

Colton Hills Community School

Many Minds, One Mission

YEAR 9

OPTIONS BOOKLET

Welcome to the Year 9 Options Booklet

We understand that choosing your GCSE options is a significant decision, and we are here to support you every step of the way. It is an opportunity for you to take control of your education and shape the way you want your future to be. This booklet provides essential information to help you make informed choices about your future academic and career paths.

Why Options Matter

The GCSE subjects and BTECs you choose will shape their future opportunities. By carefully selecting options, you can:

- **Develop key skills:** Subjects like English Language, English Literature, and Mathematics are fundamental for further education and employment.
- **Explore passions:** Options allow you to delve deeper into subjects you enjoy, such as Art, Music, Computer Science, or Design and Technology.
- **Prepare for future careers:** Certain subject combinations can open doors to specific career paths, such as Science for medicine or History for law.

Understanding BTECs

In addition to traditional GCSEs, we offer a range of BTECs (BTEC Nationals). These vocational qualifications provide practical, hands-on learning experiences, often combining coursework with exams. BTECs are particularly suitable for students who:

- Prefer a more practical approach to learning.
- Are interested in specific vocational areas like Food Preparation and Nutrition, Business Studies, or Health and Social Care.
- Want to gain industry-recognised qualifications.

How to Choose

When selecting options, consider the following:

- **Your interests and academic strengths:** Choose subjects you genuinely enjoy and consider subjects that you excel in.
- **Future aspirations:** Discuss your long-term goals and how different subject combinations can support them.
- **Required subjects:** Ensure you meet any compulsory subject requirements for courses that you want to do in the future.

The Options Process:

There is a dedicated team of staff who will guide you through the options process. You can access individual advice and support from a range of people including parents, classroom teachers, your year team, senior leaders, and everybody else in the Colton Hills community. Students will also receive taster lessons to support them with making their choice.

Please take the time to read through this booklet carefully and discuss your child's options with them. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Choices at Colton Hills

In Year 10 and Year 11 there are several subjects that are compulsory for all students to study:

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

- English Literature and Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics (GCSE)
- Science – either Combined or Separate Sciences (GCSE)
- Core Religious Studies (This can also be chosen as a GCSE subject)
- Core PSHE
- Core PE

In the rest of your time, you will study courses to fill three more spaces on your timetable. Each option space has six lessons over each two-week span.

Optional Courses

One of these three blocks will be taken up by more time in science if you study Separate Sciences (p13). If you choose to study Combined Science (p12), this third block will be open for another choice.

You will then have two or three option choices to make. These are choices from the wide range of options that we offer, though there are some restrictions on what students can choose, and some things that they must choose to meet government rules and expectations.

Students will be signposted to a specific pathway that seems appropriate for them based on their current academic performance. If you want to have further conversations about this, then there will be chance to discuss this.

WHAT IS THE “EBacc”?

The EBacc stands for the English Baccalaureate.

The EBacc is a suite of highly valued subjects comprising English, Mathematics, at least two sciences (including Computer Science), a language and Geography or History. The EBacc is one measure that the government uses to check that students are following a broad and balanced curriculum.

However, at Colton Hills we believe that the arts, design and technology and vocational subjects are also important in the curriculum for students and want students to follow the pathway that suits them.

DO STUDENTS HAVE TO FOLLOW THE EBacc?

At Colton Hills we recommend the EBacc for many of our students as a sensible pathway, in line with government guidance to offer this to all students. However, we do make sure that all students have the right curriculum offer for them. If you have any questions or concerns about taking it/not taking it, you can speak to a member of staff.

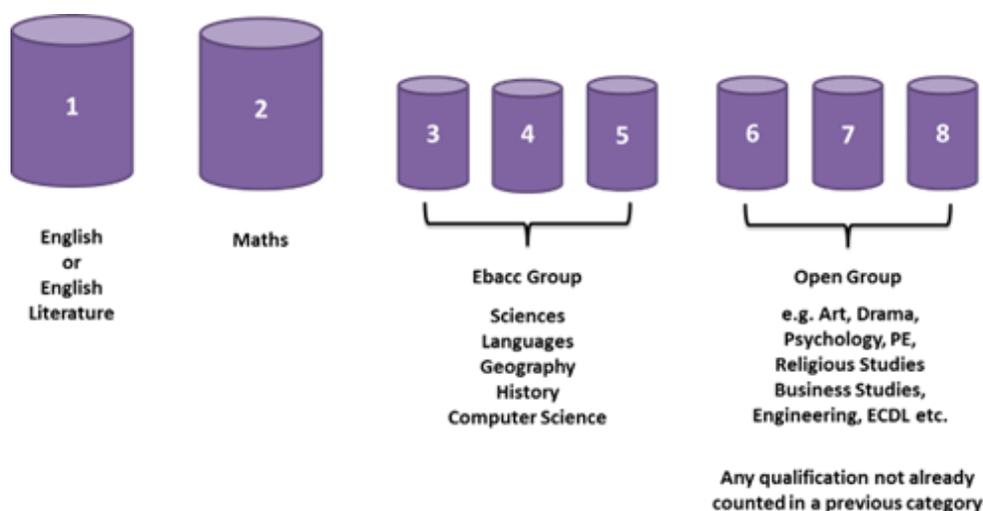
HOW MUCH DOES IT MATTER?

Though we do not force students to take the EBacc qualification, we do recommend it to lots of our students as an excellent combination of options.

Having a curriculum which includes a language and a humanities subject alongside strong core subject results will make them very employable and stand out from others in the future, in particular to universities.

Some of our best results are achieved in EBacc subjects, and some of our EBacc results are amongst the best in the city.

The ‘EBacc’ is not **COMPULSORY,
but it is recommended for students
considering going to a top university.**



How do I Choose?

Students fit mainly into two groups: those who know what they want in the future, and those who don't. If you do know what career you want, then make sure you choose the right options to help you on this path.

If you don't know, then choose a combination of options that will keep your choices open for the future. This is the best advice for anyone who is not yet confident.

