



Year 8

Options Choices

2022-2024

Year 8: Option Choices 2021-2023

Welcome to the 2021 Year 8 options booklet. This booklet provides details about all available subjects to help you make informed choices, alongside the main video presentation: https://youtu.be/9CPrFObl_Ro

Pages 3-5 **Humanities option:** Humanities subjects to study in Years 9-11.

Pages 6-15 **Depth subjects** Information about all other subjects, which allows study in greater depth in Year 9 initially, before students then pick their final two options in Year 10. **Students need to select 3 of these plus one reserve choice.**

Selecting options

All choices will be made through **SIMs option online** at www.sims-options.co.uk, via your child's school **Google e-mail account**. The deadline for final selections is **Friday 18th February**.

Important Dates in the Options Process:

W/C 31 st January:	Options information sent to students and parents
Monday 31 st January:	Options online opens to select choices.
Friday 4 th February:	Year 8 reports go home
Thursday 10 th February	Year 8 parents' evening
Friday 18 th February:	Deadline for final selections on options online.

The Core Curriculum

All students will continue to study the following subjects in Year 9:-

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science** →
- **Modern Foreign Language**
- **Religious Studies**
- **PE**
- **PSHCE**
- **Core Computer Science**

Please note

- All students will study the same science content in Year 9
- There will be an opportunity to study separate sciences in Year 10 and 11.
- This will be a guided choice.
- Suitability will be determined by attainment in science in Year 9

Disclaimer – please note:

- Courses will only run if there is sufficient student demand and the course is economically viable
- The number of classes and students in classes may have to be limited for practical or economic reasons meaning that some courses may have limited places
- Unfortunately we cannot guarantee you will be allocated all of your choices
- The final decision must, of course, rest with the school
- All information is correct at the time of publishing this document but is subject to change as necessary.

Humanities information

Options Subject: Geography

Curriculum Leader: Mrs J Collis

Video presentation: https://youtu.be/a3eOI_MEjA

Why take Geography?

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” Michael Palin

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on and it is relevant. The current GCSE course is a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards – to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

There are so many ways of learning in geography. It is very practical, with opportunities to learn skills such as map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. Fieldwork, or working outside the classroom, is a really important part of geography. You will get the chance to undertake fieldwork by doing a river study in the Yorkshire Dales and an urban based study in York. It is a brilliant opportunity to experience some of the things you have learnt about in class, see things differently and of course have fun.

The course has strong links to A Level geography and is a subject that gives you skills that are transferable across many subjects offered at university level. Students that take geography to graduate level are among the most employable because they possess the skills that many employers look for. In part, this is because the subject is a combination of so many elements.

What will we study?

Geography offers students the opportunity to study a wide range of topics. The course will be split into two sections: physical geography and human geography. Both disciplines have a 1 hour 30 minutes examination, at the end of Year 11 worth **35% each**. These exam papers include multiple-choice questions, short questions, calculations and 9 mark extended writing questions.

The **remaining 30%** will be gained through a 1 hour 15 minutes examination: Geographical applications. To prepare for this paper we will be taking students on two, one day field trips to take part in a river study and an urban study.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment

External exam - 1 hour 30 min (35% of the total marks)

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

In this section students will study the following natural hazards; volcanoes, earthquakes and tropical storms. This will include how and where they happen, the effects they have and how they are managed. It will also include climate change and issues associated with global warming.

Section B: The living world

For section B, students will cover topics such as ecosystems in the UK and tropical rainforests. They will consider how they are under threat and how they are managed. It also explores the variety of ways that humans interact with these environments and how important they are to us. It also will include considering ecosystems in a cold environment and how these areas are used and managed by people.

Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

This section will introduce students to the variety of landscapes that exist in the UK. It will focus on the processes and landforms connected with rivers and coasts. Hard and soft engineering for flooding and erosion will be evaluated along with other methods of management.

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

External exam - 1 hour 30 min (35% of the total marks)

Section A: Urban Issues and Challenges

In this section students will look at the different rates of growth in urban areas around the world and consider the different reasons for the growth. They will study one urban area in a Less Industrialised Country (LIC) and a city in the UK and look at how growth and change has brought opportunities and challenges. The concept of a sustainable city will also be explored.

