RISEDALE
SCHOOL
A family of learners

Year 9 Options Booklet

2026-2028





OUR VISION & VALUES

Our aspiration is that every pupil and staff member is supported to be the BEST version of themselves.

Members of our Risedale family will feel a strong sense of belonging and accomplishment as a direct result of attending our school. They will accumulate knowledge, cultural capital and social skills, such as empathy and kindness, enabling them to thrive in society and enjoy healthy RELATIONSHIPS. All our pupils will make good progress from their starting points.

At whatever stage of their education Risedale pupils leave us, they will be well-equipped to take the next steps on their journey to becoming a RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL and RESILIENT citizen who can embrace change and learn from mistakes.

We are **'The Risedale Family'** and together we are **'A family of learners'**.

RISEDALE
SCHOOL
A family of learners



Welcome to your YEAR 9 OPTIONS

The Options Process

Now and Ongoing:
Careers Guidance (CEIAG)
One-to-one interviews and careers lessons in tutor time to explore post-16 pathways.

Thursday 22nd January, 6pm:
Year 9 Options Evening
An introductory talk and presentation in the main hall, followed by subject discussions with teachers. Parents and pupils should attend together.

24th – 25th January:
Reflection Weekend
A chance for families to review the booklet and agree on preferred subject choices.

26th – 30th January:
Form Tutor One-to-One and Completion of Form
Pupils meet with Form Tutors to finalise choices and complete their Options Form in school.

Dear Parents/Carers,

The teaching staff at Risedale School look forward to working closely with pupils and parents/carers in making informed choices, as well as supporting pupils to achieve their full aspirations at GCSE in preparation for Post-16 study and life beyond school.

This Options Booklet provides a guide to our KS4 Options process and a summary of all the subjects offered in our school curriculum. The compulsory core subjects provide a broad academic curriculum, and as pupils choose their optional subjects, we would advise them to consider the subjects in which they are more interested and where their strengths and skills lie.

Our amazing SEND Team are also here to support you if you need it. You can contact them at send@risedale.org.uk.

If you have any additional questions regarding the options process, please contact me directly at kirkbride.m@risedale.org.uk.

Kind regards,
Mr M Kirkbride (Senior Teacher - KS4 Standards)

Hello Year 9,

The time has come to make crucial decisions about your GCSE studies in Years 10 and 11. Choosing the right subjects is a significant step, and we're here to support you through this process.

Please remember two key principles:

- **Choose what's right for you:** Your Option choices should align with your interests, strengths, and future aspirations.
- **Keep your options open:** Aim for a balanced selection of subjects that will provide a solid foundation for your future, allowing for flexibility and diverse opportunities.

Read the Options Booklet carefully. Take time to carefully consider each subject. Seek guidance from your teachers, tutors, and trusted adults. They can offer valuable insights into your abilities and the demands of each course.

This is an important decision, but you're not alone. We encourage you to:

- Discuss your options with your parents/carers.
- Consult your tutor and teachers.
- Talk to current GCSE pupils, especially those taking subjects you're interested in.

Questions and queries can also be emailed to your Pupil Support Manager, Mrs Meades, at meades.s@risedale.org.uk, and to our Careers Co-ordinator, Mrs Porritt, at porritt.h@risedale.org.uk.

Good luck with your choices.
We're here to help you every step of the way!

Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Throughout KS4, all pupils receive group and individual Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG).

The Social Studies (PSHCEe - Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship & Economic education) programme for KS4 works with pupils to encourage them to consider, investigate and research potential career pathways, as well as to match their current skills and interests with future career options.

Our Careers Advisor conducts individual interviews with every pupil in KS4, and they will have the opportunity to take part in Work Experience in Year 10.

Remember, no question is too big or too small to ask our Careers Team, personal tutors, subject teachers, and senior members of staff.

GCSE Expectations

As pupils move from Year 9 to Key Stage 4, they are expected to embrace new challenges, work hard and engage in their new learning opportunities. Within lessons, pupils are expected to make positive contributions, take an active role and show resilience when faced with challenges. Home learning and coursework deadlines must be met, and adhering to our Uniform Policy and Positive Behaviour Approach is vital. There is an expectation that all courses started will be followed to their conclusion.

The Core Subjects

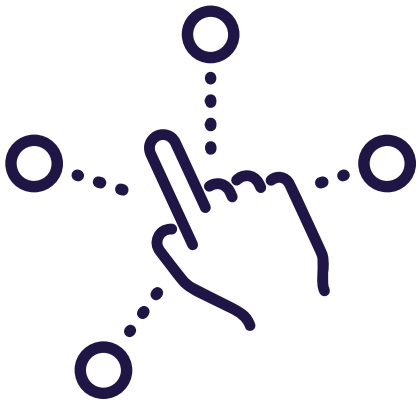
You will study these compulsory core subjects throughout Years 10 and 11 at KS4:

Compulsory Examination Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science

Compulsory Non-examination Subjects

- Physical Education (PE)
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)
- Social Studies (PSHCEe - Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship & Economic education)



General Guidance

- Pupils can only select **Art, Craft and Design** or **Fashion and Textiles**; they cannot select both.
- Pupils can only select **Design and Technology** or **Engineering**; they cannot select both.
- Pupils can only select **Food Preparation and Nutrition** or **Health and Social Care**; they cannot select both.
- Pupils can only select **Triple Science** if they are in the top 2 science groups (9SC1 or 9SC2).

How Your Choices Shape the GCSE Timetable

Your choices matter! We use the subjects you select from the online Options Form to build the KS4 timetable.

We'll always try our best to give pupils their first choices. However, we can only run a course if enough pupils opt for it. Because of this, we can't guarantee every subject in this booklet will be offered after all the forms are collated and reviewed.

To make sure we have a wide range of subjects for everyone, we may need to make changes based on overall demand. So, please choose subjects you'll really enjoy and feel comfortable studying.



Option Blocks

Pupils are required to choose **four subjects, one from each of the following option blocks**, in accordance with the guidance provided.

Option Block A	Option Block B	Option Block C	Option Block D
Art, Craft and Design	Engineering	Computer Science	Food Preparation and Nutrition
Design and Technology	Geography	Drama	History
Food Preparation and Nutrition	History	Fashion and Textiles	Media Studies
History	Music	French	Religious Studies
Travel and Tourism	Sport Studies	German	Sport Studies
Triple Science		Health and Social Care	

SUCCESS FOR ALL

It is because we want you to succeed and to have as many opportunities as possible that we have high expectations of your work and behaviour in Years 10 and 11. In particular, we will expect you to:-

- Show respect and pride in everything that you do.
- Focus on your learning and allow others to learn.
- Seek help with your learning as soon as you experience any difficulties.
- Meet all coursework deadline dates.
- Develop your interests and skills outside the classroom, for example in sports and music.
- Contribute to developing the positive reputation of Risedale School in our local community.

OUR CURRICULUM PILLARS



The five pillars: The main mantra of our curriculum is to be inclusive, to challenge and to engage all pupils positively in their learning through a broader understanding of the world around them. Throughout this, we emphasise kindness and empathy through a family ethos. To achieve this, we have 5 clear pillars which underpin our whole school curriculum vision.

#TEAMRISEDALE

Subject Details

Art, Craft and Design 10

Computer Science 12

Design and Technology 14

Drama 16

Engineering 18

Fashion and Textiles 20

Food Preparation and Nutrition 22

French 24

Geography 26

German 28

Health and Social Care 30

History 32

Information Technology 34

Media Studies 36

Music 38

Religious Studies 40

Science: Triple Award 42

Sport Studies 44

Travel and Tourism 46



YOUR OPTION SUBJECTS

Art, Craft and Design

Communicating ideas and experiences through a critical and creative exploration of visual language.

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Ms J Westwood - westwood.j@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Art, Craft and Design involves learning through a variety of experiences, processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources, to generate evidence of working through personal ideas and refining skills for outcomes.

Who is this subject best suited for?

