



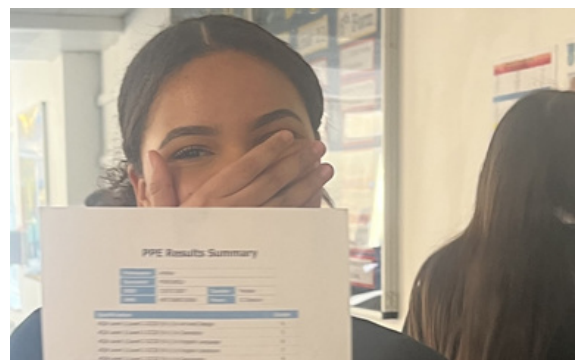
KEY STAGE FOUR PATHWAY INFORMATION

April | 2025



INSIDE THIS BOOKLET:

- Welcome from Mr Rich
- Getting the most from this booklet
- What are GCSEs?
- GCSE Pathways at Wexham
- The Core Curriculum
- What is the EBACC?
- Making decisions
- And much more ...



WELCOME

Dear Year 9 Students and Parents/Carers,

Since you joined Wexham School in Key Stage 3 (KS3) you have been studying the full range of subjects as set out in the National Curriculum; these have developed your subject knowledge and skills, as well as giving you a broader understanding of their importance and of the world in which we all live.

It is now time to start thinking about the next steps in your education as you progress into Key Stage 4 (KS4) in Year 10 and 11. Choosing the right pathway is key to making this transition successfully and to impact your future career choices.



Making the right decision

This will be the first time you have been in a position to make a choice about the future subjects you will study. Making the right decision is really important. In this booklet you will find a range of information, advice and guidance that will help you to decide on what KS4 subjects are right for you.



Read through the booklet carefully, listen to the information in assemblies which will be presented to you in school, talk to your parents and carers about what you are most interested in choosing and get further advice and support from your form tutor and subject teachers.

Some subjects are compulsory for everyone but some are not. You will want to choose the option subjects which you have the most interest in and which you think you can leave school or progress to the Sixth Form with the best GCSE grades in when you reach Year 11.

Mr. Rich
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum



Getting the most from this booklet ...

This booklet is designed to help you make the best decisions for your examination courses as you move in to Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4).

As students in Year 9, you now need to start thinking about what you hope to achieve in the future. This booklet will help you to understand the pathways process, explain what decisions you have to make and inform you about the different courses on offer to you.

Read the booklet carefully then use this information, in consideration with your current levels, to decide which courses will be best for you to continue with (or even begin) into Years 10 and 11.



Who can help me?

- Your parents, who know you best as a person
- Your Form Tutor, who knows you and your strengths in school
- Subject teachers, who can tell you about the individual courses
- Your Leader of Year and the Senior Leadership Team, who can also give you information about jobs and future courses
- Colleges and Universities can also help inform your choices
- You - don't forget to trust yourself to make the right decisions



Email; post@wexham.slough.sch.uk if you have any questions or enquiries

What are GCSEs?



GCSEs stand for General Certificate of Secondary Education and represent the culmination of formal education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Children begin GCSE preparation in Year 10 and complete examinations at the end of Year 11. On average, students take eight or nine GCSEs.

In 2017, the GCSE grading system changed to Grade 9 - 1 to allow Sixth Forms, Universities and employers to better understand what level young people are working at.

Students should aim to achieve either GCSE Grade 5 (a strong pass) in order to move on after Year 11 to Wexham Sixth Form or local colleges, which in turn could lead to higher education at university. There is a very strong focus by the government on the core subjects of Maths, English and Science which is why these are compulsory for all students.



- Focus on your passions and aspirations
- Review your skillset and strengths
- Don't be influenced by others
- Consider how GCSEs will help you get to the next stage in your educational journey



Key Stage Four Pathways

Your KS4 Pathway is the collection of subjects that you will study in Year 10 and 11.

There are some subjects that everybody will study, and these are compulsory, and set by the Department for Education (DfE).

Then there are a range of different choices for students and their parents/carers to make about the rest of the subjects studied. Looking at your school assessment data the school will make recommendations suited to your strengths in certain subjects.

Wexham School will guide and support you and your parents/carers through this process, and recommend the most suitable pathway for you to follow based on your current attainment and target grades.



How do GCSEs influence the future?

It is worth noting to students that the GCSEs that will offer the best results will offer them the most choice in the future.

At each stage, students need to aim to have the best qualifications possible.



Email; post@wexham.slough.sch.uk if you have any questions or enquiries



The Curriculum

The Core Curriculum

- English
- Maths
- Science
- PSHE and Religious Studies
- Core Physical Education

There is no choice here as every student has to study these courses, they are: English (most will study Literature and Language), Maths, Science (most will study Double Science and achieve two Science GCSEs). At Wexham all of our students will study for a GCSE in Religious Studies.

There are also some compulsory courses where students do not take a GCSE but we still have to provide them, these are: Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Physical Education.

The English Baccalaureate Pathway

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a group of 'traditional' academic subjects. The subjects that make up the EBacc are English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish), Computer Science and either History or Geography.

If we believe this is the right pathway for you we will recommend this before you have to make your final decisions. If you choose to follow this option you will have to study the Core curriculum subjects plus:

- Either History or Geography
- French or Spanish

You will also get to choose one further GCSE subject from the full range of subjects on offer.



What is the EBacc?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

The EBacc is the set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study at the top universities and for future careers in some of the most highly regarded professions,

Further Information

Search EBacc on GOV.UK for more information



The Curriculum

The Open Pathway

This option allows you to choose a number of subjects, however you will still study the Core curriculum (as everybody is required to).

