you should ask.
- **7.** Is there anything about the course about which I am unclear? List any questions you have and, for each, who you should ask.
- **8.** Try to find a current Year 10 or Year 11 student studying the course and ask them about it. What are their pros and cons about the subject?
- 9. Talk to the subject teacher.
 Does the subject teacher think the course would be good for me?
- **10.** Considering all of my answers to the questions above, does studying the subject interest me? List both "why?" and "why not?" answers.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

•	Read through this booklet carefully with your parents or carers.
•	Talk to your tutor and current teachers about your ideas and ask for their opinions
•	Talk to the teacher of the subject you are interested in and ask if they think it would suit you.
•	Talk to other students who are already taking these courses and find out what they like and don't like about them. Don't choose subjects just because they're new discover more to be sure that they are right for you.
•	Remember that the course must be the best one for YOU . Don't make your preferences based on what your friends are doing or just because you like the teacher!
•	You will study a broad range of subjects, including the core. The courses that you choose or join will help to sustain your engagement in Year 10 and 11 and support your ambitions far beyond that time.















Art and Design

If you enjoy making things and expressing yourself in a creative way, then Art and Design could be for you. Through a number of projects, you will explore other artists, other cultures and new ways of thinking. You will produce and refine your own work and be encouraged to develop a range of media and experimental techniques.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Art and Design students are:

- ...keen to develop and express their artistic skills
- ...creative and imaginative
- ...able to work independently on an investigation, both in school and at home

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Exploring techniques including drawing skills, printmaking, watercolour, acrylic, ink work, mixed media, 3D work and collage
- Critical analysis and research of other artists and cultures
- Writing about your work and thought process using specialist art vocabulary

Lesson Structure

- You will have 5 Art and Design lessons a fortnight
- Lessons will be in an Art room and most will involve some practical activity

Assessment

- None of your Art and Design grade is assessed through a written exam
- 60% is based on portfolio work, produced during Year 10 and up to December in Year 11.
- 40% is based on an externally set task completed from January in Year 11. This includes preparation work and a final piece produced during a two-day GCSE Art exam.
- Art and Design is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Art and Design course, please speak to your current Art teacher or Mrs Green, the Head of Department.





Business

If you want to be the next Steven Bartlett or the next Anne Boden then Business will teach you about the world of work from starting a business to learning how international businesses operate and grow. We are all customers of businesses and one day *you* will either work in someone else's business or choose to start and run your own.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Business students are:

- ...excited by exploring how businesses can be successful
- ...keen to learn how businesses can meet and exceed the expectations of their customers You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Investigating small business
 - Enterprise and entrepreneurship
 - Spotting a business opportunity
 - Putting a business idea into practice
 - Making the business effective
 - Understanding external influences on business
- Building a business
 - Growing the business
 - Making marketing decisions
 - Making operational decisions
 - Making financial decisions
 - Making human resource decisions

Lesson Structure

You will have 5 Business lessons a fortnight

Assessment

- All of your Business grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 2 papers
- Business is examined through Edexcel

To get more information about the Business course, please speak to Mr Butler, the Head of Department.





Computer Science

The world depends on computers. In Computer Science you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenges.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Computer Science students are:

- ...able to learn through exploration
- ...interested in learning how and why computers work
- ...interested to learn and develop their computer programming skills (e.g. to program robots) You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Computer systems
 - Systems architecture
 - Memory and storage
 - Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems Software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology
- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
 - Algorithms
 - Programming fundamentals
 - Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

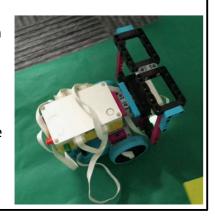
Lesson Structure

- You will have 5 Computer Science lessons a fortnight
- Lessons will be taught in a computer suite
- Most lessons will involve the use of computers

Assessment

- All of your Computer Science grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 2 papers
- Computer Science is examined through OCR

To get more information about the Computer Science course, please speak to Mr Butler, the Head of Department.





