



CHASE HIGH SCHOOL
AMBITION - RESILIENCE - KINDNESS

**OPTIONS
BOOKLET**

2026



AMBITION - RESILIENCE - KINDNESS

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to present the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Booklet for our current Year 9 pupils as they begin to consider their GCSE pathways.

Our Key Stage 4 offer is rooted in our school vision: to prepare every pupil to lead a highly successful adult life. This is achieved through a clear commitment to **Ambition, Resilience and Kindness**, which underpin both our curriculum design and our wider school culture.

In practice, this means:

- **Promoting ambition**, by providing a strong academic foundation, high expectations and rich learning experiences that inspire pupils to aim high and develop a lifelong love of learning;
- **Delivering an ambitious, challenging and inclusive curriculum**, designed to stretch pupils, encourage perseverance and enable all learners to achieve strong outcomes across a broad range of subjects;
- **Building resilience and kindness**, so that pupils develop confidence, determination and empathy, equipping them to face challenge positively, treat others with respect and act with integrity;
- **Preparing pupils to contribute meaningfully to society**, empowering them to make a positive difference within their local communities and beyond.

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum is both **broad and balanced**, offering a wide range of subjects while remaining aspirational for all pupils.

Senior leaders and Form Tutors will be available throughout the options process to support pupils in making informed and appropriate choices.

The following pages provide an overview of the Key Stage 4 curriculum, outline the content of each course on offer, and give guidance on how to approach the options process. More detailed subject information can also be found in the *Curriculum* section of our website. While every effort will be made to accommodate pupil and parent/carer preferences, it may not always be possible to guarantee first-choice options.

Please keep this booklet in a safe place, as it will be an important reference point for you and your child over the coming months.

Strong partnerships between school and home are central to pupil success, and we encourage parents and carers to discuss option choices carefully with their child.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. M Suttenwood
Headteacher



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An Ambitious Curriculum

At Chase High School, we are committed to delivering an ambitious curriculum that equips every pupil with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex world. We ensure that every pupil studies the subjects that will enable them to have the widest possible life choices by providing a Key Stage 4 curriculum that is both broad and balanced. Our option choices prepare pupils for an ever-changing landscape, assuring their access to future opportunities.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) stands as a cornerstone of our educational offer, representing the “gold standard” for progression into further and higher education. To achieve this pupils must select a Language **and** either Geography or History.

Universities value EBacc subjects because they are academically rigorous, widely recognised, and provide strong preparation for A-levels. Studying the EBacc helps keep future options open, as it supports progression into a wide range of degrees—particularly in the sciences, humanities, languages, and highly competitive courses such as medicine and law.

Please note that pupils are not permitted to choose both Art & Design and Photography, as these subjects are considered variations of the same discipline.

How the Curriculum is Organised in Key Stage 4

All pupils will study 32 hours a fortnight of core subjects:

- Nine hours of English, split between English Language and English Literature GCSE;
- Nine hours of Science;
- Nine hours of Mathematics;
- Two hours of Physical Education (no exam);
- Two hours of Personal Development (no exam);
- One hour of Religious Education (no exam).

In addition, they will choose three subjects to study at GCSE or equivalent, and will have six hours per fortnight of lessons in each. These choices must adhere to the following:

- One GCSE subject **MUST** be either History or Geography or French or German;

(If you want to obtain the Ebacc qualification you must choose History or Geography **AND** French or German)

- The other two GCSE subjects are a free choice.

We will do our best to allocate the pupil choices, but the subjects offered will only run if enough pupils choose them, and there will only be as many classes as there are teachers to teach them.

Instructions for SIMS Options Online

Pupil Registration Process

An email from noreply@sims.co.uk will be sent to your school email address to invite you to register for SIMS Options.

To access your school email; open a web browser and go to this URL: <https://outlook.com>, enter your school email address and password and open the email from noreply@sims.co.uk. The email will look like the below:

Hi Jack

Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.

Accept invitation

If the button above doesn't work, copy and paste the following link into your browser:

