Chilwell *School*

Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

2026-2028



Key Stage 4
Options Process Introduction

In the spring term of year 9, students choose some of the subjects that they will study in years 10 and 11 (key Stage 4), this is called the options process.

This booklet is designed to give additional information regarding this process, including:

The KS4 curriculum
Which subjects students have to take in year 10 and 11 (the core curriculum), which subjects they can choose to study (options), and how many lessons of each they will have across our two week timetable.

The options process
An overview of how many subjects students can pick, and possible combinations of subjects.

Course information
Details of what is studied in each subject, assessment structure and exam boards.

Useful contacts
Contact details for key members of school staff who can offer additional support and information.

Important dates
Key dates including the deadline for submitting option choices.

Advice and guidance
Some tips and advice for selecting option subjects

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At key stage 4 students follow a two week timetable, each day is split into six 50 minute lessons. Most subjects will be scheduled in a combination of single and double lessons.

The core curriculum

These are the subjects that all students need to study and consist of English, mathematics, science, PE and PSHCE.

Subject	Qualification(s)	Number of lessons per fortnight
English	GCSE English language GCSE English literature	10
Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics	8
Science Combined or Triple	GCSE Combined Science (2 GCSE's) or GCSE Biology GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics	13
Core PE	n/a	4
PSHCE	n/a	1

The additional curriculum

These are the subjects that students can choose to study and make up the remainder of their timetable.

Subject	Qualification(s)	Number of lessons per fortnight
Option Subject A	One GCSE or equivalent	8
Option Subject B	One GCSE or equivalent	8
Option Subject C	One GCSE or equivalent	8

The Options Process

Students select three option subjects from the full list of available courses, however there are some limitations and restrictions relating to subject combinations.

Option subject 1 - Guided choice
Students must select one subjects from:
History, Geography, French, German or Computer Science

Option subject 2 - Priority choice 1
Students select one subject from the full list of option subjects (including those in the guided choice not already selected). This is the subject that they would most like to do and that we will prioritise when allocating subjects.

Option subject 3 - Priority choice 2 (Either) and Reserve Choice (Or)
Students select two subjects that they would like to do, they will only be allocated one of these subjects.

Options subject choices can be selected using the form that will be sent out via Arbor and also available on the school website, the form opens on Thursday 12th March and closes on Friday 20th March 2026.

Subject Combinations

- Students are discouraged from selecting Computer Science and Creative iMedia.
- Students can only select one subject from Fine Art, Textiles and 3D Design.
- Students can only select either Business Studies or Economics

The EBacc
This is a specific combination of subjects, it is a recognition of achievement and not a qualification.

The EBacc is

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Triple or Combined)
- History or Geography
- French or German

Whilst universities do not currently specify the EBacc as an entry requirement, they do recognise the award in terms of the breadth of study it offers.

Course Information (CORE)



English Language & Literature

"English Literature is open to all - there are no barriers and no restrictions. In the English language and in its great writers there are great riches and treasures" Churchill

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading & writing (50%)
Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints & perspectives (50%)
Spoken Language NEA - published as a separate qualification (Pass/Merit/Distinction)

Paper 1: Shakespeare & the C19th novel (40%)
Paper 2: Modern texts & poetry (60%)

Post-16 options:
A Level English language
A Level English literature

COURSE CONTENT

All of our students study both language and literature at GCSE and benefit from the transferable skills developed across the two subjects.

Students encounter high-quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th & 21st centuries – fiction and non-fiction – as well as acquiring the skills to write for impact imaginatively and creatively.

Both the language and literature classrooms are spaces of discussion, debate and analysis.

All students have the opportunity to achieve two separate English GCSE qualifications: Language and Literature.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Striving for *excellence*

Chilwell *School*



Mathematics

Mathematics is a life skill that underpins the study of other subject areas such as science, technology and geography and provides a secure foundation for many careers, for example, accountancy, banking, surveying, engineering and computing. This subject will also train a pupil's mind to develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills that are useful in everyday situations.

In the GCSE mathematics course students will build on their knowledge, skills and understanding of number, algebra, geometry and statistics. The level at which students enter will be dependent upon their Key Stage 3 work. If they are working at 'mastering' or above then they will normally study the higher course (grades 9-4); if students are working at 'securing' then they will normally study the foundation course (grades 5-1) in Year 10 and, if appropriate, progress to the higher course in Year 11; if students are working at 'developing' or below then they will study the foundation course (Grades 5-1).

A further mathematics qualification is available if students are studying the higher GCSE course. This will help prepare them for studying mathematics at A Level.

GCSE ASSESSMENT

100% exam at the end of Year 11
One 1 hour 30 minute non-calculator paper at either the higher (grades 9-4) or the foundation (grades 5-1) tier (33⅓%)
Two 1 hour 30 minute calculator papers at the same tier as the non-calculator paper (66⅔%)

Post-16 options:
If students continue with their education post-16 then they must continue to study GCSE mathematics if they haven't attained at least a grade 4.
A good GCSE mathematics grade will allow students to access the following A Level courses: mathematics (higher tier grade 5), further mathematics (higher tier grade 5), computer science (grade 5), biology (grade 5), chemistry (grade 5) and physics (grade 5).