GCSE Art is time-intensive and requires a lot of independent working from the start. A keen interest in learning and writing about artists' work will be helpful and pupils considering Art GCSE should already be engaging with art and drawing at home for themselves on a regular basis. Pupils will need to have access to a suitable camera or smartphone and their own art equipment for homework tasks. Pupils who are confident in their skills by Year 9 will have the best chance of success, although a determined approach by any pupil at any level will ensure good progress is achieved.

How is this useful for your future?

Successful pupils can progress to A Level or Level 3 courses in Art and Design, Fine Art, 3D Art specialisms, Graphics, Film and Media Studies, Photography, Textiles and Fashion. However, the creative aspect of the course is also beneficial to a wide range of subject areas at advanced levels of study.

Careers:

- Independent Fine Artist
- Graphic Designer
- Photographer or Camera Technician
- Architect
- Stage and Film Visual Effects
- Fashion and Textiles Designer
- Illustrator
- Animator
- Gallery Curator
- Art Therapist



Course Content:

Pupils will be working on coursework from the very start of Year 10 and everything they produce from the start of the course contributes to the final grade they receive at the end.

Coursework consists of two practical projects (titles to be confirmed) which include painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, digital studies, ceramics and written essays. Final pieces are completed in formal examination conditions.

The final examination is an externally set project (completed over a series of weeks) culminating in a final piece of work which is completed in 10 hours under formal examination conditions.

NB: Personal art equipment is a requirement of the course and discounted art equipment packs will be available to purchase through the school for all new Year 10 pupils at the start of the course.

Assessment

60% Coursework
(Non-examination assessment)

40% Examination
(Externally set project)

Pupils are graded in the following four areas, each worth 25%:

DEVELOP - Analysis of artists, including written work.
EXPLORE - Refining techniques with various art materials.
RECORD - Drawing accurately from observation and photography.
PRESENT - Completion and presentation of projects.

Key Dates of Assessment

Coursework Portfolio: September (Year 10) to December (Year 11).

External Examination: January to April (Year 11).

Computer Science

Computer Science: Program Your Future.

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Mrs J Rodgers - rodgers.j@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Calling all budding programmers and problem-solvers! If you're eager to dive into the world of code and shape the future of technology, Computer Science is your launchpad. This dynamic subject empowers you to master essential programming languages like Python, SQL, and pseudocode, giving you the tools to bring your digital visions to life. You'll learn to develop flowcharts and work independently, honing your ability to craft elegant code solutions to real-world problems. These crucial coding skills will be put to the test in both examination papers.

Who is this subject best suited for?

Do you have a knack for numbers and problem-solving? If mathematics is your forte, then Computer Science could be the perfect path for you. This dynamic subject delves into the world of algorithms, data structures, and computational thinking, providing a solid foundation for a future in technology. And if you're already fascinated by the art of coding, even better!

How is this useful for your future?

Computer Science GCSE prepares pupils for A Levels and Level 3 courses in Computer Science, Software Development, and related STEM fields (e.g., Mathematics, Physics, Engineering). Its emphasis on logical thinking, problem-solving, and analysis also benefits a wide range of other subjects, including business, finance, and humanities, as computational thinking becomes increasingly valuable across diverse fields.

Careers:

- Software Developer/Engineer
- Web Developer
- Data Analyst
- Cybersecurity Analyst
- Network Engineer
- IT Technician
- Game Developer
- Database Administrator
- Systems Analyst
- UX/UI Designer



Course Content:

Pupils learn how to program in Python, SQL and pseudocode and how to develop flowcharts by working independently to demonstrate their ability to code a solution to a given problem. These programming skills will be assessed as part of both examination papers.

Assessment

Computational Thinking and Problem Solving: (50% of the total marks)
Pupils will sit an examination that includes questions about programming, practical problem solving and computational thinking skills. Pupils will be required to design, write, test and refine program code in Python.

Computing Concepts: (50% of the total marks)
Pupils will sit an examination with content that includes computer structure, hardware, CPUs, algorithms, prototyping, networking and database concepts and assess SQL programming skills.

Key Dates of Assessment

Paper 1: Computational thinking and programming skills (2 hour written exam paper).
Paper 2: Computing concepts (1 hour 30 minute exam paper).
Both papers are taken at the end of the 2 year course.

Design and Technology

Empowering the next generation of designers, manufacturers, and problem-solvers.

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Mrs K-A Vizor - vizor.k@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Unleash your creativity and problem-solving skills! Learn to design, make, and evaluate, developing practical skills and innovative thinking for a range of future careers. From concept to creation, shape the world around you.

Who is this subject best suited for?

GCSE Design and Technology is a demanding yet rewarding course that requires a significant commitment to both practical work and theoretical understanding of Mathematics and Science. Pupils should have a genuine passion for design, innovation, and problem-solving, and ideally, already be engaging with making and designing in their own time. The course involves the development of a portfolio of work, demanding strong time management and independent working skills from the outset. While pupils with a solid foundation in Design and Technology principles by Year 9 will be well-placed, a dedicated and enthusiastic approach, coupled with a willingness to learn and persevere, will enable any pupil to make good progress and achieve their potential.

How is this useful for your future?

Studying GCSE Design and Technology equips you with invaluable skills that are highly transferable and beneficial for a wide range of future paths. The course fosters creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking – abilities that are essential in almost any profession. You'll develop practical skills in designing, making, and evaluating, learning to manage projects, work independently, and collaborate effectively.

This course will help prepare you for A/AS Level in Design and Technology or you may need to strengthen your grades by completing a foundation or intermediate vocational qualification. With further training, you could have a career in a Design and Technology-related profession such as Architecture, all aspects of Engineering, Product Design or Graphic Design. You could also go straight into employment and complete further training or part-time study with the support of your employer.

Careers:

- Architect
- Fashion or Interior Designer
- CAD Technician
- Robotics Engineer
- Teacher
- Architecture
- Civil Electrical or Mechanical Engineering
- Aerospace Software Development Engineer
- Aircraft Maintenance Operative
- Research and Prototype Development Engineer
- Armed Forces Operative
- Product Design or Graphic Design



Course Content:

The course involves looking at the development of products, their history and consumer involvement. It has a significant link to the development of products that solve problems for specific groups of people in real life.

Pupils will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.
They study the subject through 3 areas that support their work:

- **Core** technical principles
- **Specialist** technical principles
- **Designing and making** principles

Assessment

- The course is assessed by both the teacher and the examination board.
- There is a written examination at the end of Year 11, which counts towards 50% of the final marks.
- The remaining 50% comes from a non-examination assessment project, which offers three tasks to choose from and is set by the awarding body. Pupils need to be aware that this project is entirely independent and that they will guide its progression themselves.

Key Dates of Assessment

Pupils begin the NEA component of the course in June of Year 10 and it must be completed by Easter of Year 11. The final examination takes place at the end of Year 11 and is 2 hours long.

Drama

Shape Your Future: Develop Communication, Creativity, and Confidence with Drama GCSE!

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Mrs A Southworth-Gedye - southworthgedye.a@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Drama offers pupils the opportunity to explore the world of theatre and develop a range of essential skills. This course encourages creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking through practical exploration, performance, and analysis. Pupils will delve into different dramatic techniques, explore a variety of plays and theatrical styles, and learn how to create and perform their own pieces of drama. The course culminates in both practical and written assessments. Pupils will develop their acting skills, their understanding of dramatic theory, and their ability to evaluate and analyse performances, including their own work.

Who is this subject best suited for?

GCSE Drama is most suited for pupils with a passion for performance or design. It's ideal for those who thrive in collaborative environments, as drama requires a willingness to explore practically with others and perform work in class. Strong communication skills are essential, as is the ability to write confidently and meet deadlines for written components. Pupils who enjoy analysing plays, understanding character motivations, and exploring different theatrical techniques will find this subject engaging. Ultimately, GCSE Drama is a great choice for creative and expressive individuals who are eager to develop their acting, communicating, and analytical skills.

How is this useful for your future?

Drama prepares pupils for A Level Drama and Theatre Studies and builds transferable skills valuable for various careers. It enhances communication and confidence, crucial for customer service and public-facing roles. This course can be a stepping stone for aspiring drama specialists and performing artists and provides a solid foundation for those interested in teaching, culture, or social issues.

