

RAYNES

PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9 into 10 Options Booklet

September 2026 Curriculum



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Dear Students and Families

Key Stage 4 Curriculum 2026 - 2028

We are delighted to welcome you to the Year 9 into 10 Options Event. This is a very important stage in your secondary school career. It is time for you to plan which courses and qualifications you wish to study for the next 2 years at Raynes Park High School. This stage of your education will provide you with the foundation you need to be able to study courses and follow careers after your GCSEs.

The curriculum on offer provides you with an opportunity to choose from a range of subjects to ensure that you choose courses you will excel in. When planning your GCSEs, it is important to look forward, beyond the next two years, and consider what you may wish to study in the Sixth Form, at college or undertake an apprenticeship in. Think about how the subjects you choose will support your career aspirations.

With the significant changes to the GCSEs as well as the requirements set out by the government, students will be required to study either a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish) or one of the Humanities subjects (Geography or History). Students will also study three subjects from the rest on offer.

The decisions you make over the coming weeks will determine the subjects that you will study for the next two years. It is therefore important that you choose courses that interest you, you excel in and that you enjoy. Do not make your choices because you like a teacher or because your friends are choosing it. Your friendship groups may change over the next two years and we can never guarantee that your current teacher will be your teacher for the remainder of your time at Raynes Park High School.

This booklet, alongside the online resources, has been designed to support your decisions and help you to make appropriate choices about the courses you can study in both Year 10 and Year 11. Our subject specialist teachers are available for you to ask questions about the courses, the subject content and the methods of assessment (exams, controlled assessment etc) and you will find their contact details in this booklet.

As always, your feedback about this event is appreciated as this helps us improve the format for future years. Please forward any comments to us at your convenience, via school@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

Thank you for taking the time to join us this evening; we value your support.

Regards,

A Hogarth

Mr A Hogarth
Deputy Headteacher

ahogarth@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

SUBJECTS

All students must study the following subjects up to the age of 16:

THE CORE SUBJECTS	
Subject	Notes
English	This is made up of 2 GCSE qualifications - English Language and English Literature
Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Students choose to study Combined Science or Triple Science in liaison with the Head of Science
Compulsory – Non qualification	
Core PE (Games)	This is an essential aspect of the curriculum to enable students to develop a healthy body as well as a healthy mind
RE / PSHE	Delivered through drop down days, assemblies and tutor time

Students must select six options subjects of which they will be allocated four. We strongly advise students select at least one EBacc subject: a Humanities (Geography or History), or a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish).

Options Subjects	
Art (Fine Art)	
Business (Retail)	
Child Development and Care	
Computer Science	Cannot be studied alongside Digital Information Technology
Dance	
Digital Information Technology	Cannot be studied alongside Computer Science
DT – Hospitality and Catering	
DT – Product Design	
Drama	
Geography	EBacc Subject
History	EBacc Subject
Media Studies	
MFL - French	EBacc Subject
MFL - Spanish	EBacc Subject
Music	
Physical Education / Sport	
Religious Studies	
Travel & Tourism	
Triple Science	Additional EBacc Subject - Subject to approval by the Science Department based on attainment in this subject

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

The English Baccalaureate is a collection of subjects that the government recommends for most students. It is to be awarded to any student who secures good GCSEs (current grade 5 and above) in **all** of the following subject areas:

- English (Language and Literature)
- Maths
- The Sciences (Combined or Triple)
and
- A Modern Foreign Language - French or Spanish
- Humanities - History or Geography

The English Baccalaureate includes the academic subjects that are highly valued by the Russell Group and Oxbridge universities which are often called “Facilitating Subjects”. However, they are not currently a requirement to apply to these universities.

In making your decision regarding your choice of subjects there are many important factors to consider:

- Which subjects give me most enjoyment and satisfaction?
- What sort of job do I want?
- What qualifications will I need?
- How will I be assessed?
- Will I go to university, seek employment or complete an apprenticeship?

GCSE GRADES

The government introduced a new grading system for all GCSE Examinations that became effective from 2017 in English and Maths and for most other subjects in 2018. This means your year group will receive grades in a number system.

INCLUSION SUPPORT

Inclusion support will be offered in place of one option to those students who we recognise would benefit from studying fewer subjects. Where this support is required, families will be contacted during the options process. This support will be tailored to suit the needs of the individual and will be in the following categories:

- EAL support – this support will be targeted to improve the English fluency of students to allow them to engage in their other subjects as well as access the GCSE English courses. It will be only offered to students who are assessed as being New to English or in Early Acquisition (Level A or B). You can contact Ms Leszczyk, EAL coordinator, if you would like further information on: jleszczyk@raynespark.merton.sch.uk
- SEN support – this support will be targeted to meet the needs of EHCP students eg ELSA, ELKAN and Speech and Language etc. It will be only offered to students with an EHCP. You can contact Ms Fowler, Assistant Headteacher if you would like further information on: jfowler@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

It is important that you have a balanced curriculum and that you make informed choices. Make sure you get as much help and information as possible before making your options from these people:

- Your subject teachers
- Your Form Tutor
- Heads of Department – email addresses are provided in the course details
- Ms Crossfield – Head of Year 9
- Mr Hogarth - Deputy Headteacher
- Careers Advisor – can be arranged in school by Mr McCurdy
- Your parents/carers and other family members

Please be very clear about what you are choosing and why. You need to make sure that **YOU** have made the best possible choices. When you are considering which subjects to choose, you must think about the following;

- **Which subjects do I need to study for my future career?**
Consider a subject that might support your current career plans. Remember, if you have no clear career plans yet, keep your curriculum broad and balanced
- **What do I enjoy?**
Choose a subject you have a real interest in, have a liking for and feel confident about
- **What am I good at?**
Choose a subject you are making progress in. Do **not** choose the subject because of your friends or teacher
- **Which subjects might I want to study in the Sixth Form and beyond?**
Consider subjects that support your progression into the Sixth Form, College or University

REMEMBER, the choices that are made are going to affect YOU.

- **DO NOT** choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it - you may be put in a different class and your friendship groups may change
- **DO NOT** choose a subject because you like the teacher - you may have a different teacher in Years 10 and 11
- **DO NOT** choose a subject because you think it is easier and less demanding than all the others - all subjects require disciplined work, homework and constant effort if you are to achieve your best

Clearly none of these three are sensible reasons for making decisions, which may affect your future.

Make sure you know what sort of work will be done in the subject during Years 10 and 11. In some cases what you have done up to now will not be a good guide to what is done later on. Consult the teachers, read the descriptions in this booklet, and be certain about what you are undertaking.

Your teachers at Raynes Park are here to help you with your options and to make sure that you have chosen what is best for you. Once you have made your *initial* choices/preferences we will look at these carefully. If necessary, we will hold individual interviews with you to discuss your options.

There are no guarantees. You may not be able to have all of your first choices, for all sorts of reasons. You must think very carefully about all of your options – and the subjects you might wish to study if you cannot have your first option. The information published in this booklet is accurate at the time of printing but could be liable to change. We reserve the right to direct a student either towards or away from a particular course if it is felt to be in the student's best interest. Courses and/or subjects may also have to be withdrawn in the light of resource implications (for example, if only one or two students choose a particular option subject it is unlikely that the course will run).



In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next steps during and after school, we will now be using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform. All students now have access to this excellent online platform. Year 9 students will get an introduction as part of their GCSE Options Programme.

The Unifrog platform is designed to support students in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

- Exploring Pathways – personality quizzes, career and subject profiles and webinars, work experience
- Recording – self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills
- Opportunities – search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), FE, virtual work experience and much more
- Applications – tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways (e.g., CVs, Personal Statements)

Students access the platform by clicking a link in their welcome email, where they create a password and can begin using the platform. They log in to Unifrog using their email address and password, and they can do so from any computer, tablet or smartphone. We would encourage Families to use the platform with their child so they can support them through the process of deciding their next step.

For more information about Unifrog contact Mr McCurdy (Assistant Headteacher) or contact Ms Collins (kcollins@raynespark.merton.sch.uk) our Careers Leader if you would like to speak to someone in school about your future or to receive some careers advice.

OPTIONS PROCESS TIMELINE

DATE	ACTION
Thursday 15th January 2026	Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 22nd January 2026	Year 9 Parent / Carer Evening - Online
Monday 9th February 2026	The online options form goes live
Monday 9th March 2026	Deadline for online options forms to be submitted
Summer Term 2026	Options choice confirmation issued to students and parents / carers
September 2026	Year 10 – KS4 courses begin
Friday 18th September 2026	Final option subject change deadline. Students will not be able to change courses after this date.