EXAM BOARD: OCR

Chilwell *School*



Combined Science (Trilogy)

When taking the combined science GCSEs students will gain two GCSEs at the end of the course. Students will study all three sciences at either higher or foundation level meaning that it is possible for a student who takes the combined science course to achieve all grades from 9-1. The course is not as intensive as the triple science course meaning that students have some time in class for revision and exam preparation. Biology, chemistry and physics are taught as separate topics by specialist teachers. There are also required practical investigations which must be completed during the course and elements of which are examined in the final exams.

Number of GCSE's: 2

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Each exam is focussed on a specific science, however the final grades will be determined from a combination of attainment in all six exams.

Biology paper 1 (16.7%): Topics 1–4
Biology paper 2 (16.7%): Topics 5–7

Chemistry paper 1(16.7%): Topics 8-12
Chemistry paper 2 (16.7%): Topics 13-17

Physics paper 1 (16.7%): Topics 18-21
Physics paper 2 (16.7%): Topics 22-24

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Post 16 options:
Students can further study a variety of post-16 science courses including all A Level sciences. Students need to achieve at least a grade 5 in order to study any of the sciences at A-Level at Chilwell sixth form.
Taking the combined science route will not limit students' choices in further education at sixth form or university.



Triple Science (Separate Sciences)

The biology, chemistry and physics GCSEs are three separate GCSEs together known as triple science. They are examined independently of each other so it is possible to get three different grades at the end of the qualification. Triple science is a good course for students that would like a career in science and who enjoy studying the subject as there is a lot of content to cover in the triple science course. The three sciences are taught as separate subjects by specialist teachers. There are also required practical investigations which must be completed during the course and elements of which are examined in the final exams.

Number of GCSE's: 3

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Two papers per science subject – each worth 50% of the final grade.

Biology paper 1 (50%): Topics 1–4
Biology paper 2 (50%): Topics 5–7

Chemistry paper 1(50%): Topics 1-5
Chemistry paper 2 (50%): Topics 6-10

Physics paper 1 (50%): Topics 1-4
Physics paper 2 (50%): Topics 5-8

Please note
All students must study science at GCSE.

There is no option to choose a science pathway, the final qualification that your child takes will be decided in Year 11 after they have taken their mock exams.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Post-16 options:
This course is appropriate for progression to A Levels in biology, chemistry and/or physics or any Post 16 science qualification. The grade required to study any of the sciences at Chilwell sixth form is a 5 in that subject area. All students in year 10 will study the combined pathway.

Course Information (Options)



GCSE ASSESSMENT

Component 1- 60%
A portfolio that demonstrates coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project.

Component 2- 40%
Externally set assignment

Post-16 options:
Students could go on to study AQA fine art at A Level or textile design, graphic communication, 3 dimensional design, art craft and design or photography.

Art - Fine Art

Fine art practice is the need to explore an idea, convey an experience or respond to a theme or issue of personal significance. Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of fine art, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking or mixed media. Students must develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills. They will study artists that inspire the development of ideas and how they relate to individual, social, historical, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or issues-based contexts; how ideas, themes, forms, feelings and concerns can inspire personally determined responses and the ways in which meanings, ideas and intentions relevant to fine art can be communicated through figurative representation, abstraction, stylisation, simplification, expression, exaggeration and imaginative interpretation. Students will explore visual and tactile elements, such as colour, line, form, tone, texture, shape, composition and use fine art techniques, media and processes.

EXAM BOARD: AQA



Art - Textile

Textile design is a practical course. If students love fashion design and illustration or installed textiles then this is the course for them.

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Component 1- 60%
A portfolio that demonstrates coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project.

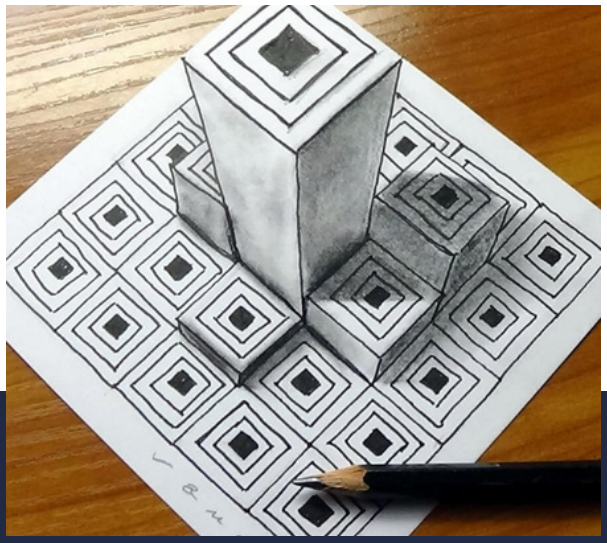
Component 2 - 40%
Externally set assignment.

Post-16 options:
Students could go on to study AQA textile design at A Level or fine art, graphic communication, 3 dimensional design, art craft and design or photography.

