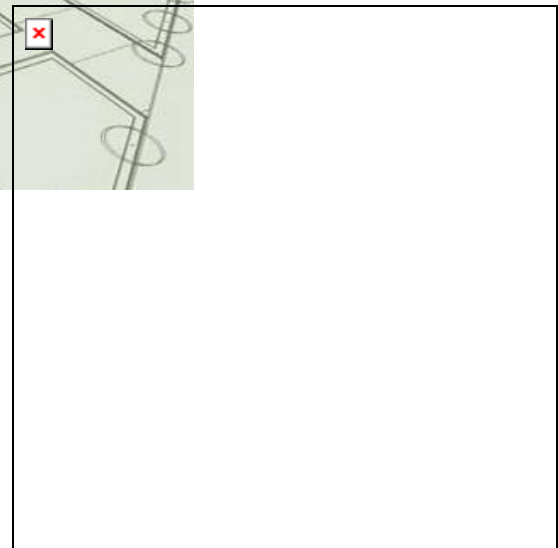


LOXFORD SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



YEAR 10 - 11 COURSE CHOICES 2010/12

Student Name: _____

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Foreword

This Options Booklet is designed to give you information about courses of study in Years 10 and 11.

The GCSE, BTEC and GCSE Double Award examinations are an important milestone in every student's career at Loxford School, as they influence the level of courses that you can study for further and higher education. Good grades are essential and every student should try to do their best.

One of the aims of Loxford School is to ensure that students achieve their best. We are therefore committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum, which will include courses other than GCSE.

In Years 10 and 11 all students study English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, Science, PSHE, RE and PE as core subjects.

Choose your options carefully.

Do so only after you have read the booklet and discussed your preferences with your parents, teachers and tutor. Remember that you will be studying the subjects you have chosen for two years.

I hope all students and parents will use this booklet as a guide for courses in Years 10 and 11, as it provides lots of essential information.

Anita Johnson
Headteacher

Introduction

This booklet for parents and students gives an introduction to GCSE/Vocational courses offered at Loxford. It is important that students follow a curriculum which is both broad and balanced. This ensures the widest possible range of opportunities for subsequent Advanced Level studies and career decisions. Our general advice is for students to select courses for which they show an aptitude and which they enjoy.

The number of GCSE's and type of course can vary slightly according to the talents of the students and the exact choices made. Some subjects require more lessons than others. The selection of a sensible range of course choices is a matter which will take students, parents and teachers some weeks.

We do our very best to satisfy everyone's demands but in the end there may be a few students who are not able to take every single course which they first choose. Furthermore, if there is a very small demand for a particular course it may not be possible to run it.

Good reasons to choose a course	Poor reasons to choose a course
I enjoy that subject/type of work – if you enjoy it, you are more likely to keep up the effort needed for success.	My friend is choosing it – you may not end up in the same group as your friend. You need to think of your future, not your friend's.
I'm good at that subject/type of work – success breeds success.	I like the teacher – you don't know which teacher you will get.
It fits with what I want to do in the future – even if you don't know what to do now, do your choices take you in a direction that you are comfortable with?	It sounds easy – first appearances can be deceptive! All the courses need commitment and hard work for success.

In making the right decisions, students would be wise to consider:

- The subjects they have **achieved** well in;
- The subjects they **like** and feel they will **continue to achieve well** in;
- The subjects they may **need** for the future, and what **levels** they may be required to achieve (e.g., gcse grade c);
- What is involved in the study of each subject, and how the subject is **assessed**;
- The level of **numeracy** and **literacy** a subject demands;
- Subject teachers' advice.
- Form tutor's advice

Coursework is a key element in many courses. These are specific assignments, which students complete during the two years of the course, and the marks for their coursework contribute towards the final results. The importance of the coursework element varies from subject to subject and it will now often be undertaken as 'controlled assessments' in lessons.

'**Tiers of entry**' is a term used later in this guide. Many courses have papers with two tiers of difficulty. We always enter pupils for papers in which the individuals have the best chance of fulfilling their potential. Where there is a Higher Tier, the papers will be quite challenging and the top grade achievable is A*. Foundation Tier had more straightforward questions but allows pupils still to gain a Grade C if they do well in the examinations.

Important Dates for Choices 2010

February 24th An introductory letter sent to parents giving them details of the process and key dates.

March 1st This course choices booklet is given to students and their parents to prepare for the choice process.

March 8th Students have an assembly explaining the process and hear about some subjects.

March 11th Yr 9 Parents' Evening. This is an opportunity for parents to speak with teachers about courses.

March 15th Students return their first course choice form to tutors for discussion.

March 19th Students return their form for choices.

Easter Holidays

April/May/June We will consider student's course and liaise with parents and students.

July A pack of GCSE/BTEC preparation material is provided for students. This will be personalised to suit the student choices. It will give work which needs to be completed before September.