Core Subject Information

2026 – 2028

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English Language (GCSE)

Why study this subject?	Studying English develops a range of skills, which you will rely upon in real-world contexts. The course is designed to improve your reading, writing and verbal communication skills by exposing you to a number of specific forms within each area. For example, you will focus on literary fiction, literary non-fiction and a wide variety of other non-fiction texts, interrogating them through deep analysis and interpretative skills, which you will improve upon in the coming two years of study. We want you to be curious about what you learn throughout the course. By cultivating this sense of 'discovery', we will mould you into independent learners with the maturity to tackle the course adeptly, and as a result, you will have the necessary skills in reading, writing and verbal communication to excel in whatever you choose to do after your GCSEs.		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reading: Fictional literature texts ▪ Reading: Literary non-fiction texts ▪ Reading: Non-fiction texts ▪ Writing: Descriptive writing ▪ Writing: Narrative writing ▪ Writing: Writing to present a viewpoint ▪ Spoken Language: Presenting ▪ Spoken Language: Responding to questions and feedback 		
Which exam board and specification is it?	AQA English Language 8700	Qualification type?	GCSE
How will I be assessed?	Internally? The Spoken Language component will be assessed internally but will not count towards the overall GCSE English Language grade. This assessment will be recorded as a separate recorded grade.	Externally? Exam Paper 1: Fiction and creative writing Exam Paper 2: Non-fiction and transactional writing	
When will I be assessed?	The spoken language component will be assessed during the two years of study. However, the two external GCSE English Language exam papers are taken at the end of the two-year course in May/June.		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reading comprehension ▪ Analytical and critical thinking ▪ Group communication tasks ▪ Drama and role play ▪ Writing for different audiences and purposes ▪ Grammar drills and tests ▪ Linguistic analysis ▪ Essay writing 		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	You will be recommended which copies of the texts you should study in Key Stage 4 at the end of Year 9. You will also receive advice on which revision guides are best for you by your GCSE teacher.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	A good grade in GCSE English Language will open many doors of opportunity and will, alongside English Literature, be one of the benchmarks against which students are measured when colleges and universities are selecting students. Many A Level subjects require a GCSE English Language grade 5 and a grade 6 is necessary to study the sciences. Common careers linked to this subject are advertising, publishing, public relations and teaching.		
Is there anything else I need to know?	The GCSE grades will be on a 0 - 9 scale. Grade 5 is the benchmark for courses in Further Education although Grade 4 is considered a standard pass.		
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the AQA website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700 You can contact Mrs Scott, Head of English, if you would like further information on: escott@raynespark.merton.sch.uk		
Entry Requirements	This is a compulsory core subject therefore all students must study GCSE English Language.		

English Literature (GCSE)



Why study this subject?	Studying English Literature allows candidates to experience a range of literature with a wide variety of appeal drawn from contemporary and modern texts. These texts can originate from across the globe and have had a significant influence on our English literary and cultural heritage. Through studying the plays of Shakespeare and J.B Priestley, a novel from the work of Stevenson and poetry, students will become adept at analysing and interpreting literature in a variety of formats. Through these studies students will be required to inquire and think critically, which is excellent for developing problem solving, communication, reading and writing skills.		
Which topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Shakespeare play (Macbeth) ▪ 19th century novel (Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde) ▪ A modern text (An Inspector Calls) ▪ Poetry Anthology (Power and Conflict or Worlds and Lives) ▪ Unseen poetry 		
Which exam board and specification is it?	AQA English Literature 8702	Qualification type?	GCSE
How will I be assessed?	Internally? N/A	Externally? Two written exams equalling 100% of the qualification	
When will I be assessed?	Assessment in English is continuous. We will constantly monitor your ability to understand and interpret information and your ability to write accurately. You will complete regular assessments in preparation for Paper 1 and Paper 2. However, the GCSE exams will be taken at the end of the two-year course in May/June.		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reading comprehension ▪ Analytical and critical thinking ▪ Group communication tasks ▪ Drama and role play ▪ Writing for different purposes ▪ Grammar drills and tests ▪ Reading ▪ Linguistic analysis ▪ Timed essay writing ▪ Exploration of historical, social and political issues across time 		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	You will be recommended which copies of the texts you should study in Key Stage 4 at the end of Year 9. You will also receive advice on which revision guides are best for you by your GCSE teacher.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	A good grade in GCSE English Literature will open many doors of opportunity for you. A high grade is particularly valuable to students who wish to study A Levels and go to university. Literature is a subject held in high regard by academic institutions. Common careers linked to this subject are marketing, journalism and law		
Is there anything else I need to know?	The GCSE grades will be on a 0-9 scale. Grade 5 is the benchmark for courses in further education, although a grade 6 is required to study A Level Literature. Reading as widely as possible and as regularly as you can will ensure that you are in a good position to achieve a high grade in this subject. Also, an excellent grasp of current, international and world affairs will be of benefit.		
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the AQA website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702 You can contact Mrs Scott, Head of English, if you would like further information on: escott@raynespark.merton.sch.uk		
Entry Requirements	This is a compulsory core subject therefore all students must study GCSE Literature.		

Mathematics (GCSE)



Why study this subject?	<p>Mathematics provides a powerful universal language and an intellectual toolkit for abstraction, generalisation and synthesis. It is of central importance to a modern society as Mathematics underpins the knowledge of the economy and is the language of science to enable us to develop new technologies.</p> <p>Mathematical skills are highly valued and sought after by a variety of employers. Mathematics disciplines the mind, develops logical and critical reasoning and develops problem-solving skills to a high degree. Employment surveys show that graduates in mathematical subjects are in increasing demand in the UK economy.</p>		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<p>There are 6 main strands to the mathematical content of GCSE Mathematics: Number, Algebra, Geometry & Measures, Statistics, Probability, Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change</p> <p>Functional elements have been embedded in the course so that students are able to use mathematics in real-life contexts.</p> <p>In their 'Using and Applying' of Mathematics students will develop their thinking skills so they will learn how to form convincing arguments, to justify findings and general statements and to work logically towards results and solutions.</p>		
Which exam board and specification is it?	Edexcel Mathematics Linear 1MA1	Qualification type?	GCSE
How will I be assessed?	Internally? Regular testing, feedback and target setting to award current working grades and assess progress	Externally? Linear 1MA1 - 100% examination at the end of the 2-year course	
When will I be assessed?	Students will be examined in June of Year 11 with three written papers - Paper 1 (Non Calculator) & Paper 2 and 3 (Calculator).		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>Students are encouraged to work collaboratively on tasks that require them to express their thoughts and verbalise their ideas. This discursive way of working allows students to express a deeper and richer level of understanding of underlying mathematical concepts.</p> <p>They will work on sequences of tasks with increasing level of difficulty to make progress in a variety of real and abstract contexts and to work on cross-curricular problems arising in other subjects.</p> <p>Mathematics is not a group of isolated topics but an interconnected web of ideas. Students will be shown how to make these connections by linking to previous work and building on prior knowledge.</p>		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	A scientific calculator is a necessity and must be brought to every lesson so that students know how to use their own calculator under exam conditions. Other standard geometry equipment such as compasses, protractors, rulers are also required.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	A grade 7 or above at GCSE Mathematics leads on to A Level Maths at RPHS as well as other courses such as Economics and the Sciences. Possible future careers include accountancy, finance, engineering, IT, surveying, meteorology.		
Is there anything else I need to know?	Useful websites are www.sparxmaths.uk and www.mathsgenie.co.uk		
Where would I get any further information from?	<p>More details are available on the Pearson website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html</p> <p>You can contact Mr Tombs, Head of Mathematics, if you would like further information on: jtombs@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>		
Entry Requirements	This is a compulsory core subject therefore all students must study Mathematics.		

Combined Science: (Two GCSEs)



Why study this subject?	<p>Science is becoming an increasingly dominant subject in the news from climate change and electric cars to discovering new black holes and innovative medical treatments. Studying Science gives you the skills and knowledge to really understand the headlines and the world around you, opening up the opportunity for you to make a difference.</p> <p>Combined Science is taught in Year 9, 10 and 11 and enables you to gain skills and knowledge in the three Science subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Lessons are varied and can include practical investigations and analysis, learning new content and applying your knowledge. You will develop a critical and analytical mindset and many important skills for higher education and the world of work.</p> <p>Students will gain a good background across the three subjects that will allow them to pursue level 3 courses (BTEC or A-levels) in the Sciences.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course leads to the award of two GCSE qualifications.</p>		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<p>Biology: cells and organisation; disease and bioenergetics; biological responses; genetics and reproduction and ecology.</p> <p>Chemistry: atoms, bonding and moles; chemical reactions and energy changes; rates, equilibrium and organic chemistry; and analysis and the Earth's resources.</p> <p>Physics: energy and energy resources; particles at work; forces in action; waves and electromagnetism.</p>		
Which exam board and specification is it?	<p>AQA Combined Science Trilogy 8464</p>	Qualification type?	<p>GCSE</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p style="text-align: center;">Internally?</p> <p>End of topic assessments (around 30 marks) sat periodically throughout the year Assessments (around 50 marks) each term on recent content. End of year exams</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Externally?</p> <p>Six exams at the end of Year 11 covering 100% of the content including the 16 core practicals that will be delivered in lesson time. These assessed practicals will be moderated and checked by the exam board.</p>
When will I be assessed?	<p>Exams take place in May/June of Year 11. Internal assessment will be on-going throughout the course.</p>		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>Lessons will vary depending on the topics being studied but at all stages of the course practical investigations and demonstrations are used wherever possible to support learning. Debates, careers-based learning, problem-solving and analysis are also used across the course.</p>		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	<p>A calculator is necessary for every lesson.</p>		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	<p>A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology; continuing onto degrees in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Engineering, Dentistry, Environmental sciences, Forensic Science, Geology, Food Science, Medicine and Psychology.</p> <p>The wide range of skills provided by Combined Science GCSE is greatly valued by many university courses and employers.</p>		
Is there anything else I need to know?	<p>This course is ideal for those students wishing to pursue a career in science, research or data analysis.</p>		
Where would I get any further information from?	<p>More details are available on the AQA website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse The BBC bitesize website http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/ or you can contact Mr Ahmed, Head of Science, if you would like further information on: mahmed@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>		
Entry Requirements	<p>None – it is compulsory for all students not taking the Triple Science option.</p>		

Triple Science (Three GCSEs)



Why study Triple Science?