Our best advice for making your choices is:

- Research all your options before you decide
- Don't fall into the trap of thinking that some courses are only for boys and some only for girls - this isn't true
- Don't be afraid to ask for help and advice from your family, friends, teachers, our careers coordinator, Head of 6th form and others
- If you have a firm career idea, choose the options you need to meet the entry requirements for the Post-16 opportunities that interest you—whether that's for 6th form, university, apprenticeship, or a job with training.
- If you don't have a firm career idea, choose options that will give you plenty of Post-16 choices.

GOOD reasons for choosing an option:

You're good at the subject.

You think you'll enjoy the course.

It fits your career ideas and plans.

It goes well with your other choices.

It is required for a future pathway you are considering.

You think you might want to continue studying it Post-16.

Your research shows that it will interest you.

POOR reasons for choosing an option:

Your friends have chosen it.

You think it will be easy.

You think it's a good option for a boy/girl.

Someone else thinks that it's a good idea.

You like the teacher you have now.

You didn't have time to research your options properly.

You're not exactly sure how lesson will be taught.

Careers at Colton Hills

At Colton Hills School, careers education is an integral part within our students' journey in Year 9. We understand how this is a pivotal time within our students' lives where they can choose what subjects they want to do in Years 10 and 11.

Mr Tamber, our Careers and Aspirations Leader, manages the careers curriculum and ensures our students are exposed to lots of different experiences and opportunities.

At Colton Hills, we understand that for students to be successful and make an 'informed choice' regarding their future, they need to be aware of the opportunities available to them as well as know and understand their strengths and personal qualities, which are essential in everyday life.

As part of careers provision in school, students will:

- Look at how to make decisions and plan their transition into Year 10.
- Explore opportunity awareness, self-awareness, and job sectors so that they are aware of the qualities and skills required by various jobs and know where to find information relating to careers.
- Be aware of self-marketing and start to develop employability skills
- Will be able to identify some of their strengths and weaknesses
- Learn that hobbies and interests can influence career choices
- Understand the importance of life-long learning
- All students in Year 9 will have a 1:1 meeting with a qualified IAG level 6 Careers Advisor, Form Tutor, Year Lead or member of the senior leadership team about their option choices, career routes and Post-16 options that might result from their choices in Year 9.

This intervention will create an individual career learning plan which will help students set career targets for the future and form part of their target setting review. It is vitally important that choices made in Year 9 have a clear sense of purpose so that students feel motivated to work toward their futures.

Useful resources

- Admissions website where you can search courses and find out the academic requirements. **www.ucas.com**
- SACU offers an independent and impartial source of careers information to students, parents, and teachers. **www.sacu-student.com**
- The National Careers Service provides information, advice, and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work. **www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk**
- Get In Go Far is a website dedicated to apprenticeships of all levels. It gives information, case studies and links to applying for apprenticeships. **www.getingofar.gov.uk**
- An increasingly popular study option, apprenticeships are a fantastic way to gain hands-on experience while studying towards an industry-recognised qualification and earning a wage. They are available across a range of sectors, from engineering and law to construction and fashion design. **www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships**

Course Information

The following pages give information on all the GCSE and BTEC subjects available in Years 10 and 11.

The first subjects - English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science and Religious Studies - are compulsory subjects, not option subjects.

These brief guides are designed to be a starting point for you to find more out about each subject. You can learn more by asking questions of your teachers, looking at the links on each page, or speaking to others who have experienced these subjects in the past.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

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OPTIONS

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IT (DIGITAL IT) TECH AWARD BTEC	Pg 24
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TRAVEL AND TOURISM BTEC	Pg 32
SOCIOLOGY GCSE	Pg 33

ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE

What will you be learning?

The English Language course is designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate challenge whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are accessible to all students. It enables students to develop the skills they need to read, understand, and analyse a wide range of different texts, both fiction and non-fiction. Students will also be taught how to write clearly, for different purposes and audiences, and to make their writing as engaging as possible by building vocabulary.

Who would enjoy it?

All students must study English Language as part of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum. Teachers will endeavour to inspire and engage students through a variety of teaching methods.

What happens when you finish?

GCSE English Language is a requirement by all Further and Higher Education establishments, as well as employers. Students could go on to study English Literature at A-Level in this school (or English Language A-Level at another institution).

Need more information?

For more information visit the AQA Examination Board website:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance>



Assessment

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

Paper One: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing.

Paper Two: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Student quotes:

The English teachers at Colton Hills show great support with and not only make lessons enjoyable but show us how we can use it in everyday life.

ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

What will you be learning?

In English Literature, throughout Year 10, students are encouraged to develop a love of reading by engaging with some of the greatest writers in History. Students will study a range of texts including:

- Modern literature
- Shakespeare
- Poetry (Power and Conflict Cluster)
- 19th Century literature plays and prose

Students will explore the importance of contextual influences, and the impact of writers' methods on readers, both at the time of writing and today.

Who would enjoy it?

All students must study English Language as part of the Key Stage 4. Teachers will endeavour to inspire and engage students through a variety of teaching methods, class discussion and developing essay skills.

What happens when you finish?

Students could go on to study A-Level English Literature. This is a second full GCSE qualification (in addition to English Language GCSE) and will enable students to study any English qualification at Post-16 and is a popular choice for university study.

Need more information?

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification



Assessment

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

Paper One: Shakespeare and the 19th-century Novel.

Paper Two: Modern Texts and Poetry.

Student quotes:

It's great learning about English Literature as it expands our horizons on different views and perspectives of different time periods.

English Literature shows how passionate you can get over a book that's been written over 100 years ago, and how much you can relate to it today.

MATHS GCSE3

What will you be learning?

The new Mathematics curriculum is designed so that students develop a sound understanding of concepts, fluency in procedural skill and competency to apply mathematical skills in a range of contexts.

The six main topics that students study are Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry and Measure, Probability and Statistics. At foundation tier, the topics are almost equally weighted. At higher tier, there is a greater proportion of algebra than any other topic.

Who would enjoy it?

All students are required to study GCSE Mathematics as part of the Year 10 and 11 curriculums. The foundation tier covers material at Grades 1 to 5, whereas the higher tier starts at Grade 3 and allows students the opportunity to reach a Grade 9.