PROGRAMME of STUDIES**MAIN PROGRAMME****These are COMPULSORY SUBJECTS:**

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Statistics (selected students only)
- Science
- GCSE ICT
- Physical Education

These are SPECIALIST SUBJECTS:

Food	GCSE
French	GCSE
Graphics	GCSE
ICT	GCSE
Resistant Materials	GCSE
Spanish	GCSE
Systems and Control	GCSE
Textiles	GCSE
ICT	DIDA

These are COURSE CHOICE SUBJECTS

Art and Design	GCSE
Business Studies	GCSE
Business Studies BTEC (selected students only)	BTEC
Drama	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE
Media Studies	GCSE
Music	GCSE
Photography	GCSE
Physical Education	GCSE
Religious Education	GCSE

These are ADDITIONAL CLASSES which can be studied through Extended Schools:

Bengali	GCSE
Punjabi	GCSE
Urdu	GCSE

Compulsory Core Subjects

Subject: *English*

Examination Level:	GCSE
Examination Group:	WJEC
Examination value:	40%
Examination Structure:	Two Papers – each 1 hour
Controlled Assessment:	60% (40% written, 20% oral)

What Students Study:

All students study a combination of English / English Language / English Literature as part of the compulsory core. The course aims to develop students' ability in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Examinations will require students to analyse non-fiction texts and test their writing skills in a range of contexts.

Alongside exam preparation, students will work on a range of assignments which will be assessed through controlled assessment in school. Units include analysis of prose, poetry and a play by Shakespeare.

Creative writing assignments will focus on writing in different narrative perspectives.

Career Value

Literacy is an essential requirement for any career or further course of study.

Subject: *English Language*

Examination Level:	GCSE
Examination Group:	WJEC
Examination Value:	40%
Examination Structure:	Two Papers – each 1 hour
Controlled Assessment:	60% (40% written, 20% oral)

What Students Study:

Most students will study English Language as part of the compulsory core. The course aims to develop students' appreciation and understanding of spoken and written texts, as well as developing key skills of writing and expression.

Examinations will require students to analyse non-fiction texts and test their writing skills in a range of contexts.

Alongside exam preparation, students will work on a range of assignments which will be assessed through controlled assessment in school. Units include prose analysis, studying spoken language and writing for different purposes and audiences.

Career Value

The skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are requirements for any further course of study or

in any career, as well as being essential skills in life.

Subject: *English Literature*

Examination Level: GCSE

Examination Group: WJEC

Examination Value: 75%

Examination Structure: Two Papers – 2 hours each

Controlled Assessment: 25%

What Students Study:

Most students will study English Literature as part of the compulsory core. The course aims to develop students' writing, understanding and response to texts and to foster an enjoyment of reading.

Through controlled assessment completed in school, students will study a play by Shakespeare and a selection of poetry linked by theme.

Students will be examined on their understanding and appreciation of a range of prose and drama texts. This will include texts from different periods.

Career Value

The study of a range of literature will provide students with an appreciation of the English literary heritage and how writing fits with the world, as well as aiding their emotional maturity and understanding of cultural contexts. English Literature is an essential requirement for any further course of study in English.

Subject: Mathematics**Examination Level:** GCSE**Examination Group:** Edexcel**What you will be studying**

Mathematics is a continuous learning process from the time you begin to count until you become very old. You will follow the National Curriculum which will encourage you to increase your knowledge and understanding of the work that you have already covered, as well as introducing many new ideas.

This course will cover a wide range of basic mathematical concepts allowing students to develop skills and knowledge in:

- Number and Algebra
- Shape, Space and Measure
- Data Handling

Throughout the course students will be given ample opportunity to develop key skills in the application of number, ICT, problem solving and teamwork.

How you will be assessed

All candidates will be entered for GCSE Modular Mathematics 2381, either at Higher Tier (Grades A*-D and U) or Foundation Tier (Grades C-U). It is anticipated that the vast majority of our candidates will enter for the Higher Tier. There is no coursework. Modules (or “units”) will be taken at various stages through the course. In total there are three units making up the whole GCSE:

Module	Description	Structure	When Taken	Weighting
Unit 2	Basic Mathematics on Number & Algebra; Shape, Space and Measure	Two 30 minutes papers (Multiple choice and Calculator paper)	June/July Yr9	30%
Unit 1	Handling Data	2 papers (Non-calc. paper and Calculator paper) – 20 minutes each	March Yr10	20%
Unit 3	Advanced Mathematics on Number & Algebra; Shape, Space and Measure	Two 60 minutes papers (Non-calc. paper and Calculator paper)	May/June Yr11	50%

The scores in all three modules will be combined to award you a final grade. Your progress in these Modules will be constantly monitored by your teacher to ensure that you are entered to the correct level of examination

Following the Unit 2 Module in June/July of Year 9, decisions will be made about which pupils should continue on the Higher Tier, and which should take Foundation Tier and pupils will be allocated to different sets in Yr10 accordingly.

Career Value

Mathematics is a core subject providing skills which are used in every job you do in the future. It requires you to be methodical, organised, accurate and logical. Mathematics also provides access to a wide range of careers and is essential for further education beyond Year 13.

Subject: Statistics

Examination Level: GCSE

Examination Group: Edexcel or AQA

Examination Value: 75% - 1 Paper

Coursework Value: 25% - 1 Task (may be combined with the data handling task submitted for GCSE Mathematics)

Students Study

All students in the Higher sets in Years 10 and 11 will study GCSE Statistics concurrently with the GCSE course in Mathematics. The sets may be designated as Higher (grades A * to D) and Foundation (grades C to G).

