
YOUR OPTIONS YOUR CHOICE



The Curriculum for Students and Parents



Choosing your options is the first step to your future and as such is a very exciting time. You get to shape your learning for the next three years, but also start to shape your career – these subjects will determine what you do in Post 16, maybe what you do at university, and what job you will go into. That makes this very exciting but also very important.

You will be asked to think very carefully about the choices that you make and this booklet and the information from your teachers and other students will also help. You can also ask teachers any questions that you think you need to make the right choices.

We will support you every step of the way to make the best choices for you, and help you as your school career develops to get you to where you want to be.

CONTENTS

Making the Right Choice

The Core Curriculum

Optional Subjects

Subject Descriptions

Useful Information

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

Dear Parents / Carers

As your child comes to the end of their two year Key Stage 3 programme they move onto the curriculum, which will see them through to the end of their school career and into the next stage of education and life. During these years, learners will access courses at a variety of levels that maximise and often exceed individual potential.

At Coppice all learners follow a core curriculum of English, Maths and Science. This gives all learners a broad base of studies on which to build their personal curriculum. In addition to the core curriculum, learners will be guided through a wide range of qualifications in a wealth of subjects. Students are entered for examinations, and progress to the next level, at the point that is right for them.

We are committed to providing appropriate and relevant courses for all learners which build on individual interests, abilities and aptitudes.

To these ends, learners will be counselled on the choices they wish to make, with a clear view of where this will take them in the future.

After reviewing the information, please complete the Curriculum Guidance Form and submit it. Following receipt of this form, individual curriculum offers will be created based on preferences and recommendations from subject areas. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Gilbert.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Hollaway, Executive Headteacher



Mrs Gilbert, Headteacher



Students are offered two kinds of qualifications at Level 2, both of which are of the same value as qualifications, and viewed the same by further education and employers:

- **GCSE** - GCSEs are graded 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. They are academic qualifications assessed almost exclusively through examinations at the end of the course. A good pass at GCSE is regarded as a grade from a 9 to a 5.
- **Vocational** - These are grades from a Distinction* to a Pass. They are vocational qualifications which focus on the skills, in particular employment areas such as the food industry or in business. They are assessed through a mix of examinations at set points in the course and units completed in school.

Advice to help you with your decision



Before you even start thinking about filling in the form, you should have done a number of things:

- Talked to older learners who have studied the courses
- Talked to subject teachers
- Talked to your form tutors
- Discussed everything with your parents or carers.

There are also a number of questions you should ask yourself:

- **Why am I choosing the subject?**
If it's to be with friends or because you might get a certain teacher then that's the wrong reason - you may be split from friends and teachers might change
- **What are my strongest subjects?**
These might give you an idea of the career that you might be heading for
- **What will I enjoy studying?**
Three years is a long time and you need to stay committed and motivated
- **What do I want to do after I finish school?**
This may determine the subjects you need to take.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

All learners follow a core curriculum of:

English

All students will study GCSE English Language and English Literature across Key Stage 4.

English Language

The aim of the Language qualification is to allow students to:

- Read fluently from a range of texts and summarise, evaluate and compare these texts
- Write effectively using Standard English, use spelling, punctuation and grammar correctly and accurately, and develop and apply a wide vocabulary.

Assessment is through two examinations which include both reading and writing tasks. One is looking at creativity and the other at viewpoints and perspectives. There is also a separate Spoken Language mark awarded which is given from work across the course, but this does not contribute to the GCSE English Language overall grade.

English Literature

The English Literature qualification complements the Language qualification and builds on both the reading and writing skills. Students will study:

- A Shakespeare play such as Macbeth
- A 19th century novel such as a Christmas Carol
- Modern prose such as an Inspector Calls
- A range of poetry dealing with the themes of power and conflict.

Assessment is through two written examinations at the end of the course. The exams will be based on the texts studied in lessons but also contain an unseen element to test the skills developed across the course.



Maths

All students will study GCSE Maths in Key Stage 4, building on their knowledge from Key Stage 3. The GCSE focuses on the development of mathematical knowledge, skills and methods to allow students to:

- Solve problems
- Use reasoning to draw conclusions
- Interpret information in a range of forms.