<https://registration.sims.co.uk>

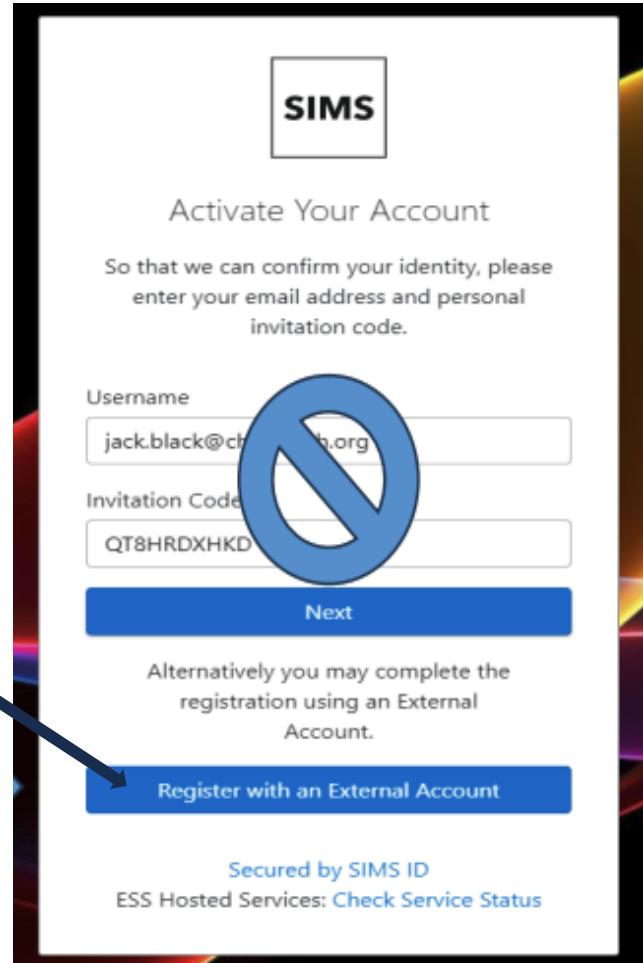
Should you need to enter it, your personal invite code is: **QT8HRDXHKD**

Sent on behalf of:

Chase High School

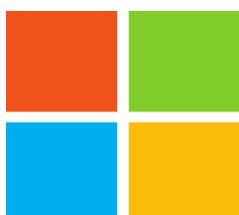
Click on “Accept Invitation”.

You will be directed to the “SIMS Activate Your Account” page. Do not enter a username or invitation code – instead select register with an external account.



The register account screen is displayed. Do not enter a username or password.

Select the icon that shows the Windows Symbol and then sign into your school account like you normally do in school.



Register your account for SIMS products



**Click Yes to confirm the app can access your info
(email address & basic profile).**
**Enter the registration code from the email here
and then REGISTER.**

Registration

You will have received a new service invite code from either SIMS or from your school administrator.

Please enter the code below and tap or click Register.

Name

Neil Metcalfe

(not you?)

Signed in with

Microsoft

Invitation Code

Please enter your invite code

Register

Answer the security question and **Verify**

Registration - Answer Security Questions

You are required to provide a second piece of information to confirm your identity.

What is the date of birth of one of your children at the school? (dd/mm/yyyy)

01/03/2008

Verify

**Your online services account will then be created.
Once the registration is complete users can sign into
Options Online via the following URL**

<https://www.sims-options.co.uk>

Sign in to SIMS Options

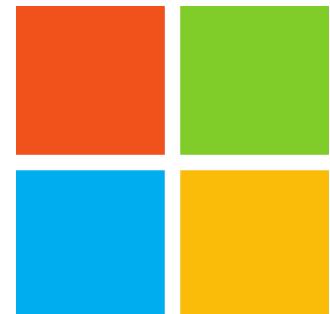


You will be presented with a range of options to use to sign into SIMS. Select the Microsoft icon.