This course will cover a wide range of basic statistical concepts allowing students to develop skills, knowledge and techniques in:

- Planning and data collection
- Processing, representing and analysing data
- Reasoning, interpreting and discussing results
- Probability

In addition, students will be using mathematical and statistical models to inform decision making in a range of problems. This will form part of their coursework assessment.

Throughout the course students will be given ample opportunity to develop key skills in the application of number, statistical modelling, ICT, problem solving and teamwork.

Career Value

Statistics is a subject which provides skills which are used Medicine, Finance and Banking, Economics and Human Sciences such as Psychology and Psychiatry_ It requires you to be methodical, organised, and accurate in observation and data analysis. Statistics also provides access to a wide range of careers.

Subject: Science (Core and Additional)

Examination Level:	GCSE – Dual Award
Examination Group:	AQA
Examination Value:	75%
Examination Structure:	Year 10 – Examination – Core Science Year 11 – Examination – Additional Science
Coursework Value:	25%

Students Study

Science is an interesting and valuable subject which is of particular relevance in today's world. Through the exploration and study of science, students will:

- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for Science.
- Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods.
- Acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how Science works and its essential role in society and necessity for progression of further learning.

The course covers all the main components of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and how Science works as stipulated by the National Curriculum.

Particular emphasis is placed on developing an appreciation of the methods of scientific enquiry. Students will be asked to make predictions, form hypotheses, plan and carry out investigations as well as evaluate and interpret their work, relating to scientific ideas.

Career Value

Science is a core subject - all students study science up to the age of 16. It is recognised by the Government and employers alike to be very important. It encourages a disciplined and logical approach to problem solving as well as skills such as accuracy in observation and measurement, effective communication, data analysis and literature searches.

It is a required qualification for entry into a number of professions including the Armed Services, Hairdressing, Engineering, Technical Services, Medicine (human and animal) and any laboratory work. In addition, it is essential for those considering Advanced level studies in any of the Sciences.

Triple Science

Some students with high ability in Science will be **invited** to study Triple Science.

Why study Triple Science? We live in an increasingly scientific world. From trying to solve Global warming to detecting life on other planets and finding cures for diseases. Science is increasingly relevant in modern day society.

This course allows you to explore science in greater depth, arm you with a deeper understanding and equip you with skills that will take you forward in the outside world. You will study the three areas of Science Biology, Chemistry and Physics and at the end of the course be awarded a grade in each of them.

The course is fast paced, exciting and full of modern scientific issues. If you are a talented Scientist and always leave your science lessons wanting to know more, then this is the option for you.

OCR National Science

Some students will be invited to take OCR National L2 Science. This uses a slightly different style of learning.

The final grade comes from coursework.

The OCR Level 2 National in Science have been developed to recognise candidates' skills, knowledge and understanding of Science, scientific procedures and the commercial applications of Science. They have been designed to accredit candidates' achievements in a modern and practical way that is relevant to the higher education and the workplace.

These qualifications specifically aim to:

- Develop candidates' knowledge and understanding in Science.
- Develop candidates' skills, knowledge and understanding within the science sector.
- Develop candidates' ability to work autonomously and effectively in a science context.
- Enable candidates to develop knowledge and understanding in specialist areas of science, and demonstrate the skills needed to participate in the operation and development of real science organisations.
- Encourage progression by assisting in the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that candidates will need to access further or higher education programmes.

Assessment Method: 100% Coursework

Equivalent: GCSEs A-D.

Subject: Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

Examination Level: GCSE – 1 Grade
Examination Group: Edexcel
Coursework Value: 100%

Students Study

All students create an e-portfolio of work as a solution to a particular task based on using ICT.

This is one unit of the 4 Unit DIDA ICT Course worth 1 GCSE. Students can choose to do the full course as an option. This is a compulsory part of every students week as it teaches skills which will be of benefit to other subjects. It is taught during Year 10.

Subject: Physical Education

(Non-Examined)

Students will have a choice of activities to follow. This enables them to extend their skills and knowledge gained in the lower years and also have the opportunity to focus in depth on two activities in which they have an interest.

Specialist Subjects

Subject: GCSE Food & Nutrition

Students can choose to study either Food or Textiles to GCSE. Both the courses will build on work done in at Key Stages 1-3. Students' will study designing and making in a range of contexts through the eyes of users, designers, makers, managers and clients. Extensive use is made of IT in research, designing, production and presentation. All courses develop skills in project management and research as well as extensive practical skills.

GCSE Home Economics: Food & Nutrition: The course emphasises both theory and practical skills involved in the preparation and cooking of a wide range of dishes and foods. Students work through a range of short focused projects, researching, planning and developing their own recipes and evaluating what they have made.

The theory covers aspects such as nutrition, health and meeting people's individual needs, with the main focus being on family and society. We also cover current technological advances related to the food industry and manufacturing processes.

Summary of Assessment

Coursework – Investigational Assessment Task 20% - One short practical task to include investigation and making. This will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

Research Task 40% - One task set by the Board and carried out in class time to include supportive investigational work and practical outcome. The written work will be externally assessed (27.5%), the practical outcome will be internally assessed (12.5%).

Examination 30% - One 1½ hour paper. All questions compulsory. There will be one exam which is taken by all students.