You will then need to decide the following:

- Choose either Geography or History and either French or Spanish
- Choose other GCSE courses from the option choices which include:

Media	Art and Design	Photography
Drama	Music	Business
Creative IMedia	PE	Product Design

- The range of option choices available to you is carefully matched to your ability.

The Alternative Pathway

A select few students might benefit from studying a smaller number of GCSEs or alternative courses. This will be offered in a variety of different subjects. The School will work with the students and parents/carers on an individualised approach.

These each come with a qualification but are designed to allow students to work at their own pace and support their development of wider skills.



Pathway Decisions

Every student will choose either History, Geography or French. You will then have to choose two other options, with two reserves, from the list on your pathways form.

MAKING DECISIONS

WHAT DO WE NEED TO CONSIDER?

Achievement: What are you good at? What have you done well in? Which subjects are you on? What subject do you think you will achieve the best GCSE grades in? or above target in? Are these the right subjects for you to choose?



INTEREST

Which subjects most interest you? What is it about the subject that interests you? Can you see yourself enjoying this subject for a further three years? If we like something we are more likely to work hard to be successful at it.

CAREER AND QUALIFICATIONS

Very few students in Year 9 know exactly what career they want to pursue or whether they want to go to University or not.

Later on, certain subjects may become essential for certain careers but at this stage our curriculum is designed so that you will not have future options restricted. However, if you do already know what career you are interested in, do you know what subject(s) you might need to study further to help with this career?

FLEXIBILITY

Be prepared to have reserve choices as option subjects can only be timetabled if enough students choose the subject to make a big enough class.

ADVICE

Your Leader of Year, form tutor and subject teachers will be able to guide you throughout this period of decision making. Listen to their advice, discuss and consider the advice and ask any questions you may still have.

TEACHER AND FRIENDS

Making decisions based on the teacher you have now is not helpful for you. There is no guarantee you will still have that teacher next year! Similarly, avoid making choices based on what your friends choose, you may not be in the same class and this is about your future not theirs!



IMPORTANT DATES

Year 9 Pathways Information Week: Wednesday 23rd April 2025 onwards

During this week you will receive a range of informative talks from each of the Leaders of Department. They will talk to you about what the GCSEs in their areas look like.

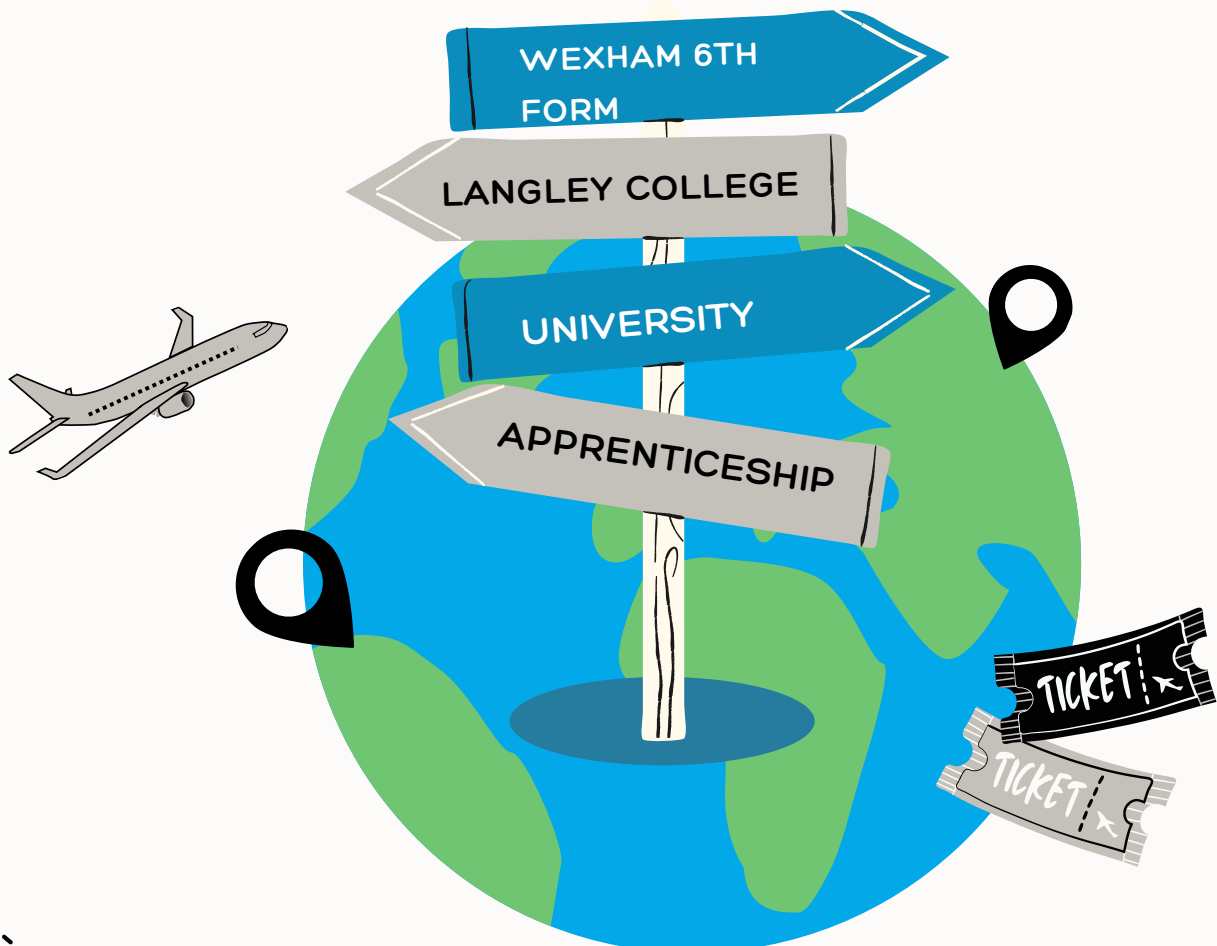
Year 9 Parents Evening: Tuesday 29th April 2025


During this evening you can discuss the options subjects with your child's teacher and get further information from them. Staff will also be available to answer questions you may have about the options process.