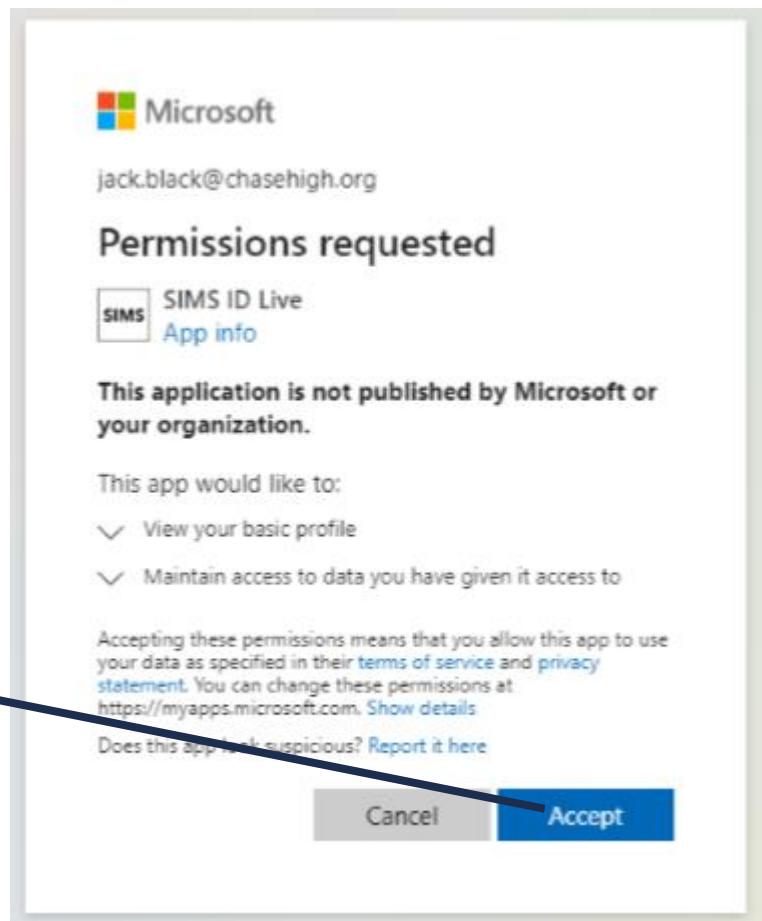


ESS: Check Service Status

Secured by SIMS ID



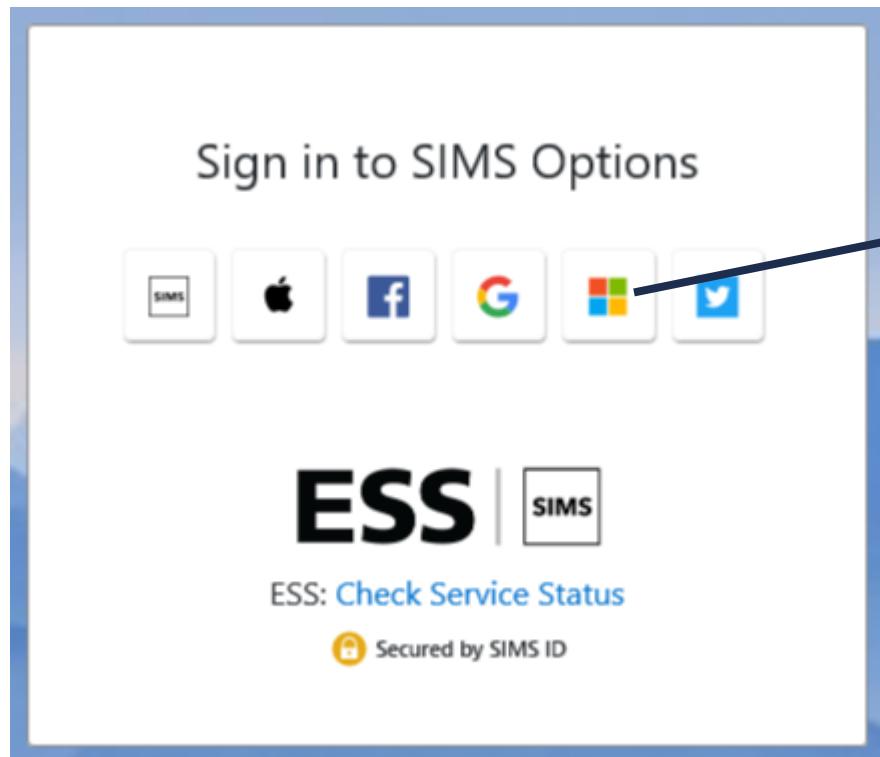
You will be asked to accept permission – simply click on “Accept”.



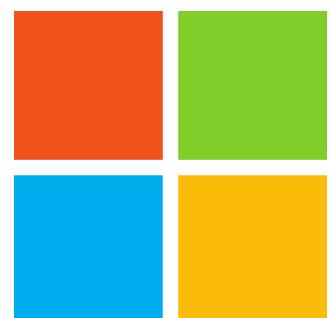
Accessing SIMS Options

Once registered, you will need to go to the SIMS Options website and login to access the Options page.

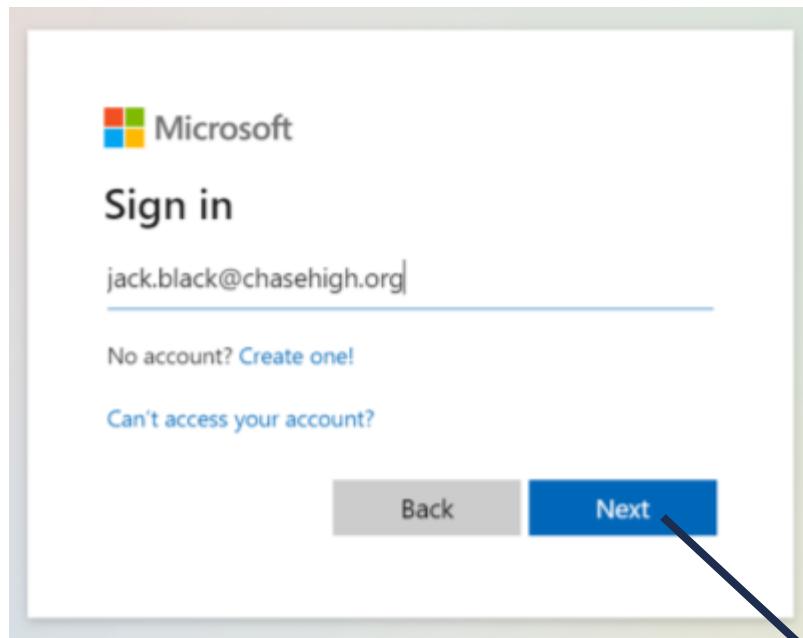
Type <https://www.sims-options.co.uk> in your web browser and the following page will open:



Click on the Microsoft icon.