Dance

In Dance, you will have the opportunity to work creatively to explore a range of dance styles and choreographers and their works as well as exploring nutrition, injury prevention, dance performance, choreography and dance appreciation. Dance will allow you to explore your dance strengths and the styles you enjoy but also give you the opportunity to increase the breadth of your skill developing more versatile dancers, choreographers and dance artists.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Dance students are:

- ...keen to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence in performance and choreography
- …open to working both individually and in groups in theory and practical work
- ...creative and enjoy learning through practical and theory tasks
- ...committed to participate in lessons, homework and rehearsal sessions

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Performance skills and knowledge: How performance skills are used to enhance a dance
- Choreographic skills and knowledge: How different tools and devices can be used to develop highly effective and original choreography
- Appreciation of professional works: Production features and how they enhance work, choreographic content, stimulus and choreographic intention
- Nutrition, injury prevention and care: warming up reasoning and methods

Lesson Structure

- You will have 5 Dance lessons a fortnight.
- Most lessons will be in a Dance Studio and involve practical tasks
- Some lessons (once a fortnight) will involve theory tasks and will be in a classroom

Assessment

- 40% of your Dance grade is assessed through a written exam
- You will sit 1 paper
- 30% is based on your performance of three set pieces, two as a solo (set by AQA) and one in a duet or group
- 30% is based on your choreography, responding to a stimulus
- Dance is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Dance course, please speak to Miss Lewis or Mrs Speke, the Head of Department.





Design & Technology (Resistant materials, Graphics or Textiles)

Design and Technology will help you learn more about the design process and also enable you to continue to develop the practical skills that you have learnt in Years 7, 8 and 9. You will learn to express your ideas whilst exploring different materials and techniques to produce high quality products in your chosen option within Design Technology. The course requires creativity, and this is followed closely with the application of the technical aspects of the course.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Product Design students are:

- ...curious about the changing world
- ...keen to explore creative solutions
- ...able to apply practical problem-solving skills

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Specialism

Students are expected to choose one Design & Technology specialism from:

- Resistant Materials
- Graphics
- Textiles

This will affect the processes and practical skills that you explore during the course. You are advised to give both a first and second preference for your specialism if you are able, in order to maximise the chance that you get to study this often over-subscribed option subject. 50% of the Design & Technology syllabus is common to all specialisms.

Topics Covered

50% of the Design & Technology course is theory, common to all the specialisms, and covers:

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy storage and generation
- Modern and Smart Materials
- Systems approach
- Mechanical devices
- Material Categories and properties

INFORMATION ABOUT DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE



Design & Technology (continued)

Topics Covered (...continued)

In Year 10 students also focus on improving their practical skills by making a range of small products, each one focusing on a range of techniques, materials and processes related to their specialism choice within Design & Technology.

In Year 11 students apply this knowledge to focus on a single design and make coursework task.

Lesson Structure

- You will have 5 Design and Technology lessons a fortnight.
- Lessons will mainly be practical in the Design workshops.
- Some lessons will include theory work, drawing skills and computer-based design / manufacture

Assessment

- 50% of your Design & Technology grade is assessed through a written theory exam
- You will sit 1 paper
- 50% is based on your coursework portfolio and final product approximately 35 hours of classwork
- Design & Technology is examined through Eduqas

To get more information about the Design & Technology course, please speak to your current DT teacher or to Mr Stevens, the Head of Department.