Year 9 Pathways Meetings: Thursday 8th May 2025

If you require further support and/or guidance you will be able to contact the school and attend a short, scheduled meeting with a member of staff to finalise and hand in your options form.

Final deadline for Completed Forms: Monday 12th May 2025





WHY STUDY GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

You will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. You will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

This will ensure that you can read fluently and write effectively. By the end of the course, you will have a confident control of Standard English and will be able to communicate and express yourself accurately.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE English Language is designed on the basis that you should read and be assessed on high-quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

Each text studied must represent a substantial piece of writing, making significant demands on you in terms of content, structure and the quality of language.


HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	AQA
Paper 1	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%)
Paper 2	Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)
Non – Examination Assessment	Spoken Language – presenting, responding to questions and feedback, use of Standard English. Teacher set at a certain point during the course. This will be marked by the teacher as a separate endorsement.

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

This course will help you to read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism. It will enable you to read and evaluate texts critically as well as making comparisons between them. The use of knowledge you gain from wider reading will inform and improve your own writing and you will be able to write effectively and coherently using Standard English along with the correct grammar and punctuation. You will develop and apply a wide vocabulary which will allow you to be able to communicate and interact confidently, in a range of contexts, using spoken standard English.





WHY STUDY GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE?

You will study a wide range of literature across the centuries, including a Shakespearean text.

Your study of poetry will consider the modern era as well as more traditional, canonical texts.

English Literature will give you a solid foundation for further study in a wide range of subjects.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course comprises of a modern text, a Shakespearean play, 19th Century prose and a poetry anthology of 15 poems.

Finally, you will be assessed on your response to two unseen poems.


HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	AQA
Paper 1	Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (40%)
Paper 2	Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60%)

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

This course will enable you to continue to A Level study in a range of subjects as you will be able to comprehend a range of texts both literally and through inference. This is an essential life skill and is critical for studying further. GCSE English Literature will allow you to develop your ability to understand a word, phrase or sentence in context; explore aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; distinguish between what is stated explicitly and what is implied. Finally, you will also start to develop a critical and evaluative voice and a wider understanding of a writers' social, historical, and cultural contexts.





WHY STUDY GCSE MATHS?

GCSE Mathematics is essential.

Maths GCSE is one of the core qualifications every student should have.

The study of mathematics can provide access to a wide range of careers and offer further study opportunities.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is split in to two tiers, foundation and higher. On the foundation tier you can achieve a grade 1- 5 and on the higher tier grades 3-9.

On both tiers you will cover a range of topics including; calculations, number work, geometry, accuracy, algebra, ratio, probability and statistics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	Edexcel
Paper 1	Paper 1 Non-Calculator (33%)
Paper 2	Paper 2 Calculator (33%)
Paper 3	Paper 3 Calculator (33%)

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?


From studying GCSE Mathematics, you may go on to study a range of subjects at A Level including Economics, Business, Mathematics, Physics and Psychology. Maths is one of the best subjects to develop your analytical, research and problem-solving skills. Not only will studying maths help give you the knowledge to tackle scientific, mechanical, coding and abstract problems, it will also help you develop logic to tackle everyday issues like planning projects, managing budgets and even debating effectively.

People with Maths degrees go into: accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming and construction.



GCSE Combined Science

www.wexhamschool.co.uk



WHY STUDY GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE?

GCSE Combined Science is a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics which complement each other.

They give a broad and in-depth understanding of life and the environment, chemical processes, and physical concepts.

You also develop your scientific skills through undertaking a series of required practical work.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course will require you to study concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

These will be organised into distinct topics which include reference to developments in Science. There will also be practice of scientific skills and evaluation of data and new theories.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	AQA Trilogy 8464
Paper B1	Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics (16.7%)
Paper B2	Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology (16.7%)
Paper C1	Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes (16.7%)
Paper C2	The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources (16.7%)
Paper P1	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure (16.7%)
Paper P2	Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism (16.7%)
Non-Examination Assessment	Students will carry out practical activities alongside the course. Knowledge of this work will be tested for in the exams.


HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

From studying GCSE Combined Science, you may go onto a career in the sciences. The content of the course equips you to also build the foundations for understanding the natural world and an increasingly technological society.

Typical careers include medicine, dentistry, optometry, and veterinary sciences. It will also equip you for healthcare careers in nursing, physiotherapy, and sports science. The course develops all skills in terms of acquiring knowledge, analysis of data and evaluation of resources and methodology. Therefore, the study of Combined Science will help you in the study of many other subjects.



Email; post@wexham.slough.sch.uk if you have any questions or enquiries



WHY STUDY GCSE FRENCH?

Language skills are in high demand with employers. The job market is extremely competitive, but language skills can set you apart from other applicants. Speaking a language opens up new and exciting career opportunities. Cultural awareness is also highly sought after by top employers as approximately 75% of the world's population does not speak English. Being able to converse with someone in their own language shows an understanding of diversity and cultural awareness and learning a language significantly develops key communications skills.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The qualification consists of three externally-examined papers assessing separately listening, reading and writing and one speaking assessment conducted by your teacher. Each paper is available at foundation or higher tier

The vocabulary studied will enable you to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to your current and future needs:

1. My personal world
2. Lifestyle and wellbeing
3. My neighbourhood
4. Media and technology
5. Studying and my future
6. Travel and tourism


HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam board	Edexcel
Paper 1: Speaking in French	25% of the qualification
Paper 2: Listening and understanding in French	25% of the qualification
Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French	25% of the qualification
Paper 4: Writing in French	25% of the qualification

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSEs?