COURSE CONTENT

They will study how visual and tactile elements, such as colour, line, form, tone, texture, shape, pattern, composition, decoration repetition, scale, structure and surface influence textile design. There is also a sustained focus on the way sources inspire the development of ideas, relevant to textile design. Students will also consider how ideas, feelings, forms and purposes can generate responses that address personal needs or meet external requirements, such as client expectations. Coursework will enable students to undertake an investigative study into textiles and allows them the flexibility to focus on an area of textiles that they would like to explore further.

EXAM BOARD: AQA



Art – 3 Dimensional Design

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Component 1- 60%
A portfolio that demonstrates coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project.

Component 2-40%
Externally set assignment.

Post-16 options:
Students could go on to study AQA 3 dimensional design at A Level or fine art, graphic communication or art craft and design.

COURSE CONTENT

The 3D design course focuses on the design and development of 3D artifacts. Students will experience first-hand the design process linked to a set theme. The course will require them to analyze in some depth the work of other designers and artists, then use the work of these people as inspiration for generating their own designs linked to the theme. They will use a sketchbook to record and present their thoughts and ideas during this. There is a sustained focus on using inspiration sources alongside sampling and trialing to guide the development of ideas, and lead to a personal 3D response to the theme.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

The final response produced by students can be manufactured using a variety of techniques and using a broad range of materials and some of the lessons will focus on developing skills in this aspect. The responses produced need to be appropriate to the theme and the research undertaken, and do not need to be physically large or complex in nature.

This course does not have a final written exam, marks being earned through the content and presentation of the ongoing portfolio generated in Y10 and Y11. Additionally students will respond to an exam board set brief in the final term of Y11, preparing for and culminating in a 10 hour practical assessment under exam conditions, in which the students work on their personal response to this theme under exam conditions.

Please note this course offers only limited opportunities for practical work, and does require extensive and frequent use of sketching and drawing throughout the design process, alongside notes and research and investigation.

Business Studies



GCSE ASSESSMENT

Each paper is written and is 50% of the exam.
Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity.
The topics are business in the real world, influences on business, business operations and human resources.

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity.
The topics are business in the real world, influences on business, marketing and finance.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE CONTENT

Everything in life involves Business.
Think about that new top you bought last week and then think of what businesses made it possible for you to be wearing it.

The obvious ones are the SHOP you bought it from or the FACTORY that made it, but what about the cotton grower, the label maker, the delivery company, the bank that loaned them the finances, etc.

Thinking about all the processes involved and the people helps you to understand what studying business is all about.

The study of business will equip you with transferable life skills and an immediate advantage in understanding how businesses work, from reviewing the economy, finance, marketing, human resources, ethics, production, management and much more.

Post-16 options:
Business studies can be studied at A level at Chilwell sixth form.
Business can be studied later on at university either on its own or in combination with subjects such as technology, marketing or languages.

Economics



GCSE ASSESSMENT

Linear qualification with two written exams:

• Component 01: Introduction to Economics

• Component 02: National and International Economics

Each exam is 1h 30m, 80 marks, and worth 50% of the GCSE.

Both components are synoptic, so they require you to draw on topics from across the course.

Content is organised into broader themes such as markets and money and economic objectives and international trade.

EXAM BOARD: OCR

Striving for *excellence*

COURSE CONTENT

GCSE Economics helps you understand the world around you — from prices and wages to businesses, taxes and global trade. If you've ever wondered why prices rise, how businesses decide what to produce, or what governments can do to improve the economy, this subject is for you.

You will explore questions such as:

- Why do some countries grow faster than others?
- How do markets work?
- What causes unemployment and inflation?
- How do businesses compete and succeed?
- How does economics affect your future?

These link to three key themes:

The Power of Choice (Microeconomics):
Discover why consumers buy what they buy, how businesses compete, and why some markets succeed while others fail.

The Global Machine (Macroeconomics):
Explore how governments manage the economy - aiming for growth, low unemployment and stable prices - and why they tax products like tobacco or sugar.

A Connected World:
Examine international trade and globalisation, understanding how countries depend on each other and the ethical issues this creates.

Throughout the course, you will develop strong analytical, mathematical and evaluation skills. You will learn to interpret data, construct balanced arguments and make evidence-based judgements — all highly valued by employers and sixth forms. The course is structured in the following way:

GCSE Economics supports progression to A-level study in Economics, Business or Politics and complements subjects such as Mathematics, Geography and History. It also provides a strong foundation for careers in finance, law, business, public services and many other fields.



Computer Science

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Component 1 - worth 50% of the total GCSE
Computer systems: written exam, duration 1hour 30.
Component 2 - worth 50% of the total GCSE
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming: written exam, duration 1hour 30 minutes.

Practical Programming: All students must be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s), either to a specification or to solve a problem (or problems), during their course of study.