You can only study one Design and Technology specialism at KS4

However, please put both your first and second preferences on your option preferences form





Drama

In Drama you will explore the past, present and future through devised work, play texts and theatre visits. You will work imaginatively and creatively, as an actor, designer and director, to explore a range of drama styles, playwrights, and theatre practitioners. Through practical exploration you will apply your newly developed performance skills in your own work, as well as exploring theatre design, lighting, costume and sound. You will create your own performance company, become a theatre critic and learn to analyse different types of theatre.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Drama students are:

- ...keen to develop and communicate their ideas and performance skills
- ...curious about people and the world we live in
- ...creative and imaginative in exploring ideas and refining different performance techniques
- ...committed to working collaboratively in rehearsal and performance
- ...reflective and resilient, keen to develop their confidence and presentational skills

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Creating theatre: collaborate in the creation, development and performance of your own devised theatre, based on different ideas, exploring different practitioner techniques
- Performing from a text: perform extracts from different plays, from page to stage
- Interpreting Theatre: study a set text from the perspective of the actor, director and designer as well as analysing a live theatre performance

Lesson Structure

- You will have 5 Drama lessons a fortnight
- We will approach the course through practical exploration in the drama studio.
- Some lessons will be theory, developing your knowledge and your analytical skills.

Assessment

- 40% of your Drama grade is assessed through a written exam
- You will sit 1 paper
- 40% is based on your own production, portfolio and evaluation
- 20% is based on your performance of a set text
- Drama is examined through Eduqas

To get more information about the Drama course, please speak to Ms Phillips, the Head of Department.





Food Preparation and Nutrition

In GCSE Food you will develop your practical skills and theory knowledge. You should consider studying GCSE Food if you really enjoy cooking, and you're interested in where your food comes from, how it helps you to stay fit and healthy, and what happens to different ingredients during the cooking process. You will build upon the knowledge and skills learnt in Years 7, 8 and 9 and create something that you can enjoy and take home with you.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Food Preparation and Nutrition students are:

- ...keen to cook and present a wide range of sweet and savoury dishes from around the world that involve using a variety of different cooking skills
- ...able to explore and make links between what they learn, their own knowledge and experience of food and topics taught in other subjects such as Biology and Geography
- ...able to think logically, work independently and organise their time effectively You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Food Safety
- Food Science
- Food Provenance
- Food Choice
- Food, Nutrition and Health

Lesson Structure

- You will have 5 Food Preparation and Nutrition lessons a fortnight
- 1 or 2 of these per fortnight will be practical lessons where you will be cooking
- The remaining lessons will be theory lessons

Assessment

- 50% of your Food Preparation and Nutrition grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 1 paper
- 50% is based on two pieces of Non-Examination Assessment (coursework) completed in Year 11
- Food Preparation and Nutrition is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Food Preparation and Nutrition course, please speak to Miss Hewitt, the Head of Department.





French

By taking this GCSE, you will continue to learn to communicate in French on a range of topics, many of which you will have already met at Key Stage 3, including music, cinema, sport and holidays). You will also develop an awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where French is spoken. Languages add a unique flavour to your CV and show you have an international outlook. In addition, the skills taught go beyond language learning and are regarded highly in many careers.

Skills and Attributes

Successful French students are:

- ...currently studying French in Year 9 (please speak to your teacher if this is not the case)
- ...keen to communicate in French in speech and writing
- ...able to learn and revise independently
- ...not afraid to make mistakes and learn from them

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Identity and Culture
 - Me, my family and friends
 - Technology in everyday life
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
 - Home, town, neighbourhood and region
 - Social issues
- Current and future study and employment
 - My studies
 - Life at school

- Free-time activities
- Customs and festivals
- Global issues
- Travel and tourism
- Education post-16
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Lesson Structure

You will have 5 French lessons a fortnight

Assessment

- 75% of your French grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 3 papers: Listening, Reading and Writing
- 25% is based on a speaking exam
- French is examined through AQA

To get more information about the French course, please speak to your current French teacher or to Mr Lee, the Head of Department.