Triple Science is a combination of three GCSEs made up of Biology, Chemistry and Physics units, each taught by specialist teachers. It is taught over two years and students leave Year 11 with three combined GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Studying Triple Science as a separate GCSE is a fantastic opportunity for those students who love learning Science and want to learn more about the world around them. Content follows all the same structure as Combined Science, but certain topics are explored in greater detail with more required practicals, providing even more chance to explore and explain the natural world.

Triple Science is particularly beneficial for students wishing to pursue a higher education or a career in Science as it gives students more detailed knowledge, skills and confidence to go on to study science at A-Level and subsequently at university. According to the Department for Education, three quarters (75%) of Triple Science students achieving the highest grades progress to A Level Science subjects, while only 59% of Double Science students achieving the highest grades progress to A Level Science subjects. Skills gained in Science lessons are highly desirable to employers and universities alike. Employers are willing to pay a premium for staff with STEM skills, with surveys showing 40% of companies in Science and IT and 33% in construction reporting that STEM graduates earn more than other graduates.

Triple Science GCSE is also included in the English Baccalaureate and is taken in place of Combined Science. The GCSEs are assessed through 100% examination at the end of Year 11 and students will cover 24 core practicals in lesson time.

Entry Requirements	Entry to Triple Science is based upon your current grade at the end of Year 9 and teacher recommendation. To be considered please select Triple Science as an Open Choice on the options form.
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Geography (GCSE)

Why study this subject?	<p>In Geography we aim to answer many of the fascinating questions raised both by the natural world and by the 8 billion people who inhabit our planet. Studying Geography will help you understand what is happening in the news. It will also introduce you to concepts and events you never knew existed. You will investigate why processes occur, their effects on people and the planet and consider solutions to the many challenges we face.</p>		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<p>You will prepare for 3 exam papers over the 2 years. All 3 exams will be taken at the end of Year 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living with the physical environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The challenge of natural hazards (earthquakes, extreme weather etc.) ○ Physical landscapes in the UK (coasts, rivers etc.) ○ The living world (ecosystems such as deserts and rainforests) ▪ Challenges in the Human Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban issues and challenges (opportunities and problems affecting the world's cities) ○ The changing economic world (rich and poor around the world, globalisation, transnational corporations and their impact) ○ The challenge of resource management (issues related to getting hold of food, water and energy) ▪ Geographical Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking at the inter-relationships between everything we'll study ○ Acquiring and using Geographical skills ○ Fieldwork (carrying out enquiries in contrasting environments outside of the classroom) 		
Which exam board and specification is it?	<p>AQA Geography 8035</p>	Qualification type?	<p>GCSE</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p style="text-align: center;">Internally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There will be regular end of topic assessments within lessons throughout Years 10 and 11 ▪ Mock exams at the end of Year 10 and in January of Year 11 	<p style="text-align: center;">Externally</p> <p>Total of three written papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Papers 1 and 2: Living with the physical environment and Challenges in the human environment. Each of these 2 papers is a written exam of 1 hour 30 minutes. They are worth 88 marks each (including 3 marks for SPaG) and worth 35% each of the GCSE. ▪ Paper 3: Geographical Applications Written exam of 1 hour 30 minutes. The paper is worth 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG) and worth 30% of the GCSE. 	
When will I be assessed?	<p>All three GCSE exam papers will be sat in the summer term of Year 11.</p>		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>Alongside the subject content, you'll also learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to recognise the different sides in debates and make decisions based on sound argument ▪ How to undertake a fieldwork enquiry developing transferable skills in research, data collection, analysis and evaluation ▪ Written/verbal communication skills, including report writing and data presentation ▪ The highly regarded skills of working independently and within a team, considering different ideas and coming to an agreed consensus ▪ How to develop and use a wide range of maps, both on paper and digitally ▪ Numerical and statistical skills. 		

<p>The future: What A Levels, careers and university courses does this link to?</p>	<p>Choose GCSE Geography and you'll learn how today's world was shaped and understand the challenges we'll face in the future. You'll also examine the Earth's natural resources and the tensions between the man-made and natural worlds. This knowledge, paired with your essential curiosity, will give you vital transferable skills for success in further education and the workplace.</p> <p>Employers and universities value the broad range of skills that students develop studying Geography. It fits together with most other subjects from both the sciences and the arts at GCSE and at A level. The course is excellent preparation for careers in planning, tourism, resource management, environmental consultancy and geographical information systems but many geographers also branch out into other careers such as journalism, law, and finance. Geography is very often ranked as one of the most employable qualifications by employment experts and universities. Employment rates and average earnings for Geography students are higher than for the majority of subjects.</p>
<p>Is there anything else I need to know?</p>	<p>There may be some small additional costs associated with this course due to the compulsory fieldwork components of the qualification.</p>
<p>Where would I get any further information from?</p>	<p>More details are available on the AQA website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035 For information on study and careers with Geography from the Royal Geographical Society https://www.rgs.org/geography/studying-geography-and-careers/ You can contact Mr Cahill, Head of Geography, if you would like further information about the GCSE course on: Jcahill@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>
<p>Entry Requirements</p>	<p>Students should be making good progress in Geography and will need strong literacy and numeracy skills</p>



History (GCSE)

Why study this subject?	The study of history at GCSE level should enable students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history ▪ Engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers ▪ Develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context ▪ Develop an awareness of why people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them ▪ Organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding and reach substantiated conclusions. ▪ Have a genuine interest and passion in history 		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crime and Punishment in Britain 1000-Present ○ Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city ▪ Paper 2: Period study and British depth study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Henry VIII and his Ministers, 1509-1540 ○ Super Power Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991 ▪ Paper 3: Modern depth study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39 		
Which exam board and specification is it?	Edexcel History 1H10	Qualification type	GCSE
How will I be assessed?	Internally		Externally
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There will be regular end of topic assessments within lessons throughout year 10 and 11 ▪ Mock exams at the end of Year 10 and in November and February of Y11. 	Assessment consists of three externally examined papers: Paper 1 (1hr 20 min) Paper 2 (1hr 50 min) Paper 3 (1hr 30 min)	
When will I be assessed?	All three GCSE Exam papers will be sat in the summer term of Year 11.		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	Information gathering from a range of sources (posters, pictures, posters, film, and written sources), source analysis, evaluating historians’ interpretations, and extended writing.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	History works well together with other Humanities and social science subjects such as: Geography, R.S., English, Economics, Law, Government and Politics, Sociology, Geography, and Media studies. Universities and employers value History as a subject which shows you have an analytical mind, can communicate well, and can weigh evidence. It enables you to enter a wide range of career options including journalism, law, the civil service, politics, business, and education.		
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the Pearson website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html You can contact Mr Sawdon, Head of History, if you would like further information on: asawdon@raynespark.merton.sch.uk		
Entry Requirements	Students should be making good progress in History and will also need strong literacy skills.		

MFL: French and Spanish (GCSE)



<p>Why study this subject?</p>	<p>The ability to speak a Modern Foreign Language and demonstrate cultural awareness is a key skill in a global economy. The UK's need to be competitive means that institutions in the public and private sectors, education and business favour a working knowledge of another language. The ability to operate globally can help to differentiate between candidates seeking to advance their career prospects: those who can speak a foreign have higher average earnings than their monolingual peers.</p> <p>There are many other benefits to being able to speak in a foreign language. It enables effective communication when travelling or dealing with people from around the world and supports intercultural understanding. Languages at GCSE demonstrate a level of commitment and thinking skills; therefore, they are highly regarded by universities as facilitating qualifications for a range of academic degrees.</p> <p>Learning a language helps to develop sought-after soft skills such as communication, presentation, organisation, problem-solving and independence. A modern language equips students with a flexible mind, a sound knowledge of their own grammar and vocabulary which can support their success in other subjects. The sense of satisfaction and pride in communicating successfully in a different language helps raise self-esteem.</p>		
<p>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</p>	<p>GCSE Modern Foreign Languages covers the four key skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Students will learn how to communicate on topics related to themselves and their own interests as well as relevant issues from the country of their chosen language.</p> <p>The different topic areas which will be covered are based on Self, Family, Friends and Relationships; Home Life and Local Area; Holidays and Travel; School and Further Education; The World of Work; Leisure and Entertainment and global issues.</p> <p>Students learn to express themselves in a variety of situations they might encounter in a French/Spanish speaking country, to express themselves in writing and speech using a variety of tenses, opinions and reasons; describing, comparing and contrasting. They will also translate into English and into the foreign language.</p>		
<p>Which exam board and specification is it?</p>	<p>Edexcel French 1FRO or Spanish 1SP0</p>	<p>Qualification type</p>	<p>GCSE</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Internally</p>		<p>Externally</p>
	<p>Regular end of module assessments in the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing)</p>	<p>The final exams in all four skills are each worth 25%, the oral exam (which is taken individually with your teacher) happens in April and the other papers take place in the May/June exam season at the end of Year 11.</p>	
<p>When will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Regular informal assessments will take place throughout the whole of Key Stage 4, with formal mock examinations at the end of Year 10 and in Year 11</p>		
<p>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</p>	<p>You will develop your ability to use and manipulate language in familiar and unfamiliar contexts in the four key skills through appropriate activities at both Foundation and Higher Level.</p>		
<p>Will I need special equipment?</p>	<p>No.</p>		
<p>The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?</p>	<p>A GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language can lead on to A Level and degree level, as well as other more vocational post-sixteen courses such as Travel and Tourism. In the world of work a language is needed not only in more obvious fields such as education and tourism, but also in business, finance, retail, public administration, manufacturing, local and national government, research and many other sectors. A language is the perfect combination with either other arts or science subjects.</p>		
<p>Where would I get any further information from?</p>	<p>More details are available on the Pearson website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/spanish-2016.html https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.html Please contact Ms Pigott, Head of MFL, for further information on: lpigott@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>		
<p>Entry Requirements</p>	<p>Interest, enthusiasm and a commitment to independent learning</p>		