Careers:

- Actor/Performer
- Director
- Teacher
- Public Relations/Communications
- Marketing
- Event Management
- Playwright/Screenwriter
- Sound Designer
- Costume Designer
- Lighting Designer



Course Content:

GCSE Drama explores communication and society through theatre, building vital skills like public speaking, teamwork, and creativity. It's ideal for entertainment careers.

Pupils complete two performance assessments: a devised piece with a log, and scripted extracts for an examiner, plus a written exam. The course develops acting, design, communication, performance, creative, and analytical skills through practical and theory lessons.

Pupils explore theatre history, set plays, and production elements like set and costume. Success requires active engagement with texts and a willingness to perform.

Pupils will be required to develop the following skills:

- Acting and design
- Communication and group work
- Performance/design skills
- Creative thinking and devising
- Evaluative and analytical writing

Assessment

- 40% Written examination. Pupils sit a 1hr 30m open book examination assessing their understanding of drama and live theatre.

- 60% Non-examination Assessment. Pupils produce three pieces of performance coursework, one of which is supported by a piece of written coursework, 900 words long. For these, they can work as an actor or as a designer (lighting/sound/set/costume).

The NEA is split into:

1. Devising drama (40%) - Performance of own devised drama performance, a portfolio and a supervised evaluation, marked by the teacher and moderated by Eduqas.
2. Practical performance (20%) - Performance of two extracts from a play, off-script and in role, marked by a visiting examiner.

Key Dates of Assessment

Pupils will perform their NEA devised performance in June of Year 10. The NEA scripted performance will be performed around April of Year 11.

Engineering

Inspiring the new wave of Engineers by giving pupils an overview of various disciplines.

Qualification: V-Cert **Course Level**: Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering
Exam Board: NCFE

Course Leader and Email: Mr M Kirkbride - kirkbride.m@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Engineering is a dynamic and hands-on vocational subject that explores the principles of design, construction, and innovation. Pupils learn to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge to solve real-world problems, developing practical skills in areas like design, manufacturing, and testing. The course covers a range of engineering disciplines, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. Engineering equips pupils with the technical understanding and practical experience needed for future careers in a variety of engineering fields or further study in related subjects.

Who is this subject best suited for?

Engineering is ideal for curious, analytical problem-solvers who enjoy hands-on work. Those who appreciate applying Maths and Science to real-world challenges, like understanding how things work and designing solutions, will find it rewarding.

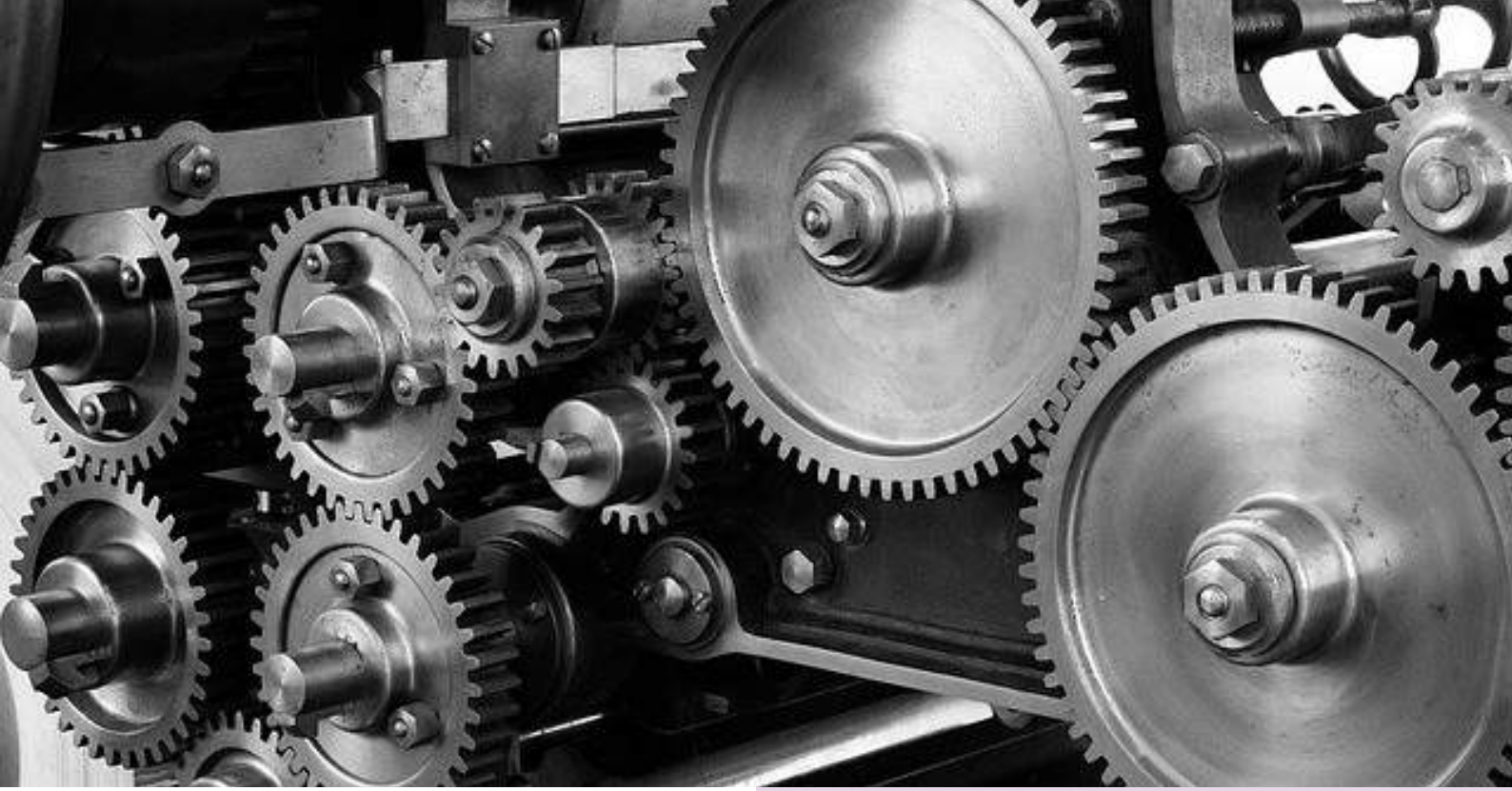
How is this useful for your future?

Engineering provides a solid foundation for a variety of future pathways. It prepares pupils for further education, including A-Levels in subjects like Maths, Further Maths, Design and Technology, and even the sciences, opening doors to university and specialised degree programmes.

Beyond academics, the qualification equips learners with practical skills and technical knowledge highly valued in the engineering sector, making them competitive candidates for skilled employment or apprenticeship programs. Essentially, a GCSE in Engineering sets pupils up for success, whether they choose to pursue higher education or enter the workforce directly.

Careers:

- Chemical Engineer
- Civil Engineer
- Aerospace Software Development Engineer
- Aircraft Maintenance Operative
- Research and Prototype Development Engineer
- Bioelectronics Medical Technician
- Armed Forces Operative



Course Content:

The subject looks at all aspects of engineering and its disciplines. It encourages the learner to use knowledge and practical tools to focus on developing transferable skills in practical engineering, accompanied by theoretical knowledge to help with progression into further education and employment.

The study of Engineering is the application of maths and science to solve real-world problems. This involves an understanding of the different disciplines of engineering and how they have shaped the products and projects of the modern world.

Learners will be able to read technical drawings, select appropriate materials along with tools and machinery, know how to carry out a practical task and work safely in line with current health and safety legislation.

Assessment

The qualification has 2 components:
1 written examination and 1 synoptic project set by the exam board (coursework/Non-Examined Assessment (NEA))

- 40% of the marks come from the written examination, which covers all aspects of Engineering. This exam is externally set and marked
- 60% of the marks come from the synoptic project/NEA. Pupils need to be aware that this project is entirely independent and that they will guide its progression themselves. This component is set by the exam board, internally marked and externally moderated
- The qualification is graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.

Key Dates of Assessment

Pupils begin the NEA component of the course in October of Year 11, and it must be completed by Easter. The final examination takes place at the end of Year 11 and is 1.5 hours long.