You will then be asked to sign in.



Enter your school email address and click “Next”, enter the password that you created in the next window.

Once logged in, the Options page will be displayed.

Options

Chase High School is ambitious for its pupils and has structured the curriculum to ensure they study subjects that give them the widest range of opportunities for their future studies.

In the Option, please choose two choices in a order of preference and two reserves. **Remember to SAVE after you have picked your options.**

Art & Design and Photography can not be picked together. You can put the other subject in reserve.

Thank you

You can then make your choices by clicking on the courses from the screen displayed.

You have chosen 0 of 2 courses and 0 of 2 reserves from this list

Art and Design GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Business Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
<small> ⓘ This course is also available in Language or Humanities</small>			
Food GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
<small> ⓘ This course is also available in Language or Humanities</small>			
Health & Social Care BTEC Award Level 2	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
<small> ⓘ This course is also available in Language or Humanities</small>			
Media Studies BTEC Award Level 2	Reserve	Music BTEC Award Level 2	Reserve
Psychology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Sociology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Sport BTEC Award Level 2	Reserve

Selections are displayed to the right of the screen and the order of preference can be changed by selecting the course name and then clicking on which course you wish it to replace.

Options will move the other courses down a level of preference by default.

My Choices in Order of Preference		(Total Choices: 3)
To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.		
1	Geography	GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Language or Humanities
2	Information Technology	BTEC Award Level 2 Options
3	Performing Arts	BTEC Award Level 2 Options

My Reserves in Order of Preference		(Total Reserves: 2)
To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.		
1	Photography	GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Options
2	Religious Studies	GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Options

Remember to pick three choices and two reserves - some will be guided and others will be free choice (reserves will turn orange when selected).

You can add comments in the Pupil Comments field.

▼ Student Comments

Please can I have Food Preparation and Nutrition as I want to be a Chef

When all selections have been made, the choices should be saved by clicking the “Save” icon at the top left of the screen.

You should then sign out of Options Online.



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**CORE
CURRICULUM**



AMBITION - RESILIENCE - KINDNESS

GCSE English Language & Literature

Exam Board: AQA

What will I be studying?

English Language GCSE

- Writing to present a viewpoint across a range of forms.
- Descriptive writing.
- Narrative writing.
- Reading – critical comprehension to include comparison, evaluation, summary and analysis.
- Spoken word.

English Literature GCSE

- Shakespeare play.
- Modern drama.
- Poetry (unseen and anthology).
- 9th Century novel.

Assessment:

English Language GCSE: two written exams, plus English Language spoken word: oral assessment (separate award):

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing	50%
Paper 2 Writer's viewpoints and perspectives	50%

English Literature GCSE: two exams:

Paper 1 Shakespeare and 19th Century novel	50%
Paper 2 Modern drama and Poetry	50%

Progression Opportunities:

- English Language and Literature A-Level at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- English Language A-Level.
- English Literature A-Level.

GCSE Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

What will I be studying?

GCSE is the final stage in the compulsory study of Mathematics at school. All pupils will follow the Edexcel GCSE Mathematics course, which requires pupils to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.

Pupils will be assessed on:

- Number.
- Algebra.
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change.
- Geometry and measure.
- Statistics and probability.

Assessment:

Mathematics GCSE: three exam papers, each with equal weighting:

Paper 1 non-calculator.

Paper 2 calculator is allowed.

Paper 3 calculator is allowed.

Content is assessed across all three papers.

There are two tiers of entry; Higher and Foundation.

Foundation grades are from 1 to 5 and Higher grades are from 4 to 9.

Progression Opportunities:

- A Mathematics GCSE is a vital component of Sixth Form life and is a requirement in almost every career pathway.
- Core Mathematics and A-Level Mathematics at Chase High School Sixth Form.

GCSE Single Sciences

Exam Board: AQA Biology, Chemistry, Physics

What will I be studying?

Single Science consists of three separate GCSEs and each is assessed individually. The content will include everything covered in the Combined Science course, plus these additional topics:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Monoclonal Antibodies	Polymers	Astrophysics
The Brain	Chemical Cells	Electrical Fields
The Eye	Nanoparticles	Pressure
The Kidney	Chemical Analysis	Light
Cloning	Ceramics	Momentum
Bacterial Growth	Transition Elements	Nuclear Fission/Fusion

Assessment:

There are six exam papers, each with equal weighting:

- Two exams each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, worth 100 marks each.
- Practical work is part of the course, and knowledge of this is assessed in the exams.

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- BTEC Sport and City & Guilds Beauty at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- A-Level or BTEC Science at other schools' Sixth Forms.
- A wide range of science-based courses at Further Education College.

GCSE Combined Science Double Award

Exam Board: AQA (Combined Science Trilogy)

What will I be studying?