Physical Education (Core)

Why study this subject?	Physical Education enables all young people to make a good start in achieving a healthy and active lifestyle. It also gives the students a chance to participate within teams which is good practice in terms of team cohesion; these skills are highly valued in many work environments. The Physical Education department prides itself in promoting the school house system and students will regularly take part in intra school competition during their Physical Education lessons.
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	Students will take part in a wide range of different sporting activities. Sports are tailored to fit the needs and the abilities of each set so every student can achieve success in Physical Education.
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	Students will work on each sport for a sequence of 6 lessons giving them time to progress in each given sport. As Physical Education is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum all students are expected to take part. Students will be constantly assessed in their lessons but will not be given a formal grade or level at the end of the course.
Will I need any special / different equipment?	Students will be required to bring full Raynes Park Physical Education kit as per normal PE lessons.
Is there anything else I need to know?	Students are to be made aware that all the same rules of lesson will apply in terms of behaviour and the expectations of consistently bringing kit.
Where would I get any further information from?	You can contact Mr Bailey (Head of PE) if you would like further information on: Kbailey@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

Optional Subject Information 2026-2028

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Art (Fine Art - GCSE)

<p>Why study this subject?</p>	<p>During the two-year GCSE Fine Art course students will have exciting opportunities to develop a wide range of Art and Design skills as well as expressing their ideas and individuality through personal artwork.</p> <p>The course prepares students for exciting creative careers and them to develop transferable skills including independence, creative and critical thinking and excellent fine motor skills which will make them invaluable to any employer in a wide range of professional settings.</p> <p>This course is ideal for students who have imagination, are hardworking, independent and enjoy experimenting with a range of materials and expressing their ideas in a visual format.</p>		
<p>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</p>	<p>Critical Studies: Students will have the opportunity to engage with a wide range of artwork from contemporary and historic artists and different cultures. Through visiting galleries, they will have first-hand experience of analysing and working from a range of works of art.</p> <p>Skill Areas: Students will build on processes and skills studied in Key Stage 3 and be introduced to more advanced techniques. Students will explore drawing, painting, sculpting and print-making with a range of different mediums. As the course progresses they will select which areas they wish to refine and apply these skills to their own interests.</p> <p>Topics: Year 10: Component 1 (project 1) = ‘Distort, Distress, Decay’ (September Year 10 until Feb/March) Component 1 (project 2) = ‘Identity’ (Feb/March - December of year 11)</p> <p>Year 11: Component 1 (project 2) = ‘Identity’ (continuation of project started in Year 10). Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment – set by AQA exam board) = January of year 11 – April of year 11.</p>		
<p>Which exam board and specification is it?</p>	<p>AQA Fine Art 8202</p>	<p>Qualification type?</p>	<p>GCSE</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Internally</p> <p>All work is marked and moderated by the student’s art teachers.</p> <p>60% Coursework (Beginning of Year 10 – December of year 11)</p> <p>40% Externally Set Assignment (January of year 11 – April/May of year 11).</p> <p>Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ December of year 11 – mock GCSE exam, 2 days. ▪ April/May of year 11 – GCSE exam, 2 days. 		<p>Externally</p> <p>An external moderator will visit the school to check the marks to ensure the work is assessed in line with national standards.</p>
<p>When will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Coursework: All work that students produce at school and for homework from the beginning of year 10 will form part of the coursework portfolio and will be formally assessed at the end of year 11. Students will receive a termly grade to track their progress.</p> <p>Exam: Students will be set an exam question by the exam board. The students will have 12 weeks to prepare for their exam, in this time they will produce preparatory studies in the form of a folder or sketchbook. Students will sit a 10-hour exam to complete their final piece. Preparatory studies and work produced in the final exam will be assessed and contribute towards the exam mark.</p>		

	The coursework is worth 60% of the grade (Component 1) and the final piece/s from the exam and preparatory work (Component 2) are worth 40% of the grade.
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>Activities and skills students will learn include: Drawing, painting, printing, clay and ceramics, sculpture, sewing, knitting, crochet, embroidery, digital manipulation, charcoal, ink and many more!</p> <p>In both components students will be asked to hand in a range of work to cover 4 assessment criteria (set by AQA exam board):</p> <p>AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.</p> <p>AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.</p> <p>AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.</p> <p>AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.</p>
Will I need any special / different equipment?	It is strongly advised that students have a range of art materials at home so work can be completed at home to the required standard.
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	<p>The course prepares students for exciting Art and Design careers. It will open opportunities to a large range of courses including A-level Fine Art, A-level photography (which we teach at Raynes Park High School).</p> <p>Careers that studying Art can lead to but are not limited to include graphic designer, artist, interior designer, fashion designer, art curator, art educator, animator, illustrator, product designer, architect, art historian, print designer and textile designer. Students that study Art aim to develop excellent fine motor skills that are desirable for dentistry and medicine courses.</p>
Is there anything else I need to know?	Fine Art GCSE is a coursework based subject therefore that there is an understanding that all work produced (including homework) will form part of the assessed coursework.
Where would I get any further information from?	<p>More details are available on the AQA website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse and www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/art</p> <p>You can contact Ms Horne, Head of Art & Photography, if you would like further information on: mhorne@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>
Entry Requirements	The Fine Art GCSE is a coursework based subject therefore students will need to have very good attendance and a proven record of completing homework consistently and to a good standard. You must also show the ability to think creatively and independently.

Business Studies (Retail)

Why study this subject?	Have you ever wondered why EasyJet are able to sell their plane tickets for a fraction of the price charged by airlines such as British Airways and still perform as a highly profitable business? Or how changes in external factors such as war, inflation or supply issues can affect the performance of businesses globally? If you study Retail Business you will be able to answer these questions and many more. This course will teach you how businesses distribute goods and services to satisfy consumer demand and how businesses measure their success. You will also understand more about competitive markets, how to recommend solutions to commercial issues and the competitive and dynamic nature of the different industries. Furthermore you will learn about the internal and external factors that impact business success rates.		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	The course will cover key components of Business including finance, marketing, merchandising, economic, political, social and technological constraints on businesses and problems associated with growth.		
Which exam board and specification is it?	WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Retail Business (Technical Award) 603/7021/X	Qualification type	Level 2 Vocational
How will I be assessed?	Internally Two controlled assessments 60% (externally verified) Year 10	Externally One written external exam 90 mins : 40% Summer Year 11	
When will I be assessed?	The written examination will be graded Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*. The controlled assessment components will also be graded Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*. Controlled assessments are internally assessed and externally moderated by an examiner.		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	You will complete the controlled assessments in Year 10 and in the summer of Year 11 you will complete the theory exam. You will learn new subject knowledge that centres around businesses and their day-to-day practices. We will unpick case studies and scenarios using contextual information and assess the performance of businesses. We will also practice preparing examination responses to support your subject knowledge.		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	It would be useful but not essential to have access to information sources i.e. a computer/ the internet to assist with the completion of your studies.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	This qualification will provide you with a broad appreciation of Business and will create wider opportunities for your progression to further education, employment or training. There are natural progression links to A Level Business Studies courses. Studying Business can lead to widely regarded Degree courses i.e. Business Management, Accountancy, Marketing or Economics. This pathway will also make you an attractive candidate for careers in Banking, Accountancy, Finance, Law or Management consultancy.		
Is there anything else I need to know?	You will be introduced to a broad bank of academic vocabulary that is important to stay familiar with. It's also important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in reading academic literature and that you take an interest in current economic affairs. You should be self-motivated, able to work independently and meet deadlines.		
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the WJEC website: Specification . You can contact Ms Snowden, Head of Business Studies, if you would like further information on: ssnowden@raynespark.merton.sch.uk or in SG1 in the sixth form building.		
Entry Requirements	Please note that Retail Business is a literacy and numeracy-based subject so strong essay writing skills and problem-solving skills are essential.		