Language skills can be used in almost any career, and particularly in businesses that trade internationally. This can include careers in translation and communication, tourism, government, politics, media, publishing and journalism. Not forgetting, education, fashion and law. It will provide a strong set of skills that will develop your independent learning skills and confidence in undertaking a range of qualifications at post-16 level.





WHY STUDY GCSE GEOGRAPHY?

GCSE Geography is a fascinating subject. Our world is increasingly becoming focused on climate change, sustainability and the impact we have on the planet.

The curriculum focuses on these topics making it relevant and exciting. It will open up many opportunities for you in the future.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is split into three separate papers. In paper 1 there are three different topics you will learn about. Section A is about natural hazards, climate change, and extreme weather in the UK.

Section B is about ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold desert environments.

Section C is about rivers and coasts.

At the end of Year 10 you will complete two fieldwork investigations. In Year 11 you will learn the content for Paper 2. For Section A and B you will be learning about urban issues and challenges and the changing economic world with a focus on comparing Nigeria and the UK. In Section C you will be learning about how the world manages resources.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?


Exam Board	AQA
Paper 1	Living with the Physical Environment (35%)
Paper 2	Challenges in the Human Environment (35%)
Paper 3	Geographical Applications (30%)

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSEs?

From studying GCSE Geography, you can develop a career as an environmental consultant, conservation officer, landscape architect, GIS officer and more.

Geography is considered a 'facilitating' subject by the Russell Group of Universities. This means it is a subject most preferred by universities for a range of subjects allowing you to keep options open when you are choosing what to study after 6th form. It equips you with a wide range of skills that can be applied to a substantial number of qualifications at post-16.





WHY STUDY GCSE HISTORY?

GCSE History is an exciting and ever relevant subject. It teaches you how to research information, debate and form arguments. You will reach conclusions and write up your findings, which develops your communication skills.

Those who study History investigate politics, societies, cultures, health, conflicts, money and more to understand the world we live in today.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Our GCSE History course investigates four main topics of History: The Cold War (1945-1972) when there was tension between the USSR and USA; The American West (1840-1895), looking at Native Americans and how white people moved into the West; Britain, Health and the People (1000 to the present day) and how medicine developed; Elizabethan England (1568-1603) and what it was like to live in Elizabeth I time.

You will develop important skills such as critical thinking and being able to analyse information.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	AQA
Paper 1	50% is assessed by a 2-hour examination paper which assesses the American West 1840-1895 and the Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945-1972 units.
Paper 2	50% is assessed by a 2-hour examination paper which assess the Britain, Health and the People unit and the Elizabethan unit. The site that is studied for the Elizabethan unit changes each year.

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

The top 20 universities (the Russell Group) recommend that students study History, especially if you want to keep your options open. History is an academic subject that develops the skills that are needed at A Level and University. You will become skilled in reaching conclusions, being creative, solving problems, understanding the world you live in, dealing with information, communicating and working as part of a team.

Even if the course is not taken further, you will greatly benefit from studying a GCSE in History because of the many important skills learned, including literacy and critical analysis. This qualification can lead to careers in law, journalism, business, marketing, research, politics, insurance and more.

Many Law degree courses want students to have studied History at GCSE and A level.



GCSE Art and Design

www.wexhamschool.co.uk



WHY STUDY GCSE ART AND DESIGN?

GCSE Art and Design is a subject where you learn to develop your creativity.

If you enjoy drawing, painting or making things or if you enjoy finding creative ways of solving problems then this is the subject for you.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This GCSE is different from most in that it allows you to express yourself in a creative way – it is both enjoyable and challenging. You will be taught a variety of techniques including printing, photography, ceramics, painting and drawing. You will also be taught how to develop your work to produce exciting and imaginative project work.

The course is split into two parts; coursework (60%) and an Externally Set Assignment (40%). The coursework unit will introduce you to the different specialisms we offer and you will produce a project in response to a given starting point. The Externally Set Assignment is a shorter project in which you will respond to a theme set by the exam board.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	AQA
Coursework	60%
Externally set assignment	40%

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

From studying GCSE Art and Design, you may go on to a variety of different pathways. It can lead to many other A Levels including Fine Art, Photography, Graphic Design, Fashion and 3D Design. Art and Design also leads to an ever-increasing range of Art related careers such as teaching, advertising, film, animation, architecture and games design.


The value of studying a creative subject has been widely promoted in recent years as it develops independent learners who can adapt and develop new understandings with confidence. Our society is becoming more visually literate and it needs people who can understand and develop visual ideas.



Email; post@wexham.slough.sch.uk if you have any questions or enquiries

GCSE Business Studies

www.wexhamschool.co.uk



WHY STUDY GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES?

GCSE Business Studies introduces you to the issues involved with starting a business such as legal, financial and business planning issues.

It will enable you to study businesses as they grow and the issues that expansion raises in the financial, marketing and human resources functions. It will develop your ability to analyse problems and make informed judgments.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is split into two components. You will investigate small businesses and then you will develop your knowledge in building a business.

You will explore case studies and use the content from these to justify your thinking. You will develop your analytical writing and your decision making which will be crucial in a career in the world of business.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	Edexcel Pearson
Theme 1	Investigating Small Businesses (written examinations) 50%
Theme 2	Building a Business (written examinations) 50%

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

This course will enable you to have access to a wide range of career and Sixth Form education opportunities. You can join the Sixth Form to study A Level Business Studies or use your experience gained from this GCSE to confidently study a wide range of other A Level and BTEC subjects.


In the longer term, you will have a head start for degree courses and Level 4 apprenticeships that lead onto careers within the business industry including accountancy, marketing, human resources and business management.