Section B: The Changing Economic World

For section B, students will cover some of the causes and consequences of uneven global development. It will focus in depth on the challenges that face developing countries through use of case study examples. It will also look at major changes in the UK economy and the impacts these have had on things like employment.

Section C: The Challenge of Resource Management

This section looks at the opportunities and challenges presented by the changing demand and supply of food, energy and water within the UK. It focuses on global energy resources and their supply and demand and how shortages could lead to conflict. It then looks at how renewables and more sustainable use of energy could help combat these problems.

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

External exam - 1 hour 15 min (30% of the total marks)

Section A: Issues Evaluation

Twelve weeks before the exam, students will be issued with a booklet of information on a particular topic that will have been covered by them in the course. They will be able to work through the information so that they understand and are familiar with it. The first section of the exam paper will be composed of questions based on the information.

Section B: Fieldwork

Students will have taken part in two field trips and will have analysed data and techniques used. Questions will be based on the use of fieldwork materials from an unfamiliar context to test knowledge. There will also be questions based on students' individual enquiry work.

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Options Subject: History

Curriculum Leader: Mr R Miles

Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/5rkfQLhK37M>

Why History?

“The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future” Theodore Roosevelt

A basic part of human nature is to tell and hear stories and in history we tell the story of the past to help students to acquire a better understanding of the present. History can help students to learn how to think about important problems and give them ‘a learning for life.’

History also provides a great range of skills that are transferable to many situations – the ability to argue, analyse and present information in a coherent form. These are particularly valuable skills for employers today, making a history qualification especially prized. History is a great qualification for many careers and academic pathways. It is invaluable for students wishing to become involved in law, journalism, business and study at university.

More importantly, perhaps, in a world of uncertainties, history allows us to ask and answer the question ‘Why?’

What will I study?

A period study: Germany 1890 – 1945: Democracy and Dictatorship

Students study a short time period in great detail. This topic looks at the collapse of democracy in Germany after World War I and the rise of the Nazi Party. We look at life in Nazi Germany and how different groups of people were treated. This topic builds on our learning in Year 9 and helps to explain one of the 20th century’s most fascinating periods.

Wider World Depth Study: Conflict and tension in Asia 1950 - 1975

This topic allows us to look at the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Students find this topic fascinating and the visual nature of the Vietnam conflict in particular means it is in many ways the first modern televised conflict.

Thematic Study: Britain Health and People c1000 to the present day

Students will be able to study the development of medical knowledge from the middle-ages to the present day and look at the ideas of change and continuity. By studying medicine we are actually able to look at the history of lots of different time-periods; from the medieval period to the present day.

British Depth Study: Elizabethan England c1568 - 1603

This topic offers the chance to study an ever popular time period in British history. Students are given the opportunity to study Elizabethan England in the historical environment and visit sites of particular interest.

How will I be assessed?

There are 2 exams at the end of Year 11

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Depth subjects (students need to select 3, plus one reserve)

Depth Subject: Art and Photography

Leads to: GCSE Art, GCSE Photography

Subject Leader: Mr D Questa

Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/PfkByhKddUw>

Why Art & Photography?

This course offers the opportunity to learn about visual communication and artistic expression in Art and Photography. Students will develop the skills to creatively express their ideas and observations through drawing, painting, photography, ICT and 3D.

The year 9 taster course lays the foundation for the study of Art and/or Photography at GCSE Level and prepares for courses and careers in the creative field, such as fine art, illustration, fashion, photography, graphic design and animation. Students are not required to buy their own cameras, but access to one at home is encouraged.

What will I do?

Students will learn to:

- develop imaginative and creative ideas based on both visual and written investigations into the world of art from various times and cultures
- experiment with and refine their skills and techniques in both traditional and new media
- record ideas and observations through drawing, painting and photography
- present and evaluate their own personal responses taking inspiration from the work of other artists.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

The course is assessed by an examination of a portfolio of coursework (60%) and a 10 hour set task (40%) in response to themes set by the examination board.