The decision as to which tier you will be entered for will be made by the school based on the progress you make in lessons and mock examination grades.

What happens when you finish?

If you have qualified with a Grade 7 to 9 you would be eligible to enter A Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics which can lead to a range of highly paid professions.

Need more information?

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>



Also, see your current Maths teacher for more information about the course.

Assessment

100% Exam, assessed over one non calculator and two calculator papers.

Student quotes:

I feel well supported in the run up to the GCSE Maths exam. We have the use of GCSE POD, PiXL Maths APP and are guided through many other online resources.

I don't always find Maths easy, but my teacher has lots of different ways of explaining things so that I understand.

There are lots of real-life problems to solve, which helps me to see the relevance of Maths to the real world.

COMBINED SCIENCE GCSE

What will you be learning?

As the name suggests, Combined Science is a mixture of all of the three branches of Science, and is worth two GCSEs, so is a very important part of your curriculum.

You will learn about living things in Biology, including diseases, evolution, ecology and homeostasis. You will learn about the matter the world is made of in Chemistry, including the atom, the atmosphere, chemical reactions and how we use them.

You will learn about the invisible forces that govern the universe in Physics, including electricity, forces, waves and magnets. Through this you will also learn how to think like a scientist, get a chance to conduct practicals and find out how to apply your knowledge to new questions.

Who would enjoy it?

Science brings together a mix of skills, including problem solving, literacy, and mathematics, but also teaches you innovative ideas and how they affect the world.

All students study Science at KS4 but must choose between Combined Science and Single Sciences. The right path for you will be decided by your grades and discussions with teachers.

What happens when you finish?

With good grades you can go on to study A-Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. You could take a different route and study Level 3 BTEC Applied Science. There are countless jobs in Science and even more that use it.

Need more information?

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-8464/specification>



Assessment

100% exam in Summer of Year 11

Student quotes:

Science makes me happy,
because you learn
something new and
interesting everyday!

I find it extremely interesting
how everything is Science. I want
Science to be a major part of
my job or future career.

SEPARATE SCIENCES GCSE x 3 (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

What will you be learning?

You will learn about living things in Biology, including diseases, evolution, ecology and study topics that are not covered in Combined such as the brain, and how new species are made.

You will learn about the matter the world is made of in Chemistry, including the atom, the atmosphere, chemical reactions and how we use them, as well as nanochemistry and titration practicals.

You will learn about the invisible forces that govern the universe in Physics, including electricity, forces, waves and magnets, but will also cover space. Through this you will also learn how to think like a scientist, conduct practicals and apply your knowledge to new questions. You will achieve three GCSEs from this course.

Who would enjoy it?

Science brings together a mix of skills, including problem solving, literacy, and mathematics, but also teaches you innovative ideas and how they affect the world.

You must study Science at KS4, the right path for you will be decided by your grades and discussions with teachers.

What happens when you finish?

With good grades you can go on to study A-Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. You could take a different route and study L3 BTEC Applied Science. There are countless jobs in Science and even more that use it.

Need more information?

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/biology/gcse/biology-8461/specification

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/chemistry/gcse/chemistry-8462/specification

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physics/gcse/physics-8463/specification



Biology



Chemistry



Physics

See Mr Fenney or your Science teacher for more information.

Assessment

100% exam in Summer of year 11

Student quotes

Science makes me happy because you learn something new and interesting every day!

Science itself will help with academic success in other subjects unrelated to Science and you will leave with 3 GCSEs.

CORE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education (RE) is a statutory requirement for all pupils in state-funded schools in the UK, including in KS4:

All pupils in state-funded schools, including free schools and academies, are required to take RE. The curriculum will promote the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of students. The Wolverhampton Syllabus for RE states that it should be allocated a minimum of 5% of curriculum time.

RE at Colton Hills will be taught by a team of dedicated and experienced teachers. There is a team of five teachers who will deliver an exciting and engaging modern and relevant curriculum to students so they can further develop their analytical and evaluation skills into KS4. These skills sit well with all other subjects they will study.

There will be no doubling up of teaching. If you choose GCSE RS, you will study different topics to those study for Core RE. Albeit, there may be similarities in the topics studied- this will be to deepen your understanding further.

This will consist of two hours a fortnight, and there will be no exam.

CORE PSHE

At Key Stage 4, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education) plays a critical role in helping students prepare for adult life. The curriculum is designed to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to make informed decisions, lead healthy lifestyles, and take on responsibilities.

The focus on Health and Well-Being, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), Citizenship, and Financial Literacy ensures students are well-prepared for future challenges.

This will consist of two hours a fortnight, and there will be no exam.

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN GCSE

What will you be learning?

You will learn how to develop your Art and Design skills in a range of materials and techniques from 3D work and traditional painting and drawing printmaking and digital imagery. You will analyse artists' work and show how it has influenced your own.

You will be able to develop your own ideas creatively and develop them through experiments and further investigation into exciting final outcomes in a range of media.

Year 10 work initially focuses on skills and techniques, moving on to development of ideas and responses to artists' work when students have built up confidence in their technical abilities.

The exam unit in Year 11 allows students to choose one of five themes to respond to and create their own project, resulting in a ten-hour exam in April.

Who would enjoy it?

Anyone who likes drawing, designing, and making and enjoys being creative and individual.

What happens when you finish?

You can go on to do A-Level Art and Design and then a BA Hons Degree in any area of Art leading to careers such as: Architect, Graphic designer, Interior designer, Multimedia Programmer, Illustrator, Teacher/Lecturer, Fashion designer, Jewellery designer and many more.

Need more information?