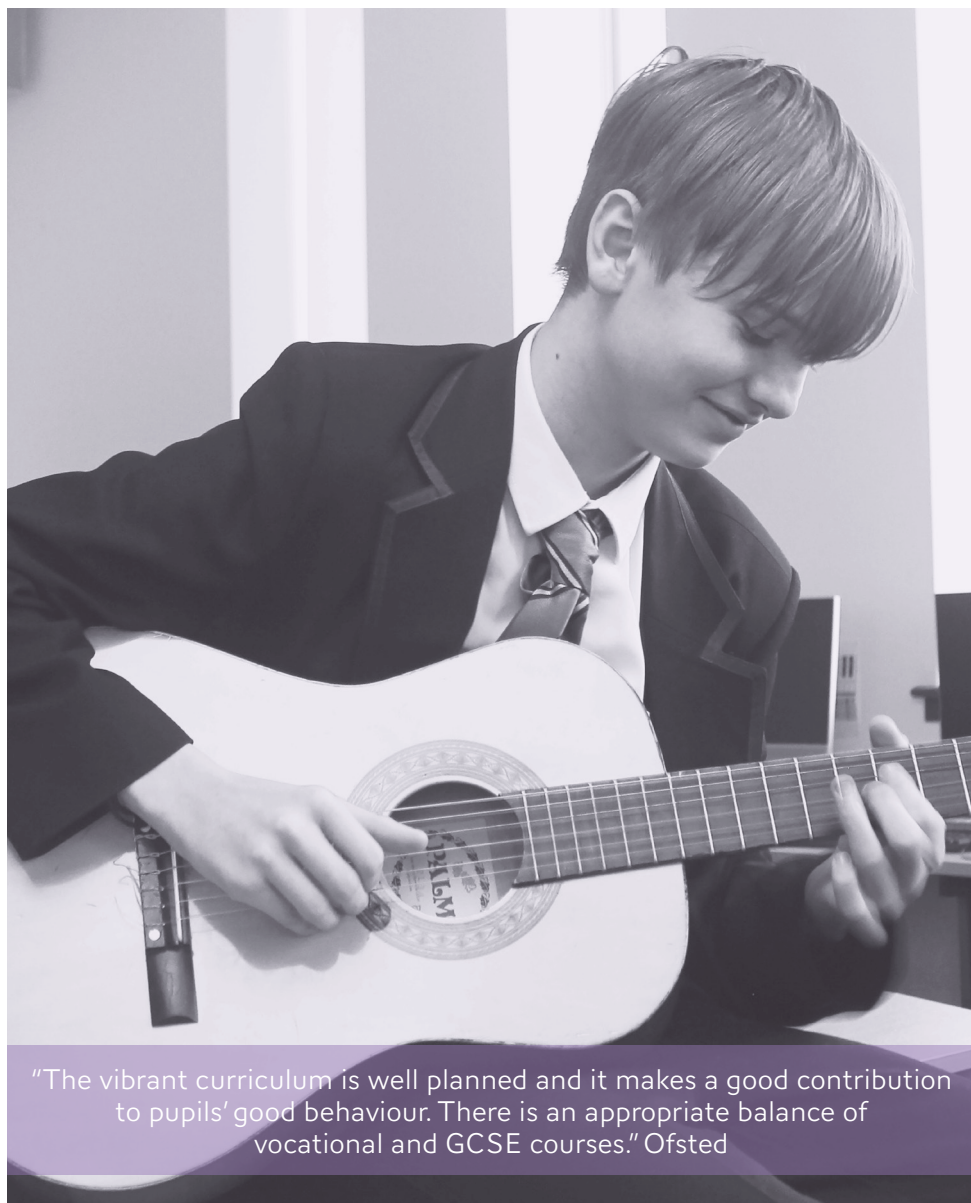
Assessment is through examinations at the end of the course and there are two tiers of entry depending on a student's abilities.

Science

All students will study GCSE Science over the three years of Key Stage 4 as either:

- Combined Science (Trilogy) - the three subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics are combined within the qualifications which lead to two Science GCSEs
- Triple Science - the students study the three separate subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics which result in three single GCSE qualifications. If students choose this route, this will form both their core Science provision and some optional subject time within the curriculum.

Assessment in all Science qualifications is through examinations at the end of the course. Students will complete practical work in Science and their skills at this will be tested in the examinations. If a child wishes to progress to study one of the separate sciences at A Level, it is recommended that they study Triple Science at GCSE. However, this is not a prerequisite of progressing to A Level.



"The vibrant curriculum is well planned and it makes a good contribution to pupils' good behaviour. There is an appropriate balance of vocational and GCSE courses." Ofsted

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

- Art
- Business
- Business - Enterprise and Marketing
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Health and Social Care
- ICT Creative iMedia
- Music
- Sports Studies

SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Carefully read the subject information, it will give you a better understanding of the subject and what career path it could lead to.