Child Development and Care in the Early Years

Why study this subject?	<p>This qualification provides learners with the opportunity to gain a vocational qualification that gives them an introduction to the childcare and early years sector. The course provides an opportunity for learners to gain an introduction to a wide range of themes connected to the roles and responsibilities of the early years' practitioner. It will encourage the learner to apply their knowledge and work through a range of case studies that will challenge them to problem solve and relate their understanding of the early years' practitioner role and child development.</p> <p>This course has been developed to recognise the learner's skills, knowledge and understanding of child development and care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop learner's skills, knowledge and understanding in contexts that are directly relevant to employment situations, thereby enhancing their employability within the sector ▪ Encourages progression to level 3 programmes of study or apprenticeship routes 		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<p>This qualification consists of 1 unit which will be broken down into the following subtopics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Development ▪ Factors that influence the child's development ▪ Care routines, play and activities to support the child ▪ Early years provision ▪ Legislation, policies and procedures in the early years ▪ Expectations of the early years' practitioner ▪ Roles and responsibilities within early years settings ▪ The importance of observations in early years childcare ▪ Planning in early years childcare 		
Which exam board & specification is it?	NCFE CACHE level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years 603/7012/9	Qualification type?	NCFE CACHE level 1 / 2 Technical Award
How will I be assessed?	<p style="text-align: center;">Internally</p> <p>An exam board-set task done over the course of 14 hours which is marked by teachers and moderated by the exam board. This is a synoptic project.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Externally</p> <p>A written exam paper of 1 hr 30 mins</p>
When will I be assessed?	<p>The content will be taught in Years 10 and 11 with school assessments throughout. Students will sit the set task assessment in Year 11 and the examination in Year 11.</p>		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>Learners will complete tasks that can be presented in the form of a report, mind maps and posters, using a variety of IT programmes.</p> <p>Learners will get to plan and take part in activities which support the development of children from 0-5 years. Learners will use a variety of resources and props to demonstrate how children develop and the role of carers. External speakers will share their knowledge and understanding of child development and the workplace. Video clips and documentaries will be used to bring theory to life.</p>		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	N/A		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	<p>This work related qualification will support progression to level 3 equivalent in Health and Social Care or the Early Years sector. Possible future careers could be in; early years education, social work, youth work, early years care, nursing, midwifery and other healthcare professions.</p>		
Where would I get any further information from?	<p>More details are available on the NCFE website: https://www.qualhub.co.uk/qualification-search/qualification-detail/ncfe-cache-level-12-technical-award-in-child-development-and-care-in-the-early-y-5168 You can contact Mrs Pugh, Head of Social Science, if you would like further information on: rpugh@raynespark.merton.sch.uk </p>		

Computer Science (GCSE)

<p>Why study this subject?</p>	<p>The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on six areas of equal importance, which cover the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. ▪ analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs. ▪ think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically ▪ understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems ▪ understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society ▪ apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science. 		
<p>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</p>	<p>Computer Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Systems architecture ▪ Memory and storage ▪ Computer networks, connections and protocols ▪ Network security ▪ Systems software ▪ Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology 	<p>Computational thinking, algorithms, and programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Algorithms ▪ Programming fundamentals ▪ Producing robust programs ▪ Boolean logic ▪ Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments 	
<p>Which exam board and specification is it?</p>	<p>OCR</p>	<p>Qualification type?</p>	<p>GCSE</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>J277/01: Computer systems</p> <p>Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes; 50% of total GCSE 80 marks</p> <p>This is a non-calculator paper.</p> <p>All questions are mandatory.</p> <p>This paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.</p> <p>J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming</p> <p>This is a non-calculator paper.</p> <p>This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections.</p> <p>All questions are mandatory.</p> <p>In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language they are familiar with.</p> <p>Practical programming</p> <p>Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02 (section B)</p> <p>Assessment Objectives:</p> <p>AO1-Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles of Computer Science.</p>		

	<p>AO2- Apply knowledge and understanding of key concepts and principles of Computer Science.</p> <p>AO3- Analyse problems in computational terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to make reasoned judgements ▪ to design, program, evaluate and refine solutions.
When will I be assessed?	External assessments will take place in May, as this is the window for the assessment.
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>Use research skills to investigate a variety of topics, and produce written and digital evidence, to meet the user requirements of the assessment criteria.</p> <p>You will be completing various practical programming elements.</p> <p>The programming task(s) allow you to develop skills within the following areas when programming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design ▪ Write ▪ Test ▪ Refine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each task(s) must use one or more high-level text-based programming language, either to a specification or to solve a problem (or problems). You can use any high-level text-based programming language, such as: • Python • C family of languages (C#, C++, etc.) • Java • JavaScript • Visual Basic/.Net • PHP • Delphi • BASIC. <p>Practical Programming skills will be assessed in Component 2 of the qualification</p>
Will I need any special / different equipment?	You will need a computer with access to the internet and with the ability to download specific elements and access specific software.
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	On successful completion of GCSE Computer Science, you can complete a Level 3 Cambridge Technical in IT or an A Level in Computer Science. These courses will build a foundation for most degrees within the subject of ICT and Computer Science, as well as other subjects also.
Is there anything else I need to know?	This course is heavily reliant on the ability to communicate answers in written, digital, technical and verbal formats. The course will cover some mathematical functions and calculations as well as the use of algorithms and variables. It will also cover digital literacy.
Where would I get any further information from?	<p>Useful website details: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-J277-from-2020/specification-at-a-glance/</p> <p>You can contact Mr Jackson, Head of Computer Science, if you would like further information on: djackson@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>
Entry Requirements	No formal requirements, but a genuine interest in using computers, programming and digital IT are vital. Students studying Computing Science in Year 9 will have a big advantage in this subject.

Dance (BTEC)

Why study this subject?	<p>This course will be beneficial if you are considering a future pathway in Dance or the Performing Arts industry. This course provides a good progression from Key Stage 3, particularly for students who had a keen interest in Dance as part of their Year 9 curriculum. The course could be studied as a standalone subject if you are simply interested in Dance and would like to pursue that interest and gain a Level 2 qualification; however, it will lead into many other subjects at KS5 due to its vocational nature and mixed disciplines.</p>		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<p>The course contains 3 mandatory units including:</p> <p>Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (30%) This unit of study will be completed during Year 10. The unit focusses on the exploration and understanding of the performing arts industry. We look into the work of professional practitioners and investigate the findings through a detailed presentation</p> <p>Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (30%). This unit involves practical workshops in a range of dance styles. Students will take part in rehearsals where they will gain physical, technical and expressive skills, applying these skills in performance. The coursework involves students reflecting on their progress, and creating informed targets in order to develop and improve.</p> <p>Component 3: Performing to a Brief (40%) This is an externally assessed task, where students are required to work in groups of between 3 and 7 members to create a performance based on a set stimulus given by the exam board. They are required to create a 10-minute dance performance focussed on the stimulus and partake in three 1 hour written exams in order to review to process.</p>		
Which exam board and specification is it?	Pearson: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts	Qualification type?	Level 1/2 Vocational BTEC
How will I be assessed?	<p>As with any BTEC subject, you will be assessed continuously throughout the course. All 3 units of work will be assessed through both practical lessons and theoretical coursework. Practical work will focus on choreography and skill development within lessons, attending rehearsals and workshops, and taking part in live performances, to both small and larger audiences. Practical performance will be filmed for examination purposes.</p> <p>Written coursework will be word-processed and will focus on the creation of professional performance work, an understanding of skills, techniques and approaches used by professionals, an understanding of reviewing and self-reflecting on their own work and creating actions and targets to ensure thorough improvement and development in their personal skills. Students need to understand the process of reflection and analysis throughout the course.</p> <p>The externally assessed unit requires students to consider and discuss the process and development of the practical performance piece. They will consider their initial ideas when they received the set brief, the development of the work and the evaluation of their final performance. Skills will cross over throughout all written elements of the course.</p>		
When will I be assessed?	<p>Year 10- Component 1 deadline- December Year 10- Component 2 deadline- May Year 11- Component 3 deadline- May</p>		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choreographing work with a focus on physical skills and dance styles. ▪ Practical dance workshops, including both teacher led technique classes and student led choreography sessions. ▪ The learning of professional repertoire ▪ Practical performances in front of a live audience ▪ Theory lessons based in computer rooms ▪ Analysis of your own and others performance, exploring and evaluating ways of improving performance. ▪ Written logbooks and evaluations detailing the preparation and rehearsal process, analysing own strengths and areas for development ▪ Target setting for own improvement. 		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	<p>RPHS Dance kit is required for this subject. Students will also need plain black tracksuit bottoms/shorts/leggings and a plain black t shirt for filming purposes. Students are expected to be bare foot in dance.</p>		

The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	As this is a vocational option, it will lead onto other vocational Level 3 courses. These courses can be used to gain entry to university to study either a foundation degree or an honours degree in a number of Performing Arts related subjects.
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the Pearson website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts-2022.html Ms Davis, Head of Performing Arts and Dance- bdavis@raynespark.merton.sch.uk
Is there anything else I need to know?	You will be expected to take part in extra-curricular Dance clubs and performances throughout the year

Digital Information Technology (ICT) (BTEC)

<p>Why study this subject?</p>	<p>The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data ▪ Process that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct ▪ Attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication ▪ Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues 		
<p>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digital Information Technology ▪ User Interfaces; Design and Create ▪ Hardware & Software Influences ▪ Cyber Security ▪ Iterative Design Process ▪ Virtual Workspaces ▪ Presenting & Interpreting Data ▪ Moral, Legal & Ethical Issues 		
<p>Which exam board and specification is it?</p>	<p>Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology</p>	<p>Qualification type?</p>	<p>Level 1/2 Vocational BTEC</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques Weighting 30% of total course Internal Assessment Students will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface, through three learning aims: Learning Aims: A-Investigate user interface design for individuals and organisations B-Use project planning techniques to plan and design a user interface C-Develop and review a user interface.</p> <p>Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data Weighting 30% of total course Internal Assessment Students will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information. Learning Aims: A-Investigate the role and impact of using data on individuals and organisations B-Create a dashboard using data manipulation tools C-Draw conclusions and review data presentation methods.</p> <p>Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices Weighting 40% of total course External Assessment - 90mins Students will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use. They will analyse information in a range of vocational contexts so that you develop a greater understanding of the use of digital systems by organisations and so that you are able to make reasoned judgements on the systems. Assessment Objectives: AO1-Demonstrate knowledge of facts, terms, processes and issues in relation to digital information technology AO2-Apply an understanding of facts, terms, processes and issues in relation to digital information technology</p>		