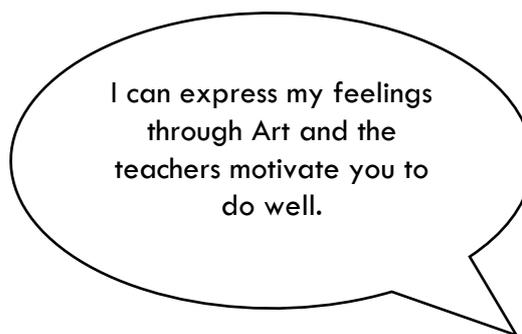
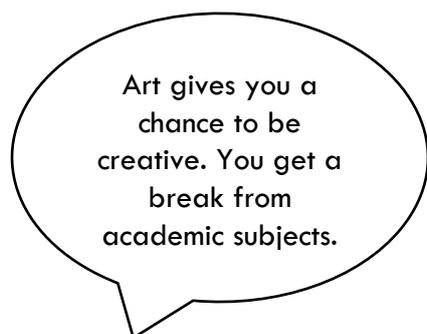
www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016/



Assessment

60% controlled assessment work (starts in year 10), 40% exam in Year 11

Student quotes:



COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

What will you be learning?

The most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Students study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts.

Because computers solve problems to serve people, there is a significant human side to computer science as well, which people can often forget. Computer Science is part of everything we do and knowledge learnt in this course can be transferred into a wide range of other subjects. Students learn how to be a creator rather than just another user!

Who would enjoy it?

You will enjoy the course if you really want to know how a computer works. Our GCSE in Computer Science is engaging it encourages creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

Computer Science is a major growth industry and will help to shape the twenty-first century. You could go on to take A-Level Computer Science or BTEC ICT and do a degree/apprenticeship in Computing or related areas.

What happens when you finish?

You could go on to study A-Level Computer Science or BTEC Extended Certificate/Diploma in Information Technology at Level 3 at Colton Hills.

Need more information?

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/



See Mrs Johal, Mr Mohr or Mr Malhi.

Assessment

100% Exam

Student quotes:

I chose Computer Science because I wanted to learn how to program as there is a high demand for computer programmers.

I chose computer science because programming, coding, and doing something different is what I wanted to do. Programming and coding are difficult at first, but easy to get used to.

3D DESIGN (OCR)

What will you be learning?

You will learn how to develop your Designing and making skills in a range of resistant materials (woods and metals). You will also develop your visual communication skills by learning and developing a range of drawing skills including perspective, technical drawing and engineering drawings.

You will be able to develop your own ideas creatively and develop them through experiments and further investigation into exciting final outcomes in a range of materials.

Year 10 work initially focuses on skills and making techniques, working with natural and man-made timbers, moving on to development of ideas and responses to designers' work when students have built up confidence in their technical and practical abilities.

The practical exam unit in Year 11 allows students to choose one of five themes to respond to and create their own project, resulting in a ten-hour exam in April.

Who would enjoy it?

Anyone who likes designing and making and developing the making skills you have learnt in Years 7,8 and 9 DT projects. Creative individuals who enjoy working with a range of materials, tools and machinery.

What happens when you finish?

You can go on to do A-Level Art and Design and then a BA Hons Degree in any area of Design leading to careers such as: Architect, Graphic designer, Interior designer, Multimedia Programmer, Illustrator, Teacher/Lecturer, Fashion designer, Jewellery designer, engineer and many more...

Need more information?

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016/



Speak to Mr Lilley in Technology.

Assessment

60% controlled assessment work (starts in year 10), 40% exam in Year 11

Student quotes:

3D design gives you a chance to be creative and work with a range of materials. academic subjects.

I can really show off my designing and making skills. I get to learn skills I can use in

BUSINESS GCSE

What will you be learning?

Business is all around us; from the moment we wake up and see different products we have bought to making financial decisions on how we live. Studying Business gives students the opportunity to explore and evaluate the world that they live in.

During the course, students will develop their teamwork skills, decision making, literacy, numeracy, planning, organisation, presentation and many more. These skills are all transferable across the curriculum to allow students to excel in other subject areas as well.

You will learn about different forms of business ownership, how a business gains competitive advantage, how marketing is used to build a brand and the importance of personal and business finance. These are all real-life skills you can take with you Post-16 and beyond.

Who would enjoy it?

All students have the opportunity to develop their business acumen. We are looking for creative students who wish to express themselves in a professional business environment.

Application is extremely important in GCSE Business. Knowing the knowledge is not enough. It is relating your business knowledge to the real-life case studies given to you and thinking about the impact on those case studies.

What happens when you finish?

Many of our students continue to study Business at Post-16. We offer various different routes including BTEC Level 3 Business; both Single and Double, as well as A Level Economics.

Need more information?

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/business-j204-from-2017/>



Speak with Ms Wihlborg or Mr Bentley.

Assessment

100% Examination

2 Exams in Summer of Year 11

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

What will you be learning?

In the Physical Geography, you will learn about how different countries with contrasting levels of development deal with natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tropical storms. You will also learn about what physical processes shape landscapes such as rivers and coasts, tropical rainforests and deserts. Do you think we should harm these areas for economic development or protect the environment and limit climate change?

In Human Geography you will learn about how cities in rich and poor countries can be managed sustainably for the future. Where will food, water and energy supply come from in a rapidly increasing population? You will compare how richer and poorer countries have developed over time and how we can help to reduce the 'development gap' that exists in our world.

You will also study about global inequalities of resources, including food, water, and energy. Finally, you will complete a two-day fieldwork activity which will link to your geographical skills exam.

Who would enjoy it?

If you want to persevere to become a global, well-rounded citizen who has a passion for protecting this beautiful, incredible planet we call home and if you want to participate in a subject that studies societies with social, cultural, and economic diversity then Geography is the subject for you.

Geography is great for gaining transferable skills that can be used across a wide range of subjects, with many interlinking themes. We can take these outside of the classroom and apply them to a variety of fantastic, fascinating places all around the world.

What happens when you finish?

You could go on to study A-Level Geography by the same exam board: AQA. This will deepen your knowledge studied at GCSE and will provide you with an academic qualification that is well respected by all Universities and other higher education providers, opening doors for a wide range of different jobs.

Need more information?

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035

Speak with Mr Ahmed and Mrs Timmins.



Assessment

100% Exam in June of Year 11

Student quotes

Geography GCSE fits well with my other subjects. It gives me a world view.

I enjoy Geography because everything we study is happening in the world right now and is so relevant!

GERMAN GCSE

What will you be learning?