GCSE Combined Science is one award, worth two GCSEs. There are two grades awarded on average performance across all three Sciences.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Cells	The Periodic Table	Energy
Animal Coordination and Control	Rates of Reaction	Waves
Plant Structure and Function	Chemical Analysis	Electricity in the Home
Genetics	Atmospheric Chemistry	Radioactivity
Health and Disease	Chemical Changes	Vectors and Scalars
Ecology	Organic Chemistry	Electromagnetism

Assessment:

There are six exam papers , each with equal weighting:

- Two exams in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, worth 70 marks each.
- Practical work is part of the course and knowledge of this is assessed in the exams.

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- BTEC Sport and City & Guilds Beauty at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- A-Level or BTEC Science at other schools' Sixth Forms.
- A wide range of science-based courses at Further Education College.



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EBACC
CURRICULUM



AMBITION - RESILIENCE - KINDNESS

GCSE French

Exam Board: Edexcel

What will I be studying?

Pupils will learn about the French language and the culture of French-speaking countries.

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

Assessment:

The GCSE comprises of four exams, testing the four skill areas. Each paper has an equal weighting of 25%:

- **Paper 1:** Listening and understanding — pupils listen to audio and answer exam questions.
- **Paper 2:** Speaking — pupils are assessed on their ability to speak in French.
- **Paper 3:** Reading and understanding — pupils answer comprehension and a translation from French into English.
- **Paper 4:** Writing — pupils are assessed on their ability to write in French and a translation from English into French.

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Level French.
- Studying a language supports pupils to work in all areas and increases their value to employers. It enables them to have more choice in where they work and opens up opportunities abroad.
- Studying one language makes it easier to learn others later in life.

GCSE German

Exam Board: AQA

What will I be studying?

Pupils will learn about the German language and the culture of German-speaking countries.

- **Theme 1:** People and lifestyle (identity and relationship with others, healthy living and lifestyle, education and work).
- **Theme 2:** Popular culture (free-time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations, celebrity culture).
- **Theme 3:** Communication and the world around us (travel and tourism, including places of interest, media and technology, the environment and where people live).

Assessment:

The GCSE comprises of four exams, testing the four skill areas. Each paper has equal weighting of 25%:

- **Paper 1:** Listening and understanding — pupils listen to audio and answer exam questions.
- **Paper 2:** Speaking — pupils are assessed on their ability to speak in German.
- **Paper 3:** Reading and understanding — pupils answer comprehension and a translation from German into English.
- **Paper 4:** Writing — pupils are assessed on their ability to write in German and a translation from English into German.

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Level German.
- Studying a language supports pupils to work in all areas and increases their value to employers. It enables them to have more choice in where they work and opens up opportunities abroad.
- Studying one language makes it easier to learn others later in life.

GCSE Geography

Exam Board: AQA

What will I be studying?

Pupils will learn about physical and human geography, whilst building geographical skills.

- Living with the physical environment: natural hazards, the living world, physical landscapes in the UK.
- Challenges in the human environment; urban issues, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management.
- Geographical applications and skills, including fieldwork. This paper includes pre-release material related to fieldwork.

Assessment:

The GCSE comprises of three exams:

• Paper 1: Living with the physical environment	35%
• Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment	35%
• Paper 3: Geographical applications	30%

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Level Geography.
- A GCSE in Geography is an excellent preparation for a career in planning, resources and countryside management, tourism and recreation and environmental management and development. Many geographers also move into general management careers or branch out into journalism, banking or publishing.

GCSE History

Exam Board: Edexcel

What will I be studying?

- Thematic Study and Historical Environment: Warfare Through Time – history of warfare from 1250 until present.
- Modern Depth Study: Germany 1918 to 1939 — the rise of Hitler and the fall of the Weimar Republic.
- Period Study: Elizabethan England — how Elizabeth dealt with religious, political and social challenges.
- British Depth Study: Superpower Relations — the Cold War between the USA and the USSR after WW2.

Assessment:

The GCSE comprises of three exams:

• Paper 1: Warfare Through Time	30%
• Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England and Superpower Relations	40%
• Paper 3: Germany	30%

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Level History at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- Other humanities A-Levels at Chase High School Sixth Form, such as Government and Politics, Sociology and Psychology.
- Other humanities A-Levels at other schools/colleges such as Politics and Law.
- Many careers in law, politics, economics, journalism and education.



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OPTIONAL CURRICULUM



This subject is assessed with significant extended writing.



This subject is assessed with significant coursework.



This subject requires you to perform in front of others.



This subject needs you to practice outside of lessons.



This subject involves significant time spent on computers.



This subject requires you to work in groups for assessment.



This subject requires you to use mathematical skills.

GCSE Art & Design

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Exam Board: Edexcel

Introduction:

Pupils should have the ability and an interest in all aspects of Art & Design. During Year 9, their work should demonstrate a good general development of art skills and techniques, as well as an appreciation of a range of artists and designers.

Please note: Pupils will be required to buy a folder and sketch book, together with basic materials at a cost price of approximately £20. Further art materials will be available at discounted rates.

What will I be studying?