	<p>AO3-Analyse, evaluate and make reasoned judgements about the use, factors and implications influencing digital information technology</p> <p>AO4-Make connections with the concepts, issues, terms and processes in digital information technology</p>
When will I be assessed?	<p>Internal assessments will take place throughout the course, with outcomes in the form of coursework, based on an assignment/scenario brief.</p> <p>External assessments will take place in either February or May, as the two windows for the assessment, with the first assessment taking place February 2026 and the last assessment taking place May 2027.</p>
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>Use research skills to investigate a variety of topics, and produce written and digital evidence, to meet the user requirements and the assessment criteria. Evidence may take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A written report containing annotated screenshots ▪ A podcast, user interface, an APP, modelling data in a spreadsheet or database ▪ A presentation (including speaker notes)
Will I need any special / different equipment?	<p>You will need a computer with access to the internet and with the ability to download specific elements and access specific software.</p>
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	<p>On successful completion of a BTEC in Digital Information Technology you can complete a Level 3 Cambridge Technical in IT or an A Level in Computer Science. These courses will build a foundation for most degrees within the subject of ICT and Computer Science, as well as other subjects also. These courses will build a foundation for most degrees within the subject of ICT and Computer Science, as well as Visual Effects, Engineering, and Business.</p>
Is there anything else I need to know?	<p>This course is heavily reliant on the ability to communicate answers in written, digital, technical and verbal formats. The course will cover some mathematical functions and calculations as well as use of algorithms and variables. It will also cover digital literacy.</p>
Where would I get any further information from?	<p>More details are available on the Pearson website:: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology.html</p> <p>You can contact Mr Jackson, Head of Computer Science, if you would like further information on: djackson@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>
Entry Requirements	<p>No formal requirements, but a genuine interest in using computers, programming and digital IT are vital.</p>

DT – Hospitality and Catering (GCSE)

Why study this Subject?	The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Hospitality and Catering equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to work confidently within the hospitality and catering industry. It develops learners' ability to plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes while applying the principles of food safety, nutrition and healthy eating. The course encourages learners to work practically, make informed choices about ingredients and menus, and understand the needs of different customers. It enables learners to develop essential life skills and provides a strong foundation for progression into further education, training or employment within the hospitality and catering sector.		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ effective and safe cooking skills ▪ planning, preparing ▪ and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment ▪ functional properties and chemical characteristics of food ▪ nutritional content of food and drinks ▪ diet, nutrition and health, ▪ physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices ▪ functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food ▪ ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas 	
Which exam board and specification is it?	WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition	Qualification type?	GCSE
How will I be assessed?	Internally	Externally	
	Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours 60% of qualification	Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes 40% of qualification	
When will I be assessed?	NEA completion – February of Year 11 Examination - Year 11 – May/June		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry In this unit learners will gain a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety. Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action In this unit learners will gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	You will need to be well organised so that you take part in all practical lessons. You need to be prepared to buy ingredients every week.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	The course can lead towards college where a growing range of Hospitality courses are available. Many of the functional skills are directly transferrable to other disciplines and employers are keen for people who have taken such courses. You will have used skills that will help you to analyse, research, create and investigate by the use of many techniques. You will be familiar with team and independent working, as well as being able to work within tight budget and time constraints which are valuable attributes to employers. Possible future careers in this sector are Restaurant Manager, Chef, Hotel Manager, Catering Manager, Chocolatier or Artisan Baker.		
Is there anything else I need to know?	This course is suitable for students who enjoy all aspects of practical cookery and have no fear of trying out new and exciting dishes or experiences with food.		
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the Eduqas website: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/#tab_keydocuments You can contact Mr Harris, Head of the Design & Technology Faculty, if you would like further information on: rharris@raynespark.merton.sch.uk		

DT – Product Design (GCSE)

Why study this subject?	GCSE Design and Technology enables students to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. This course will help you to be creative and innovative when designing and to select and use tools/equipment and processes to produce quality products. You will learn about the application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning, producing products and evaluating them.		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<p>The course covers three areas: 1) Core technical principles 2) Specialist technical principles 3) Designing and making principles</p> <p>Skills and topics included in these areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to be creative and innovative when designing; ▪ How to design products to meet the needs of clients and consumers; ▪ Form, function and fitness for purpose; ▪ The role that designers and product developers have, and the impact and responsibility they have on and to society; ▪ How to analyse and evaluate existing products, including those from professional designers; ▪ Environmental and sustainability issues in designing products; ▪ How to design for manufacturing in quantity and to be aware of current commercial/industrial processes; ▪ A range of graphic techniques and ICT (including digital media), including CAD, to generate, develop, model and communicate design proposals; ▪ How to investigate and select appropriate materials/ ingredients and components; ▪ Devise and apply test procedures to check the quality of their work at critical/key points ▪ Demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding, in relation to design and technology 		
Which exam board is it?	AQA Design and Technology 8552	Qualification type	GCSE
How will I be assessed?	Internally	Externally	
	In Year 10 you will design and make a range of products in different materials which will all be assessed. This is followed by the start of your controlled assessment that requires a thorough and rigorous investigation that encompasses over 30-35 hours of class work (50%).	50% coursework An internally assessed and externally moderated single design-and-make activity selected from a range of tasks set by the exam board, consisting of a 3-dimensional outcome and a concise design folder and/or appropriate ICT evidence 50% exam (2 hours) Marked externally	
When will I be assessed?	NEA completion – February of Year 11 Examination – Year 11 May/June		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	You will get to complete practical tasks most weeks and, once the basic skills are mastered, you have opportunities to be creative and innovative in the use of a wide range of materials that reflect your widening knowledge and understanding of the subject. It is a subject with a great variety of content including both independent and team working, problem solving, costing and planning.		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	Students will need to have access to graphic mediums, e.g. pencils (both colour & drawing), fine-line pens, marker pens, access to a computer (the school can accommodate this)		
What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	A-Levels/BTEC: Design & Technology, Art & Design, Engineering University: Product Design, Textiles Design, Art and Design, Graphic Design, 3D Design, Animation, Foundation Art, Fashion, as well as a range of other design based courses. Careers: Design Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer, Renewable Energy Consultant, Robot Designer, Electrician, Vehicle Technician, are just some of the examples.		
Is there anything else I need to know?	You need to have good time management and planning skills. There is a lot of work, all varied tasks, which lead on from one another. You should also be fairly confident when using the computer as all controlled assessment tasks are completed this way.		
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the AQA website: http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552 You can contact Mr Harris, Head of the Design & Technology Faculty, if you would like further information on: rharris@raynespark.merton.sch.uk		

Drama (GCSE)

Why study this subject?	<p>GCSE Drama is about the exploration of themes and issues that affect our everyday lives. You will have the opportunity to create your own pieces of drama and work with a variety of plays. Throughout this course you will cultivate your drama skills and will have the opportunity to be experimental in your style. You will analyse characters and plays, developing a deep understanding of the world of theatre. You will also explore the technical aspect of drama briefly, including study of costume design, set design, sound design and lighting.</p> <p>Drama is also studied as a way of developing our understanding of human behaviour. The course furthers skills in self-presentation and confidence, the ability to analyse and be critical of theatre. GCSE Drama also develops creative thinking, critical evaluation, literacy, negotiating and organisational skills, whilst promoting planning, careful research, teamwork and working to deadlines.</p> <p>The drama department has strong links with the drama department at King's College School Wimbledon as well as with cultural organisations such as the National Theatre, Donmar Warehouse, Lyric Hammersmith, The Globe Theatre and The Lyceum Theatre. As a GCSE Drama student, you will have many opportunities to gain knowledge outside of the classroom from industry professionals and world class theatres.</p>		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	Component 1 – Devising Theatre (40%) Component 2 – Performing from a Text (20%) Component 3 – Interpreting Theatre (40%)		
Which exam board and specification is it?	Eduqas Drama	Qualification type?	GCSE
How will I be assessed?	Internal Assessment 40%		External Assessment 60%
	<p>Regular assessments of your acting throughout the course.</p> <p>Component 1: Devising Theatre (Internally Assessed - 40% of the Qualification)</p> <p>Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by the board. Learners must produce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A realisation of their piece of devised theatre ▪ A portfolio of supporting evidence ▪ An evaluation of the final performance or design <p>Within your portfolio, you will answer six questions: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What was your initial response to the stimuli and what were the intentions of the piece? ▪ What work did your group do in order to explore the stimuli and start to create ideas for performance? ▪ What were some of the significant moments during the development process and when rehearsing and refining your work? ▪ How did you consider genre, structure, form, style and language throughout the process? ▪ How effective was your contribution to the final performance? ▪ Were you successful in what you set out to achieve? 		<p>Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (Written Examination, 90 Minutes, 40% of Qualification)</p> <p><u>Section A:</u> Learners will answer a series of questions on a set text. In preparation learners are encouraged to study their chosen text practically as a performer, designer and director.</p> <p><u>Section B:</u> Learners will answer one question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.</p> <p>Component 2: Performing from a Text (Externally Assessed - 20% of Qualification)</p> <p>Learners will study two extracts from the same play and will participate in a performance using sections from both extracts. Learners will be assessed on acting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monologue: 2-3 minutes ▪ Duologue: 3-5 minutes ▪ 3-4 performance students: 10-12 minutes ▪ 5-6 performance students: 13-15 minutes <p>Prior to the performance date, students must send to the examiner their written work to explain their artistic intentions.</p>