The GCSE German course follows on from the work done at Key Stage 3. You will further develop the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing and you will develop a sound knowledge of German grammar.

You will develop your skills while studying 3 themes: Identity & Relationships with Others, Healthy Living & Lifestyle and Education & Work. You will also learn about German culture, building on the work that you have already done on this.

We have also run a German exchange visit for several years to allow students to experience Germany for themselves. We hope to continue to run these visits in future years for our students to enjoy.

Who would enjoy it?

If you enjoy learning German in KS3, you will enjoy it at KS4. Students who already speak more than one language will enjoy learning German. If you enjoy speaking and communicating with other people, you will enjoy the course. GCSE German is one of the EBACC subjects, and so it is highly respected by sixth forms, colleges, universities and by employers.

What happens when you finish?

When you finish you will have a very useful qualification for a range of careers. You may want to continue your studies and do A-Level German in the future. German is the most spoken language in the EU and Germany is also Britain's second biggest trading partner, so GCSE German is therefore highly regarded by many UK businesses. It is also the second most commonly used scientific language and can also improve your job prospects in the business and hospitality sectors. There are also studies that show that people who speak another language earn more money than those who don't.

Need more information?

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/german/gcse/german-8662/specification>



Assessment

4 exams at the end of Year 11.

25% Listening; 25% Speaking; 25% Reading; 25% Writing

I find it fascinating how our brains can just switch between languages.

Student quotes

I enjoy finding out about what life is like in Germany.

I am so proud that I can communicate with other people in German.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BTEC

What will you be learning?

You will complete three modules over the course of two years. The new BTEC Tech Award modules are Health and Social Care values and Human Lifespan Development which are coursework based.

Human Lifespan Development examines factors that affect our growth and development from infancy to old age, and how this can potentially affect us physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

For Health and Social Care Services and Values you will examine different local services and look at ways in which service users overcome barriers which affect their ability to access these services. You will also research the different skills, attributes and values that health and social care professionals use when working with service users.

The third module is an exam module called Health and Wellbeing which investigates the importance of keeping individuals and the nation healthy and what factors affect our long-term health. You will draw upon the information you have learned from components 1 and 2 and apply them to case studies.

Who would enjoy it?

Students who are interested in a career within the NHS, private charities, or social care. With Health and Social Care being one of the largest and fastest growing industries, it makes this a course suitable for anyone interested in caring professions, social work or working with children.

What happens when you finish?

You could go on to study Level 3 Health and Social Care at Sixth Form. This is a vocational course where students could do relevant work experience within different social care settings.

Need more information?

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care.html>



Assessment

40% exam based, 60% coursework

Student quotes

It entails recognising and respecting other people's values, beliefs and cultures.

You learn transferable skills such as communication, and how to show dignity to people who need help.

HISTORY GCSE

What will you be learning?

There are a range of modules that we study during our varied and interesting History GCSE.

➤ **Democracy & Dictatorship: Germany 1890 - 1945:**

Examine the establishment of the German state, pre-war tensions leading into the First World War, the post-war crisis and the rise of the Nazis, the way in which Hitler transformed life in Germany until the end of the Second World War.

➤ **Conflict and Tension in the Inter War Period 1919-1939**

Study the relationships between the countries after the end of the First World War. Look at the policies, treaties and rivalries between countries post war and understand how World War Two really began.

➤ **Britain: Migration, Empires, and the People c790 - Present Day**

Study the relationship between the citizen and the state in Britain over a long period of time. It considers the causes, scale, nature, and consequences of protest to that relationship. Charts the journey from feudalism and serfdom to democracy and equality.

➤ **Site Study: Norman England**

This study will focus on major events of the Norman invasion; including all the battles between leaders, society and the lasting legacy it has left.

Who would enjoy it?

If you are keen to have the knowledge to understand the world and the problems it faces today. Anyone who wants to develop a range of skills such as evaluating evidence, developing and presenting arguments and the ability to think independently and understand human behaviour.

What happens when you finish?

History at GCSE opens the door to further study at A-Level – the perfect partner to A-Levels in other subjects such as law, sociology, psychology. Beyond that, history is useful for careers in the following areas: lawyer, barrister, police, media, government, management, social services, teaching, civil service, journalism, secret service and national security.

Need more information?

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145

See Mr Smith, Mr Gittins or Mr Rowley.



Assessment

Two 2-hour long examinations at the end of Year 11.

Student quotes

I chose History because I enjoyed it in Year 9 and found it interesting. GCSE History is even better!

History isn't just studying the past; it opens your eyes to the world around you

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING AWARD

What will you be learning?

The award is made up of two units:

Unit 1: Hospitality and Catering Industry

In this unit, you will learn about the different types of providers within the hospitality and catering industry, the legislation that needs to be adhered to and the personal safety of all of those involved in the business, whether staff or customers. You will learn about the operation of hospitality and catering establishments and the factors affecting their success.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

In this unit you will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for you to plan nutritional dishes to go on a menu. You will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes.

Who would enjoy it?

If you really enjoy cooking and are interested in catering this is the right course for you. If you are thinking about a career in the food industry this would be a good starting point. Remember there will be a written element and you will need to buy ingredients, so you must be organised.

What happens when you finish?

Successful completion of this qualification could support entry to qualifications that develop specific skills for work in hospitality and catering.

Need more information?

Talk to Mr Winward or Mr Lilley if you require any more information regarding this course.



Assessment

Unit 1 is an external assessment 90 minutes.

Unit 2 is assessed internally by portfolio.

Both units need to be passed to be awarded an overall grade.

Student quotes

I enjoy Food & Catering as it gives me an opportunity to try international cuisine.

This is an exciting course that allows me to explore lots of different foods and work in teams.

IT (DIGITAL IT) TECH AWARD

What will you be learning?

From smartphones and Wi-Fi to hashtags and instant messaging: over the last 20 years, technology has dramatically changed the way in which we live and communicate with each other.

Does your interest in technology extend beyond the hardware? Are you curious about how digital information is spread? Maybe you want to know more about computers and how, when and why people use them? If so, Digital Information Technology could be the course for you!