The Art & Design qualification covers four criteria:

- Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Assessment:

Portfolio: Coursework delivered through project themes.

60%

Exam: Ten hours of practical to produce a final piece.

40%

Progression Opportunities:

- BTEC Level 3 Art & Design Course at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- Further education at Level 4 Foundation and Degree.
- A range of careers in the creative industries.

GCSE Business



Exam Board: Edexcel

Introduction:

Pupils will start by exploring the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? Pupils will learn how to develop an idea, identify an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. Pupils will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

What will I be studying?

Year 10 - Investigating a Small Business

- Entrepreneurship.
- Identifying a business opportunity.
- Making the business effective.

Year 11- Building a Small Business

- Growing the business.
- Making financial decisions.
- Marketing.
- Human Resources.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Investigating a Small Business **50%**

Paper 2: Building a Small Business **50%**

Progression Opportunities:

- BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- Progression routes to university or a higher apprenticeship.
- Careers in banking, finance and business.

BTEC Tech Award Level 2 in Creative Media

IT

C

Exam Board: BTEC Pearsons

Introduction:

If pupils are interested in media products such as magazines, advertisements, films, and television programmes, then Media Studies is the subject to choose! Pupils will create their own media products, learn about pre-production skills and develop an awareness of the industry. This subject enables them to explore their creative and analytical skills. They learn how to manipulate digital images and develop an understanding of how media products are created.

What will I be studying?

- How to work to a professional media brief.
- How to use Photoshop.
- Analyse and research media products. Create their own media products.
- Develop skills in pre-production, drawing visualisation diagrams, storyboarding, digital mock-ups, typography layout and design.
- Target audiences and the purpose of media products.
- Production techniques of media products.

Assessment:

Component 1 : Exploring Media Products.

Component 2: Developing Digital Media Production Skills.

Component 3: Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief.

Progression Opportunities:

- BTEC Media Studies Level 3 at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- This qualification can help pupils to progress into different media sectors in the future, such as film, print, advertising, journalism, marketing, TV, social media and graphic design.

Design & Technology

C

Introduction:

The aim of this qualification is to prepare pupils to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Pupils will study wider influences on Design & Technology such as various designers and companies to understand how product design is used in the real world. They will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making, applying technical and practical expertise.

What will I be studying?

Core technical principles:

- New and emerging technologies.
- Energy generation and storage.
- Developments in new materials.
- Systems approach to designing.
- Mechanical devices.
- Materials and their working properties.

Specialist technical principles:

- Timber-based materials.
- Designing and making principles.

Assessment:

Written exam	50%
Practical assessment of skills - NEA (coursework)	50%

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Level Design & Technology.
- Apprenticeships.
- Level 2/3 courses in the following: Carpentry, architecture, the building trade, the jewellery trade, engineering, graphic design, product design and plumbing.

Food Preparation & Nutrition



Introduction:

Food Preparation & Nutrition provides pupils with the opportunity to creatively develop their prior knowledge and understanding by thinking imaginatively with food. It develops a pupil's understanding of food, its origins, diversity and, more so, its nutritional content. Whether a pupil is taking the subject to become a chef, dietician, personal trainer or work in the food/hospitality industry, it will develop their skills to improve their food experience. The course will develop all aspects of knowledge, understanding and application from source to presentation.

What will I be studying?

- Nutritional needs and health.
- Food science.
- Food safety.
- Food choices.
- Food provenance.
- Complex cooking skills.
- Healthy lifestyle.

Assessment:

Written exam	50%
Practical assessment of skills - NEA (coursework)	50%

Progression Opportunities:

- Food Science & Nutrition at Level 3.
- Apprenticeships in catering.
- Careers in hospitality, nutrition and food sciences.

BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health & Social Care

IT

C

Exam Board: Pearson

Introduction:

This qualification introduces pupils to Health & Social Care through practical, vocational contexts, building skills and knowledge to complement GCSEs. Pupils will explore the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social (PIES) stages of development and factors influencing growth. They will learn how life events affect individuals, and how people adapt or are supported through changes. The course also covers Health & Social Care conditions, how they are managed, and the services available. The course is an excellent foundation for understanding progression opportunities in this rewarding field.

What will I be studying?

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development (Coursework).

Focuses on human growth, development across life stages, factors affecting these, and coping with life events.

Component 2: Health & Social Care Services and Values (Coursework).

Covers Health & Social Care services, barriers to access, and the skills and values needed for effective care.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing (Exam).

Explores factors affecting health, physiological and lifestyle indicators, and creating person-centered plans to improve wellbeing.

Assessment:

Coursework

Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by Chase High School, and moderated by Pearson. Completed in ~six hours of supervised assessment - 60 marks.

Written Exam

External assessment set and marked by Pearson, completed in two hours under supervised conditions during the timetabled period - 60 marks.

Progression Opportunities:

- BTEC Level 3 Diploma at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- Progression routes to University or Higher Apprenticeship.
- Careers in Health & Social Care such as: Health care assistant, social worker, nurse, paramedic and youth worker.