	This assessment is Internally marked and externally moderated.
When will I be assessed?	You will be assessed regularly throughout the two year course. In Year 10 your teacher will give you specific stimuli from which you will work in groups of 3-6 to devise your play. (3-4 students = 10-15 minute performance; 5-6 students = 20-25 minute performance.) The performances will be under exam conditions, with recordings and students portfolios sent off for moderation in Year 10. In January of Year 11, the visiting examiner will watch you perform two extracts from a play chosen for you by your teacher. The written exam will take place on a set date in May / June of Year 11.
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	You will develop a much larger bank of Drama approaches and techniques, warm-up, and theory approaches to achieve more advanced devised scenes. You will create a play of your own and keep records of the rehearsal process. You will explore a range of theatre practitioners' methods both to enhance your own acting skills and to inform your critical judgements about live performance work. You will experiment with, rehearse and refine two performance extracts from a play, with the opportunity to work either on your own, with a partner or a larger cast. You will study and experiment as an actor in a variety of genres of plays. You will watch a West End show (The Lion King) which you will write a theatre review for in your written exam. For revision purposes, you will act in the set text for Component 3 as a way of considering how best to bring the text to life, which you will then answer specific questions on in your exam.
Will I need any special / different equipment?	We will provide you with any necessary props and costumes as appropriate. Scripts will also be provided although it suggested that you purchase the set text play script we will be studying, which is Noughts & Crosses adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz. However, during Component 1: Devising Theatre, you will need to keep an 'Actor's Journal' to note down your devising process for your Devising Portfolio. Therefore, a notebook dedicated to this will be required.
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	<p>Through studying GCSE Drama you will have the opportunity to take it as an BTEC and then either go into higher education or work within the performing arts industry. Drama not only allows you to develop your practical and theoretical knowledge of theatre it also enables you to work with a variety of individuals and understand the importance of team work and communication. Being able to present yourself in front of others is a key element in many career choices, whether in a meeting, taking part in presentations or going for interviews. The study of Drama can help you to develop a wide range of transferable skills which you can take into any career.</p> <p>The creative industries are worth over £8 million an hour to the UK economy.</p> <p>Drama feeds in to A Level Drama. This then directly leads to a degree in Drama or a variety of other university or higher education courses.</p> <p>Take GCSE Drama if you are considering a career in any of the following professions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Actor (Film, TV, Theatre) ▪ Stage Manager ▪ Arts Administrator ▪ Television Production Assistant ▪ Drama Therapist ▪ Drama Teacher ▪ Radio Presenter ▪ TV Presenter <p>It is also recognised as a valuable qualification to use to develop careers in the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arts consultant ▪ Youth & community worker ▪ Personnel Manager ▪ Social Worker ▪ Media (various) ▪ Journalist ▪ Set designer ▪ Lawyer ▪ Marketing manager ▪ Visual artist
Is there anything else I need to know?	You will be required to attend rehearsals out of core hours. You will also be expected to attend any trips that are organised by the department as well as taking part in extra-curricular opportunities both in the department and with cultural organisations.
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the Eduqas website: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-gcse/#tab_keydocuments You can contact Ms E Pope, if you would like further information on: epope@raynespark.merton.sch.uk
Entry Requirements	A track record of attainment and progress in both English and Drama.

Media Studies (GCSE)

Why study this subject?	<p>We live in an exceptionally media saturated age and the media is instrumental in reflecting and shaping the values of culture and society. Whether this is how those in power are seen, how historic events are recorded, how sections of society are represented or how we are encouraged to see ourselves as individuals; the media has a very visible, tangible and actual effect on the way we perceive, behave and respond.</p> <p>By studying this subject, you will be equipped with the tools you need to deconstruct your experience, helping you to make sense of the world and gain a keen understanding of how the media works. To become aware of the influence the media has on how we understand the world is to have the veil lifted from our eyes, to see the world in sharp focus and therefore take control of the media rather than the media controlling us.</p>		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<p>Students study a range of topics including television, magazines, music videos, radio programmes, film and video games. You will develop new skills in the analysis of written and moving texts. You will also develop and apply your understanding of the media through both analysing and producing media products. You will also study how the media through their forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings. The final non-exam assessment allows students to create their own media text from the research stage through to production.</p>		
Which exam board and specification is it?	Eduqas Media Studies	Qualification type?	GCSE
How will I be assessed?	Internally	Externally	
	30% of the course is completed in school. The assessments take the form of one individual media production.	The two written exams are worth 70%. Component 1: Exploring the Media Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products	
When will I be assessed?	<p>Monthly assessments take place through the marking of both practical and written work. The non-exam assessment begins in the Summer term of Year 10 and is completed by the Autumn term of Year 11.</p>		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>You will develop your knowledge and understanding of five key areas: Media Language, Industries, Audiences, Representation and Media Contexts. A variety of tasks will be covered including written analysis, essays, and creation of your own forms of media imitating the conventions of the specified media.</p>		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	<p>All equipment is provided but a working knowledge of the print media (newspapers, magazines, advertising, comic books); moving image (film, television) and ICT based media will give you a clear advantage.</p>		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	<p>Media Studies GCSE offers a broad, coherent and rigorous course of study that has been created to ensure that all types of learners can fulfil their potential, preparing them to make informed decisions about further study and progression to A Level, vocational study or employment.</p> <p>Media Studies at GCSE can lead to careers in Journalism, Editing, Script writing, Directing, Set design, Marketing, Sales positions and Teaching. Students can also apply to university to study Design, Marketing, Business, Journalism, Media Studies or Film and TV Studies or take up an apprenticeship in one of these areas should they continue this subject at A Level.</p>		
Where would I get any further information from?	<p>More details are available on the Eduqas website: http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/gcse/ You can contact Mr Baines, Head of Media Studies, if you would like further information on: abaines@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>		
Entry Requirements	None but we recommend that students have strong literacy skills.		

Music (BTEC)

Why study this subject?	This exciting new course offers a highly practical way to learn music at Key Stage 4. This course is focussed on three components that have been designed to create well-rounded musicians with the knowledge and skills to move into the music industry or further study. You will learn about various iconic music styles that have shaped the modern music industry, whilst learning instrumental (performance and composition skills) and music technology skills to create music products. As this is a vocational course, all assessed work is completed in the classroom.		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<p>Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles (30%) You will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles. You will then go on to create musical responses of your own whilst working to an industry-style brief.</p> <p>Component 2: Music Skills Development (30%). You will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting your progress and planning for further improvement.</p> <p>Component 3: Responding to a Brief (40%) You will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief. This is an externally set assessment and should be seen as a culmination of your learning.</p>		
Which exam board and specification is it?	Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice	Qualification type?	Level 1/2 Vocational BTEC
How will I be assessed?	Internally 60% - Coursework	Externally 40% - Responding to a brief – practical assessment	
When will I be assessed?	Both coursework components will be assessed internally after completing them. Completing Component 1 and 2 in Year 10. You will then complete component 3 in the Spring term of Year 11.		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>Listening and Appraisal At the core of every musician is the ability to listen to and critique pieces of music, understanding how and why they were created both from a cultural and theoretical standpoint.</p> <p>Music Performance All students will need to perform on this course. This will either be on an instrument or as a vocalist.</p> <p>Music Composition All students will create short pieces of music throughout the course using a variety of instruments and using a DAW.</p> <p>Music Production All students will learn how to produce music using a DAW and then be able to shape and manipulate sounds using music technology effects and processes.</p>		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	If you are an instrumentalist, it would be advantageous for you to own your own instrument.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	The music industry is one of the biggest and most popular industries, with countless numbers of jobs on offer. You may decide to be a music producer, recording artist, DJ, sound technician or a performing musician. This course will help prepare you for Level 3 study in Music or Music Technology on both a BTEC or A Level course. Even if you want to pursue a career in another subject, universities and colleges look favourably upon students that play an instrument or sing in their own time.		
Is there anything else I need to know?	To support your learning, all students are offered a one-to-one instrumental/vocal lesson each week that is funded by the school. The key to success in this subject is practice. As you are developing skills, it is important you make time to practice these regularly so there is an expected commitment made by all music students.		
Where would I get any further information from?	<p>More details are available on the Pearson website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/music-practice-2022.html Contact Mr Mohanaraj for further information on: wmohanaraj@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>		
Entry Requirements	It is expected that you are to perform and have some experience in playing an instrument or singing before starting this course but do not have to be of any standard (so this course is suitable for beginners who may only have experience of playing at home.) Please speak with Mr Mohanaraj if you would like some advice.		