As a student of the Tech Award in Digital Information Technology you will be learning about the global use of Digital Information Technology. You will learn a broad array of knowledge to prepare you for a future in a world governed by information. You will not only learn to become proficient in a broad range of applications you will also learn how the world communicates information.

Who would enjoy it?

Did you Know......despite secondary school students' constant exposure to technology, there is a gap between students' knowledge upon finishing their studies and the skills employers are looking for. The need for a foundation in Information Technology skills has never been greater. The Level 1/Level 2 **BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology** is a practical vocational qualification that not only provides a broad overview of the IT skills learners need to progress to Key Stage 5/Level 3 but will also help them decide on the avenues they'd like to explore once they start to think about their future career.

Students who enjoy Computing in Key Stage 3. Students who wish to have a future career in technology or any professional career that will require a range of IT skills. Students who want to further their knowledge of the digital world.

What happens when you finish?

You could go on to study a Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate or Diploma in IT.

Need more information?

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology-2022.html>

See Mrs Johal, Mr Mohr or Mrs Jassi.



Assessment

60% Coursework, 40% Exam

Student quotes

I know I need to be ready for my future careers by having the right IT skills.

Since starting BTEC ICT I have figured out that it is really fitting in well with my BTEC Business work and I would like to work in these subjects in the future.

GCSE MUSIC

What will you be learning?

GCSE Music is comprised of three components. Students will perform, compose their own music, and analyse existing works. There is a variety of option for students to focus on live instrumental play, composing in software or a combination of both products.

Performance accounts for 30% of the final grading and consists of learning two pieces of music as a soloist and ensemble member with a focus on technical accuracy and performance skills. The pieces are marked by the class teacher and externally moderated in year 11.

Composition is worth 30% of the final grading and consists of composing two pieces of music, one to a set brief given to all students in the UK and one a free composition. For the free composition students will need to both extend and adapt their original ideas using at least 4 of the elements of music they have studied in key stage 3. Accompanying the compositions would be a programme note for the students to explain their compositional intention to the examiner.

The final aspect of the course is a 1 hour 30-minute exam which accounts for 40% of the grade. There are two sections, the first being listening to unfamiliar music pieces and using their analytical skills to answer questions on them and second two is questions on two pre-taught compositions.

Who would enjoy it?

You will enjoy this course if you have a creative flair, enjoy creating beats and rhythms and are often writing lyrics or singing songs to yourself. Your personal music preference would not matter as on the course you will study all styles and genres. It is preferable that you know how to play an instrument and have perhaps taken peripatetic lessons, but it is also not necessary. We would suggest you start attending our extra-curricular music technology club on a Thursday in L21.

What happens when you finish?

On completing the course, you could go on to study music in college. There are several courses that are specific to if you play an instrument or have a preference to music technology. There are also options to go onto Musical Theatre. As a career though with a music background can go into careers with record labels, film and tv industry, venue management or use the transferable skills of listening, creativity, communication, and self- discipline to support other career choices.

Need more information?

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/music/specifications/AQA-8271-SP-2016.PDF>



See Miss Jones, Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts or Miss Loxton.

GCSE DANCE

What will you be learning?

GCSE Dance is a course which blends practical and written work. Those who choose to study GCSE Dance will have the opportunity to perform, choreograph and analyse professional works.

Performance accounts for 30% of the final grading and consists of learning two phrases of movement. Students then perform for technical accuracy and performance skills. The phrases are marked by the class teacher and performed for moderation in year 11.

Choreography is worth 30% of the overall qualification. Students are taught another two phrases of movement which are taught to all GCSE Dance students in the country. In a duet or trio learners then develop these phrases through choreographic devices and structures. The second part of choreography is in the form of a solo or group work. Students research stimulus ideas to then choreograph from and then teach other dancers from younger years the movement in after-school rehearsals or by themselves if they opt for a solo. The choreography is accompanied by log notes which explain the student's choreographic process. Both pieces of choreography are marked by the class teacher and then moderated in year 11.

The exam accounts for 40%, is 1 hour and 30 minutes and taken at the end of year 11. In the exam students will be asked questions on six short professional works which they will study over the two-year course as well as questions on choreographic process, performance skills and critical appreciation of their own choreography.

Who would enjoy it?

You will enjoy this course if you have a love of dance, being creative, can work by yourself and with others and enjoy the satisfaction of seeing your hard work in a final project. This is a practical course so there will be performance involved, including as a soloist. If you have a passion for the subject but are not used to being in the spotlight, there are many ways we can support you during the course to build your confidence.

What happens when you finish?

Students can go on to study A-Level Dance or BTEC Level 3 Dance. Beyond college, 47 universities offer qualifications in dance, some of which are joint degrees with other art subjects or project management degrees or education. In addition, there are several prestigious dance schools such as the Royal College of Ballet, Rambert, Laban, Bird, Italia Conti and LIPA where students could further their studies. Alternatively, students can go straight into the professional domain or use their transferable skills of confidence, creativity, teamwork and originality in other career prospects.

Need more information?

See Miss Jones, Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts, and the dance teacher for this course.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236/specification>



Student quotes

It has made me realise all the meaning movement has. I have looked at why certain movements are created.

I love that I get to explore the costume and lighting of professional works. I feel proud when I can perform movement, I see professional dancers doing live or on film.

GCSE DRAMA

There are three components which have shared emphasis on written and practical submissions. Students will perform professional scripts, devise their own works, and analyse existing works.

Practical accounts for 60% of the course which is divided into two parts. The first is a devised unit, meaning students explore several stimulus ideas to then create their own piece of drama exploring styles, drama strategies, genres, staging and character development methods. The devised work is marked by the class teacher. The second is through texts in practise; in this unit students are given two script extracts from a professional work to learn and then perform. The two extracts are filmed and sent to the AQA exam board who then grade the performances.

The exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes and worth 40% of the overall qualification. Learners will develop an in-depth understanding of one prescribed work over the two-year course in a theory and practical context. In the exam students are asked a series of questions which are multiple choice, short answers and extended questions. Within the exam students are also asked to analyse a live theatre performance. Within the two-year course, students will visit the theatre to watch a live performance which will form part of their GCSE Drama experience.

