

GCSE Options 2025

Mrs Brothwood – Principal
Mrs Jefferies – Vice-Principal

Mission

Our students leave College as **confident, ambitious** and **successful** young people, keen to engage with the world of tomorrow.

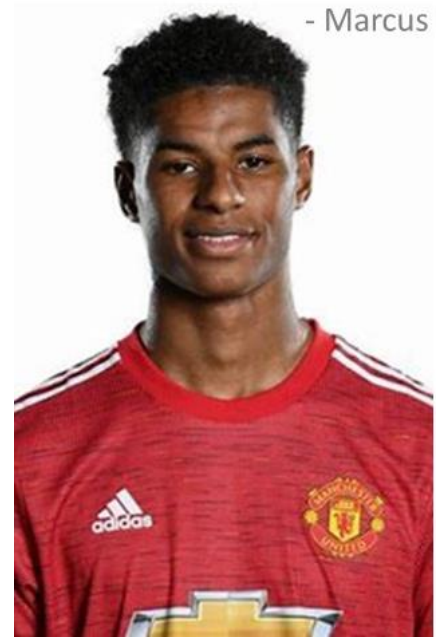
Values



Kind

“What families are going through now, I've once had to go through that — and it's very difficult to find a way out. It's very important for me to help people who are struggling. Whether the outcome changes or doesn't change”

- Marcus Rashford



Kind Curious Resilient



Curious

“An understanding of the natural world is a source of not only great **curiosity**, but great fulfilment. I just wish the world was twice as big and half of it was still unexplored”

- David Attenborough



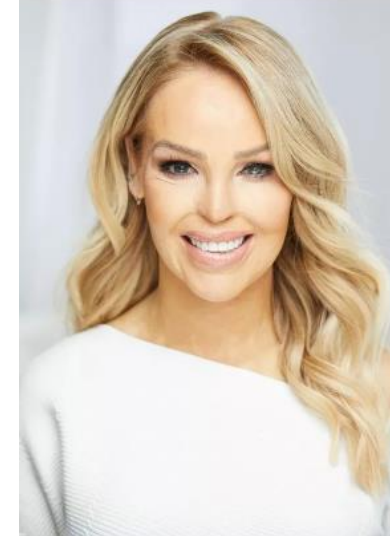
Kind Curious Resilient



Resilient

“Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react. There are some things we can't control and some things that do happen to us that we can't take back, but how we deal with it afterwards is our future. I think anybody can do anything they want if they stay positive and determined”

- Katie Piper



Kind Curious Resilient



Kind Curious Resilient



Guiding Principles

- Ambitious
- Academically rigorous
- Guided and supportive
- Access to Post 16 and further education or training



Structure Overview

Core

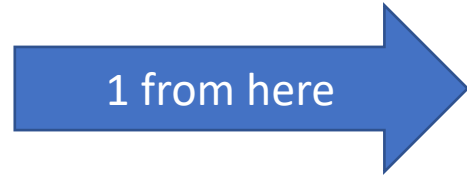
- GCSE English Language & English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science (Double Award)

Core non-examined

- Beliefs and Values
- Personal Development
- Physical Education

Structure Overview

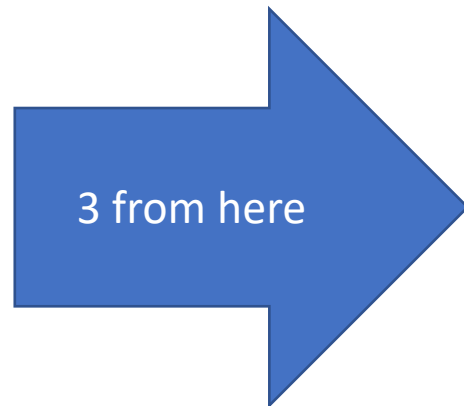
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Humanities Option Subjects

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History

3 from here



Option Subjects

- BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care
- BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Sport
- Cambridge Nationals Creative iMedia
- GCSE 3D Art and Design
- GCSE Fine Art
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Separate Sciences (Triple Award)
- GCSE Spanish

Remember

- All students will select either GCSE Geography or History
- To enter Separate Sciences students will need to be performing to a high standard and agreed by Head of Department
- Students cannot choose to study the following combinations due to similarity of content:
 - GCSE Sport Science and BTEC Level 2 Sport
 - GCSE Fine Art and GCSE 3D Art and Design

Vocational Learning (BTEC and Cambridge Nationals)

- Learners can use the knowledge and skills from GCSEs, giving them the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge to everyday and work contexts.
- Give learners the opportunity to build applied knowledge and skills that show an aptitude for further learning, both in the sector and more widely.
- Practical, accessible, fun to teach and exciting to learn, they will inspire your students to develop real-world skills to prepare them for their future.

These skills include:

- Analytical
- Creative thinking
- Digital presentation
- Leadership
- Planning
- Problem solving
- Research
- Team working
- Verbal Communication/Presentation.

Making your choices

- You will study four Option subjects
- Choose 1 subject per block
- Choose 2 reserve choices in each block

Block 1

- Art
- BTEC Level 2: Sport
- Food and Nutrition
- History
- 3D Art and Design

Block 2

- Photography
- Food and Nutrition
- GCSE Sport Science
- Spanish
- Geography

Block 3

- Music
- Geography
- Religious Studies
- Photography
- GCSE Sport Science

Block 4

- BTEC Level 2: Health and Social Care
- Geography
- History
- Triple Science
- Creative iMedia

Example Pathway

Option 1

- Art

Option 2

- Spanish

Option 3

- Geography

Option 4

- Triple Science

Making your choice

- Keep talking to your teachers
 - Use the Guide for subject specific information
 - Refer to the careers information
-
- Will submit via Microsoft Forms sent to student email address
 - Opens on Monday
 - Closes on 13th March



GCSE Music

Students who enjoy performing, using music technology, composing, and listening to music of different styles should consider this course.