Princes Trust – Achieve

(in consultation with Head of Year)

Why study this subject?	The Achieve Programme, which has recently been recognised by Ofsted as supporting students' emotional health and wellbeing, is a flexible provision for 11-19 year olds that gives them the opportunity to develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed in education. From improving attainment, attendance, personal and social skills and engagement with education, Achieve helps young people to develop healthy habits supporting their personal development and their academic success in their other subjects		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	The programme is made up through delivering a range of units and modules which contribute towards a recognised Prince's Trust qualification and the personal, social and health education of students. All of the units help young people to develop skills in key curriculum areas, preparing them to succeed in whatever they choose to do next. The menu of units available is split into six modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skills for school ▪ Personal, social development ▪ Life skills ▪ Active citizenship ▪ Enterprise Projects ▪ Preparation for work As Achieve is flexible and youth-led, the teacher will work with the students to select a combination of units according to what will most benefit your young people.		
Which exam board and specification is it?	Princes Trust	Qualification type	N/A
How will I be assessed?	There will be regular projects and end of topic assessments delivered within lessons throughout Years 10 and 11 – these will be assessed and moderated by colleagues at the Princes Trust.		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	Students will work through a series of units (as outlined above). They will do this by completing a variety of tasks each lesson which may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paper-based classwork ▪ Presentations to their peers and teachers ▪ Group discussions ▪ Working on a computer 		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	No – most lessons will be based in an ICT suite to provide all of the resources that the students will require.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	Students that complete the Achieve qualification may continue with further Princes Trust qualifications at college. The skills and knowledge gained will also prove invaluable and can be transferred to a variety of future pathways including: further education, employment or an apprenticeship.		
Is there anything else I need to know?	This is not a GCSE or GCSE equivalent qualification. However, employers do recognise this qualification and value the skills and knowledge gained by completing this course		
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the Princes Trust Website: Our new Achieve programme The Prince's Trust (princes-trust.org.uk) You can contact Ms Crossfield if you would like further information on: scrossfield@raynespark.merton.sch.uk		
Entry Requirements	Suitable students will be contacted about this course by your Head of Year – Maximum Capacity = 20 Students		

Physical Education (BTEC)

Why study this subject?	If you are considering a future pathway in the sport and leisure industry. This is a vocational pathway consisting of one external exam, as well as coursework and practical activities. It will lead on to other vocational options post 16 and at Higher Education Institutes. It can also be done as a standalone subject if you are simply interested in sport and would like to pursue that interest to get a Level 2 qualification.		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	Compulsory units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparing participants to take part in sport ▪ Taking part and improving other participant's sporting performance ▪ Developing fitness to improve other participant's performance in sport (exam) 		
Which exam board and specification is it?	Edexcel BTEC Tech award	Qualification type?	Level 1/2 Vocational BTEC
How will I be assessed?	This is a 120 hour guided learning course. To gain the qualification learners have to achieve and complete the requirements of each unit. The course consists of 3 units, 2 of which are internally assessed coursework units, and will require the learners to complete the relevant criteria. The other unit is an externally sat exam.		
When will I be assessed?	You will be assessed continuously throughout the course. Units of work will be handed in to conform to pre-set deadlines. The external exam will be sat in May 2028.		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	Physical testing and analysis. Personal Fitness testing and training. Analysing top sports performers. Leading warm up based activities. Sports coaching and leadership. Understanding barriers to participation. Understanding different types of sporting activities.		
Will I need any special / different equipment?	Full RPHS PE kit.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	As this is a vocational option it will lead onto other vocational level three courses. These level three courses can be used to gain entry to university to study either a foundation degree or an honours degree in a number of sports related subjects (Sports Development, Sports Coaching, Sports Journalism, Sports Photography or even Teaching).		
Is there anything else I need to know?	No		
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the Pearson website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/sport-2022.html You can contact Mr Bailey if you would like further information on: kbailey@raynespark.merton.sch.uk		

Religious Studies (GCSE)

Why study this subject?	The subject lends itself to discussion and debate around controversial topics, and allows students to develop a deeper understanding of the wider context of society. Students will have the opportunity to express and justify their own personal beliefs in a safe, supported and structured environment. The course aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs, and to develop their knowledge and understanding of teachings and sources of wisdom and authority through their reading of key religious texts and scriptures. They should also develop their ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject. This should enable them to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in order to contribute to their preparation for adult life in a diverse, multi-faith society and global community.		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	The AQA 1-9 program is split into two halves, with the first part focusing on the study of Christian and Muslim beliefs & practices. The second explores ethical themes from a religious viewpoint, including crime & punishment, peace & conflict, family & relationships and religion & life. Students will explore and debate controversial topics such as nuclear war, corporal punishment, marriage, euthanasia, abortion, gender discrimination, environmental issues, treatment of animals, creation, science and atheism.		
Which exam board and specification is it?	AQA Religious Studies A - Christianity and Islam 8062	Qualification type?	GCSE
How will I be assessed?	Internally	Externally	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There will be regular end of topic assessments within lessons throughout Year 10 and 11 ▪ Mock exams at the end of Year 10 and in January of Year 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 100% examination. ▪ Two exam papers at the end of Year 11. ▪ Paper 1: section 1 Christianity (Component code: 8062/13) ▪ Paper 1: section 2 Islam (Component code: 8062/15) ▪ Paper 2: A Excluding textual studies (Component code: 8062/2A) ▪ Both assessments 1 hour 45 minutes long. 	
When will I be assessed?	Both exam papers will be sat in the Summer Term of Year 11		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	Watching and evaluating film and TV programmes, watching Power Points, discussion/debate, regular group activities, various homework tasks and projects, quizzes, test questions, exam techniques, learning key words, reading and reviewing topics, unpicking scenarios, research, home discussion, following media and current affairs, sharing personal experiences.		
The future: What A levels, careers and university courses does this link to?	Further educational establishments and employers consider students who have a GCSE or in Religion or Ethics to be particularly caring and interested in people, which also suggests the ability to work in a team and good interpersonal skills. Careers and further or related education opportunities include Humanities, Education, Health and Social Services, Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, and Geography, working overseas or in multi-cultural communities and a range of other areas.		
Is there anything else I need to know?	An open mind and a calm, respectful, inquisitive attitude to learning is essential for this subject.		
Where would I get any further information from?	More details are available on the AQA website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062 You can contact Mr Rogers, Head of Religious Studies, for further information at: krogers@raynespark.merton.sch.uk		
Entry Requirements	RS focuses on essay-based responses and extended written answers. Students will therefore need strong literacy skills and should be making good progress in English.		

Travel & Tourism (BTEC)

Why study this subject?	<p>The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism (603/7048/8) is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge through vocational contexts by studying the aims, products and services of different travel and tourism organisations, their use of consumer technologies, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer needs and preferences, and the influences on global travel and tourism as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification enables learners to develop their transferable skills, such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.</p>		
What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?	<p>The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and understanding in a range of areas. Learners taking this qualification will study three components, covering the following content areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The aims of travel and tourism organisations, how different organisations work together and types of travel and tourism, the features that make destinations appealing to visitors and different travel routes ▪ How organisations use market research to identify travel and tourism trends, and customer needs and preferences, and selection of products and services and planning a holiday to meet customer needs and preferences ▪ Factors that may influence global travel and tourism, and how travel and tourism organisations and destinations respond to these factors, and the potential impacts of tourism on global destinations and how destinations can manage the impacts of tourism and control tourism development to achieve sustainable tourism. <p>This Tech Award complements the learning in GCSE programmes such as GCSE Geography and GCSE Business by broadening learners' experience and skills participation in different contexts, with the opportunity for them to practically apply their knowledge and skills through areas such as investigating different travel and tourism organisations, how they identify trends and customer needs to provide products and services, the factors influencing tourism, and the impact of tourism on destinations.</p>		
Which exam board and specification is it?	Pearson BTEC	Qualification type?	BTEC Level 1 / Level 2
How will I be assessed?	Internally		Externally
	Component 1 Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations 36 GLH (30%)	Component 3 Influences on Global Travel and Tourism 48GLH (40%)	Component 2 Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism 36 GLH (30%)
When will I be assessed?	<p>Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations: the assessment window is December/January and May/June</p> <p>Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism: the assessment window is December/January and May/June</p> <p>Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism: assessment period January/February and May/June</p>		
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?	<p>Activities and skills used in this course are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extended writing ▪ Analysis of travel trends ▪ Understanding travel and tourism organisations and their aims ▪ Explaining features of tourist destinations ▪ Meeting customer requirements ▪ Presentation skills ▪ Organisational skills ▪ ITC proficiency 		

<p>The future: What A Levels, careers and university courses does this link to?</p>	<p>Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects ▪ Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Travel and Tourism, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the tourism sector. <p>Learners who generally achieve at Level 1 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Study at Level 2 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, employment, apprenticeships or further study at Level 3. Learners who perform well in this qualification compared to their overall performance, should strongly consider this progression route as it can lead to employment in the travel and tourism sector.
<p>Is there anything else I need to know?</p>	<p>This course relies heavily upon the student’s ability to be organised, work independently and meet deadlines.</p>
<p>Where would I get any further information from?</p>	<p>You can get further information from Pearsons’ website below which contains a copy of the specification and delivery guide https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/travel-and-tourism-2022.html You can contact Mr Lyle, Head of Travel and Tourism, if you would like further information about the course on: clyle@raynespark.merton.sch.uk</p>
<p>Entry Requirements</p>	<p>There are no key requirements to entry. This course does complement Geography and Business Studies, and requires a positive attitude towards project based learning.</p>

KS4 Options Form 2026

STUDENT		TUTOR GROUP	
PREFERENCE	YOUR CHOICE	CHOOSE FROM	
1		EBacc Subjects; Geography, History, French or Spanish	
2		Open choice	
3		Open choice	
4		Open choice	
5		Open choice	
6		Open choice	

For any open choice you may choose from the following;

Art (Fine Art)	DT – Product Design	Physical Education / Sport
Business Studies (Retail)	Drama	Religious Studies
Child Development and Care	French	Spanish
Computer Science	Geography	Travel and Tourism
Dance	History	Triple Science
Digital Information Technology (ICT)	Media Studies	
DT – Hospitality and Catering	Music	

Please note that whilst we will make every attempt to ensure all students receive their first choices this cannot always be achieved due to a number of reasons. We will of course keep both students and families informed should this occur.

Please complete your online form by **Monday 9th March 2026**

SIGNATURE _____ (Student)

SIGNATURE _____ (Parent/Carer)