Email; post@wexham.slough.sch.uk if you have any questions or enquiries

GCSE Computer Science

www.wexhamschool.co.uk



WHY STUDY GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE?

GCSE Computer Science qualifications develop your abilities in applying the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science such as abstraction, algorithms and data representation.

You will also develop your skills in thinking creatively, innovation, analysing, logical and critical thinking.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is split into two components. You will explore the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.

You will also apply mathematical and logic skills relevant to computer science. There will also be an element of practical programming.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	OCR
Component 1	Computer Systems (written examinations) 50%
Component 2	Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (written examinations) 50%

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

This course will be the best preparation for learners who want to go on to study Computer Science at AS or A Level, Level 3 Vocational courses and beyond. Careers range from games developer to a manager of IT and communications services and a wide range of professions that require competent computer programming skills.

Computer Science is recognised by the Government as a critical future employability course as it is a rapidly developing industry.



Email; post@wexham.slough.sch.uk if you have any questions or enquiries



WHY STUDY GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.

You will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will focus on creatively solving problems to meet every day needs using a range of materials to produce high quality products. Throughout the course you will combine theory and practice to investigate, design and develop solutions to design problems, which you will then manufacture. In addition to the practical application of learning principles you will also follow a common theory unit that will cover core technical principles.

You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth which can be either paper and boards (Graphics), timber-based materials (RM), textile-based materials (Textiles) or electronic systems.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?


Exam Board	AQA
Paper 1	Written exam: 2 hours - 100 marks (50% of GCSE)
Non-Examination Assessment	30–35 hours approximately - 100 marks (50% of GCSE)

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

Design and Technology feeds into two major sectors of employment. UK engineering (mechanical/electrical/civil/structural) is world renowned for excellence, and one of very few sectors where employment is expanding.

The second is the creative industries and these are one of the largest sectors of employment within the UK, worth around £15.5 billion per year, and one of very few sectors to have continued to grow during the recession. It will also enable you to undertake a wide range of post-16 qualifications, in particular A Levels, BTEC and Apprenticeships that focus on the range of skills explored in design and technology.





WHY STUDY GCSE DRAMA?

GCSE Drama is a mostly practical subject that allows students to develop their performance skills and understanding of Drama and theatre. Creating original pieces of theatre, students will also learn about different practitioners, genres, elements of theatre and study a play text.

You will broaden your understanding of drama and theatre through watching live and pre-recorded theatre experiences. You will also develop an understanding of the technical aspects of theatre production including directing, lighting, sound, set and costume design.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is split into three units:

- Unit 1 requires you to work in a group to create a unique piece of theatre and write about the process you have gone through to make it.
- Unit 2 requires you to perform two extracts from a play.
- Unit 3 is a written exam consisting of questions based on a set text and a live theatre review.

In Units 1 and 2 you can choose either to perform or explore one of the design routes (lighting, sound, set design or costume).

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?


Exam Board	Eduqas
Unit 1 (Internally Assessed)	(40%)
Unit 2 (Externally Assessed)	(20%)
Unit 3 (1 hour and 30 minutes exam)	(40%)

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

After studying GCSE Drama, you may continue to train further in Performing Arts or Drama and Theatre Studies at college or sixth form. The obvious career options for GCSE Drama are within the film/theatre/TV industries however, the skills learnt in GCSE Drama are transferable to any career.

Drama students demonstrate a high level of creativity, communication skills, team work and problem solving which is highly desirable for employers. It also builds self-confidence and resilience which will help set you apart in interviews and in the world of work.





WHY STUDY GCSE MUSIC?

GCSE Music is a mostly practical subject that allows students to develop an appreciation and enjoyment of Music through four musical activities: composing, performing, listening, and appraising. You will develop your individual performing skills and broaden your understanding of music styles and genres, including film music and popular music.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is split into three units:

- Component 1 requires you to create a minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration. The other piece(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble.
- Component 2 requires you to create two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by the exam board. You will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The second composition you will design your own brief for.
- Component 3 is a listening examination. There are eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?


Exam Board	Eduqas
Component 1: Performing	(30%)
Component 2: Composing	(30%)
Component 3: Appraising (listening exam)	(40%)

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

After studying GCSE Music, you may continue to train further in Music at college or sixth form and undertake A-Level music or BTEC level 3. There are many careers which you could go into including Musician, Session Musician, Singer, Songwriter, Musical Director, Conductor, Music Journalism, Marketing, Press and Promotions Officer, Tutor, Teacher, and Events Management to name a few.

However, the skills learnt in GCSE Music are transferable to any career. These include high levels of creativity, communication skills, team work and problem solving which is highly desirable for employers. It also builds self-confidence and resilience which will help set you apart in interviews and in the world of work.





WHY STUDY GCSE MEDIA STUDIES?

GCSE Media Studies is an exciting and ever relevant subject. It teaches you how to question the media landscape around you through the in-depth analysis of both contemporary and historical texts ranging across a wide variety of platforms. With an increasing reliance on the internet as our main source of information, a critical and informed study of the Media Industry will help equip you with the skills to gain a perceptive understanding of the evolving digital world we all live in.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is split into the theoretical analysis of texts (70%) and the completion of a practical brief (30%).

Throughout the course you will study nine distinct areas of media: advertising, radio, newspapers, TV, film, music promotion, video games, magazines and e-media, as well as create your own media products.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	Eduqas
Paper 1	Exploring the Media (40%)
Paper 2	Understanding Media Forms and Products (30%)
Non-Examination Assessment	Creating Media Products (30%)

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

From studying GCSE Media Studies, you may go on to further training in TV and radio production, presenting, print production or even the development of new social media and apps. Media Studies students demonstrate a high level of organisation, problem solving and creative skills as well as skills such as critical thinking, analysis, evaluation and a better understanding of society in general. Media Studies combines well with the study of Psychology, Sociology, Business Studies, Art, Photography, Drama and English Literature. It is also a useful qualification to move on to A Level Media Studies.