Career Value

With technology increasingly influencing our lives, a basic understanding of technology is useful in most walks of life. Beyond this there are a number of options from degree studies through to basic vocational levels in wide range of industries. Technology subjects are not valued simply for their development of practical skills related to particular industries but also for their emphasis on creative thinking, research, testing solutions, project management and working as part of a team.

GCSE: Food is a qualification for life. In addition it would be a good foundation for courses and careers related to life sciences, medical and nursing, child care, teaching, health and social services, youth work.

Subject: French

Languages Available: French

Examination Level: GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

Examination Structure: **Externally Assessed** - Reading Paper (20%), Listening Paper (20%)
Controlled Assessment - Oral Exam (30%), Writing Unit (30%)

**Writing Assessment/
Value Structure:** 2 Controlled assignments

Students Study

The GCSE course aims to enable students to develop an understanding of the Language chosen in a variety of contexts, through the acquisition of relevant vocabulary and structures. Students will benefit from the development of transferable language learning skills and the ability of communicating in a foreign language. They will also develop an awareness and understanding of the countries and communities where the Language chosen is spoken.

The emphasis is on communication in the Language chosen through speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will develop practical skills for use in specific circumstances. The units of work are topic based and they cover areas such as personal identity, school, leisure, eating out, holidays, work and future plans.

Students will work using cassettes/CDs, books, real documentation from the countries where the language is spoken, magazines, videos and the Internet. Trips are also organised in Year 10 in order to improve linguistic competence and to develop cultural insight. There are French and Spanish speaking language assistants available to prepare all students for their oral exam.

If you would like to be entered for an examination in a language other than the one you study at school, see Ms. Basu for further details.

Career Value

Foreign language skills are desirable and useful in a wide range of careers. As well as increasing employability, they broaden the range and variety of accessible careers. There is a great demand in the workplace for people who can speak languages other than English.

Statistically language graduates have lower rates of unemployment than graduates in the great majority of other subjects. Employers are waking up to the need to recruit people with languages - and not just the obvious ones either. Community languages such as Arabic, Urdu and many more are increasingly being required too. Rest assured if you choose languages your skills will be in high demand.

Another language is a concrete and demonstrable skill - like being able to drive a car or touch type. Learning a language teaches people all sorts of other valuable things too which they will find invaluable later on the world of work. Using language to persuade, argue or explain, preparing presentations, putting text in different forms for different audiences, putting ideas across clearly - all these are vital skills for the workplace, whatever language they operate in. Learning how to interact with speakers of other languages can help to see things from a range of perspectives, making you more adaptable, creative, and insightful. The ability to operate cross-culturally is becoming just as much valued by employers as straight language skills.

Many types of employers seek employees with multilingual capabilities, examples include: multiple government agencies, travel industry, engineering, educational field, international law, public policy and advertising. Knowledge of a second language opens doors to additional employment opportunities, increased chances of a higher salary, and sets a potential employee apart from others competing for the same job.

Subject: Graphics

Students have the opportunity to study a GCSE Graphic Design through one of the courses outlined below. There are two GCSE Design and Technology Examinations offered in the Department.

Assessment Requirements:

Examination 40%	1 x 1½ hour paper
Coursework 60%	1 x design project 1 x making project

Courses

The courses build on work done in Years 7, 8 and 9. Students study designing and making in a range of contexts through the eyes of users, designers, makers, managers and clients. Extensive use is made of IT in research, designing and presentation. All courses develop skills in project management and research.

GCSE Graphics

This course concentrates on developing and communicating design ideas through sketching, technical drawing, computer aided design and modelling those ideas in light materials. In addition you will study the application of these in industry. You will learn how to manufacture products in batches and use machinery, some computer controlled, to achieve first class results.

Students will have the opportunity to use industrial design programs using Apple Mac Laptops. These will mean their design opportunities are as good as any school or university.

Career Value

With technology increasingly influencing our lives, a basic understanding of technology is useful in most walks of life. Beyond this there are a number of options from degree studies through to basic vocational levels in a wide range of industries. Technology subjects are not valued simply for their development of practical skills related to particular industries but also for their emphasis on creative thinking, research, testing solutions, project management and working as part of a team.

If you have any questions to ask about these courses Ms Henry or Mr Halonen will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Subject: *Resistant Materials*

The course builds on work done in the lower school. Students study designing and making in a range of contexts through the eyes of users, designers, makers, managers and clients. Extensive use is made of IT in research, designing, machining and presentation. All courses develop skills in project management and research.

GCSE D& T Resistant Materials: This course concentrates on developing and communicating design ideas through sketching, technical drawing, computer aided design and modelling those ideas in light materials. In addition you will study the application of these in industry. The workshop based element develops skills in designing and making through a number of mixed materials projects. You will learn how to manufacture products in batches and use machinery, some computer controlled, to achieve first class results.

Assessment Requirements: In Resistant Materials GCSE:

Examination 40%	1 x 1½ hour paper
Coursework 60%	1 x design project
	1 x making project

If you have any questions to ask about these courses Mr Bryant or Mr Ruta will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Career Value

A technology qualification is highly beneficial in a wide range of careers. With technology increasingly influencing our lives, an understanding of technology is useful in many fields of employment. Beyond this there are a wide number of options from degree studies through to basic vocational levels in a wide range of industries. Technology subjects are not valued simply for their development of practical skills related to particular industries but also for their emphasis on creative thinking, research, testing solutions, project management and working as part of a team.