EXAM BOARD: OCR

COURSE CONTENT

GCSE computer science is relevant to the modern, changing world of computing and designed to boost logical thinking skills essential for the 21st century. This qualification will help develop the skills to solve real life problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence. GCSE computer science is designed to engage pupils in an exciting way by providing opportunities in the course to apply the academic principles they learn in the classroom to real-world systems. In the GCSE computer science course students will build on their knowledge, skills and understanding of computer systems, networks, data representation, programming and computational logic.

Post-16 options:
A good GCSE computer science grade will allow pupils to access the following A Level courses: computer science (higher grade 5). Students can also go into further education colleges to study Cambridge technical in digital media.

Drama



GCSE ASSESSMENT

Component 1 – Understanding drama
Study of theatre roles and responsibilities, set text and live theatre evaluation
Written exam -1 hour and 45 minutes, worth 80 marks - 40 % of GCSE

Component 2 – Devising drama
Creation and performance of devised work with written analysis
Devising log (60 marks) and devised performance (20 marks)
80 marks in total - 40 % of GCSE

Component 3 – Texts in practice
Performance of two extracts from one play
Performance of extract 1 and (20 marks) and extract 2 (20 marks)
40 marks in total - 20 % of GCSE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

GCSE drama offers students the opportunity to build on their learning in drama at KS3, with a course that offers expertise, time and resources to allow students to develop their skills and knowledge in creating high quality performances, as well as learning how to successfully evaluate their own work and that of others. Students will study a set text play through practical workshops as well as evaluating live performance in preparation for a written exam. They will create a devised group performance from a range of stimuli, which will then be evaluated through their 'devising log' coursework as part of the non-examined assessment. Two key extracts from a published play, chosen by the group with their teacher, will be prepared and performed to an external examiner. The majority of the course is completed by working practically in a variety of mixed groups and this collaborative style of learning is essential to the drama process. A good proportion of the assessment of the course is through performance to a range of audiences and it is important that students are comfortable with this.

Post-16 options:
The course ensures continuity for students progressing to A Level Drama and Theatre at Chilwell Sixth Form and for a wide range of courses at colleges and universities.

Food Preparation and Nutrition



GGCSE food preparation is a food science course that involves a blend of practical along with chemistry and biology based elements that link to the science of how ingredients work and why. If students are a fan of investigating and learning the hidden reasons why two ingredients react this is the course for them. There is a heavy element of science within the course so a love of science will also help. The subject content within the course will cover a wide range of elements from food science such as the chemical reasons why mixtures are thickened down to the natural process that occurs when sugar is browned or caramelised. Over the breadth of the course students will cover twelve essential technical cookery skills. Like most courses, alongside cooking there is an essential element of research and evaluation which is worth more than 50% of the grade which is theory based so please bear this in mind when choosing the course as the course cannot be passed without them.

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Task 1- Food investigation: 30 marks or 15 %
Two assessed practical investigations photographed and evaluated, a portfolio of research into how ingredients work and why with a brief released in the September of Year 11. Total words- 1500-2000 words.

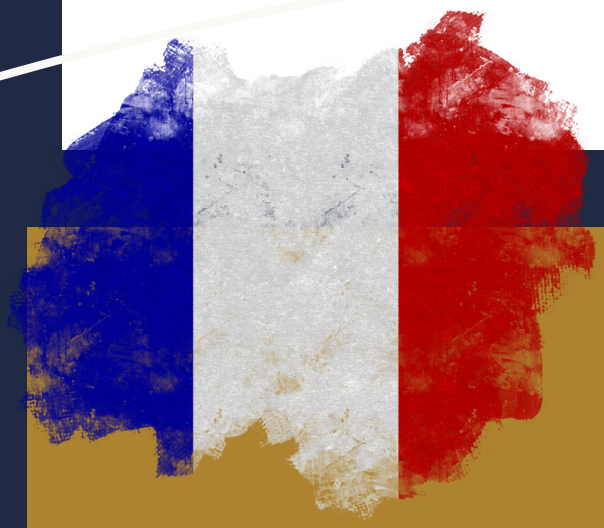
Task 2- Food preparation assessment - 35%
Planning, preparation, cooking and presenting food via a portfolio of research into a chosen world region's cuisine (released in November of Year 11) which involves recipe trialing, taste testing, nutritional analysis and costing.
Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than 3 hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. A good bank of independent practical skills will be needed as the exam involves a complete level of independence and time management in order to obtain the best possible grade. Every sauce, pasta, bread or accompaniment must be handmade, therefore the more practice that can be done at home the better.

Post-16 options:
Students could go on to study A Level 3 certificate in food science or a city and guilds NVQ level 2/3 in hospitality and catering.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Chilwell School

French



GCSE ASSESSMENT

There are separate assessments of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each paper is worth 25% of the marks and all are tested at the end of Yr 11.
The six themes for the exam are:

- **My personal world**
- **Lifestyle and wellbeing**
- **My neighbourhood**
- **Media and technology**
- **Studying and my future**
- **Travel and tourism**

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

If students enjoy communicating with other people and finding out about other cultures, then studying GCSE French is a good choice.

In addition to being able to understand and use French in a range of contexts, a GCSE in a language enables them to add an international dimension to their choice of GCSE subjects, something many future employers and higher education establishments look for.