GCSE Information Technology



Exam Board: OCR

Introduction:

Cambridge National in IT will inspire and equip pupils with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the IT sector. It is a vocational qualification, equivalent in value to a GCSE and contains both practical and theoretical elements. The Cambridge National in IT will encourage pupils to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of IT, including the use of IT in the digital world, internet of everything, data manipulation and augmented reality. They will develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the IT sector and more widely.

What will I be studying?

- The key principles and concepts when creating IT products.
- Creating complex spreadsheet solutions to meet requirements.
- How augmented reality can be used to present information.
- Creating an augmented reality model prototype to be tested and reviewed.

Assessment:

Unit R050: IT in the digital world	Final exam	40%
Unit R060: Data manipulation using spreadsheets	NEA (coursework)	30%
Unit R070: Using augmented reality to present information	NEA (coursework)	30%

Progression Opportunities:

- Cambridge Technical Award — IT Level 3 at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- BTEC Creative Digital Media — Games Development at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- Information Technology is constantly evolving, and new jobs are developing all the time – possible opportunities are to work for tech giants or to create a product. So much is possible.

BTEC Tech Award Level 2

P

C

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Music in Practice

Introduction:

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.” – Plato.

The study of music develops expression, creativity, communication, team-building, self-confidence, self control and responsibility. It enhances creativity and artistic abilities in a skills-based qualification, which draws on greater independence and self reliance. Music looks at practical music-making skills as well as music production skills and industry based regulations.

What will I be studying?

There are three components:

1. **Exploring:** Core knowledge and understanding of musical techniques used in a range of music styles
1. **Application:** Skills & musical rehearsal and performance through workshops and classes and reflective practice through the development of skills and techniques that allow learners to think about the development of their idea from the initial plan to the final musical product.
3. **Responding:** (External) The external assessment is based on a key task that requires learners to demonstrate that they can identify and use effectively an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories and knowledge from across the whole qualification in an integrated way.

Assessment:

- 1) Exploring Music Products and Styles (60 marks) Internal Coursework
- 2) Music Skills Development (60 marks) Internal Coursework
- 3) Responding to a Music Brief (60 marks) External Set task
(There is no written exam)

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Level Music or Music Technology
- BTEC Level 3 courses in Performing Arts; Music Composition; Music Technology; Performing Music; Music Industry; Sound Engineering; Game Design (sound); Musical Theatre.

BTEC Tech Award Level 2 in Performing Arts



Exam Board: Pearson

Introduction:

Pupils will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in the following areas:

- Development of key skills that prove their aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire and responding to stimuli .
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the performing arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance.
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the performing arts, including personal management and communication.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.

What will I be studying?

There are three components:

- Devising.
- Performing a text.
- Exploration of a text as a director, performer and designer, and live theatre evaluation.

Assessment:

Exploring the Performing Arts	Internal 30%
Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts	Internal 30%
Responding to a Brief	External 40%

Progression Opportunities:

- BTEC Level 3 courses in Performing Arts at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- Courses in technical theatre, musical theatre, acting, stage craft and design, costume, make-up and script writing.
- A-Level Drama.
- Theatre apprenticeships.

GCSE Photography

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Exam Board: AQA

Introduction:

Photography is well suited to creative pupils with an interest in digital art, design and media. Pupils will learn practical photography skills, regularly planning and completing different photo shoots relating to their project themes, using DSLR cameras. They will use these photographs in their sketchbooks and edit them using a variety of different manual and digital processes to show creative development. Photography work is printed, presented, and annotated in detail with written analysis and personal commentary using relevant key words.

What will I be studying?

Over the two-year course, pupils will complete a variety of different photographic projects to fill their sketchbooks. They will cover a variety of different themes, whilst exploring three key areas of photography: still life, portraiture and digital manipulation.

Specific photography briefs studied can vary depending on cohort size, but previous topics have included 'Altered Nature', 'Distortion', 'Music', 'Glitch in the System' and 'Pop Art'. Pupils also complete a mock exam-style project to prepare them for Component 2.

Assessment:

Coursework: 60% Pupils will complete a portfolio of work over the two years, consisting of a variety of photographic themes and concepts, recording their work in a sketchbook format.

Practical Exam: 40% In the spring term of Year 11, pupils receive an externally-set assignment from AQA. The pupils will then spend two months researching and experimenting with artistic ideas, which will lead to the creation of a final piece in a ten-hour exam that takes place across two school days.

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Level Photography can be studied at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- Employment in creative fields such as photo-journalism, fashion photography, graphic design, advertising, illustration, print media, film and television, publishing and interior design.
- Freelance photography opportunities.

GCSE Psychology



Exam Board: AQA

Introduction:

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour; looking at how our biology and environment influence what we do and why we do it.

The GCSE course covers a wide range of human experience, from the role of researching scientists and intellectual development in babies, to the effects of hormones on behaviour and what we can learn from the communication of bees.