Subject: Spanish

Languages Available: Spanish

Examination Level: GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

Examination Structure: **Externally Assessed** - Reading Paper (20%), Listening Paper (20%)
Controlled Assessment - Oral Exam (30%), Writing Unit (30%)

**Writing Assessment/
Value Structure:** 2 Controlled assignments

Students Study

The GCSE course aims to enable students to develop an understanding of the Language chosen in a variety of contexts, through the acquisition of relevant vocabulary and structures. Students will benefit from the development of transferable language learning skills and the ability of communicating in a foreign language. They will also develop an awareness and understanding of the countries and communities where the Language chosen is spoken.

The emphasis is on communication in the Language chosen through speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will develop practical skills for use in specific circumstances. The units of work are topic based and they cover areas such as personal identity, school, leisure, eating out, holidays, work and future plans.

Students will work using cassettes/CDs, books, real documentation from the countries where the language is spoken, magazines, videos and the Internet. Trips are also organised in Year 10 in order to improve linguistic competence and to develop cultural insight. There are French and Spanish speaking language assistants available to prepare all students for their oral exam.

If you would like to be entered for an examination in a language other than the one you study at school, see Ms. Basu for further details.

Career Value

Foreign language skills are desirable and useful in a wide range of careers. As well as increasing employability, they broaden the range and variety of accessible careers. There is a great demand in the workplace for people who can speak languages other than English.

Statistically language graduates have lower rates of unemployment than graduates in the great majority of other subjects. Employers are waking up to the need to recruit people with languages - and not just the obvious ones either. Community languages such as Arabic, Urdu and many more are increasingly being required too. Rest assured if you choose languages your skills will be in high demand.

Another language is a concrete and demonstrable skill - like being able to drive a car or touch type. Learning a language teaches people all sorts of other valuable things too which they will find invaluable later on the world of work. Using language to persuade, argue or explain, preparing presentations, putting text in different forms for different audiences, putting ideas across clearly - all these are vital skills for the workplace, whatever language they operate in. Learning how to interact with speakers of other languages can help to see things from a range of perspectives, making you more adaptable, creative, and insightful. The ability to operate cross-culturally is becoming just as much valued by employers as straight language skills.

Many types of employers seek employees with multilingual capabilities, examples include: multiple government agencies, travel industry, engineering, educational field, international law, public policy and advertising. Knowledge of a second language opens doors to additional employment opportunities, increased chances of a higher salary, and sets a potential employee apart from others competing for the same job.

Subject: *Systems and Control*

The courses build on work done in the lower school. Students study designing and making in a range of contexts through the eyes of users, designers, makers, managers and clients. Extensive use is made of IT in research, designing, machining and presentation. All courses develop skills in project management and research.

GCSE D&T Electronics Products (Systems and Control): You will explore a range of electronic circuits, prototyping and testing them to make fully working electronic products. To achieve this you will develop techniques to make circuit boards, assemble components and develop cases. Extensive use of computer aided design is employed to develop these electronic solutions to peoples needs.

Assessment Requirements: In Electronic Products GCSE:

Examination 40%	1 x 1½ hour paper
Coursework 60%	1 x design project
	1 x making project

If you have any questions to ask about these courses Mr Bryant or Mr Ruta will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Career Value

A technology qualification is highly beneficial in a wide range of careers. With technology increasingly influencing our lives, an understanding of technology is useful in many fields of employment. Beyond this there are a wide number of options from degree studies through to basic vocational levels in a wide range of industries. Technology subjects are not valued simply for their development of practical skills related to particular industries but also for their emphasis on creative thinking, research, testing solutions, project management and working as part of a team.

Subject: GCSE Textiles

GCSE Textiles: The course emphasises both theory and practical skills primarily aimed towards clothing, fashion and soft furnishings. It covers a wide range of manufacturing techniques in fabric construction, surface decoration and assembly. The theory covers aspects such as fibres, fabrics, construction techniques and designing with the main focus being on the needs of the family and society. We also cover current technological advances related to the Textile industry and manufacturing processes.

Summary of Assessment

Coursework – Investigational Assessment Task 20% - One short practical task to include investigation and making. This will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

Research Task 40% - One task set by the Examination Board and carried out in class time to include supportive investigational work and practical outcome. The written work will be externally assessed (27.5%), the practical outcome will be internally assessed (12.5%).

Examination 30% - One 1½ hour paper. All questions compulsory. There will be one exam which is taken by all students.

Career Value

With technology increasingly influencing our lives, a basic understanding of technology is useful in most walks of life. Beyond this there are a number of options from degree studies through to basic vocational levels in wide range of industries. Technology subjects are not valued simply for their development of practical skills related to particular industries but also for their emphasis on creative thinking, research, testing solutions, project management and working as part of a team.

GCSE: Textiles could potentially lead to careers in fashion, fashion journalism, fashion design, a pattern maker, a stylist, a buyer or a fashion photographer.

Subject: Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

Examination Level: GCSE – 1, 2, 3 or 4 Grades, depending on the number of units completed.
Examination Group: Edexcel
Coursework Value: 100%

Students Study

For each unit students create an e-portfolio of work as a solution for a particular task. Each completed unit is worth one GCSE. Students must complete Unit 1 and up to 3 of the other 4 units.