Fashion and Textiles

Inspiring pupils to design and manufacture textiles, producing unique and creative products.

Qualification: V-Cert **Exam Board**: NCFE
Course Level: Level 1/2 in Creative Design and Production

Course Leader and Email: Mrs K-A Vizor - vizor.k@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Are you interested in the fashion industry? Do you ever wonder what contributes to a fashion brand's success? In this 2-year vocational course, we will explore a variety of fashion and product designers throughout history and discuss what makes them iconic. We will experiment with various techniques, including hand embroidery, machine embroidery, fabric printing and dyeing, and the creation of fully finished products.

Who is this subject best suited for?

Fashion and Textiles is perfect for creative and innovative pupils with a passion for design and construction. If you love exploring materials, colours, and textures, bringing imaginative ideas to life, Fashion and Textiles is ideal. A keen eye for detail, problem-solving skills, and a desire for practical learning are essential. This hands-on subject allows you to experiment, create, and push boundaries. If you're curious about how things are made and enjoy expressing yourself through tangible projects, Fashion and Textiles offers a unique and fulfilling path.

How is this useful for your future?

Successful pupils can progress to A-Level or Level 3 courses in Art and Design, Fine Art, 3D Art specialisms, Graphics, Film and Media Studies, Photography, Textiles, and Fashion. However, the creative and practical skills developed in Fashion and Textiles are also beneficial to a wide range of subject areas at advanced levels of study. The ability to design, construct, and manipulate materials translates well to disciplines like engineering, architecture, and product design. Furthermore, the problem-solving and critical thinking skills honed through textile projects are valuable assets in fields such as business, marketing, and even the sciences. The transferable skills of project management, collaboration, and communication gained in this course are highly regarded in any future career path.

Careers:

- Fashion Designer
- Interior Designer
- Architect
- Jewellery Maker
- Tailor
- Costume Designer
- Fashion Journalist
- Stylist



Course Content:

This course is an introduction to design and production that includes a vocational and project-based element, approached from a creative perspective with regular opportunities to experiment and create.

You will learn about the design and production context; design materials and processes; design brief and production processes; reviewing processes and solutions; and working in the design production industries. These are all areas which will be assessed both with the final exam and through your synoptic project (coursework).

Assessment

The qualification has 2 components: one written examination and one synoptic project set by the exam board (coursework/Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)).

- 40% of the marks come from the written examination, which covers all aspects of Fashion and Textiles (Creative Design and Production). This exam is externally set and marked
- 60% of the marks come from the synoptic project/NEA. Pupils need to be aware that this project is entirely independent and that they will guide its progression themselves. This component is set by the exam board, internally marked and externally moderated
- The qualification is graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.

Key Dates of Assessment

Pupils begin the NEA component of the course in October of Year 11, and it must be completed by Easter. The final examination takes place at the end of Year 11 and is 1.5 hours long.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Develop your knowledge and understanding of nutrition, and express your creativity when cooking for different needs and preferences.

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Mrs J Dovaston - dovaston.j@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Food Preparation and Nutrition allows pupils to study and learn about food in its widest context and develops their preparation skills. The course enables pupils to understand -

- What food is composed of, why we need it and how it affects our long-term health
- How food can be prepared and cooked skilfully and safely to produce delicious and nutritious meals for different people and situations
- What happens to ingredients when you prepare and cook them
- Where food comes from and how it is produced and sold
- Which foods are eaten as part of cultures around the world
- How the food choices people make affect the health and well-being of themselves, their families and the people who produce the food.

Who is this subject best suited for?

This course requires a great deal of commitment and organisation as pupils will need to bring in ingredients from home and there is an expectation that they will cook or complete a practical cooking exercise once a week. There is an expectation that pupils will have cooked regularly at school throughout KS3 where possible so that they have the necessary starting skills. This course also involves scientific knowledge and understanding concerning food preparation.

How is this useful for your future?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition offers a wealth of benefits for your future. It equips you with essential life skills, opens doors to various career paths, cultivates transferable skills, and fosters personal development. This subject is a good choice for pupils who enjoy both theoretical and practical work. It would be useful for those who would like to go into hospitality, catering, nutrition, or health professions. It could also lead to an A Level in Food and Nutrition. Whether you aspire to be a chef, a nutritionist, or simply someone who enjoys cooking and eating well, this GCSE can be a valuable asset in your journey.

Careers:

- Chef
- Nutritionist
- Food Technologist
- Baker
- Caterer
- Dietitian
- Food Writer/Blogger
- Health and Wellness Coach
- Personal Trainer



Course Content:

The course is divided into five different sections -

- Food, Nutrition and Health
- Food Science
- Food Safety
- Food Choice
- Food Provenance

Assessment

This course is assessed by both the teacher and the examination board. 50% of the GCSE is assessed through a written exam of 1 hour 45 minutes including multiple-choice questions (20 marks) and 5 questions each with a number of sub-questions (80 marks) totalling 100 marks and 50% of the GCSE is assessed through 2 non-examination assessments:

Task 1: Food Investigation (15%) - Pupils' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients will be developed. Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this non-examination task. This is assessed through a written report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Food Preparation Assessment (35%) - Pupils will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. This is assessed through a written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

The pupil needs to be aware that this assessment is entirely independent and that they will guide its progression themselves.

Key Dates of Assessment

Task 1 is to be completed by October half-term of Year 11. Task 2 is to be completed by Easter of Year 11. The final written examination will take place in the June of Year 11.

French

Learn an impressive life skill and become a global citizen of the 21st century!

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Mr R Miller - miller.r@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

It's no surprise that Duolingo has over 500 million registered users worldwide, or that thousands of adults pay hundreds of pounds for Modern Foreign Languages classes in their free time but it's better to learn it now...and for free!

Having a GCSE in another language can open many doors. Not just the obvious ones, such as a career where you might communicate in another language, or the fact that you might be called upon to use it when travelling or on holiday. Having a qualification in another language also says a lot about you as a person to any potential employer: you're independent, you can think, you're resilient, you can solve problems, you're confident and you're hard-working!

Perhaps more than anything, learning a language also opens a door to another way of life and another culture, and you'll really benefit from broadening your horizons and your understanding of the world!

Who is this subject best suited for?

Anyone can be multilingual, although the very best 'Francophones' are people who are up for the challenge of learning to communicate in an alien tongue! They have inquisitive minds, are creative and resilient and are able to find ways of deducing meaning and 'getting the message across'.

How is this useful for your future?

GCSE and then even A-Level French provide a gateway for hundreds of career pathways, spanning diverse sectors like travel and tourism, retail, marketing, education, computing, customer service, engineering, finance, law and the media.

Beyond these specific industries, the British Council's recent research emphasises the vital role of languages in the UK's future competitiveness and global standing. Therefore, possessing French language skills can provide a significant advantage in an increasingly competitive job market, setting you apart from other candidates.

Careers:

- Tourism/Hospitality
- Airlines/Travel
- Government and Diplomatic Service
- Retail
- Marketing
- Teacher
- Translator and Interpreter
- Finance
- Journalism and Media



Course Content:

Pupils will study a variety of themes and topics for GCSE French, many of which they may have already practised at Key Stage 3.

- Media and technology
- Customs, festivals and celebrations in French-speaking countries
- Hobbies and sports
- Family, friends and relationships
- Personalities, descriptions and celebrity culture
- School life: uniform, rules, subjects and opinions
- Healthy living - meals, lifestyles and wellbeing
- Describing past and future holidays
- The world around us - local area and environmental issues
- Jobs, careers and future plans

Assessment

- 100% examination, taken at the end of the course in Year 11.
- Four skills will be assessed: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.
- Foundation tier: Grades 1-5
- Higher tier: Grades 4-9

Key Dates of Assessment

- **Listening, Reading and Writing examinations** - usually May/June of Year 11.
- **Speaking examination** - usually April/May of Year 11.

We continue to learn the language through regularly practising the key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, building on what pupils already know from Years 7-9.