Details of the content of the courses can be found on school's website - www.coppiceschool.net



Art

What subjects will we cover? This GCSE enables students to develop and produce personal responses that reflect a broad exploration of art, craft and design.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Students will be asked to engage in the creative process and take risks with their work, learning from mistakes to make improvements. Students should show an understanding of working practices and techniques and develop cultural knowledge and an understanding of the role of Art in society. Students will be expected to learn to draw from direct observation and also research a range of artists/designers techniques, experimenting with a range of materials.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Students who are awarded grades 9 to 5, would be well prepared for study at A Level or BTEC Level 3 qualification.

What careers will this help me with? Advertiser, Animator, Art Critic, Art Director, Art Gallery Curator, Courtroom Artist, Graphic Designer, Architectural Designer, Art Therapist, Artists' Agent, Commercial Artist, Costume Designer, Craftsperson, Interior Designer and Jewellery Designer.



Business

What subjects will we cover? Within the course we cover all aspects of business including finance, self employment, starting a business and people in business.

What skills will I develop in this subject? The course is designed to encourage students to consider the practical application of business concepts. It will help to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Learners will use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish between fact and opinion, build arguments and make informed judgements.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Learners may go onto study A Level Business, BTEC National or a range of NVQs including Business Admin.

What careers will this help me with? Retail Management, Accountancy and Finance, Administration, Sales, Marketing and Banking.



Business - Enterprise and Marketing

What subjects do we cover? Students will learn about the techniques businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and understand how businesses attract and retain customers.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Students will create a researched proposal. Students will undertake activities such as conducting market research, presenting data, using idea generation tools, seeking and acting on feedback. Students will prepare for and pitch their own business proposal. Alongside developing a brand identity, students will investigate how to best promote their product and then plan and prepare their pitch. After delivering their practice and professional pitch, they will review their own performance and business proposal.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Learners may go onto study A Level Business, BTEC National or a range of NVQs including Business Admin.

What careers will this help me with? Retail Management, Accountancy and Finance, Administration, Sales, Marketing and Banking.



Computer Science

What subjects will we cover? The qualification consists of two assessments: Principles of Computer Science which is a paper-based exam, and Application of Computational Thinking where students have to demonstrate their programming skills. Students will learn a wide range of topics. Some of these topics include: computer hardware and software, how the internet works and how computers generate sound and images.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Students will undertake in-depth research and practical work. Students will be learning a programming language called Python. These programming skills will allow students to write code and enable them to write their own programs. This allows learners to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. This is achieved by students developing their mathematical skills and being able to use mathematical logic to solve complex problems.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Learners may go onto study A Levels, BTEC National or a range of NVQs including Computer Science, Engineering, Sciences and Maths.

What careers will this help me with? Computer Programmer, Project Leader, Games Developer, Systems Administrator, Network Engineer, Hardware Architect, Systems Architect.



Dance

What subjects do we cover? The course covers many aspects of dance appreciation, choreography and performance.

What skills will I develop in this subject? The course encourages learners to understand and appreciate the art and purpose of dance and movement, as well as develop kinesthetic skills useful in all sports and practical activities.

What would my next steps be in this subject? After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto an A Level or BTEC National Dance course.

What careers will this help me with? Dance Teacher, Gym Class Instructor, Dancer, Actor and Choreographer.





"All teachers are very helpful and supportive towards my child's specific issues and targets." Year 9 Parent



Design and Technology

What subjects will we cover? Design and Technology enables you to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. This course aims to develop your design capability and making skills. You will apply your knowledge and skills to develop and manufacture high quality products in wood, metal and plastics in response to a design brief.

What skills will I develop in this subject? The course is based around 'design and make' projects that teach students about woodworking, CAD/CAM and engineering. You will learn about how products are made in industry, the properties of materials, the effects on the environment and health and safety.

What would my next steps be in this subject? This course is excellent preparation for students hoping to work in design. The course allows students to progress either directly to an apprenticeship or to study an Advanced Level qualification in Design and Technology.

What careers will this help me with? Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing, Product Design, Industrial Design, Architecture, Construction and Motor Vehicle Industries.



Drama

What subjects will we cover? Through the course, learners explore how a published text is brought to life for an audience. They will explore the key principles and concepts of devising a piece of drama from stimulus material and explore the roles of deviser, designer, director and performer.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Learners work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas. They reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others. They also consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities.

What would my next steps be in this subject? After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto an A Level Drama course or a Level 3 course in Drama/Performing Arts.

What careers will this help me with? Actor, Stage Manager, Arts Administrator, Drama Therapist, Production Assistant and Radio Presenter.



French

What subjects will we cover? We will study a range of topics under the following themes - Identity and Culture, Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest and Current and Future Study or Employment.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Learning a language will help you with your listening, speaking, reading, writing and communication skills, as well as developing an awareness of other cultures. It has also shown to increase memory and brain capacity.