The units are:

1. Using ICT
2. Multimedia
3. Graphics
4. ICT in Enterprise
5. Games Authoring

Career Value

ICT offers you the opportunity to develop the skills with digital media that you will need in the workplace or in further education. You will also develop an awareness of the impact of digital applications on individuals, organisations and society.

Course Choices

Subject: Art & Design

Examination Level: GCSE

Examination Group: Edexcel

Examination Structure: An end of coursework examination paper is given out 6 weeks in advance to enable students to prepare. The practical exam lasts 10 hours (2 school days) and is worth 40% of the final grade.

Coursework Structure: Students work on 1 unit of coursework. This coursework is divided into 2 sections, 'Myself' and 'Natural Forms and Landscape'. Each unit has a visit to a gallery or museum. The coursework counts as 60% of the final grade.

Students Study

'Myself' in the Autumn and Spring Term and 'Natural Forms and Landscape' in the Summer Term of Year 10 and the Autumn Term of Year 11. They work individually on their units using a variety of media which includes paint, clay, textiles, I.T., printing, wire and modroc.

Career Value

A certificate in art and design can be the first step towards a further course in graphics, textiles, fashion, photography or any of the design courses. These lead on to work in television, magazines, graphic design companies, and the fashion and music industry. It is this course which is valued by employers as it shows visual creative thinking and the ability to work independently and solve problems.

Subject: Business Studies**Examination Level:** GCSE**Examination Group:** EDEXCEL**Examination Value:** 75%**Examination Structure:** 1 (45 minute) paper in June of first year (25%) and 1 (1 ½ hr) paper in the 2nd year of study (50%)**Controlled assessment:** 25%**Controlled assessment:** Students carry out an investigation/research in May/June of their first year, and then analyse and evaluate findings. This is carried out under 'controlled' conditions and will be internally marked.**Students Study**

Throughout the course, students may use computers for Word Processing, Excel and Graphics as appropriate within the business contexts set. The course should encourage students to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and gain an insight into related sectors. Business studies enables students to:

- Actively engage in the study of business and economics to develop as effective and independent students and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
- Use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts and opinions, to build arguments and make informed judgements;
- Develop and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts;
- Appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities;
- Consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable.

Career Value

Business studies is a subject valued by most employers because not only does it provide detailed knowledge of the above units but also encourages skills which are needed in many occupations such as the use of Information Technology as well as the understanding of the effect this has on business today.

Subject: BTEC First Diploma in Business**Course Description**

This is a two-year course during which students will complete six units of work all of which will be internally assessed through coursework.

Students learn about the business world, with all its complexities and differing interests. It develops learners' knowledge and understanding of the importance of businesses and how they operate. Students will then learn about customer relations and how customer service staff deliver service that meets the needs and expectations of the business.

A BTEC First is equivalent to 4 GCSE passes at grades C and above. The points awarded for each unit are added together to arrive at the final grade. A range of points is available within each grade, to allow for differentiation and to reward students with either a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

(If you choose this subject it will take up 2 of your choices)

Subject: Drama

Examination Level: GCSE

Examination Group: Edexcel

Examination Structure: Paper One: Drama Exploration (60%): Students take part in two practical improvisation exams, which take place over a number of weeks in lesson times. The first examination uses drama to explore a theme or social issue. The second is based on the study of a play text. Students are required to keep a working notebook, which is assessed alongside their practical work.

Paper Two: Drama Performance (40%): Students work in groups to devise, rehearse and perform their own play, using the drama skills they have acquired during the course. Their work is performed to a visiting examiner.

Students Study

The aims of the course are:

1. To use drama to explore a range of issues;
2. To develop and understanding of drama as a practical art form;
3. To gain an understanding of how plays are structured;
4. To foster an awareness of group interaction and to develop students' communication skills.

Students will explore a range of issues through improvised drama, selecting appropriate drama techniques to realise their intentions.

Students study several plays during the course, developing their understanding of how plays are structured to communicate meaning and to develop their own skill at structuring plays.

A range of performance opportunities are made available during the course, leading to a final examined performance in year 11.

The course is mainly practical, although written and research tasks are an essential part of the students' development.

Career Value

GCSE Drama is a qualification for life.

An employer understands that you are good at working with people, can cope under pressure and have strength of character.

Drama prepares you for careers of a social nature, which involve working closely with people, such as: teaching, social services, nursing, police, office and shop work, local government, journalism and youth work.

Subject: Geography

Examination Level:	GCSE
Examination Group:	AQA Syllabus B
Examination Value:	75%
Examination Structure:	Three Written Papers: (1hr Each) Managing Places in the 21 st Century Hostile World Investigating the Shrinking World Two Tiers: Foundation and Higher
Coursework Value:	25%
Coursework Structure:	2 assignments - 15% and 10%

Students Study

A good Geography student will have a wide interest in every aspect of the world around them. They will study the interaction of physical and human factors. Students will learn skills in the analysis of complex patterns, determining the causes of events and management of the consequences. They will learn about places at local, national, and international levels.