What will I be studying?

Paper 1:

- Memory.
- Perception.
- Development.
- Research Methods.

Paper 2:

- Social Influence.
- Language, thought and communication.
- Brain and neuropsychology.
- Psychological problems.

Assessment:

The course is assessed through two papers to be sat at the end of Year 11

- Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes - 50%
- Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes - 50%

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Level Psychology at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- A range of career opportunities in further study of Psychology, HR, Journalism, Health & Social Care and Education.

GCSE Religious Studies



Exam Board: AQA

Introduction:

Why are we here? Who is responsible for the creation of the universe? What happens when we die? If pupils are interested in expanding their knowledge and understanding of philosophy and ethics, as well as studying beliefs, teachings and practices from two different world religions, this course is perfect.

Pupils do not have to be religious to take Religious Studies, but they do have to be inquisitive and keen to find out more about the world around them and how it all began!

What will I be studying?

Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Education)

Religious and non-religious views on:

- Religion and life, peace and conflict, crime and punishment, human rights and social justice.
- Beliefs, teachings and practices from Christianity and one other world religion.

Assessment:

Paper 1 - Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world 50%

Paper 2 - Study of beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and one other world religion

Progression Opportunities:

- Philosophy and Ethics is a good stepping stone to any Humanities A-Level as well as being a useful qualification to have for careers in the following: law, travel, teaching, police, NHS, armed services and journalism.

GCSE Sociology



Exam Board: AQA

Introduction:

Sociology is all about studying the society in which we live, comparing it, contrasting it with other societies in the past and in different parts of the world. It will help pupils to reflect upon their own experience of the social world and understand how society is made up, exploring the relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions. Sociology is empowering and a great subject for helping to improve an individual's life chances.

What will I be studying?

- The sociological explanations of socialisation, culture and individual identity.
- How social institutions, family, education, peer groups, work, media and religion influence us and equip us with skills for life.
- How social characteristics such as age, ethnicity, gender and social class affect the formation of identities, and an individual's life chances.
- We look at how topics such as crime and deviance and social differentiation and stratification affect the individual, and how individuals affect them.
- Applying research methods and techniques.

Assessment:

The GCSE comprises of two exam papers:

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education 50%

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification 50%

Progression Opportunities:

- A-Level Sociology at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- Level 3 Health & Social Care, Media Studies and A-Level Psychology at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- Careers in Law and Justice, Media and Politics, Education and training, Psychology and Health.

BTEC Tech Award Level 2 in Sport

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Exam Board: Pearson

Introduction:

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award explores the provisions for sport and equipment and facilities to enhance sport, the planning and delivery of sport sessions and the fitness for sport including testing and methodology. The syllabus provides candidates with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education.

What will I be studying?

Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in Sport and Physical Activity (coursework)

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to suggest appropriate physical activities for an individual, justifying the benefits of doing so. Pupils will also look at ways to overcome barriers to participation and explore the different technology in sport and how this impacts performance. Finally, they will plan and lead a warm-up.

Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance (coursework)

Pupils will learn about the different components of fitness required for a variety of sports and justify the impact that this has on performance. Pupils will then demonstrate their practical skills in a sport of their choice, both in isolation and in a competitive situation. Pupils will also explore the rules and regulations of a chosen sport and explain their knowledge and understanding of this.

Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport (exam)

Pupils will develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and different types for performance as well as develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing.

Assessment:

- **Coursework:** Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity 30%
- **Coursework:** Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance 30%
- **Written Exam:** Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport 40%

Progression Opportunities:

- BTEC Sport Level 3 Certificate, Diploma and Extended Diploma at Chase High School Sixth Form.
- This course provides the basis for progression onto appropriate A-Level courses or vocational programmes in sport.
- Careers in Sport and Fitness, Education and Health, Leisure industries,

Where can pupils go for help?

There are many people in the school, who would be happy to provide pupils with any extra support and guidance needed. These include:

Form Tutors;

Subject Teachers;

Miss Thompson, Head of Year 9:

sarah.thompson@chasehigh.org

Miss Walker, Deputy Head of Year 9:

stephanie.walker@chasehigh.org

Mr. Brodigan, Assistant Headteacher – Exams and Timetable

colin.brodigan@chasehigh.org

Mrs. Ringrose – SENCO - SEND and Access Arrangements for exams

daisy.ringrose@chasehigh.org

More detailed information about the content of the exam courses taught can be found on the “Subjects” page of the Chase High School website:

<https://www.chasehigh.org/curriculum/subjects>

Notes Page

Pupils should use this page to make notes on the subjects that they would like to choose, before logging into SIMS Options Online.

My Option Choice

First Option Choice	Geography OR History OR French or Geography
Second Option Choice	
Third Option Choice	
First Reserve	
Second Reserve	



CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

AMBITION - RESILIENCE - KINDNESS



AMBITION - RESILIENCE - KINDNESS

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