Throughout the GCSE French course we regularly use technology to broaden our pupils' language-learning experience - and not just Google Translate! Risedale School subscribes to Languagenut, Active Learn, Quizlet and Wordwall, meaning that our pupils have access to multimedia applications that practise all skills and which really do enrich their French-learning journey. We also use Duolingo, Memrise and the amazing Lyricstraining to give our GCSE pupils access to additional authentic language.

Geography

Explore the world from your classroom.

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Mr R Sherwood - sherwood.r@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

This exciting and relevant course studies Geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them.

Pupils will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher-income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower-income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Pupils are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Who is this subject best suited for?

GCSE Geography suits pupils curious about the world, blending science and humanities. It's ideal for those who enjoy practical learning through fieldwork and analyzing global issues like climate change. The subject develops critical thinking, data analysis, and spatial awareness. These skills are valuable for various careers.

If you're inquisitive, analytical, and concerned about the planet, Geography offers a relevant and engaging course. It's for pupils who want to understand the processes shaping our world and develop skills for future success.

How is this useful for your future?

Many of the topics covered in GCSE Geography, such as climate change and resource management, are some of the biggest international issues in the world today.

The skills covered help prepare pupils for a wide variety of future employment, complement vocational courses and offer an excellent basis for moving on to A and AS-level.

Careers:

- Cartographer
- Environmental Consultant
- Town Planner
- Conservation Officer
- Recycling Officer
- Landscape Architect
- Geography Teacher/Lecturer



Course Content:

The Physical Environment

This unit of the course looks at the dynamic nature of the physical environment and the relationship and interaction with people.

- The first component focuses on natural hazards and covers tectonics, weather and climate change.
- The second component focuses on the topic of ecosystems by looking at a range of different environments including tropical rainforests and deserts.
- The third section focuses on different landscapes of the UK, studying coastal and river environments.

The Human Environment

This unit of the course looks at the different factors which produce a diverse range of human environments and the need for them to be managed sustainably.

- The first component focuses on urban issues and challenges.
- The second component focuses on the changing economic world.
- The third section focuses on resource management.

Geographical Applications

This unit of the course is comprised of two key elements:

- Two pieces of fieldwork enquiry. One investigation focuses on human geography; the second line of enquiry is based on the natural environment. The processes involved and the outcomes of both investigations will be assessed by examination.
- A critical thinking evaluative task based around a contemporary geographical issue. A relevant resource booklet will be provided twelve weeks before being assessed as the final component of the examination.

Assessment:

100% examination. Assessment is based on three examinations which will take place at the end of the course:

- Paper 1 (35%) – Living with the physical environment (90 mins)
- Paper 2 (35%) – Challenges in the human environment (90 mins)
- Paper 3 (30%) – Geographical applications (90 mins)

Throughout the course, pupils will complete a variety of GCSE-style practice papers, tasks and questions to prepare them for the examinations ahead.

German

Learn an impressive life skill and become a global citizen of the 21st century!

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Mr R Miller - miller.r@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

It's no surprise that Duolingo has over 500 million registered users worldwide, or that thousands of adults pay hundreds of pounds for Modern Foreign Languages classes in their free time but it's better to learn it now...and for free!

Having a GCSE in another language can open many doors. Not just the obvious ones, such as a career where you might communicate in another language, or the fact that you might be called upon to use it when travelling or on holiday. Having a qualification in another language also says a lot about you as a person to any potential employer: you're independent, you can think, you're resilient, you can solve problems, you're confident and you're hard-working!

Perhaps more than anything, learning a language also opens a door to another way of life and another culture, and you'll really benefit from broadening your horizons and your understanding of the world!

Who is this subject best suited for?

Anyone can be multilingual, although the very best 'Germanophones' are people who are up for the challenge of learning to communicate in an alien tongue! They have inquisitive minds, are creative and resilient and are able to find ways of deducing meaning and 'getting the message across'.

How is this useful for your future?

GCSE and then even A-Level German provide a gateway for hundreds of career pathways, spanning diverse sectors like travel and tourism, retail, marketing, education, computing, customer service, engineering, finance, law and the media.

Beyond these specific industries, the British Council's recent research emphasises the vital role of languages in the UK's future competitiveness and global standing. Therefore, possessing German language skills can provide a significant advantage in an increasingly competitive job market, setting you apart from other candidates.

Careers:

- Tourism/Hospitality
- Airlines/Travel
- Government and Diplomatic Service
- Retail
- Marketing
- Teacher
- Translator and Interpreter
- Finance
- Journalism and Media



Course Content:

Pupils will study a variety of themes and topics for GCSE German, many of which they may have already practised at Key Stage 3.

- Media and technology
- Customs, festivals and celebrations in German-speaking countries
- Hobbies and sports
- Family, friends and relationships
- Personalities, descriptions and celebrity culture
- School life: uniform, rules, subjects and opinions
- Healthy living - meals, lifestyles and wellbeing
- Describing past and future holidays
- The world around us - local area and environmental issues
- Jobs, careers and future plans

Assessment

- 100% examination, taken at the end of the course in Year 11.
- Four skills will be assessed: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.
- Foundation tier: Grades 1-5
- Higher tier: Grades 4-9

Key Dates of Assessment

- **Listening, Reading and Writing examinations** - usually May/June of Year 11.
- **Speaking examination** - usually April/May of Year 11.

We continue to learn the language through regularly practising the key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, building on what pupils already know from Years 7-9.

Throughout the GCSE German course we regularly use technology to broaden our pupils' language-learning experience - and not just Google Translate! Risedale School subscribes to Languagenut, Active Learn, Quizlet and Wordwall, meaning that our pupils have access to multimedia applications that practise all skills and which really do enrich their German-learning journey. We also use Duolingo, Memrise and the amazing Lyricstraining to give our GCSE pupils access to additional authentic language.

Health and Social Care

Develop your knowledge, understanding and confidence for real-life situations in the Health and Social sector.

Qualification: Cambridge National **Course Level**: Level 1/2 in Health and Social Care
Exam Board: OCR

Course Leader and Email: Mrs J Dovaston - dovaston.j@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Health and Social Care will allow pupils to develop their independence and confidence in using skills relevant to the health and social care sector. They will complete theoretical and practical tasks when developing skills and understanding. This qualification also allows them to develop skills that will be useful in all aspects of life as well as work situations, such as communicating effectively with individuals and groups, researching topic areas and recording sources before citing them in their work, planning creative activities or health promotion campaigns and creating, presenting and delivering information to a group and individuals.

Who is this subject best suited for?

This qualification is aimed at pupils who would like to develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that could be used in the health and social care sector. You will be able to use your learning experiences to recommend support for individuals, create and deliver a creative activity and a health promotion campaign.

How is this useful for your future?

This qualification will help you to progress onto further study in the health and social care sector. This may be Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as the Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care; A-Levels in Psychology, Biology or Sociology and also the following apprenticeships:

- Adult care worker
- Allied Health Profession Support
- Health and Social Care
- Healthcare science assistant
- Maternity and Paediatric Support

This qualification will also enable you to progress onto a T Level such as Health and Healthcare Science.

Careers:

- Health Care Assistant/Worker
- Nurse/Midwife
- Paramedic
- Occupational Therapy
- Healthcare Receptionist
- Nursery Nurse



Course Content:

The course consists of two mandatory units and one optional unit of work.

RO32 - Principles of care in health and social care (This unit is assessed through a written exam)
The key topics are -

- The rights of service users in health and social care settings.
- Person-centred values
- Effective communication in health and social care settings
- Protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings.

RO33 - Supporting individuals through life events
(This unit is assessed by a set assignment)

The key topics are -

- Life stages
- Impacts of life events
- Sources of support

RO35 - Health promotion campaigns
(This is assessed by a set assignment)

The key topics are -

- Current public health issues and the impact on society
- Factors influencing health
- Plan and create a health promotion campaign
- Deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign

Assessment

Pupils will complete one externally assessed unit (exam 40% of the final qualification) and two centre assessed units (NEA assignments 60% of the final qualification).

Key Dates of Assessment

Pupils will complete the externally assessed exam in June of Year 11. The NEA assignments will be completed in Year 10 and Year 11 as part of the final assessment for the qualification.