The course provides information in a wide variety of forms from written statements and graphs to maps and diagrams. The titles of the 3 course modules are:

- Managing Places in the 21st Century – Coastal and Urban Environments
- Hostile World – Living with Natural Hazards and the Challenge of Extreme Environments
- Investigating the Shrinking World – Global Tourism and Globalisation of Industry

Geography as a subject depends upon the real world. Much of the coursework will be related to studies done outside school which is supported by a number of field trips throughout the course. By the end of the course students should be skilled in interpreting data about global issues and society around them.

Career Value

A good grade in Geography indicates to an employer that a student has a wide knowledge of places in the world and an ability to handle information. Geography provides students with a diverse range of cross curricular skills and is statistically the most employable subject in the workplace with most professions recognising Geography as a valued subject.

Geography is applicable to careers like:

Tourism, Journalism, Engineering, Teaching, Law, Economics, Architecture, Planning, Surveying, Accountancy, Civil Service, Sales, Personnel, Transport, Merchant Banking, Commodity Broking, Insurance, Travel Agency, Management Consultancy, Environmental Work, Meteorology, Development Work and many more.

Subject: History

Examination Level:	GCSE
Examination Group:	OCR
Examination Value:	75%
Examination Structure:	Two Papers: 2 hours and 1½ hours
Coursework Value:	25%
Coursework Structure:	1 assignment (total 2000 words)

Students Study

History is a stimulating subject which enables students to understand and appreciate how the modern world has developed.

Students will develop their skills of deduction and the ability to think in a logical way. Topics are researched using a range of written, visual and numerical sources.

The period of History studied is the 'MODERN WORLD' and this concentrates on major events in the twentieth century. Students study four topics:

- International Relations 1919-1989
- The USA 1919-1941
- Russia 1905 -1941
- Britain 1906-1918

By the end of the course students should have a good understanding of the major political, economic, social and racial issues of the world today.

Career Value

History is a subject valued by employers because it encourages skills which are needed in many occupations. Students can present arguments, understand human behaviour in a range of circumstances, and interpret written, visual and numerical information.

The Civil Service, Financial Services, Journalism, Law, Management and Teaching are just a few careers for which History can be good preparation.

Employers who see that you have a qualification in history know that:

- you can understand how people operate, what motivates them what they think and feel
- you are able to gather and read different kinds of information and can check it for bias or propaganda
- you are able to communicate clearly and have learned to express yourself verbally and on paper

Subject: Media Studies

Examination Level: GCSE

Examination Group: AQA

Examination Structure: One 90 minute paper – worth 40% of final grade
2 pieces of pre-production coursework & 1 video production – worth 60% of final grade

Students Study

The GCSE Media Studies course is designed to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the Media and Media production and its function in society. Students will develop their skills of reasoning and understanding and the ability to think and write in an analytical way. Topics are studied and researched using a range of written and visual sources.

Students will study:

- Television
- Music Videos
- Film
- Newspapers/Magazines
- Video Production

These topics will be studied looking at the key areas covering genre, representation, institution, and audience response. Students are expected to analyse and interpret various media products. The production of a music video is a challenging and enjoyable experience requiring students' commitment and motivation.

Career Value

The skills of textual analysis and clear thinking are an asset in any career as is the confidence and practical skills which come from developing and creating a product from start to finish.

Media Studies can open the door to a range of exciting careers such as music, television and film production, journalism, advertising and marketing. As we enter an ever-changing media and information age, an understanding of how the industry works has become essential to all careers.

Subject: Music

Examination Level: GCSE

Examination Group: AQA

Assessment:

Unit 1: Listening to and Appraising Music

20% 1 hour written examination
80 marks externally assessed

Candidates explore 5 Areas of Study through 3 strands of learning.

Assessment is through a terminal examination marked by AQA examiners. Candidates respond to questions based on short musical excerpts drawing on music from all five Areas of Study.

Unit 2: Composing and Appraising Music

20% Up to 20 hours Supervised Time for the composition and 2 hours Controlled Time for the appraisal
40 marks externally assessed

A. Candidates compose one piece of music which explores two or more of the five Areas of Study and links to one of the 3 strands announced annually by AQA (10%),

B. Candidates appraise the process and outcome (10%)

Unit 3: Performing Music

40% Controlled Assessment
60 marks internally assessed and externally moderated

Candidates offer one individual performance (acoustic or technology-based) and one group performance.

Unit 4: Composing Music

20% 25 hours Controlled Assessment
30 marks internally assessed and externally moderated

Candidates compose one piece of music which explores two or more of the 5 Areas of Study in any style or genre of the candidate's choosing.

Students Study

GCSE Music provides students with the opportunity to develop Listening, Composing and Performing skills as well as developing their understanding of the function of music within various cultures and society.

Career Value

For students who are highly motivated and committed, music can lead to employment in the music and entertainment profession, media industries and teaching. Employers also view music in a favourable light as it has been scientifically proven that studying music improves memory and concentration, shows commitment and motivation as well as developing collaborative (ensemble) and independent (solo) working skills.

Music also provides a means of personal enrichment.

Subject: *Photography*

Examination Level: GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

Examination Structure: An end of coursework examination paper is given out 6 weeks in advance to enable students to prepare. The practical exam lasts 10 hours (2 school days) and is worth 40% of the final grade.