Who would enjoy it?

Acting is largely based on becoming another person, that is what characterisation is. If you have a passion for going outside of your comfort zone and like the idea of becoming someone else momentarily you will enjoy drama. There is of course a performance aspect to the course but over the qualification if this is a skill that needs development you will be supported in this process. You will need to be dedicated to the course as with script and devising work you will be expected to learn lines and work independently.

What happens when you finish?

After GCSE, drama students can go to college to study A-Level Drama or BTEC Level 3 in Performing Arts. There is also the possibility to study Theatre and Literature at A-Level. If students continued to university there are 72 different universities offering a range of qualifications either as pure acting or in combination with other interests.

If students did not want to pursue a career directly in acting, the transferable skills of problem solving, resilience, self-discipline and revolutionary thinking are all transferable skills to other industries. Those wanting to pursue a career in business would be suited to learning the skills of public speaking that GCSE Drama can offer.

Need more information?

See Miss Jones, Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts, or Miss Toy, the teacher of this course.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/specification>



Student Quote

I think my confidence has grown because of all the group work, performing and presenting. This is a trait I will always need.

SPORT – BTEC

What will you be learning?

In this BTEC course, you will study a range of three different components: Component 1 prepares participants to take part in physical activity. In this component learners will explore the several types and provision of sport and physical activity. Component 2 looks at taking part and improving other participants sporting performance. Learners investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials, and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants sporting performance. Finally, students will look at Component 3: developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity. In this exam component learners will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the various types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing.

Who would enjoy it?

If you enjoy participating in sport and physical activity and would like to develop your performance, leadership skills and knowledge of sport. One student has said “I enjoy the practical elements in my learning and my written worked help me develop these skills. I enjoyed PE at KS3 and doing theory lessons about sport has helped me understand the range of skills and qualities that I have, to help me in my further education.”

What happens when you finish?

Once finishing, students can go on to study BTEC Sport at Level 3 in Sixth Form or at college. Students can also participate in sports coaching courses on a pathway to a range of jobs in sport.

Need more information?

Speak with your PE teacher or view more information online at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/sport/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-sport-spec.pdf>

Assessment

Component 1 – Controlled Assessment – 30% towards final grade

Component 2 – Controlled Assessment - 30% towards final grade

Component 3 – Exam – 40% towards final grade



Student quotes

I enjoy the practical elements in my learning and my written work help me develop these skills.

I enjoyed PE at KS3 and doing theory lessons about Sport has helped me understand the range of skills and qualities that I have, to help me with my work.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

What will you be learning?

GCSE Religious Studies is an important core subject at Colton Hills throughout Year 7-9. All students must continue with two lessons a fortnight but can also make the decision to take the full GCSE.

If you were to select it, you will find that it is divided into two areas, which each have a separate exam – there is no coursework element. We start off in Year 10 examining philosophical and ethical issues including crime and punishment, family and relationships, war, peace and conflict and the existence of God. These are exciting debates which will shape their views for the rest of their lives.

In Year 11 we examine the key beliefs and practices of Christianity and one other religion to widen the students' ability to have important debates and think about how they impact people around the world.

We will be working hard to develop skills to enable students to be able to discuss things with confidence, develop their worldview, become an informed citizen and be able to make an argument. There are no right and wrong answers which makes this subject interesting — ask questions and debate!

Who would enjoy it?

Anyone who likes to think, ask questions, and debate motions, which is at the heart of the course. Students will come across some of the ideas of the greatest thinkers who have ever lived, and this will allow them to broaden their own ideas and views.

What happens when you finish?

At Colton Hills we offer A-level Religious Studies for those who would like to take their studying to the next level. It is a recognised GCSE by all colleges and employers as it shows that you can evaluate and analyse different viewpoints and have good critical thinking skills.

Possible careers: **Police force, medicine, lawyers and judges, politics, teaching, social work, Armed Forces - anything where you need to really understand and empathise with others!**

Need more information?

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification



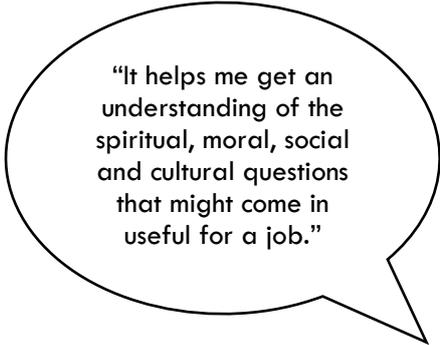
See Ms B Ruth – Curriculum Leader for RS

Assessment

100% exam in Year 11

Religious Beliefs and Practices = 50%

Philosophical and ethical themes = 50%



“It helps me get an understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural questions that might come in useful for a job.”

CITIZENSHIP

What will you be learning?

In GCSE Citizenship, you will delve into the fundamental aspects of society and governance. You will explore the UK's political system, understanding how laws are made and how the government functions. You will learn about different political ideologies and how they shape policies.

The course will also cover human rights, both domestically and internationally, examining issues like equality, liberty, and justice. You will investigate the role of the media in shaping public opinion and the importance of critical thinking in evaluating information.

Additionally, you will study the legal system, exploring concepts like criminal and civil law, the role of the police, and the justice process. The course will also touch on social issues, such as poverty, inequality, and environmental concerns, encouraging you to consider your role as a responsible citizen.

Who would enjoy it?

GCSE Citizenship is ideal for students curious about the world around them. If you enjoy debating current events, exploring social issues, or understanding how laws and politics shape society, this course is for you. It is perfect for those who want to become informed, engaged citizens and make a positive impact on their community.

What happens when you finish?

GCSE Citizenship opens doors to a range of further studies, including A-Levels in Politics, Law, Sociology, or History. It also prepares you for university courses in Law, Politics, International Relations, and Public Policy.

Need more information?

Speak with Mr Begley or view more information online at:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/citizenship-studies/gcse/citizenship-studies-8100/specification>



Assessment

Paper 1 – Written Exam – 50% towards final grade

Paper 2 – Written Exam – 50% towards final grade

FILM STUDIES

What will you be learning?