Students learn skills useful for a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being more confident about speaking in public and using problem-solving strategies. This will also create more opportunities for pupils to be able to work abroad or for companies in Britain with international links.

Post-16 options:
French can be studied at A Level at Chilwell sixth form.

Languages can be studied later on at university either on their own or in combination with subjects such as business studies, law, psychology or medical sciences.



Geography

'Geography is everywhere' … it is also the past, the present and the future. Learning geography is all about understanding the geography of past times and how geography has played and continues to play important roles in the evolution of people, places and environments and to understand the geography of the present and future and the challenges and solutions to world problems and issues.

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment. This includes natural hazards, ecosystems including cold environments and coastal and river landscapes.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment. This includes urban issues in cities, economic change and the challenge of managing resources such as food and water.

Paper 3: Geographical applications and skills. This includes critical thinking and problem solving, fieldwork including questions based on a physical geography river study and and on a human geography city study. Plus geographical questions based on map and graph interpretation skills'.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Striving for *excellence*

In Year 10 the course looks at tectonic and weather hazards and their impacts as well as climate change and its challenges. British and tropical rainforest ecosystems are studied as well as examining the cold environments of the Arctic and Antarctic. River and coastal processes are also examined. In Year 11 human issues are covered, such as the growth in world cities and urban challenges of water, housing, waste disposal and transport problems. We study the world of work and economic change and challenges around the world caused by globalization. Finally we learn about the issues of resource management including sustainable energy, water and food resources.

Post-16 options:

Students can continue to study geography at A Level at Chilwell sixth form but it can also lead into many different careers. It could be used in town planning, research and data analysis, law, architecture, business and management, the environment, medicine, journalism, advertising, police, or IT to name but a few opportunities.

German



German is a vibrant language spoken not only in Germany but also in Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg: it has more native speakers than any other European language and in addition is widely spoken in Eastern Europe.

In addition to being able to understand and use German in a range of contexts, a GCSE in a language enables students to add an international dimension to students' choice of GCSE subjects, something many future employers and higher education establishments look for.

Students learn skills useful for a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being more confident about speaking in public and using problem-solving strategies. This will also create more opportunities for pupils to be able to work abroad or for companies in Britain with international links.

Post-16 options:
German can be studied at A Level and languages can be studied later on at university either on their own or in combination with subjects such as business studies, law, psychology or medical sciences.

GCSE ASSESSMENT

There are separate assessments of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each paper is worth 25% of the marks and all are tested at the end of Yr 11.

The six themes for the exam are:

- **My personal world**
- **Lifestyle and wellbeing**
- **My neighbourhood**
- **Media and technology**
- **Studying and my future**
- **Travel and tourism**

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL



Health and Social Care

Cambridge National level 1/level 2

The course is taught in units and will be assessed through a combination of external written exams and coursework. There are two exams and two pieces of coursework.

EXAM BOARD: OCR

With over 500 different types of employment that link to health and social care this is a good option if you are not sure what to do. The subject covers how life stages affect development Public Health, Protection, Safeguarding and Application of Rights in Health and social care settings. Please note it is not about babies. You will be looking at the lifespan of individuals from childhood to end of life.

This is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The course will encourage learners to explore the roles within the health and social care sectors. The learners will examine issues that affect the nature and quality of human life including an appreciation of diversity and cultural issues. Through developing an awareness of the influences on an individual's health and wellbeing the learners will understand the importance of motivation and support when improving health. We will also be looking at the expanding area of public health and how different campaigns can raise awareness of the dangers of unhealthy living.

Post-16 options:

Health & social care can be studied as a Level 3 course at Chilwell sixth form. This can lead to career opportunities in many areas of work including pediatric nursing, midwifery, adult and child nursing, paramedics, health visitor, mental health nursing, psychologist and many more. The list is endless and can be combined with many other subjects for careers in health and social care. So if you like art you could move into art therapy and if you like science there is medicine, nursing and medical physics to think about.

History



GCSE ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Students will look at medicine through time from 1250 to present.

Paper 2: Students will look in depth at the Cold War and Henry VIII 1509-1540.

Paper 3: Students will look at "Germany 1918-1939" and different historical interpretations.

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

I "Just as history has made our world what it is, history can also be a part of your future." This course aims to get away from the idea of history as merely a series of facts; it considers big questions and demands big answers. It encourages students to develop skills that make them more employable as they will learn to make decisions based upon secure reasoning and communicate clearly.

The course will focus on diverse areas such as medicine through time, where they will consider why a milkmaid helped discover vaccinations or why tar was burnt to get rid of the plague. Students will also look at how World War One impacted on the injuries and treatments. Furthermore, they will consider whether the only thing that Henry VIII did was chop his wives heads off. For a modern study they will consider why the world was at the brink of nuclear war in the twentieth century. There will also be a focus upon Germany from 1918 through to 1939 looking at both why Hitler came to power but also how Hitler ran Germany and changed people's lives.