Geography

In Geography we study a range of topics that affect humans and the natural environment. Many of these regularly feature in the news, such as Global Warming, Flooding and Migration. You will investigate the challenges our world is facing, whether at a local, national or global level, how these affect people and the environment and explore how we may eventually be able to solve these problems.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Geography students are:

- ...able to explore geographical events from different viewpoints
- ...keen to further develop their understanding of the world around us
- ...able to write clearly and explain their ideas
- ...able to interpret different types of data and develop their explanations with evidence
- ...able to remember key geographical facts

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Living with the physical environment:
 - Challenges of natural hazards,
 - Physical landscape in the UK,
 - The living world.
- Challenges in the Human environment:
 - Urban issues and challenges
 - The changing economic world,
 - The challenges of resource management.
- Different fieldwork methods (carrying out a fieldwork investigation of our own)

Lesson Structure

You will have 5 Geography lessons a fortnight

Assessment

- All of your Geography grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 3 papers
- Geography is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Geography course, please speak to your current Geography teacher or to Mrs Rees, the Head of Department.





History

History is about people and events that have shaped our lives today. We look at the causes and consequences of these events and the roles of individuals and groups within them. Through investigating and interpreting the past, we seek to understand more about its effects. We will always try to show how these events have lessons for us in our lives today. If you want to know what we should do in the future, we first need to learn the lessons of the past!

Skills and Attributes

Successful History students are:

- ...keen to learn and remember interesting new facts
- ...able to write clearly and explain their ideas
- ...able to analyse evidence and reach judgments about its usefulness and reliability
- ...able to make judgments about the importance of historical events.

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060-88
- Medicine in Britain, c.1250 to present day
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39
- Superpower relations and the Cold War

Lesson Structure

You will have 5 History lessons a fortnight

Assessment

- All of your History grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 3 papers
- History is examined through Edexcel

To get more information about the History course, please speak to your current History teacher or Mr Adams, the Head of Department.





Music

If you enjoy performing, composing and listening to many styles of music, then GCSE Music could be for you. You will have the opportunity to share your musical skills in the classroom and build on your creativity, independence and confidence in concerts, workshops and music events. You can work with professional musicians and perform in a range of music styles from Rock Anthems to Samba.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Music students are:

- ...keen to develop performing skills on an instrument or voice
- ...creative and imaginative to support their development of composing skills
- ...able to enjoy listening to a wide variety of music styles and genres
- ...able to work independently rehearsing, both in school and at home

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Instrument study: exploring your instrument or voice
- The Concerto through time: from the Baroque and Classical periods to the Romantic period
- Rhythms of the world: traditional rhythmic drumming roots from four regions of the world
- Film Music and Music for video games: music in films and soundtracks for video games
- Conventions of Pop Music: Rock 'n' Roll, Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads and solo artists

Lesson Structure

- You will have 5 Music lessons a fortnight.
- Lessons will be in the MPR/practice rooms
- All lessons will involve performing, composing and/or listening activities

Assessment

- 40% of your Music grade is assessed through a listening and written exam
- You will sit 1 paper
- 30% is based on performing (one solo performance and one as an ensemble)
- 30% is based on composing (one own-choice composition and one set to a brief)
- Music is examined through OCR

To get more information about the Music course, please speak to Mrs McAuley, the Head of Department.





Philosophy and Religion

Philosophy and Religion is about understanding the world around us, understanding the key beliefs and practices of the largest two religions in the world and discussing and debating some of the greatest philosophical and ethical questions of all time.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Philosophy and Religion students are:

- ...able to write and argue their ideas clearly
- ...keen to discuss, debate and reach judgements
- ...creative thinkers, who can apply ideas and create new ones

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Philosophy and Ethics
 - Relationships and Families
 - Religion and Life
 - Religion, Peace and Conflict
 - Crime and Punishment
- The Study of Religions
 - Christianity
 - Islam

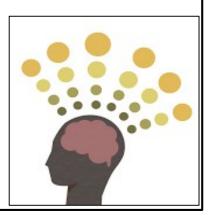
Lesson Structure

You will have 5 Philosophy and Religion lessons a fortnight

Assessment

- All of your Philosophy and Religion grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 2 papers
- Philosophy and Religion is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Philosophy and Religion course, please speak to your current Philosophy and Religion teacher or to Mr McKavanagh, the Head of Department.