History

Understand the past, help shape the future.

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel

Course Leader and Email: Mr A Hill - hill.a@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

History is fascinating. It is the story of mankind and includes its great achievements and its spectacular failures! Studying it will feed your curiosity about the world and help you to understand today's cultures and world events through what you have learnt about the past. Studying the subject will also equip you with valuable life skills such as analysis, evaluation and discussion, regardless of the path you follow. History is a great story.

Who is this subject best suited for?

History thrives on curiosity. Pupils who are passionate about the past and enjoy exploring it through reading will find this subject rewarding.

Success in History also relies on strong organisational skills, particularly when it comes to structuring written arguments and analyses.

How is this useful for your future?

History isn't just about the past; it's a powerful tool for the future. Universities highly value History graduates because the subject cultivates a diverse skillset.

You'll sharpen your communication and writing abilities, learn to construct compelling arguments, master research and problem-solving, and develop strong analytical and interpretation skills.

These abilities are essential for success in a wide range of academic disciplines and exciting career paths.

Careers:

- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Business
- Politician
- Historian
- Archaeologist
- Marketer
- Teacher



Course Content:

Our GCSE History course dives into four fascinating topics, all assessed through three engaging exams. No coursework means focused revision is crucial, and we'll equip you with the tools to succeed.

We will undertake an in-depth study of Elizabethan England, learning about the challenges Elizabeth faced as a young female monarch in a deeply divided kingdom. We also take a long-term look at the Cold War, a 45-year-long geopolitical conflict in which the capitalist West faced the communist East in a struggle for control of Europe - and the world.

A study of Germany following its defeat in the First World War will tell the story of the birth of a young, vibrant democracy, which was snuffed out by fascism following the turmoil of the Great Depression. Finally, we undertake a study of a thousand-year period of history, learning about how crime and punishment have changed over the years in Britain, from the time of the Anglo-Saxons through to the modern day.

Assessment

There are three examinations for assessment in the summer of Year 11:

Paper 1 - Thematic Study and Historic Environment (30%): Crime and Punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: Crime, policing and the inner city (1 hour 20 mins)

Paper 2 - Period Study and British Depth Study (40%): Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941–91; Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 (1 hour and 50 mins)

Paper 3 - Modern Depth Study (30%): Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39. A cultural capital visit to Berlin is also offered (1 hour and 30 mins)

Information Technology

Launch Your Creative IT Career,

Qualification: Cambridge National
Course Level: Level 1/2 in Creative iMedia **Exam Board:** OCR

Course Leader and Email: Mrs J Rodgers - rodgers.j@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

The Information Technology course is a vocational qualification designed to equip you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed in the digital media sector. You will learn how digital media products, such as websites and apps etc, effectively convey their meaning to audiences.

You will develop the skills to create original digital graphics content as well as have the opportunity to create digital products such as websites for a specific target audience. This will involve skills such as problem-solving, digital presentation, creative thinking and refining your research and planning skills.

Who is this subject best suited for?

The course is for pupils who are interested in Computing but prefer the more software-based units that have been followed in Computer Science. You are required to work independently and take responsibility for your own learning.

How is this useful for your future?

Information Technology will provide you with essential skills that are in high demand across various industries, not just tech, and are crucial for navigating the digital world.

They will give you a competitive edge in the job market, whether you pursue further education or enter the workforce directly. As technology continues to advance, these skills will only become more valuable, future-proofing you for the ever-evolving world of work.

Careers:

- IT Infrastructure Technician
- Emerging Digital Technology Practitioner
- Application Developer
- Digital Software Practitioner
- IT Technical Practitioner
- Digital Business Practitioner
- UX Designer
- System Analyst
- Education



Course Content:

There are 3 elements to this qualification.
The first unit, Creative iMedia in the Media Industry, will focus on the exam-based theory which involves pre-production planning and design as well as the identification of target audiences. You will learn the legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products. You will also be learning about how software and media are distributed as well as how they convey meaning and engage their target audience.

The second unit focuses on one of the non-examined assessment (NEA) coursework elements. Visual Identity and Digital Graphics is where you learn how to develop visual identities for clients and will be expected to design and create digital graphic products such as a leaflet, magazine cover or packaging for a specific target audience. You will make use of tools and techniques for imaging editing software to create digital graphics.

The final non-examined assessment (NEA) coursework element is Interactive Digital Media. In this unit, you will learn to design and create interactive digital media products for chosen platforms. You will learn to select, edit and repurpose multimedia content of different kinds and create the structure and interactive elements necessary for an effective user experience.

Both coursework elements will draw upon the skills and knowledge developed in the Creative iMedia in the Media Industry unit at the beginning of the course.

Assessment

You will be continually assessed throughout the qualification using NEA and complete a summative exam in Creative iMedia in the Media Industry.
The course is a 120 learning hours qualification and has 3 units.

- One externally assessed unit (exam) 40%
- Two centre-assessed and exam board-moderated units (NEA) 60%

The course will also give you the opportunity to develop your planning and design skills as well as time management and independence.
The qualification is graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.

Key Dates of Assessment

R094: Visual identity and digital graphics - NEA Coursework - May of Year 10
R097: Interactive Digital Media - NEA Coursework - Spring/Summer of Year 11
R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry - Written paper, OCR set and marked at the end of Year 11

Media Studies

Explore the Hidden World of GCSE Media Studies: Uncover the processes behind film, gaming, music, and more! Delve into how media products are created and impact our lives over two enlightening years!

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** Eduqas

Course Leader and Email: Miss G Roberts - roberts.g@risedale.org.uk
Course Leader and Email: Miss A Douglas - douglas.a@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

GCSE Media Studies is going to encourage you to think and write critically and sensitively about a range of topics. It is going to get you to consider and apply theories in order to uncover the hidden truth about the media you see and interact with on a day-to-day basis.

It is a subject that explores relevant and topical, global issues that impact the world that you live in. You will investigate a variety of different forms of media from the gaming industry to the television industry. You will also get to create your own media product!

Who is this subject best suited for?

Many pathways open up through the Media qualification. If you are interested in a career in design or journalism, gaming - anything that influences the way we see or perceive the world - this course is for you!

How is this useful for your future?

GCSE Media Studies develops crucial skills for the future. It fosters critical thinking by analysing media messages, improves communication through media creation, enhances understanding of society and culture, and builds essential digital literacy.

These skills are valuable across diverse careers, not just media-specific ones, by improving communication, critical thinking, and cultural awareness.

Careers:

- Marketing
- Television and Radio
- Film and Video
- Digital Media
- Computer Game Industry
- Journalist
- Write and Publishing
- Public Relations



Course Content:

The course is split into 3 areas:

Component 1: (40%) - Pupils will study various forms of media to learn how codes and conventions are used within the industry. This will look at different forms of media, chosen by the exam board, to explore the historical, social or gender representations within them. The areas that will be studied are advertising, film posters, magazines, newspapers, video games and radio.

Component 2: (30%) - Pupils will gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of media language and representation as well as study the media industry and audience. They will develop knowledge of relevant social, cultural, political, and historical contexts. This component is taught by analysis of two television crime dramas from different eras as well as three music videos.

Component 3: Non-examination assessment (30%) - Learners will work independently to research, plan and produce a media product in class. They will be sent a brief by the exam board and will be asked to create a magazine. The brief changes each year. Across this product, 10 marks are gained from the research and planning, 20 are gained for including all the elements of the brief and 30 marks are gained for creating the media product.

Assessment

The course is linear with the final examinations to be taken at the end of two years.

There are 3 components which make up the final GCSE grade.

Component 1: 1hr 30 minutes written paper 40%

Component 2: 1hr 30 minutes written paper 30%

Component 3: Non-examination assessment (NEA) 30%

Key Dates of Assessment

Component 3 (NEA) completed in Summer term in Year 10.

Mock Exam in Summer Term in Year 10 for Component 1.

Component 1 & 2 Exams PPE in Autumn/Spring Term Year 11

Component 1 & 2 Exam Summer Term in Year 11.

Music

Unleash Your Sound: compose original pieces, perform diverse music, and master the theoretical secrets of any genre.