What would my next steps be in this subject? After successfully completing the GCSE, learners can study A Level French, take language units within other vocational courses like Business or take a Business Language course.

What careers will this help me with? Translator, Teacher, work within the Tourism Industry, Journalist, Pilot, Customs and Excise, Diplomatic Service and International Business. As global business grows, languages are becoming more vital.



Geography

What subjects will we cover? The course covers both physical geography, such as ecosystems, river management, coastal processes and landforms, and human geography, such as economic development, migration and population change. Environmental issues and sustainability permeate throughout the course and there are also field visits to develop geographical skills.

What skills will I develop in this subject? The course provides opportunities for students to think geographically and to develop their critical thinking and evaluative skills. Such skills are easily transferable across subjects and careers and support the development of students as they become mature citizens.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Many learners follow their GCSE studies by going onto A Level Geography.

What careers will this help me with? Environmental Manager, Geographical Information Systems Analysis, Journalist, Flood Prevention Officer, Risk Assessor, Regional Developer, Transport Manager, Computer Programmer, Tourism Management, Economic or Environmental Researcher, Town and Countryside planner and Teaching.





History

What subjects will we cover? The course will cover a range of historical periods and topics from: Germany in Transition 1919-1939 focusing on events and life during Weimar and Nazi Germany; Crime and Punishment and how it has evolved from c.500 to the present day in Britain; to the Development of the USA 1929-2000 examining how it developed into the superpower it is today.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Through the study of History you will develop an understanding of the world around you and its rich past. This will allow you to contextualise all the things which take place today and understand why they happen. History is about analysis and interpretation - understanding what something is saying and why it is said like this. It teaches us to be critical in our thinking and make sound judgements based on evidence.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Many learners follow their GCSE studies by undertaking A Level History.

What careers will this help me with? Lawyer, Journalist, Researcher, Archaeologist, Police Officer, Manager, Civil Servant, Diplomat, Writer, Librarian, Social Worker.



Health and Social Care

What subjects will we cover? This course aims to give learners a good understanding of both health and social issues within society and covers a broad range of topics. We will investigate how individuals grow and develop throughout the five life stages and the different factors that could impact this. We will also examine individual needs and the different services and practices that can best support them.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Through the course, learners will develop an analytical approach to the issues and problems they encounter and seek solutions for all involved. They will be challenged to use and enhance all the skills needed in the wider world of work in a real world context.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Learners may choose to study Health and Social Care at Level 3 or move onto courses in Child Care.

What careers will this help me with? Psychology, Counselling, Nursing, Care in the Community, Care in Residential Homes, Hospital Worker, Nursery Nurse, Teaching and any Health and Social Care related jobs for example, Mental Health and Social Services.



ICT Creative iMedia

What subjects will we cover? This course is suitable for pupils who have an interest in the artistic and creative side of ICT. It is a good option for pupils who wish to continue to develop their general ICT skills in Key Stage 4.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Students will gain skills in developing web products and creative media. They will investigate aspects of successful design, look at navigation structures and interactivity across a number of software applications. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about graphics image manipulation.

What would my next steps be in this subject? Students will be well prepared for study at A Level or the Cambridge Technical IT Level 3.

What careers will this help me with? Data Analyst, Graphic Designer, Web Designer, IT Technician.



Music

What subjects will we cover? The course covers a full range of skills including performing and composing.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Throughout the course, learners will develop a range of performance and presentation skills both as a soloist and in ensemble, promoting independence and the ability to work as a group. There is also a strong element of evaluation both of your own and other people's material.

What would my next steps be in this subject? After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto A Level Music and BTEC Level 3 Music.

What careers will this help me with? Instrumental Teaching, Professional Entertainer, Music Therapy and Sound Recording.



Sports Studies

What subjects will we cover? Students will explore the different types and providers of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available for participation. They will explore the different types of participants and their needs in order to gain an understanding of how to increase participation for others in sport and further develop their knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology. Learners will undertake practical sessions to develop skills in planning and delivering sports activity sessions to participants.

What skills will I develop in this subject? Students will develop sector-specific skills such as sport analysis and sports leadership, using realistic vocational contexts, and personal skills, such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

What would my next steps be in this subject? The sport course provides pathways into Level 3 BTEC National in Sport, A Level PE and Apprenticeships in exercise, physical activity and the sports and health sector.

What careers will this help me with? Physiotherapy, Sports Scientist, Sports Psychologist, Sports Coaching, Sports Development Officer, Sports Leader, Personal Trainer, PE Teacher, Sports Therapy, Sports Analyst, Sports Journalism, Officiating, Sports Marketing.



We hope you found this booklet useful, if you need more help or information please speak to one of your subject teachers.

USEFUL INFO



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