In GCSE Film Studies, you'll delve into the world of cinema, exploring its history, techniques, and cultural impact. You'll study a range of films, from classic Hollywood productions to modern independent works, analysing their narrative structures, character development, and visual styles. You will also look at films from outside the world and explore different contexts and cultures in doing so.

You'll also learn about the technical aspects of filmmaking, such as cinematography, editing, and sound design, and how these elements contribute to the overall meaning and impact of a film. As part of the course, you will apply your knowledge to create your own screenplay or short film which you will then produce an evaluative analysis of your creation.

Additionally, you'll develop your critical thinking and analytical skills by examining films from different perspectives, considering their social, political, and historical contexts.

Who would enjoy it?

Film Studies is perfect for those who love movies and want to understand them on a deeper level. If you enjoy analysing films, discussing their meanings, and exploring the techniques used to create them, this subject is for you. You'll develop your critical thinking skills, learn about the history of cinema, and gain a valuable insight into the art of storytelling.

What happens when you finish?

After completing GCSE Film Studies, you'll be well-prepared for further education and a variety of careers. You could progress to A-Level Film Studies, Media Studies, or related subjects like English Literature or History. Your strong analytical and critical thinking skills will also be valuable in fields such as journalism, marketing, or creative industries.

Need more information?

Speak with Mr Begley or view more information online at:

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-gcse/#tab_keydocuments



Assessment

Component 1 – Written Exam – 35% towards final grade

Component 2 – Written Exam – 35% towards final grade

Component 3 – NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) – 30% towards final grade

TRAVEL AND TOURISM BTEC

What will you be learning?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism offers a practical approach to learning about the travel industry. Learners will explore the aims and operations of different travel and tourism organizations, as well as the factors that make destinations appealing to visitors. They will also learn about market research and customer needs, and how to plan holidays that meet customer preferences.

The course delves into the global context of travel and tourism, examining factors that influence the industry and the impacts of tourism on destinations. Learners will explore sustainable tourism practices and how destinations can manage tourism development.

By combining theoretical knowledge with practical application, this Tech Award complements GCSE subjects like Geography and Business. Learners will have the opportunity to investigate real-world travel and tourism organizations, analyse trends, and understand the impact of tourism on destinations.

Who would enjoy it?

Travel and Tourism is perfect for those who are passionate about problem solving, travel, exploring different cultures, and helping others plan amazing experiences. It's ideal for hands-on learners who enjoy practical skills development, and for those who would be interested in a career in the dynamic travel industry. You will enjoy it if you like the idea of working with a range of people from diverse backgrounds, and if you like a mixture of traditional learning and more project-based learning.

What happens when you finish?

After completing Travel and Tourism BTEC, you'll be prepared for further education and a variety of careers. You could progress to A-Level Geography, Business Studies, Economics, Sociology, or relevant BTECs. In terms of careers, this qualification can help you progress into careers like tourism management, hospitality management, event planning, marketing

Need more information?

Speak with Mr Begley or view more information online at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/travel-and-tourism.html>



Assessment

Component 1 – Written Exam

Component 2 – Written Assignments

SOCIOLOGY

The AQA GCSE Sociology course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of social structures, processes, and issues. Students will learn about key sociological concepts, theories, and research methods, enabling them to analyse and interpret social phenomena.

The course delves into various areas, including families, education, crime and deviance, and social stratification, offering different perspectives on social issues and challenges. In learning about these areas, you will learn to investigate facts and make your own deductions. You will develop your own opinions and ideas on the social issues affecting us all, and you will analyse and better understand the world around you.

Students will also develop essential skills such as critical thinking, analysis, and communication, preparing them for further studies and careers in social sciences.

Who would enjoy it?

Students who are inquisitive and curious about the world around them and how society works would enjoy this subject. It would also suit analytical thinkers who can critically evaluate information and make well-supported arguments about their own ideas. It would also suit people who are good communicators, and people who are socially aware and are interested in the world around them. If you care about equality, social justice and understanding different cultures and perspectives, then Sociology may be perfect for you. It is aimed ideally at students who are independent learners and enjoy researching topics that interest them.

What happens when you finish?

After completing GCSE Sociology, you can carry on studying it at A-Level, or it would be perfect if you wanted to study Law or Politics at A Level or at University. It would also benefit you in a variety of careers. Your strong analytical and critical thinking skills will also be valuable in fields such as journalism, marketing, or creative industries. It can also a valuable course for careers such as social work, education, business or working in HR or for charities.

Need more information?

Speak with Mr Begley or view more information online at:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192/specification>



Assessment

Component 1 – Written Exam – 50% towards final grade

Component 2 – Written Exam – 50% towards final grade



Colton Hills Learning Journey



Continue your lifelong love of learning and personal development

Top Profession

Success!

GRADUATION DAY! Attend a top university and start course

Keep in touch for careers advice and support Complete your final exams and essays

Degree/ Apprenticeship

Confirm your university/destination

Destinations

KS5

Expertise and Inquiry

Go to your CHCS Promt

Explore post-16 options and complete career plan

Attend year 10 Summer School

Year 10 work experience programme

Apply to be a Head Student

Be a mentor in a lower school form Become a House or School Leader

Complete work placement and apply skills

Real life interview experience

Depth of Knowledge

KS4

Attend mock employment interviews

Develop your Skills

Achieve your PRIDE Gold award

Year 10 work experience programme

Visit a Russell Group University

Achieve your PRIDE Silver award

Meet a variety of employers

Submit your Year 10 Options choices

KS3

Mastery

Learn how to retain more information

Start exploring the world of work

Start playing a musical instrument

Learn about High Performance Learning

Take a role in a school performance Visit a university for the first time

Achieve your PRIDE Bronze award Read 1,000,000 words in Bedrock

Join our CCF Brigade in Year 9

Submit your Year 10 Options choices

YEAR 7

Transitions

YEARS 6/5

Meet the Careers Aspirations Leader

Take part in our Year 6 Summer School

Attend a Year 5 Masterclass at CHCS

Come to our Year 6 Induction Days