Students will be expected to develop work in a sketchbook each week for homework. The provision of basic art materials at home is helpful.

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Depth Subject: Business and Enterprise
Leads to: BTEC Level 2 Business and Enterprise
Curriculum Leader: Mr J Green
Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/mXQZxRZqdfk>

Why study Business and Enterprise?

Business Enterprise is a course for people who want to make things happen!

This course enables you to develop your technical skills, such as:

- Market research skills,
- Business planning,
- Promotional and financial skills
- Problem solving and Entrepreneurial skills

It's about learning to spot a great business opportunity and what makes some businesses succeed while others fail. It's about understanding where the money comes from in a business, and where it goes. It's an ideal course for people who think that they might like to start their own business one day. You'll learn the knowledge and develop the skills that you'll need to be a great entrepreneur.

Is it the right subject for me?

This course is suitable for people who have a creative and entrepreneurial mind-set. You may be interested in business, enterprise, and financial studies, or may be looking to study Business Subjects at KS4 and A-Level. The introductory course leads perfectly into the BTEC (Tech Award) Business and Enterprise specification where we will build upon these three topics in further detail.

Topic 1 Exploring Business (Term 1): You will investigate the local business environment in the Horsforth Area, assessing what makes small and medium sized businesses succeed. We will prepare research and create a project on a local business including location, products and services, entrepreneurs and ownership, distribution, market research, promotion and branding. We will then assess the internal and external environment that contribute towards business success.

Topic 2 - Business Finance (Term 2): Here you will look at business finance and accounting. We will look at sources of business finance, financial forecasting tools like break even analysis and cash flow forecasting. We will use profitability calculations, liquidity ratios, income statements and balance sheets to assess and compare business performance. This is where you really learn how to manage your money and recommend strategies for financial success

Topic 3 – Business Planning (Term 3) – As part of this final topic, you will research and plan for your own small enterprise idea. Here you will create a small business plan providing aims and objectives, product design and services, marketing and branding plans, human and physical resource selection, and financial forecasting. You will then deliver a pitch to demonstrate all your research, enterprise, and hard work.

Grades available if continued in Years 10 and 11: The grades awarded are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* at Level 1 or Level 2.

Depth Subject: Computer Science
Leads to: GCSE Computer Science
Curriculum Leader: Mr R Emmett
Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/AAdjqDmxKlc>

Why choose Computing?

This is a course that has real relevance in our modern world. While students will no doubt already have some knowledge of computers and related areas, the course will give them an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on “behind the scenes”. As part of this, they will investigate computer programming. Relevant to the modern, changing world of computing, the course is designed to boost computing skills essential for 21st century. If students would like further guidance on the different course contents, please see Mr Hood, Leader of Learning for Computing.

What will I do if I continue to GCSE?

There are two different areas of focus within the course, an outline is detailed below:

- Component 01: Computer Systems
- Component 02: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

Aims and Learning Outcomes

The GCSE specification in computing will enable students to:

- Develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies, an understanding of how they work and their application in a range of contexts
- Acquire and apply knowledge, thinking and technical skills and an understanding of algorithms in computer programs
- Become independent and discerning Computer Scientists, able to make informed decisions and be aware of technological implications
- Design and write computer programs to solve problems.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

There is one controlled assessment which is set by the examination board. The students will prepare for assessments, the tasks will then be timed and this section counts towards 20% of their overall mark. There are two written examinations which are worth 40% each.

Grades available: GCSE results are awarded on the scale of 9 – 1

Awarding Body: OCR

Depth Subject: Design and Technology

Leads to: GCSE Design and Technology

Curriculum Leader: Mrs K Carrara

Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/kCQVc7ldGAY>

Why Design and Technology?

Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and will apply technical and practical expertise.

Students will study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment.

Within this course emphasis is placed on the development of practical skills and students are encouraged to be creative and innovative when working with a wide variety of materials including wood, plastic, metal, textiles, card and paper.