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** Eduqas

Course Leader and Email: Mrs L Lumsdon - lumsdon.l@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Ready to take your musical skills to the next level? GCSE Music invites you to forge a personal connection with sound by mastering the core skills of performing, composing, and critical appraising. You will explore four distinct Areas of Study, examining how musical styles across history and global cultures reflect personal and shared identities. Dive into the world of music to refine your practical technique, develop your original voice, and understand how every piece speaks to you.

Who is this subject best suited for?
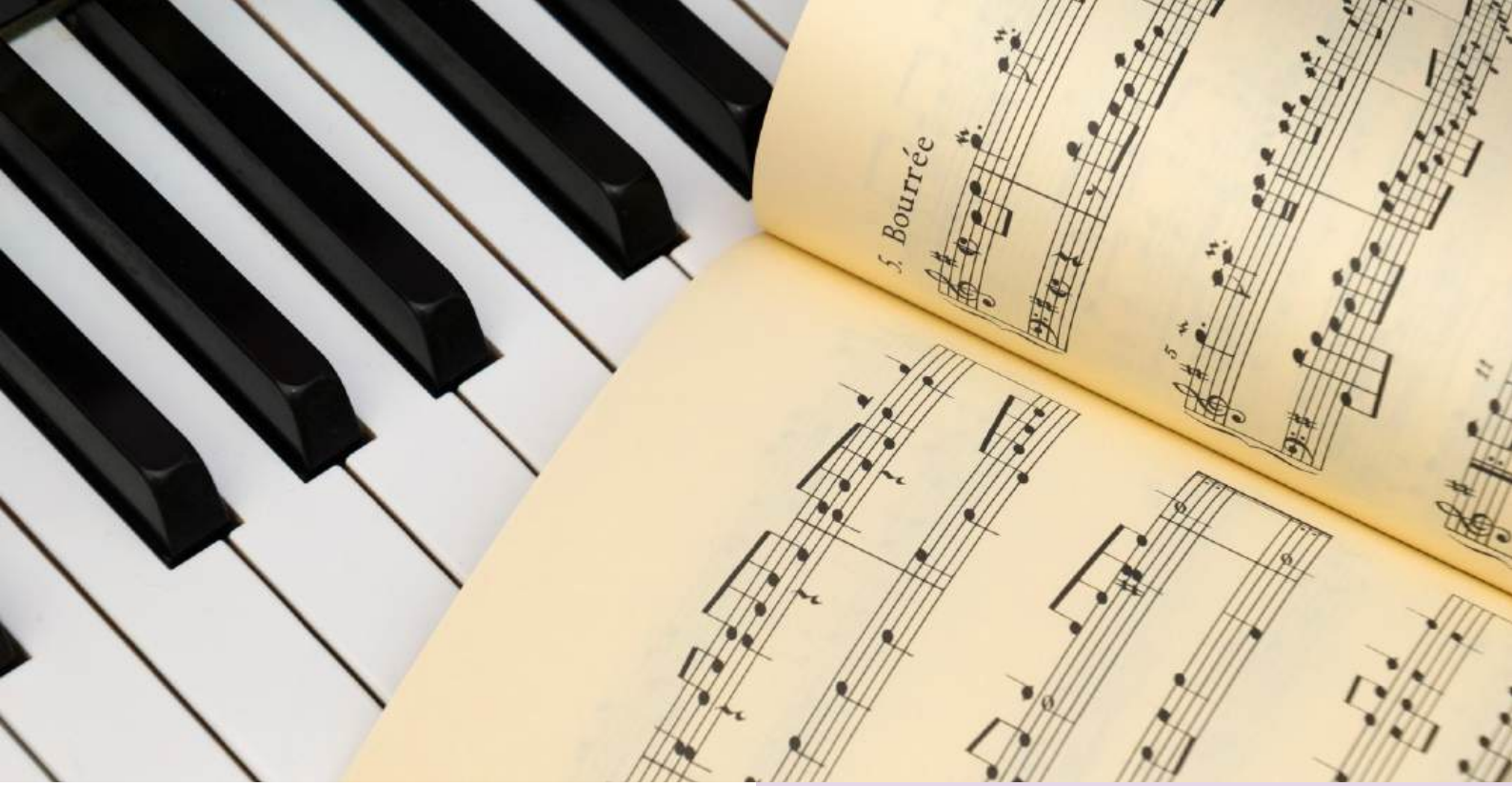
If you are an enthusiastic musician eager to understand the music you play and hear, this course is for you. Success in GCSE Music relies on established practical skills: pupils must be able to perform on an instrument or vocally from the outset. Ideally, candidates should have attained a level equivalent to Associated Board Grade 3. For those without formal grades, demonstrating a high level of instrumental or vocal competency is essential for acceptance onto the course.

How is this useful for your future?

GCSE Music provides a foundation for further music studies, including A-Levels and university degrees. It cultivates creativity, critical thinking, discipline, and teamwork. Beyond music, it enhances cognitive skills and contributes to a well-rounded education, opening doors to diverse careers and personal enrichment.

Careers:

- Teacher; classroom or instrumental
- Musician; performer or composer
- Sound Engineer/Producer
- Music Journalist
- Conductor
- DJ



Course Content:

Performing:
Pupils must submit a minimum of two pieces (4–6 minutes total), including one required ensemble performance. Performances can be on any instrument or voice.

Composing:
Pupils must create and submit two original compositions (3–6 minutes total). One composition must be written in response to a choice of four set briefs issued by Eduqas, and the second is a free composition.

Appraising:
Pupils take a final listening-based exam covering music from four distinct Areas of Study, which include Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music, and Popular Music.

Assessment

Unit 1: Performing - 30%
This is a Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). Your performance work is assessed by your teacher and then externally moderated by Eduqas. You record a minimum of two pieces (solo and ensemble) during the course.

Unit 2: Composing - 30%
This is also a Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). Your two original compositions and accompanying log are assessed by your teacher and externally moderated by Eduqas.

Unit 3: Appraising - 40%
This is a Written Examination lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. This is externally set and marked by Eduqas and requires you to answer questions based on listening extracts covering the four Areas of Study.

Key Dates of Assessment

- The NEA submission is typically May.
- The Appraising Exam is in June.

Religious Studies

Develop an understanding of diverse world views and how these impact our decision-making.

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Mrs J Laheney - laheney.j@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

GCSE Religious Studies reflects Britain's multicultural society by studying the beliefs and practices of two diverse religions and the impact these beliefs have on how religious followers make ethical decisions. Pupils will become well-informed on topical issues, from both a national and global viewpoint.

They will examine how these issues link to both secular and religious points of view and how these may change over time, for example, the differing stances on euthanasia and human rights violations.

Who is this subject best suited for?

Pupils need to be able to think critically to analyse information and evaluate different points of view. They need to be able to form logical chains of reasoning and reflect on their own views to make well-informed judgments.

How is this useful for your future?

GCSE Religious Studies develops vital skills like critical thinking, communication, and empathy, essential for navigating our diverse society. It lays a solid foundation for A-Levels in subjects such as Law, History, and Philosophy, thanks to its focus on analysing complex ideas and ethical dilemmas.

Studying diverse faiths fosters cultural understanding and tolerance, preparing you for responsible citizenship. The ability to research, evaluate, and articulate arguments is beneficial across numerous careers, including education, law, and social work.

Careers:

- Critical Analyst
- Counselling/Advice Worker
- Armed Forces
- Politician
- Civil Services
- Nursing
- Medicine
- Law
- Teaching



Course Content:

To reflect our multicultural society, pupils examine the beliefs and practices of two diverse religions, thus creating opportunities to compare and contrast these faiths. Pupils develop a number of skills; the ability to analyse information, evaluate different points of view, justify opinions and reflect upon their own views. Pupils are encouraged to question and become well-informed on national and global matters that relate to religious beliefs, for example, the stance on euthanasia and human rights violations.

Buddhism: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices - 25%

- The central beliefs of Buddhism; Festivals, celebrations and pilgrimage; Worship, including the practice of meditation; Ethical issues; and Communities.