To succeed in this course, the following will be useful:

- The ability to read music but students who don't read music well could still take the GCSE and enjoy the course provided they continue to practise on their instrument/voice.
- The ability to play an instrument confidently
- Having instrumental Lessons either at the College or privately (please discuss this with the music teacher)
- Full commitment: music is an academic subject that requires time to practise, rehearse, and develop listening and composing skills.

In addition, students will need to:

- Be fully committed to music-making in all its forms: performing, composing and listening and be willing to get involved in the life of the music department on their spare time.
- Be open to listening to different styles of music, not just their own personal preference.
- Have access to an instrument or be involved in singing.

Assessment

60% of the total GCSE is based on non-exam assessment coursework:

- Integrated Portfolio (01 & 02) – performance on the learner's chosen instrument and composition to a brief set by the learner - (60 marks in total and 30% of the total GCSE)
- Practical component (03 & 04) – an Ensemble performance and a composition to an OCR set brief - (60 marks in total and 30% of the total GCSE)

40% of the total GCSE is based on one Listening Exam at the end of the course, lasting 1½ hours.

- This exam tests the ability to recognise musical features, with a ten- mark essay question at the end of the exam.
- This will focus on five areas of study (AOS):
 - AOS 1 – My Music (studying own instrument)
 - AOS2 – The Concerto Through Time (studying concertos from 1650 to 1910)
 - AOS3 – Rhythms of the World (studying the rhythmic roots from four geographical regions of the world)
 - AOS4 – Film Music (studying a range of film music)
 - AOS5 – Conventions of Pop (studying a range of popular music from the 1950's to present)

Progression and careers

This course offers progression to a number of Post 16 courses for music. The skills developed in GCSE Music would ultimately help in various career possibilities in recording, sound engineering, media, entertainment, teaching, music therapy and many more.

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Process Overview

January 30th: Progress Evening

February 27th: GCSE Options Evening
After this event the online form for making choices will be available

March 13th: Deadline for submitting online choices

Options confirmed in the Summer Term.



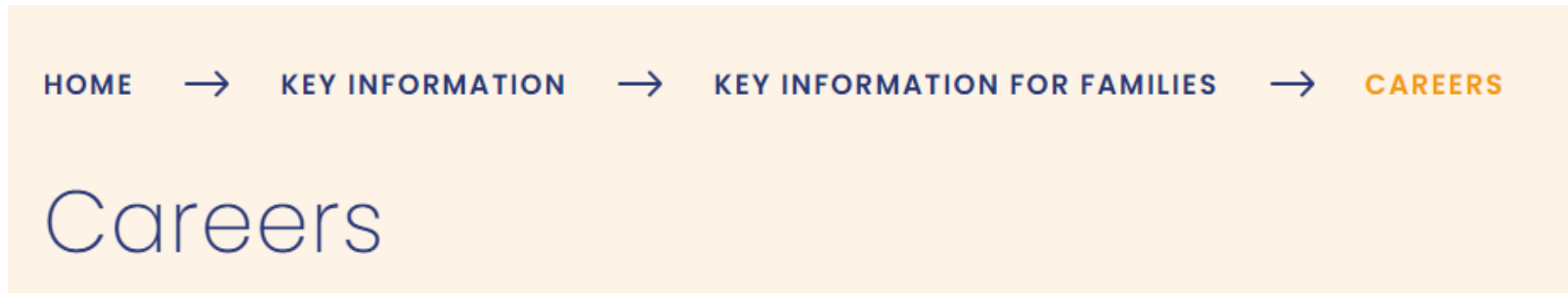
Careers Guidance – how to choose?

- Think about your stronger subjects and ones you enjoy
- It is good to broaden your choices and develop your skills
- Do they fit in with your career ideas and plans?
- Do they give you plenty of choice Post 16?
- Do you think you might want to continue studying the subject at Post 16?
- Does your research show that it will interest you and motivate you to learn?
- Think about what additional skills it may give you.



Careers at HCC

- If you're already thinking about a particular type of career, [take a look at the entry requirements](#) for specific courses at Post 16 & 18 and work back from there
- HCC Website – a wealth of resources!



- Careers Team at HCC



Flow of the Evening

5.00-5.15pm – Introductory presentation from Mrs Brothwood and Mrs Jefferies

5.15-5.30pm – Move across to the gym – Market Place with subject information

5.30- 7.00pm – Subject presentations, 10 mins.

	Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Repeated Sessions
5.30 – 5.40	Art C2	Photography C3	Music MU1	Geography PE3	Separate Sciences L4
5.45 – 5.55	BTEC Level 2: Sport L3	Food and Nutrition C4	Geography PE2	BTEC Level 2: Health and Social Care PE3	Photography C3
6.00 – 6.10	Food and Nutrition C4	GCSE Sport Science L4	Religious Studies PE2	History PE3	Creative iMedia C3
6.15 – 6.25	History L3	Spanish L4	Photography C3	Separate Sciences PE3	Art C2
6.30 – 6.40	3D Art and Design C1	Geography L4	GCSE Sport Science PE2	Creative iMedia C3	Music MU1
6.45 – 6.55	All return to Market Place				



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