Coursework Structure: Students work on 1 unit of coursework. This coursework is divided into 2 sections, 'black and White - Introductory skills' and 'Portrait and Reflection'. During the coursework Unit a Gallery Visit will take place. The coursework counts as 60% of the final grade.

Students Study

'Black and White – Introductory skills' in the Autumn and Spring Term and 'Portrait and Reflection ' in the Summer Term of Year 10 and the Autumn Term of Year 11. They work individually on their units and are required to produce Photographic outcomes for each unit. Students are not required to make any art based work for this Course.

Career Value

A certificate in photography can be the first step towards a further photography qualification at A Level standard or can lead into combined subject courses at college or university level. These can lead on to work in television, magazines, graphic design companies, and the fashion and music industry. It is this course which is valued by employers as it shows visual creative thinking and the ability to work independently and solve problems.

Subject: Physical Education**Examination Level:** GCSE**Examination Group:** AQA**Examination Structure:** Written paper – 2 hours (40%)
 A practical, internally-assessed coursework component worth 60%

Physical Education looks at the organisation of sport both nationally and locally and its relationship with sponsorship and media. It also covers topics such as international politics, careers in sport, women and leisure, amateurism and professionalism. The 'body in action' module deals with the body systems, food and diet, physical fitness, sports injury and drugs in sport. Individual performance level will improve as well as students' understanding of rules, laws and tactics related to chosen activities. In their practical coursework candidates are required to show knowledge and understanding of their ability to plan, perform and evaluate a health related exercise/training programme designed to improve performance. They should also be able to show development of their leadership skills in this or in other aspects of their practical work. In addition, candidates show evidence of performing effectively in a range of different games and their ability to analyse and evaluate performance.

Career Value

P.E. is a subject accepted by employers as a G.C.S.E. It is useful for students who are considering a career that includes any aspect of sport. For example, teaching, coaching, recreational management, officials in sport, sports administration, sportswear/equipment, sports reporter or areas concerned with medical aspects of sport.

Subject: Religious Studies

Examination Level:	GCSE
Examination Group:	WELSH BOARD
Examination Value:	100%
Examination Structure:	Two papers (1 hr 50 mins each)
Coursework Value:	none
Coursework Structure:	none

Students Study

The GCSE is accessible to students of any religious persuasion or none.

Religions

Students will study the religions of Christianity and Islam.

In the study of the TWO religions, students will demonstrate knowledge, analyse and explain the relevance and application of a religion or religions and evaluate different responses to religious and moral issues.

Students will explore the common ground shared by believers of each religion, the variety of practices found and look at religious and secular approaches to moral issues.

Themes

Option A	Option B
Relationships Ideas about God Our World Is it Fair?	Religion and Conflict Religious Expression Religion and Medicine Religious Authority

Career Value

In the world of work employers look for someone with an enquiring mind, an appreciation of different viewpoints, an ability to come to clear, balanced decisions. These skills are developed through RS.

If you want to work with people, in caring work, teaching, journalism, publishing, policing, with children, health, catering, leisure and tourism or to work abroad or in a cosmopolitan setting, RS will give you plenty to think about, and valuable expertise.

Interesting Issues & Questions

RS provides you with the chance to study issues and questions that matter: What's the value of life? What beliefs will you live by? What different ideas about God and life after death are there? In studying religion you will be able to develop your own thoughts and ideas about issues of right and wrong and questions of belief. This is why some people call RS the 'Science of Life'.

Education in the Future

RS is a valuable entry qualification to post 16 education, A' and AS levels, NVQs and to other further education opportunities. All universities accept and welcome students with RS onto a variety of courses, in humanities, arts and sciences as well as to specific courses in religious studies, theology or related disciplines.

Looking Forward to the Sixth Form

For the vast majority of young people nowadays, formal education does not end at the age of 16 but continues at least to 17 or 18 and in many cases 21. Very few employers are interested in employing 16 year olds straight from their GCSEs.

Students at Loxford are extremely lucky in having their own thriving, successful Sixth Form, where they can continue their education in a supportive environment and prepare to go on to University, College of Further Education or employment.

Although the Sixth Form might seem a long way into the future for Year 9 students, it is never too early to begin thinking about the opportunities available.

Types of Course Available in the Sixth Form

1. **A/S Courses:** In order to begin A/S Courses, students must achieve at least 5 GCSEs at Grades 1, B or C.

Students usually study three subjects at A' Level. They are two-year courses:

Courses currently offered:

- Accounts
- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Law
- Mathematics (Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics)
- Media Studies
- Physics
- Photography
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Spanish
- Community Languages (depending on demand)

2. **BTEC First Diploma**

This is a one-year course and takes up about half of the available teaching time in a week. Successful completion enables students to progress onto Applied GCE courses, which is equivalent to 2 A' Levels.

Courses currently offered:

- BTEC First Diploma (Business)

3. **National Certificate in Science**

This is equivalent to a BTEC First Diploma and is a one-year course. Successful completion allows students to progress onto Applied GCE, which is equivalent to 2 A' Levels. Students may only choose one of these, as each one takes up about half of the available teaching time in a week.

4. **Applied GCE Courses**

These are two year courses equivalent to two A' Levels.

Courses currently offered:

- Business
- Science

Also available are the Duke of Edinburgh and the Young Enterprise Scheme.

For further information, please contact:

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