Post-16 options:
Students can continue to study history at A Level at Chilwell sixth form but it can also lead into many different careers. It could be used in law, architecture, business and management, medicine, journalism, advertising, police, or IT to name but a few opportunities.



ICT Creative iMedia

Cambridge National level 1/level 2

Approximately 60% of the course is assignment-based work and will require completion of a set assignment by the exam board. The external exam will be required to be taken at the end of the last assessment series which will be at the end of Year 11.

EXAM BOARD: OCR

The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia is a vocational course that will inspire and equip students with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the digital media sector. They'll design, plan, create and review digital media products to meet client and target audience demands.

R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry (Exam 40%)
In this unit you will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. You will learn the legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products. You will learn how media codes are used within the creation of media products to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. You will learn to choose the most appropriate format and properties for different media products.

R094: Visual identity and digital graphics (Non-Exam Assessment 25%)
In this unit you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. You will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate your visual identity to engage a target audience. Completing this unit will introduce the foundations for further study or a wide range of job roles within the media industry.

R096: Animation with Audio (Non-Exam Assessment 35%)
In this unit you will learn to plan animations with soundtracks based on client briefs. You will learn to use a range of tools and techniques to create, edit and combine audio and animated content and export and review completed animation with audio products. Completing this unit will provide you with the basic skills for further study or a range of creative and technical job roles within the media industry.



Media Studies

"The media's the most powerful entity on the earth." – Malcolm X

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: key concepts (35%)

Paper 2: close study product & online/social media (35%)

Non-examined assessment: creating a media product (responding to a brief) – this may be web-based, print & electronic publishing or moving image (30%)

EXAM BOARD: AQA

GCSE media studies is exciting in its relevance to our daily lives. It is an opportunity for students to explore contemporary issues and topical debate through the use of different media in creative and practical ways.

The power and influence that the media has is immense. Consider: the average adult consumes media in some form for almost 8 hours a day. Within that time, they are bombarded by other people's ideas, opinions and deliberately constructed images of the world as well as the people who inhabit it! How individuals respond will impact their ideas about people, places and society, politics and culture, of themselves and of their place in the world. GCSE Media Studies is your opportunity to equip yourself with the tools to understand and analyse one of the most exciting, amazing, dangerous, extraordinary forms of communication in our modern world!

Our course engages students in the in-depth study of media products in relation to four areas of the theoretical framework:

- Media language – how do different media forms speak to us?
- Media representation – who is included in the media product and how?
- Media industries – who is behind the media products that we consume?
- Media audiences – who is targeted & who consumes the media product?

Students will explore the key concepts via TV, film, music videos, video games, social media, advertising and more!

Striving for ***excellence***

Post-16 options:

A Level media studies
A Level English language
A Level sociology
A Level psychology

Music



Music is designed for those who enjoy both playing and writing songs, and wish to broaden their understanding of musical concepts. Students who have had instrumental experience will do well in this subject as it is designed so that students focus on an instrument that they enjoy playing. Music lessons are available during timetabled school hours with one of the school's visiting peripatetic instrumental teachers. (Please see Mr Batley for a list of lessons available). Instrumental lessons will be provided free of charge for those students who receive free school meals. Students are not expected to be a specific instrumental standard in order to do GCSE, but we would expect a commitment to practicing on a regular basis if the student is to reach their full potential on this course. Communication will be made with parents and carers regarding instrumental lessons in the lead up to the start of the course.

Post-16 options:
A Level Music providing the candidate has reached a minimum of Grade 5 instrumental standard by the end of Year 11. Further Level 3 study in a Performing Arts subject.

GCSE ASSESSMENT

3 core units of work (2 coursework and 1 exam)

Integrated Portfolio: This consists of a performance on the learner's chosen instrument plus a composition to a brief set by the learner. Coursework Assessment. Total of 60 marks (30%).

Practical Component: This consists of a group performance and a composition set to a brief by the OCR. Also 60 marks (30%).

Listening and Appraising Paper: This is a 90-minute exam paper and is out of 80 marks. Worth 40% of the total GCSE.

EXAM BOARD: OCR

Photography



GCSE ASSESSMENT

Component 1 – 60%
A portfolio that demonstrates coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project.

Component 2 – 40%
Externally set assignment.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Photography is defined as the practice of producing images, using photographic film or digital media. Students are required to work in one or more areas of photography, such as portraiture, location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation. Students must develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to their chosen area of study. They will look at a variety of photography styles and genres that will inspire the development of ideas and how they relate to historical, contemporary, social and cultural issues-based contexts. They will look at how ideas, themes, subjects and feelings can inspire creative responses using visual and tactile elements such as: colour, line, form, tone, texture, shape, pattern, composition, scale, sequence, surface and contrast. Students will use photographic techniques and processes such as: lighting, viewpoint, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement.

Post-16 options:
Students could go on to study AQA fine art at A Level or textile design, graphic communication, 3 dimensional design, art craft and design or photography.