The course may be a stepping stone to a career in design, construction or engineering, but even if not, it will provide students with practical skills, knowledge and understanding in design and manufacture.

What will I do?

You will learn about:

- New and emerging technologies
- Properties of materials – wood, plastic, metal, textiles, card and paper.
- Mechanical devices / Forces and stresses
- Specialist equipment and processes
- Designing and work of designers

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

One examination paper (50%) testing the knowledge of the above areas. The bulk of the paper specialises in the material of your choice. Section A will require core knowledge of all materials.

Coursework: (50%)

Substantial design and make task based on chosen material area:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing and evaluating
- Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior
- Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence

Grades available: 9-1

Depth Subject: Drama
Leads towards: GCSE AQA Drama
Curriculum Leader: Mrs S Kendal
Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/3njExUqJtzQ>

Why Drama?

For those students with an enthusiasm and interest in drama, the taster offers the opportunity to explore devised and scripted drama in more detail as well as the opportunity to extend their written analytical skills. Drama is a great subject to help build your confidence and develops relevant, transferable skills for most future jobs and careers

What will I do?

Drama is fun but hard work! You will get the chance to explore and expand your creative skills and have more independence in terms of ideas and topics. However, **a willingness to perform, working with a variety of different groups and learning lines** are all basic requirements of continuing drama in Year 9. The students get the chance to study and perform plays as well as devising from themes that are relevant to themselves and the world around them.

There is a written element and students will be expected to review their own work and the work of others. There is also a monologue module and students will be writing and performing their own individual monologues to the group.

There are regular theatre trips as well as visiting theatre companies and actors who come in to school to work with our students. It is a great stepping stone to GCSE but also a great subject if you want a practical subject to offer variety in your timetable, or to compliment other subjects such as English Literature.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

Year 10:	Paper 1: Devising	
	Students will create their own devised performance	40%
Year 11:	Paper 2: Script practical	
	Students will take part in a scripted performance	20%
Year 11:	Paper 3	
	Written exam on a live theatre performance	40%

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Depth Subject: Engineering
Leads to: BTEC Level 2 Engineering
Curriculum Leader: Mr T Milner
Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/ZBUuq3NiyR4>

Why study Engineering?

Engineering is an exciting taster subject which has been designed and developed to build your skills and knowledge of the engineering world, ensuring you are prepared for your future as an engineer. By immersing yourself in the excitement and potential of working in the real world of engineering, it will blend together the best of academic and applied learning.

This is an exciting time for Horsforth School to introduce this option into to the curriculum. As well as classroom based learning, there will be some opportunities to visit local and national engineering companies. These visits are essential to be able to learn and discover the real engineering world through applied learning.

The Engineering taster encapsulates a broad spectrum of Engineering Sectors. We have developed the whole course around mini projects to build your skillset. “Micro Scooters” and “Dyson Vacuum Cleaners” are taken apart, their materials analysed and manufacturing processes explored.

- > Explore a range of different materials; testing them in such a way to learn their properties and characteristics
- > Disassemble a range of products to discover how they work
- > Learn to Design, draw and sketch like an engineer would
- > Potential visits to various companies to see what Engineering looks like in the real world.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in variety of ways over the course of the taster year. Internally assessed projects will be completed through small reports and practical activities. You will be assessed each lesson through questioning and discussion and also quick fire quizzes to check what you have been taught.

Where can the qualification take me?

After you have finished this taster year, the obvious progression would be to study the BTEC Level 2 Engineering Tech Award as a KS4 option. In KS4 the components you will be taught build upon the taster year and would put you in an ideal position for either a place in sixth form studying Level 3 BTEC Engineering or an apprenticeship with a local or national engineering firm.

Grades available if continued in Years 10 and 11: The grades awarded are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* at Level 1 or Level 2.

Depth Subject: Food Preparation and Nutrition
Leads to: GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
Curriculum Leader: Mrs S Mayo
Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/OiFmQvACBU8>

Why Food Preparation and Nutrition?

The Food Preparation and Nutrition course will provide students with the opportunity to learn important concepts relating to food, from the current principles of healthy eating to food hygiene. Students will also consider environmental and sustainability, cultural, moral and economic issues. As a practical subject the course requires students to master a wide range of food preparation skills.