Photography

If you enjoy taking photographs (and we don't mean selfies!) and expressing yourself in a creative way, then Photography could be for you. Through several projects, you will explore other artists, photographers, other cultures, and new ways of thinking. You will produce and refine your own work and be encouraged to develop a range of media and experimental techniques both in a digital and physical format. You do not need a camera, as a good, efficient smartphone will suffice*.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Photography students are:

- ...keen to develop and express their photography skills
- ...keen to take photographs outside of school, in different locations in your own time
- ...interested in using both physical (drawing, painting, collage etc.) and digital techniques
- ...creative, imaginative and committed to meeting set deadlines
- ...able to work independently on an investigation, both in school and at home.

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Photography formal and technical elements
- Light and shadow
- Documentary and landscape photography
- Portrait photography
- Detailed written analysis, annotating your work and the work of others

Lesson Structure

- You will have 5 Photography lessons a fortnight
- Lessons will be in an Art room and most will involve some practical activity

Assessment

- None of your Photography grade is assessed through a written exam
- 60% is based on portfolio work, produced during Year 10 and up to December in Year 11.
- 40% is based on an externally set theme, completed from January in Year 11. This includes preparation work and a final piece produced during a two-day GCSE Photography exam.
- Photography is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Photography course, please speak to your current Art teacher or to Mrs Green, the Head of Department.



*If you do not have access to an appropriate device, please speak to Mrs Green



Sociology

Sociology is the study of society, it helps us to understand the world around us. You will learn key studies that have attempted to make sense of the world around us, as well as conducting your own research to apply and make sense of what you have learned.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Sociology students are:

- ...able to write and argue their ideas clearly
- ...keen to explore theories and ideas which help us understand why society is the way it is
- ...keen to relate what they study to social issues that affect people in the world

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- The Sociological Approach
- Social structures, social processes and social issues
- Families
- Education
- Crime and deviance
- Social stratification
- Research methods

Lesson Structure

You will have 5 Sociology lessons a fortnight

Assessment

- All of your Sociology grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 2 papers
- Sociology is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Sociology course, please speak to Mr McKavanagh, the Head of Department, or Mr Beer.





Spanish

By taking this GCSE, you will continue to learn to communicate in Spanish on a range of topics, many of which you will have already met at Key Stage 3, including music, cinema, sport and holidays). You will also develop an awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. Languages add a unique flavour to your CV and show you have an international outlook. In addition, the skills taught go beyond language learning and are regarded highly in many careers.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Spanish students are:

- ...currently studying Spanish in Year 9 (please speak to your teacher if this is not the case)
- ...keen to communicate in Spanish in speech and writing
- ...able to learn and revise independently
- ...not afraid to make mistakes and learn from them

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Identity and Culture
 - Me, my family and friends
 - Technology in everyday life
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
 - Home, town, neighbourhood and region
 - Social issues
- Current and future study and employment
 - My studies
 - Life at school

- Free-time activities
- Customs and festivals
- Global issues
- Travel and tourism
- Education post-16
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Lesson Structure

You will have 5 Spanish lessons a fortnight

Assessment

- 75% of your Spanish grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 3 papers: Listening, Reading and Writing
- 25% is based on a speaking exam
- Spanish is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Spanish course, please speak to your current Spanish teacher or to Mr Lee, the Head of Department.





Sports Studies

If you have a keen interest in sport and recreation then Sports Studies may be for you. In lessons you will learn about the Biology, Physics, Sociology and Psychology of sport and apply this to a range of physical activity settings. You will learn how the body moves during physical activity and how you can improve your performance within your chosen sports through different methods of training. Your practical ability will contribute to your final grade as well.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Sports Studies students are:

- ...able to apply knowledge to a range of different sports
- ...able to perform practically in front of other people
- ...play sport regularly outside of school and have an interest in more than one sport You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness & wellbeing

Lesson Structure

- You will have 5 Sports Studies lessons a fortnight
- 1 of these per fortnight will be practical lesson, playing sport
- The remaining 4 lessons per fortnight will be theory lessons in a classroom

Assessment

- 60% of your Sports Studies grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 2 papers
- 40% is based on practical performance and performance analysis
- Your practical performance will be assessed in 3 sporting activities
 - (at least one individual and one team sport)
- Sports Studies is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Sports Studies course, please speak to your current PE teacher or to Mr Hiorns, the Head of Department.