Physical Education

GCSE ASSESSMENT

'Non examined assessment' (NEA) is now worth 40% comprising practical performance and performance analysis, both of which will be internally assessed and externally moderated. Practicals are now worth 30% of the NEA and students will be assessed in three activities - one team, one individual and a free choice from a list published by the Department for Education. The performance analysis is worth 10% of the NEA.

Component 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport. Written paper: 1 hour 15 minutes, (78 marks), 30% of final mark.

Component 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport. Written paper: 1 hour 15 minutes, (78 marks), 30% of final mark.

Component 3: Practical performance in physical activity and sport. NEA, 100 marks, 40% of final mark.

Students will be assessed in three activities - one team, one individual and a free choice from a sport stipulated in the Department for Education's GCSE PE activity list. Each sport will be worth 10% of their final mark and assessment will be based on their skills in progressive drills (Part 1) and in the full context (Part 2) for each of their three activities. There will be a sustained focus on component one and component two to ensure that students are fully prepared for the examination. In Year 10 and 11 all lessons will usually be classroom based. This is because 60% of the students' marks come from two written exams and a further 10% comes from a piece of written coursework. Therefore it is vital that students have an interest in the human body and movement in physical activity and sport and socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.

Post-16 options:

There will be opportunities to continue studying physical education at Chilwell's sixth form. We deliver the new Cambridge technical qualification at Post-16.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Striving for *excellence*

Chilwell *School*



Religious Studies

EXAM BOARD: AQA

AQA religious studies (specification A) offers a wide range of faith-specific options and a variety of relevant and contemporary themes, ensuring that every student has a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore and discuss.

Students will learn how religion and ethics form the basis of our culture, and develop valuable skills that will help prepare them for further study.

Post-16 options:

By studying GCSE religious studies students will find the specification encourages them to develop critical and evaluative skills which will enable them to go on to higher education to study a wide range of courses including religious studies, theology, philosophy and the social sciences.

GCSE ASSESSMENT

This specification is designed to be taken over two years.

This is a linear qualification. In order to achieve the award, students must complete all assessments at the end of the course and in the same series.

There are two equally weighted exam papers each 1 hour and 45 minutes in length.

- The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices. Students will draw comparisons between **two** major world religions, in terms of their beliefs and the ways in which these beliefs affect their behaviour.
- Thematic studies: students will look at a range of themes from religious and non-religious perspectives. The themes are: human rights/social justice, crime and punishment, peace and conflict, religion and life.



Sociology

GCSE ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education. One written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification. One written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Striving for ***excellence***

Sociology is the study of human social behaviour and factors that influence an individual's life.

Studying GCSE sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.

Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to:

- Investigate facts and make deductions.
- Develop opinions and new ideas on social issues.
- Analyse and better understand the social world.

Post-16 options:

GCSE sociology can lead on to many of the humanities subjects offered at Chilwell sixth form and local colleges. Including A Level sociology, psychology, history and geography. There are equally strong links with level 3 OCR extended certificate in health and social care. The methodology side of the course has a link with conducting research in the A Level science subjects as well.

Key Dates

Thursday 26th February 2026– Initial Assembly for Year 9
Brief introduction to the Options Process and an opportunity to select some subjects to try on Options Taster Day.

Monday 9th March 2026 – Options Taster Day
An opportunity for students to try out some subjects, see which ones they like (and maybe see which ones they don't like!).

Tuesday 10th March 2026 – Options Booklet issued via the school website
Subject specific information, including course content, assessment structure, and exam board, for all the subjects offered at Key Stage 4.

Thursday 12th March 2026 – In Person Options Information Evening from 5.45pm
Advice and information for parents and students regarding the overall options process. The evening will be held in school, there will be a brief presentation in the theatre to outline the Options Process and then an opportunity for students and parents to speak with teaching staff about specific subjects – more information to follow half-term.

Thursday 12th March – Friday 20th March 2026– Options Selection Window
Options Selection Form issued for completion by parents. Form will be available on the school website. Deadline for completion is Friday 20th March 2026.



Advice and Guidance

When choosing options it is essential that as many career paths as possible are kept open. Therefore selection of a broad, well balanced range of subjects should be encouraged.

For additional information, students can access their online Unifrog account which has extensive information regarding careers. Students can also book a careers appointment via the school website or by speaking to Mr Littlewood.

Things to consider :

Which subjects do you enjoy?

These subjects now form a significant part of your timetable so it is important that you enjoy them.

Will the course be different at KS4?

You might have studied a subject in Year 9 but the GCSE course could be very different. All practical subjects will have a theory element and some will have a written exam. Read the course information and speak to your class teacher.

Do you have a future career aspiration?

If you already have an idea about a future career or what you might study after Year 11, it is worth checking the entry requirements.

Please don't pick subjects because ...

- your friends are doing them, you might not be in the same class
- you like your current teacher, there is no guarantee that they will be teaching you in Year 10.

And remember, it is really hard to change option subjects once you are in Year 10 and have started the course, so please make informed decisions.