Within this course emphasis is placed on the development of practical skills and students are encouraged to be creative and innovative when working with food.

The course may be a stepping stone to a career related to food, but even if not, it will provide students with the practical skills, knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions relating to food choices which are important life skills. There are also many career opportunities relating to this subject.

What will I do?

In addition to practical skills students will study five areas:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

Coursework: (50%)

- Task 1: Food Investigation. Written report (1,500-2,000 words)
Understanding the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of food.
- Task 2: Food Preparation assessment.
- Electronic portfolio + 3 hour Practical Exam
- Planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition to a chosen task.

Written Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition from all 5 sections.

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Depth Subject: Media Studies

Leads to: BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production

Curriculum Leader: Mrs N Hazell

Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/sSz539mk6sg>

Why Media Studies?

We are surrounded by media products and it is important to be media literate so that we are able to make sense of the sounds, images and opinions that we are confronted with. If you would like to develop valuable skills and techniques in different media disciplines, produce a practical media product in response to a brief like a music video, a magazine article or a film trailer and explore potential careers in the industry then this may be the choice for you. The skills you learn will help you in other subjects such as English as some of the core activities include analysing media texts, communicating findings and being imaginative and creative.

What will I do? You will learn about:

- New and emerging media technologies
- Media language, representation, industries and audience
- You will develop technical skills and techniques
- You will produce a digital media product in at least one media sector such as print media or moving image production

How will I be assessed if I continue to BTEC in Year 10?

The BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production is run by Edexcel examination board and over the two years you will complete three components:

Component 1 – Exploring media products

Aim: Learn about the sector and investigate media products such as TV programmes, films, magazines, websites and video games

Assessment: Internally assessed assignments and worth 30% of the final qualification.

Component 2 – Developing digital media production skills

Aim: Develop technical skills and techniques in the chosen discipline(s) of audio/moving image, publishing and interactive.

Assessment: Internally assessed assignments and worth 30% of the final qualification.

Component 3 – Create a media product in response to a brief

Aim: Apply digital skills and techniques by responding to a digital media brief

Assessment: Externally assessed task where you will respond to a brief to create a media product and worth 40% of the final qualification.

Grades available if continued in Years 10 and 11: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Merit and Distinction.

Where the course can lead: With a BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production you can continue on to further level 2 and 3 vocational and academic study, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.

Depth Subject: Music

Leads to: GCSE Music

Curriculum Leader: Ms P Cairns/ Ms A Botham

Video presentation: <https://youtu.be/4REwrXrqBI0>

Why Music?

This course offers students with varying musical backgrounds the opportunity to study, perform and compose music from many contrasting genres. Both experienced musicians and complete beginners can access this course, with free instrumental lessons offered throughout Year 10 and 11.

What will I do if I continue to GCSE?

Three contrasting sections:

- a) Performing Music: playing an instrument and/or singing both individually and as part of a group
- b) Composing Music: composing two compositions of any genre, using state-of-the-art software
- c) Understanding Music: improving general music theory and listening skills while also studying set study works; three songs by The Beatles and a Haydn Symphony.

How will I be assessed if I continue to GCSE?

- a) Internal assessment of two recorded performances (External Moderation). One as a solo (April Year 11), one as a member of a group (October Year 11)
- b) Internal assessment of two compositions (End of Year 10 to April Year 11 - External Moderation)
- c) 1 ½ hour exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music (End of Year 11-Externally assessed).

Grades available: 9-1

Awarding Body: AQA

Depth Subject: History
Leads to: GCSE History
Curriculum Leader: Mr R Miles

Please see the information on Page 5 of this booklet. Only select this depth subject if you have already picked Geography as your Humanities choice, but are considering continuing with both humanities at GCSE.

Depth Subject: Spanish
Leads to: GCSE Spanish
Curriculum Leader: Mrs A Shaffner

Please only select this course if you are studying dual languages in Year 8, and wish to continue to study both French and Spanish in Year 9.