WHY STUDY GCSE SPANISH?

Language skills are in high demand with employers. The job market is extremely competitive, but language skills can set you apart from other applicants. Speaking a language opens up new and exciting career opportunities. Cultural awareness is also highly sought after by top employers as approximately 75% of the world's population does not speak English. Being able to converse with someone in their own language shows an understanding of diversity and cultural awareness and learning a language significantly develops key communications skills. There are other benefits too: research shows that there is a decreased risk of dementia among those who speak a second language (so it's good for your health) and that 61% of Britons find linguists more attractive (so it's good for your romantic prospects). What's not to like?!

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The qualification consists of three externally-examined papers assessing separately listening, reading and writing and one speaking assessment conducted by your teacher. Each paper is available at foundation or higher tier. You must sit the same tier across all four papers.

The vocabulary studied will enable you to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to your current and future needs:

1. My personal world
2. Lifestyle and wellbeing
3. My neighbourhood
4. Media and technology
5. Studying and my future
6. Travel and tourism


HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam board	Edexcel
Paper 1: Speaking in Spanish	25% of the qualification
Paper 2: Listening and understanding in Spanish	25% of the qualification
Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Spanish	25% of the qualification
Paper 4: Writing in Spanish	25% of the qualification

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

A GCSE in Spanish offers far reaching benefits beyond simply acquiring language proficiency. While mastering Spanish opens doors to diverse career paths, its significance extends beyond the professional world. Proficiency in Spanish can serve as a gateway to a world of travel and exploration, allowing individuals to immerse themselves in Spanish speaking cultures and societies with greater ease and understanding. Additionally, in an increasingly globalised job market, proficiency in Spanish can provide a competitive edge, as it enables individuals to communicate effectively with Spanish speaking colleagues, clients, and partners. Thus, a GCSE in Spanish not only equips individuals with valuable language skills but also enriches their personal and professional lives, offering opportunities for cultural enrichment, career advancement, and meaningful connections across borders and cultures.





WHY STUDY GCSE FOOD PREP AND NUTRITION?

This is an exciting and creative course which aims to nurture your practical cookery skills to give you a strong understanding of nutrition.

The course focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure you develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course equips you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of healthy eating under the following broad topics:

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	AQA
Paper 1	1 hour 45 minutes; 50% of GCSE
NEA1	A food investigation; 15% of GCSE
NEA2	A food preparation assessment consisting of a portfolio and a 3-hour practical assessment of 3 dishes; 35% of GCSE

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

From studying Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE you will have the opportunity to develop your own practical and design skills which can easily be applied when catering for yourself or friends at home, college or university.

Food preparation and nutrition is a sound basis for further study at higher levels alongside catering and hospitality courses. Studying Food Preparation and Nutrition is beneficial for those wishing to work in the Food Industry, Medicine, Nursing and Health Care. Many food retailers employ food and nutrition specialists to develop new food products.





WHY STUDY CREATIVE I-MEDIA?

The Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia is equivalent in size to a GCSE.

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will equip learners with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia consists of two mandatory units and two optional units.

Pupils will be creating a multipage website and creating digital objects using animated and image editing software. Pupils will be completing tasks internally, which will then be moderated externally by OCR.


HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Units	Method
R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry	Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour 30 mins – 70 marks
R097: Interactive digital media	Centre – assessed tasks OCR – moderated Approx. 15 hours – 70 marks
R094: Visual identity and digital graphics	Centre – assessed tasks OCR – moderated Approx. 12 hours – 50 marks

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

From studying the Creative iMedia, you may progress to A Levels as well as other Level 3 qualifications as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects. You will also develop highly sought after skills in understanding key interactive media products, materials, techniques and processes and how to gain entry into the interactive media industry which includes social media. Universities now also offer a degree in Interactive Media. Students who study Creative iMedia can go onto producing websites, work in TV and radio or behind the scenes.





WHY STUDY GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY?

GCSE Photography is a new and exciting course to be offered at Wexham. This course offers you the opportunity to develop your ideas using a range of traditional and contemporary photographic processes and techniques.

Photography has become part of our everyday lives and this course will help to develop your understanding and appreciation for this as an artistic medium.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This GCSE is different from most in that it allows you to express yourself in a creative way – it is both enjoyable and challenging.

You will explore various approaches, demonstrating skills in composition, viewpoint and depth of field making appropriate use of colour, line, tone, texture, shape and form, in response to an idea, theme or brief.

The course is split into two parts; coursework (60%) and an Externally Set Assignment (40%).

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?


Exam Board	AQA
Coursework	60%
Externally set assignment	40%

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

From studying GCSE Photography, you may go on to a variety of different pathways. It can lead to many other A Levels including Art and Design, Fine Art, Photography, Graphic Design, Fashion, and 3D Design.

Photography can also lead to a range of careers including Fashion photographer, graphic designer, forensic photographer, careers in film and television, teacher and many more.





WHY STUDY GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

This course is intended to be open to students of any religious persuasion or none and provides a broad structure for the study of the beliefs and practices of a living religion or religions, with emphasis on the educational basis of the study. The syllabus provides an opportunity for you to:

- pursue a course which stimulates interest in and enthusiasm for the study of religion;
- develop knowledge and understanding of at least two living religions;
- identify, explore and reflect on questions about meaning and purpose in life;
- consider religious and, where appropriate, other responses to moral issues; e.g. abortion, drugs, poverty, etc.
- develop skills relevant to the study of religion.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course focuses not on specific religions but rather on central philosophical and ethical questions. Religious teaching and beliefs are used as a base from which to explore these big topics. You will focus on developing respect and understanding of other faiths as well as helping others to develop their own perspective on a variety of issues ranging from the illegality of drugs to whether or not people believe they have a soul.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	AQA
Paper 1	50% is assessed by a 1 hour 45 minutes examination paper which assesses the study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices.
Paper 2	50% is assessed by a 1 hour 45 minutes examination paper which assess the thematic studies.