Year 9 Options Process

Chilwell School is committed to providing access to a wide range of qualifications based on the prescribed curriculum of the school (available to view via the school website). Before making any firm decisions about GCSE options, students should find out how they will be assessed in each subject they are considering choosing. Many subjects are assessed entirely by examinations, all taken at the end of year 11, whereas other subjects will require students to complete coursework-style assessments throughout the whole of years 10 and 11. Students should consider which assessment route is likely to suit them best and will be guided in this by staff in school.

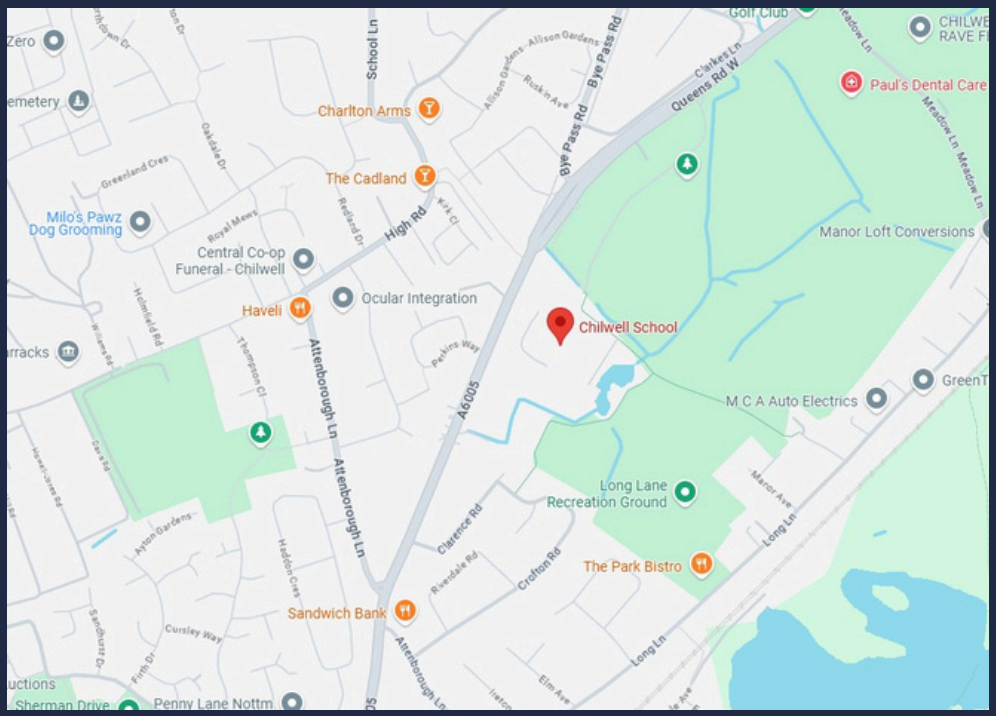
Once students have had their Key Stage 4 curriculum choices confirmed, Chilwell School will provide appropriate courses of study which provide students with the opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills required for corresponding public examinations. When students take up their Key Stage 4 programme of study at the school, they are agreeing to be entered for (and sit) all assessments leading to certification in each subject for which they have been prepared whilst enrolled in the school. This agreement is confirmed by the student's parents/guardians. The cost of entry to all examinations is met by the school, in accordance with our charging, remissions and refunds policy (available to view via the school website).

In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary to reduce the number of qualifications students are entered for. Whilst it is not possible to provide an exhaustive list of circumstances that may lead to this outcome, examples include significant health problems and attendance concerns. Students and parents/guardians are advised that concerns about poor performance or a change of desire to be entered for a qualification are not acceptable grounds for non-entry and that, in most cases, agreeing to pursue a programme of Key Stage 4 study at Chilwell School includes an agreement to be entered for (and sit) the corresponding assessments and/or examinations for each subject.

Useful Contacts

Contact	Role or Subjects	Email Address
Mr S Crandley	Deputy Head Teacher	s.crandley@chilwellschool.co.uk
Miss J Holyoak	Pastoral Leader	j.holyoak@chilwellschool.co.uk
Mr G Taylor	SENCO	senco@chilwellschool.co.uk
Ms K. Davies	English language English literature Media Studies	k.davies@chilwellschool.co.uk
Mr J. Quarmby	Mathematics Computing Creative iMedia	j.quarmby@chilwellschool.co.uk
Dr S. Qazi	Combined science Biology Chemistry Physics	s.qazi@chilwellschool.co.uk
Mr D. Lodge	PE Drama Music	d.lodge@chilwellschool.co.uk
Ms V. Thorpe	History Geography RE	v.thorpe@chilwellschool.co.uk
Ms G. Devine	French German Business studies Economics	g.devine@chilwellschool.co.uk
Mrs M. Slaney	Fine art Textiles 3D design Photography Food technology	m.slaney@chilwellschool.co.uk
Mrs K Fyles	Sociology Health and social care	k.fyles@chilwellschool.co.uk

Chilwell *School*



Contact Us
Chilwell School
Queens Road West
Chilwell
Nottingham
NG9 5AL

SatNav Postcode: NG9 5HR

Tel: 0115 9252698

Email: office@chilwellschool.co.uk

Website: www.chilwellschool.co.uk