Christianity: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices - 25%

- The central beliefs of Christianity; Festivals, celebrations and pilgrimage; Worship; Mission; and Communities.

Thematics: Ethics and Morality - 50%

(There are 6 themes to choose from - you will only be examined on 4 of them)

- Relationships and Families; Religion and Life; The existence of God and Revelation; Religion, Peace and Conflict; Religion, Crime and Punishment; and Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice.

Assessment

- One 1 hour 45 minute pre-public examination will be taken in June of Year 10.
- Two 1 hour 45 minute external examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11.
- The first paper will cover the beliefs and practices of the two religions (Christianity and Buddhism) and the second will be on the four ethical themes studied.
- Internal assessment is continuous to monitor the progress of each individual and offer additional support if required.

Science: Triple Award

Inspiring curiosity, reaching for the stars.

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

Course Leader and Email: Mrs J Hailwood - hailwood.j@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Pupils who choose Science as an option will work towards a Triple Award by studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics as three separate GCSE qualifications. In addition to the compulsory Science lessons each week, they will have 3 extra Science lessons. This is to enable them to study the extra content in much more depth. The subject of 'Science' is vast and wildly varied. One day you can be learning about chemical reactions taking place in the cells of living things, the next you are marvelling at the concept of energy in the universe.

Who is this subject best suited for?

Triple Science is best suited for pupils who are in set 9SC1 or 9SC2, who have a real passion for learning about Science and may decide to go on to study Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics at A-Level. They must be achieving high grades in Science already.

How is this useful for your future?

Good GCSE Science grades open doors to A-Level study and a wide range of career paths.

Strong performance demonstrates valuable skills to potential employers, making science graduates desirable candidates in diverse fields.

Careers:

- Aerospace Engineer
- Agricultural Engineer
- Biochemist
- Dentist
- Dietician
- Environmental Scientist or Conservationist
- Forensic Scientist, Criminologist and Pathologist
- Geneticist
- Green Energy Scientist
- Medicine: Doctor, Vet, Dentist
- Microbiologist

... and many many more



Course Content:

Pupils who choose Science as an option will work towards a Triple Award by studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics as three separate GCSE qualifications. In addition to the compulsory Core Science lessons each week, they will have 3 extra Science lessons. This is to enable them to study the extra content in each of the following units, as well as the additional unit in physics.

GCSE Science covers a broad range of topics across Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. In Biology pupils will study units in Cell Biology, Organisation (biological systems such as the circulatory system), Infection and Response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution, and Ecology. In Chemistry they will develop a secure knowledge of The Structure of the Atom and the Periodic Table, Structure, Bonding and Properties of Matter, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes in Reactions and Energy Changes, Reaction Rates, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmospheric, and about Using Resources. Physics examines Energy, Electricity, the Particle Model of Matter, Atomic Structure and Radioactivity, Forces, Magnetism and Electromagnetism, Waves, and Space Physics. Crucially, alongside these units, pupils must complete 28 required practical experiments.

Assessment

Assessment is by examination only. There will be 6 papers: 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics, each assessing different topics and each lasting 1hr 45mins.

Each paper will cover a combination of structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

Pupils will receive 3 separate grades.

There will be a choice of foundation and higher tier. Both papers for each individual subject must be sat at the same tier, but pupils can sit different tiers in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Sport Studies

Dive deeper into sport: explore the multiple facets of performance, leadership and the industry behind the sporting world.

Qualification: Cambridge National **Course Level**: Level 1/2 in Sport Studies
Exam Board: OCR

Course Leader and Email: Mr A Lawson - lawson.a@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies is a vocational qualification which offers a practical and engaging introduction to the sports industry. Pupils develop skills in sports performance and leadership, planning and leading activity sessions. The course explores contemporary issues in sport, including participation, ethics, and the role of major events. Pupils also learn about the relationship between sport and the media. Assessment combines practical demonstrations, internally assessed coursework, and an externally assessed exam. This qualification is ideal for pupils with a passion for sport who prefer applied learning and are considering careers in the sports sector.

Who is this subject best suited for?

This is a course for pupils who want to study in the context of a vocational sector. The subject requires a pupil who enjoys independent learning and will take responsibility for their own learning, in order to develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace.

How is this useful for your future?

Sport Studies prepares pupils for a dynamic future in the growing sports and leisure industry. It provides a foundation for progression to further and higher education, including Level 3 Cambridge Nationals. With opportunities in coaching, instructing, outdoor activities, facility management, and administration, the course develops valuable transferable skills for a range of exciting careers.

Careers:

- Sports Science
- Teacher of PE
- Fitness Instructor
- Sports Coach/Consultant
- Personal Trainer
- Leisure Centre Manager
- Police or Armed Forces



Course Content:

The Cambridge National in Sport Studies is a 3-unit, 120-guided learning hour qualification. There are 2 mandatory units:

- R184: Contemporary Issues in Sport, assessed by a 1 hour 15 minutes external online examination.
- R185: Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities.

The 3rd unit we choose to study is:

- R187: Increasing Awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities.

The course will also provide you with opportunities to:

- Develop key skills in communication, working with others and problem-solving
- Participate in work-related learning activities
- Gain National Governing Body Qualifications e.g. coaching awards
- Develop a commitment to an active, healthy lifestyle.

Assessment

You will be continually assessed throughout the course and there will be an external examination at the end of the course for the Contemporary Issues in Sport unit. You will study real-life, work-based case studies and complete assignments to gain marks. The information can be presented in different formats to reflect your preferred learning style e.g. PowerPoint presentations, written assignments, posters and displays.

The qualification is graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.

Key Dates of Assessment

R185: Centre-assessed tasks, OCR moderated. (Dec 2026)
R187: Centre-assessed tasks, OCR moderated. (May 2027)
R184: Written paper, OCR set and marked. (May 2027)

Travel and Tourism

Embark on a journey into the world of travel and tourism and unlock a world of career opportunities in a dynamic global industry.

Qualification: BTEC **Course Level**: Level 1/2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism
Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Leader and Email: Mr R Sherwood - sherwood.r@risedale.org.uk

Subject Description:

This course is a vocational qualification that provides a comprehensive overview of the Travel and Tourism sector. It equips pupils with essential knowledge about both UK and global destinations, industry structures, and the crucial role of customer service. Pupils will learn how various destinations attract tourists and gain an understanding of the complexities of this thriving industry.

Who is this subject best suited for?

Ideal for pupils with a passion for travel, geography, and cultural exploration. This course is also beneficial for those seeking to develop practical skills in research, problem-solving, and customer relations, which are transferable across various sectors.

How is this useful for your future?

This qualification provides a solid foundation for further education and a range of career opportunities. Pupils will develop:

- **Effective Communication and Presentation Skills:** Essential for interacting with customers and colleagues.
- **Industry-Specific Knowledge:** Gain insights into the operations and dynamics of the Travel and Tourism sector.
- **Practical Skills:** Learn to book travel, resolve customer issues, and navigate international travel logistics.

This course can serve as a stepping stone to Level 3 qualifications in Travel and Tourism at other institutions, leading to university pathways or direct entry into the travel industry.

Careers:

- Air Cabin Crew / Pilot
- Holiday Resort Representative / Cruise Ship Steward
- Hotel Manager
- Visitor Attraction General Manager (eg. Theme Park Manager)
- Tour Manager
- Tourism Officer
- Tourist Information Centre Manager
- Travel Agency Manager
- Sales Executive
- Outdoor Activities/Education Manager/Instructor



Course Content:

The Travel and Tourism course offers an exciting programme of study that will equip you with a variety of skills and knowledge. The course has 3 components covering a wide range of Travel and Tourism related topics.

Component 1:
Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations.

Component 2:
Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism.

Component 3:
Influences on Global Travel and Tourism.

Assessment

The qualification is assessed through a combination of external and internal assessments:

- **Components 1 and 2: Coursework/Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs) 60%:** Internally marked and externally moderated, focusing on practical application and skills development.
- All coursework/NEAs must be submitted by the specified deadlines.
- **Component 3: Written Examination 40%:** Externally set and marked, covering all aspects of the course content.



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