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?


Rightly or wrongly, religion has played a major role in political and international events over the past few years, so understanding why things are said and done in the name of a higher being is more important now than it has ever been.

As a religious study graduate you will have plenty of valuable skills to offer an employer and will be equipped to enter professions such as law, journalism or education, or in more pastoral work, such as counselling, mediation and negotiation or social work.



GCSE Separate Sciences

www.wexhamschool.co.uk



WHY STUDY GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCES?

GCSE Separate Science is a suite of three science subjects which complement each other. They give a broad and in-depth understanding of life and the environment, chemical processes, and physical concepts.

You will also develop your scientific skills through undertaking a series of required practical work.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course will require you to study the GCSE content of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each will give you a separate GCSE (therefore 3 in total).

The additional content of the course in comparison to Combined Science engages students who will already have a keen interest in Science. The course is taught as a series of concepts, practical work which develops scientific skill and evaluation of data and new theories

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	AQA
Biology Paper B1	Biology 8461, Chemistry 8462, Physics 8463
Biology Paper B2	Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics (50%)
Biology Paper B2	Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology (50%)
Chemistry Paper C1	Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes (50%)
Chemistry Paper C2	The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources (50%)
Physics Paper P1	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure (50%)
Physics Paper P2	Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics. (50%)
Non-Examination Assessment	Students will carry out practical activities alongside the course. Knowledge of this work will be tested for in the exams.


HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

From studying GCSE Separate Sciences, you may go onto a career in the sciences. The content of the course equips you to also build the foundations for understanding the natural world and an increasingly technological society.

Typical careers include medicine, dentistry, optometry, and veterinary sciences. Including healthcare careers in nursing, physiotherapy, and sports science. The course develops all skills in terms of acquiring knowledge, analysis of data and evaluation of resources and methodology.



Email; post@wexham.slough.sch.uk if you have any questions or enquiries



WHY STUDY SPORT STUDIES?

Studying GCSE Physical Education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in three different sports through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop wide ranging knowledge of the how and why of physical activity and sport.

Do you want to become a Personal Trainer or Sports Coach? Think that physiotherapy or PE teaching might be a career choice for you? Want the knowledge to keep yourself fit, healthy and active for life? Find the human body fascinating? Or, do you just want to develop the knowledge to get better in the sport or activity you take part in? If so, GCSE Physical Education is for you.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The combination of the physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through the academic study learn how to improve your performance through application of the theory. Physical Education is learned about through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on both ours and other's everyday lives. You will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people out perform others, mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of performance-enhancing drugs and also gain an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

The GCSE PE course is split between exam content and non-exam assessment. The exam content covers the following topics:

Exam Paper 1: Anatomy & physiology – skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems, the effects of exercise, fitness components and fitness training, preventing injuries

Exam Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences, engagement patterns of different social groups in physical activity and sport, commercialisation of physical activity and sport, ethical issues in physical activity and sport, sports psychology, health and wellbeing

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exam Board	OCR
Exam Paper 1 (1 hour)	Physical factors affecting performance (30%)
Exam Paper 2 (1 hour)	Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology (30%)
Non-Exam Assessment	Practical performance in 3 different sports (30%)
Non-Exam Assessment	1 performance analysis task (10%)

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

GCSE Physical Education is not just an excellent base for A-Level Physical Education, it can take you much further. For those of you fascinated by the human mind, why not carry on to Psychology? For people into the why of the human race this carries you through to Sociology. Physical Education can also complement further study in human biology, physics, nutrition, teacher training and many more areas.

Beyond A-Level, the study of Physical Education can lead on to university degrees in sports science, sports management, healthcare, or exercise and health. The transferable skills you learn through your study of Physical Education, such as decision making and independent thinking are also useful in any career path you choose to take.



Alternative Options Pathway

www.wexhamschool.co.uk



WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS PATHWAY?

These are courses to support students who may not be in a position to study a full set of GCSE courses. If you are selected for this programme you will have the opportunity to opt for one or more of the alternative options that are run through the SEND department by attached staff.

These are designed to cover skills needed in the future, both at college and in the workplace.

Class sizes are small and there is an emphasis on meeting individual needs as outlined on EHC Plans.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

There are several options which can be studied including:

- Preparation for Work
- Social and Independent skills.
- Home Cooking skills
- Maths Functional Skills
- English Functional Skills
- Construction

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Preparation for Work, and Social and Independent skills are internally assessed.
- Home Cooking skills in an entry level BTEC.
- The Step up to English course supports the GCSE English and can help you achieve a better GCSE grade.
- Construction is run by an outside agency supported by school-based mentors. Students work towards a level 1 BTEC.

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME AFTER MY GCSES?

These courses will give you the skills needed to access college and help you develop into adulthood and lead an independent and successful life. You will also gain valuable and recognised qualifications that will support your next steps in education.



Email; post@wexham.slough.sch.uk if you have any questions or enquiries

Preparing for GCSEs

The beginning of KS4 can be both a daunting and exciting experience for students. Whether you are nervous about your GCSEs or looking forward to getting started, we have some tips to help bridge the gap between KS3 and KS4.

What is KS4?

KS4 stands for Key Stage 4 and refers to the years when students are studying for their GCSEs. It is a term that helps schools follow the correct national curriculum for a school year or age group. This can vary from school to school however.



Often, a lot of students think that there will be a massive jump in difficulty from KS3 to KS4. This is not the case! It's true that as you progress through your GCSE subjects, the content might be more challenging than what you've come across in KS3 at times.