Triple Science

Combined Science vs. Triple Science

All students study and sit individual exams in all three Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

- Combined Science combines a student's marks and is worth two GCSE grades
 Students are taught for 9 periods per fortnight
- Triple Science enables students to achieve a GCSE in each separate Science
 Triple Science uses the core Science time and one option subject
 Students are taught for 14 periods per fortnight

Both Combined Science and Triple Science qualifications allow for progression to A Level and progression to University.

In Triple Science you will learn about the place of science in your everyday life. This includes issues such as climate change and vaccination, along with how we can find renewable energy sources for the future. You will use your scientific skills to solve problems, your opinions to discuss global issues and your practical skills to carry out scientific investigations. Triple Science is different from Combined Science because you will cover certain topics in more depth and have the opportunity to do much more practical work. There will be lively discussions and debates about current scientific stories in the news.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Triple Science students are:

- ...particularly interested in and engaged by Science
- ...able to apply their knowledge to new scenarios
- ...keen to know the theory behind new scientific discoveries
- ...creative and imaginative when solving problems

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Biology including 'Cells' and 'Infection and Disease'
- Chemistry including 'The Periodic Table' and 'Rates of a Chemical Reaction'
- Physics including 'Energy Resources' and 'Forces'

Lesson Structure

- You will have 14 Triple Science lessons a fortnight (rather than 9 if you do Combined Science)
- Most lessons will be in a laboratory
- Some lessons will involve practical work

INFORMATION ABOUT TRIPLE SCIENCE CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE



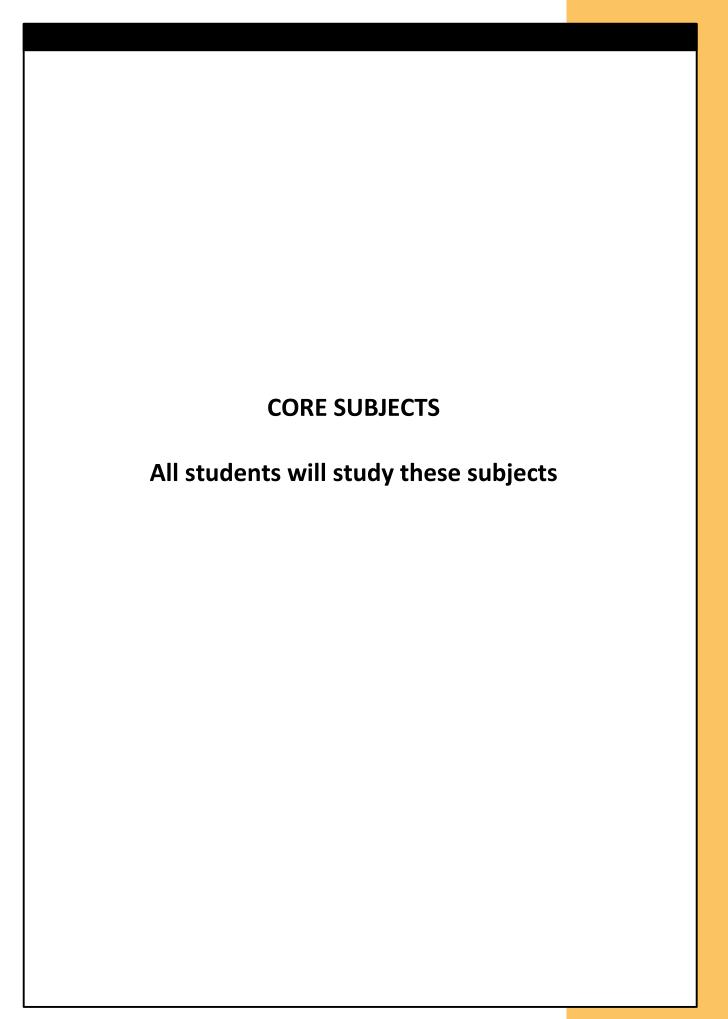
Triple Science (continued)

Assessment

- All of your Triple Science grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 6 papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics
- You will either sit the Higher or Foundation paper (this will be decided later in the course)
- Each Triple Science exam is longer (and has more questions) than those for Combined Science
- You will get three GCSE grades one for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physic
- Science is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Triple Science course, please speak to your current Science teacher or to Mrs Hussey, the Head of Department.







English Language

English Language is a core subject studied by all students. In English Language, you will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts written on a wider variety of themes. You will build on and develop your own non-fiction and fiction writing.

Skills and Attributes

Successful English Language students are:

- ...able to write clearly and explain their thoughts confidently
- ...able to use their reading skills to respond thoughtfully to the world around them
- ...able to be creative and imaginative
- ...able to speak in front of others

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- 20th Century fiction reading
- Creative prose narrative writing
- 19th/21st Century non-fiction reading
- Transactional / persuasive writing
- Spoken language

Lesson Structure

- This is a core subject studied by all students
- You will have 8 English lessons a fortnight
- In these, either be taught English Language or English Literature (see next page)

Assessment

- All of your English Language grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 2 papers
- You will receive a separate spoken language mark
- English Language is examined through Eduqas

To get more information about the English course, please speak to your current English teacher or Ms Power, the Head of Department.





English Literature

English Literature is a core subject studied by all students. In English Literature, you will read and study prose, poetry and drama. All the texts studied will reflect the world around us and help us explore different stories, times and places.

Skills and Attributes

Successful English Literature students are:

- ...keen to read a wide range of texts, including stories, plays and poems
- ...able to develop and explain their opinions, using a range of vocabulary.
- ...discuss and debate ideas about society

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- An Inspector Calls
- Macbeth
- Jekyll & Hyde
- Eduqas Poetry Anthology
- Unseen poetry

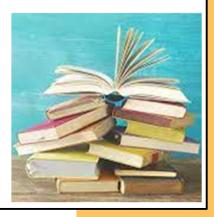
Lesson Structure

- This is a core subject studied by all students
- You will have 8 English lessons a fortnight
- In these, either be taught English Language (see previous page) or English Literature

Assessment

- All of your English Literature grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 2 papers
- English Literature is examined through Eduqas

To get more information about the English course, please speak to your current English teacher or Ms Power, the Head of Department.





Combined Science

Combined Science vs. Triple Science

Science is a core subject – all students study and sit individual exams in all three Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

- Combined Science combines a student's marks and is worth two GCSE grades
 Students are taught for 9 periods per fortnight
- Triple Science enables students to achieve a GCSE in each separate Science
 Triple Science uses the core Science time and one option subject
 Students are taught for 14 periods per fortnight

Both Combined Science and Triple Science qualifications allow for progression to A Level and progression to University.

In Combined Science you will learn about the place of science in your everyday life. This includes issues such as climate change and vaccination, along with how we can find renewable energy sources for the future. You will use your imagination to solve problems, your opinions to discuss global issues and your practical skills to carry out scientific investigations.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Science students are:

- ...able to use their knowledge in unfamiliar contexts
- ...keen to learn through practical work
- ...creative and imaginative in presenting their work

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Biology including 'Cells' and 'Infection and Disease'
- Chemistry including 'The Periodic Table' and 'Rates of a Chemical Reaction'
- Physics including 'Energy Resources' and 'Forces'

Lesson Structure

- This is a core subject studied by all students
- You will have 9 Science lessons a fortnight (unless you choose to study Triple Science)
- Classes are set so that the pace of work can be specially tailored to your needs
- Most lessons will be in a laboratory
- Some lessons will involve practical work

INFORMATION ABOUT COMBINED SCIENCE CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE



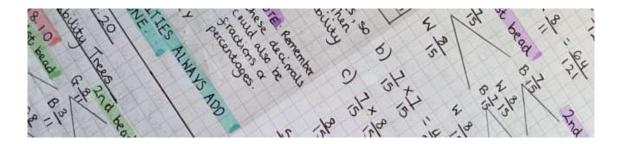
Combined Science (continued)

Assessment

- All of your Science grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 6 papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics
- You will either sit the Higher or Foundation paper (this will be decided later in the course)
- Combined Science is worth two GCSE grades
- Science is examined through AQA

To get more information about the Science course, please speak to your current Science teacher or Mrs Hussey, the Head of Department.





Mathematics

Mathematics is a core subject studied by all students. In Mathematics, you will build on your knowledge gained so far—everything you have studied already is in the GCSE. Throughout the course, you will get to grips with increasingly interesting and complex Maths and will learn to solve problems that are wonderfully abstract, as well as problems that are crucial for everyday life.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Mathematics students are:

- ...able to use numbers and spot patterns
- ...able to think logically and generalise
- ...able to write clearly and explain my thoughts

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change
- Geometry and Measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Lesson Structure

- This is a core subject studied by all students
- You will have 7 Mathematics lessons a fortnight
- Classes are set so that the pace of work can be specially tailored to your needs

Assessment

- All of your Mathematics grade is assessed through written exams
- You will sit 3 papers: one non-calculator and two calculator-allowed
- You will either sit the Higher or Foundation paper (this will be decided later in the course)
- Mathematics is examined through Edexcel

To get more information about the Mathematics course, please speak to your current Mathematics teacher or Ms Freethy, the Head of Department.





Core Physical Education

Physical Education (PE) is a core subject and, although it is not examined, all students are required to take part in two hours of lessons every week. In PE, you will be given the opportunity to explore a wider range of activities and have more ownership over the activities in which you participate. You will have opportunities to use your skills and knowledge to play larger sided games as well as playing more of a role as a coach or official.

Skills and Attributes

Successful Physical Education students are:

- ...enthusiastic about being physically active
- ...keen to explore a wide range of PE activities
- ...able to show leadership skills, organising both themselves and others effectively

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Sports Offered

Different sports and activities are on offer every term, and depend on the season, facilities available and staff expertise. These may include:

- Football
- Dodgeball
- Softball
- Badminton

- Rugby
- Netball
- Fitness
- Handball

Lesson Structure

- This is a core subject studied by all students
- You will have 4 PE lessons a fortnight
- All lessons will involve practical activity and exercise

Assessment

- Physical Education is not assessed
- However, it forms part of the National Curriculum and is a compulsory part of your timetable

To get more information about PE lessons, please speak to your current PE teacher or Mr Hiorns, the Head of Department.





Personal Development Curriculum

Personal Development Curriculum (PDC) lessons continue to form a key part of every student's education at Larkmead School. In PDC lessons we aim to develop each student's social and moral awareness and understanding of their responsibilities to themselves, others, society and the environment as active citizens in their local, national and global communities.

Skills and Attributes

Students get the most from their PDC lessons when they are:

- ...prepared to engage in discussion
- ...able to listen to and appreciate other points of view
- ...willing to reflect on what they hear

You will develop these skills throughout the course.

Topics Covered

Many topics are covered throughout the PDC course, with some that form part of the statutory Philosophy and Religion syllabus. These include:

- Healthy relationships
- Study skills
- Careers
- Personal Wellbeing

- The world around us
- Managing Risk & safety
- Financial wellbeing
- British Values

Lesson Structure

- This is a core subject studied by all students
- You will have 2 PDC lessons a fortnight
- PDC topics will also be covered within AM and PM Registrations

Assessment

- The Personal Social Development Curriculum is not assessed
- However, it forms part of the National Curriculum and is a compulsory part of your timetable

To get more information about PDC lessons, please speak to your form teacher or your Director of Learning.