However, you will not be thrown into the deep end. If you have studied the subject in KS3, all you'll be doing is building upon what you already know!

You might also think you're going to be swamped with homework and revision. Admittedly, you might find that you get more homework, but this is usually a gradual process. Our top tip is to complete your homework on the day you receive it, as this will help you stay on top of it.



You won't start your GCSE years being exam-ready, which is entirely normal. Instead, the main focus for starting KS4 will be digesting all the new topics that you'll be introduced to. This means you should try your best to focus in your lessons and ask questions when you need to.



Some students prefer to have a structured approach to their GCSE revision materials closer to exam time, and that's okay. It is not essential to start making revision materials so early on (although if you're keen to, then that's great!).

However, one thing you can do that will really help you later on is to make useful notes during lessons. Then, when you do start revising and making your revision materials, you'll have everything you need in one place. It's never too early to be organised during KS4!



One way that you will be tested throughout your GCSEs is through classroom assessments. For example, you might have a small assessment after finishing a topic. This is just so you and your teachers know exactly where you're up to.

Our top tip is to always revise for these mini-assessments. Though you might not think they are important, they will help you to identify gaps in your knowledge so you can go over what you don't know. Additionally, it's great to test out different revision methods, so you can learn how you revise best.



An important thing to remember is that you are in your last years of secondary school when you reach KS4. Although you need to put in the work to achieve the grades you want, you should also enjoy your time at school. Keep up with extra-curricular activities, play sports or spend time with friends. Most students say that KS4 flies by, so make sure you have a healthy balance of work and free-time throughout your GCSE years.

How to revise ...

As you begin your journey into KS4 after selecting your GCSE options, it's natural to feel a mix of excitement and apprehension. Transitioning from KS3 to KS4 can be a significant milestone, but fear not – we are here to provide guidance and support to help ease the transition. Whether you're feeling nervous about the challenges of GCSEs or eager to dive into your chosen subjects, we have valuable tips and resources to help you navigate this exciting new chapter with confidence and success.

Why study and revise?

Revising for exams is not an easy process. It's important for you to make the most of your time studying. We can show you how to organise your time, how to make sure you are learning effectively, and teach you skills to revise properly. Ultimately however, it is down to you to use these skills.



1) Revision helps you learn. Revision is an important part of any course. It is the act of reviewing your knowledge and lessons to make sure you understand all of it. So, without revision, you will not complete your learning of any subject.

2) You will have plenty of assessments through the remainder of your time at school, and possibly some exams at the end of the year as well. Revision will help you learn your subjects, which will help you pass exams.

3) Revision is a skill that you will use all through your life, not just for exams. Being able to review your understanding, spot gaps in knowledge, and effectively fill those gaps is something you will always need to be able to do.



Revising throughout your GCSEs is crucial for achieving success and minimising stress. Waiting until the last minute to cram all your studying can lead to feelings of overwhelm and hinder your ability to retain information effectively. By revising consistently and regularly throughout the course, you reinforce your understanding of key concepts, identify areas for improvement, and build confidence in your abilities.



1) **Be organised and deliberate.** Identify times to revise. Make sure this is sensible and manageable. Revise topics in short, focussed slots. Use a timetable, and stick to it.

2) **Be balanced.** Make sure you include plenty of down-time; time for hobbies, sports, or just relaxing. The key is balance.

3) **Be honest.** Know where your weaknesses are and attack them. Use your teachers and results from tests to help you target weak areas. If you miss a revision slot, don't worry, but make sure you carry on.

4) **Be centred.** Have a place in your house where you work – no TV/games/phones, just a place set up to work. If you must have music, choose music without lyrics – they will distract your brain, even if you think they don't. Have everything you need in this place, and NO DISTRACTIONS.

5) **Be a communicator.** Tell people when you are revising – this helps them avoid disturbing you, but also helps them remind you if you go off-task. Keep talking to teachers when you get stuck. If you feel down or frustrated, talk to your tutor, your parents or your friends. Everyone is going through the same thing and they understand.

6) **Be challenged.** If your revision is too easy, it probably isn't doing much – you should find it challenging, but not impossible. The more effort it needs, the more effective it will be.





Our WEXHAM VALUES

G

Goals

Always knowing what you are working to achieve.



R

Responsibility

Taking ownership of your work and having pride in it.



E

Engagement

Participating fully and making a positive contribution.



A

Adaptability

Being open to new ideas to help you progress and achieve



T

Teamwork

Supporting and cooperating with one another to help everyone succeed.





Staff who are here to help you

www.wexhamschool.co.uk

MS. RICH

Deputy Headteacher Curriculum



MS. BAINS

Deputy Headteacher Pastoral



MR. CLARK

Assistant Headteacher



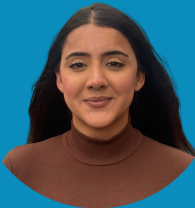
MR. MORGAN

Assistant Headteacher



MS. YOUSAF

Leader of Year 9



MISS. GUMBS

Assistant Leader of Year 9



MR. GEORGE

Leader of KS3



Wexham School is committed to guiding and supporting students in making informed decisions about their GCSE option choices. Recognising the importance of selecting the right subjects for each student's future, we provide advice, resources, and encouragement throughout the process. Whether students need help understanding available courses, guidance on aligning subjects with your strengths and aspirations, or support with any concerns, senior staff members are here to assist. Our goal is to ensure that every student feels confident and well-prepared to make choices that will help you achieve your full potential.



WHY NOT FOLLOW US ON X : @WEXHAM_SCHOOL



GET IN TOUCH



CONTACT US



01753 526797



post@wexham.slough.sch.uk



www.wexhamschool.co.uk

FOLLOW US



@Wexham_School