



Sandymoor
Ormiston
Academy

Options 2026

Some of the key values
that would be seen within the
Pastoral virtue include:

Punctuality
Attendance
Respect
Integrity
Diversity
Empathy
Fairness

Pride

Some of the key values
that would be seen within the
Curriculum virtue include:

Reflection
Pursuit of the mind
Desire to learn
Critical thinking
Resourcefulness
Creativity
Autonomy
Curiosity

Ambition

Some of the key values
that would be seen within the
Enrichment virtue include:

Confidence
Team work
Determination
Independence
Perserverance
Motivation
Leadership

Resilience

Some of the key values
that would be seen within the
#WeWill virtue include:

Citizenship
Neighbourliness
Inclusivity
Community awareness
Compassion
Humility
Volunteering
Service

Social Action



Dear students, parents and carers,

Now is the time for Year 9 to make choices about the subjects that they will study during their next two years at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy. This booklet is designed to help with the subject choices available at Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11). We firmly believe that students in Key Stage 4 should study a balanced curriculum which enables them to access as many opportunities as possible in the next stages of their post-16 education, employment or training. We are ambitious for our students and want every Sandymoor student to realise their potential through demonstrating pride and resilience in their option choices.

We know that the options process can be a bit daunting; this is the stage at which students choose a suite of subjects that they would like to continue to study in greater depth. It raises a lot of questions: What will I study if I take a subject? What careers can the subject help me with? How will I be assessed? This booklet is one part of the process to help answer these questions and make subject decisions. At each stage of the process there are lots of people from which to seek advice about options – form tutors, subject teachers, subject leaders, teaching assistants, parents and carers.

The choices made in year 9 can set students on the path for a specific future career or may just be subjects that students are interested in with no fixed career in sight. The biggest piece of advice we can offer students at this stage is this: **choose what you enjoy and are interested in!** Make the decisions for yourself, not based on what friends are choosing or which teacher you currently have – these things may change over the next two years, so choose options that you are prepared to work hard at for two years.

This booklet aims to address many of the questions that arise during the options process and as Year 9 take their next step in their educational journey. If you have any questions, please do come to see me.

Mrs Judson
Vice Principal

How is Key Stage 4 organised at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy?

We want to offer as much individual choice as we can, so that students can follow courses they need for their interests and their future career aspirations. However, there are also certain constraints and requirements that govern students' choices: the following pages explain what these are.

We advise that all students opt for a broad and balanced curriculum. Whilst all GCSEs have equal status, they do stress different skills and methods of learning. When making choices students must balance their knowledge and skills to keep their options open for later life, such as choosing college or apprenticeship courses.

What will all students study at Key Stage 4?

All students study a core of subjects. They are:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core PE (non-examined)
- Core RE (non-examined)
- Personal Development (non-examined, though with accredited modules)

The Key Stage 4 (KS4) curriculum reflects the National Curriculum requirements - [The national curriculum: Key stage 3 and 4 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-key-stage-3-and-4) **DfE 2023**

How is Key Stage 4 assessed?

GCSEs and Vocational grades are awarded through assessment standards set by Ofqual. This table shows how GCSE and BTEC qualifications are aligned.

Old GCSE	New GCSE	Vocational (NCFE, BTEC, Cambridge National)
	9	
A*	8	Level 2 Distinction *
A	7	Level 2 Distinction
B	6	Level 2 Merit
C	5	Level 2 Pass
	4	
D	3	Level 1 Distinction
E		
F	2	Level 1 Merit
G	1	Level 1 Pass
U	U	

How are GCSEs linked to future opportunities?

What level of qualifications will students study in Year 10 and 11?

Key Stage 4 subject qualifications offered are be a mixture of **Level 2** GCSE and vocational diplomas, for example, English Language and Mathematics are GCSEs whereas Sport and Engineering are a vocational.

What level of qualifications will I study when I leave Year 11?

Most of the student's progress to **Level 3** qualifications such as a mixture of A-Levels and vocational diplomas. Some students prefer the apprenticeship route.

What level of qualifications will I study if I want to go to University?

University course entry is based on a minimum number of UCAS points. The UCAS points equate to different Level 3 qualifications grades students achieve. Universities set entry requirements based on UCAS points. For more information see [UCAS Tariff Points - what are they and how do they work?](#)

Can I still achieve a Degree without going to University?

Yes! However not all careers offer this route. For more information on Degree Apprenticeships

<https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england/what-apprenticeships-are-available/degree-apprenticeship>

Postgraduate	8	Post graduate level (Master's Degree (second degrees), Doctorate (PhD),	Professional Accreditation BTEC Advanced Professional, NVQ level 5.	NVQ 7, 8
	7			
Higher Education	6	Bachelor's Degree (BA, BSc, Beng etc)	BTEC Advanced Professional Level 6	Degree apprenticeship NVQ 5, 6,
	5	Foundation degree (FdA or FdSc)	Higher National Diploma (HND)	
	4		Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Higher Apprenticeship/ NVQ 4
Further Education	3	A- Levels, International Baccalaureate	T Levels, BTEC diploma, BTEC certificate	Advanced Apprenticeship / NVQ 3
	2	GCSE Grades 4-9	BTEC level 2 pass, merit, distinction, distinction *	Intermediate Apprenticeship/ NVQ 2
	1	GCSE Grades 1-3	BTEC level 1 pass, merit, distinction, distinction *	Traineeship/ NVQ 1
		Academic route	Vocational route	Applied/work route
	LEVEL	Qualification		

What is the English Baccalaureate?

What is the EBacc?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people. The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- ☐ English Language and English Literature
- ☐ Maths
- ☐ Science Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer Science
- ☐ History or Geography
- ☐ a language

While students may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives students access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If students are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

DfE 2023

What about the Arts?

While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. Students have open options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art, dance, drama as well as others such as physical education or technology.



Does everyone have to take the EBacc?

At Sandymoor Ormiston Academy, we recognise that the EBacc isn't always the best choice for everyone, and we support all students in making the choices that are right for them and for their future ambitions.





Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers.

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies, August 2017



Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.

Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017

What are the options for Key Stage 4?

Students choose one of the following

GCSE Computer Science	GCSE History	GCSE Geography	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Triple Science
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Students will take two from the following (2 first choice and 2 reserves):

GCSE Art*	NCFE Child Development
GCSE Computer Science	Cambridge National Creative Media
GCSE Geography	BTEC Dance
GCSE Food and Nutrition	NCFE Engineering
GCSE History	BTEC Sport
GCSE Music	
GCSE Psychology	
GCSE Religious Education	
GCSE Spanish	
GCSE Statistics	
GCSE Textiles*	

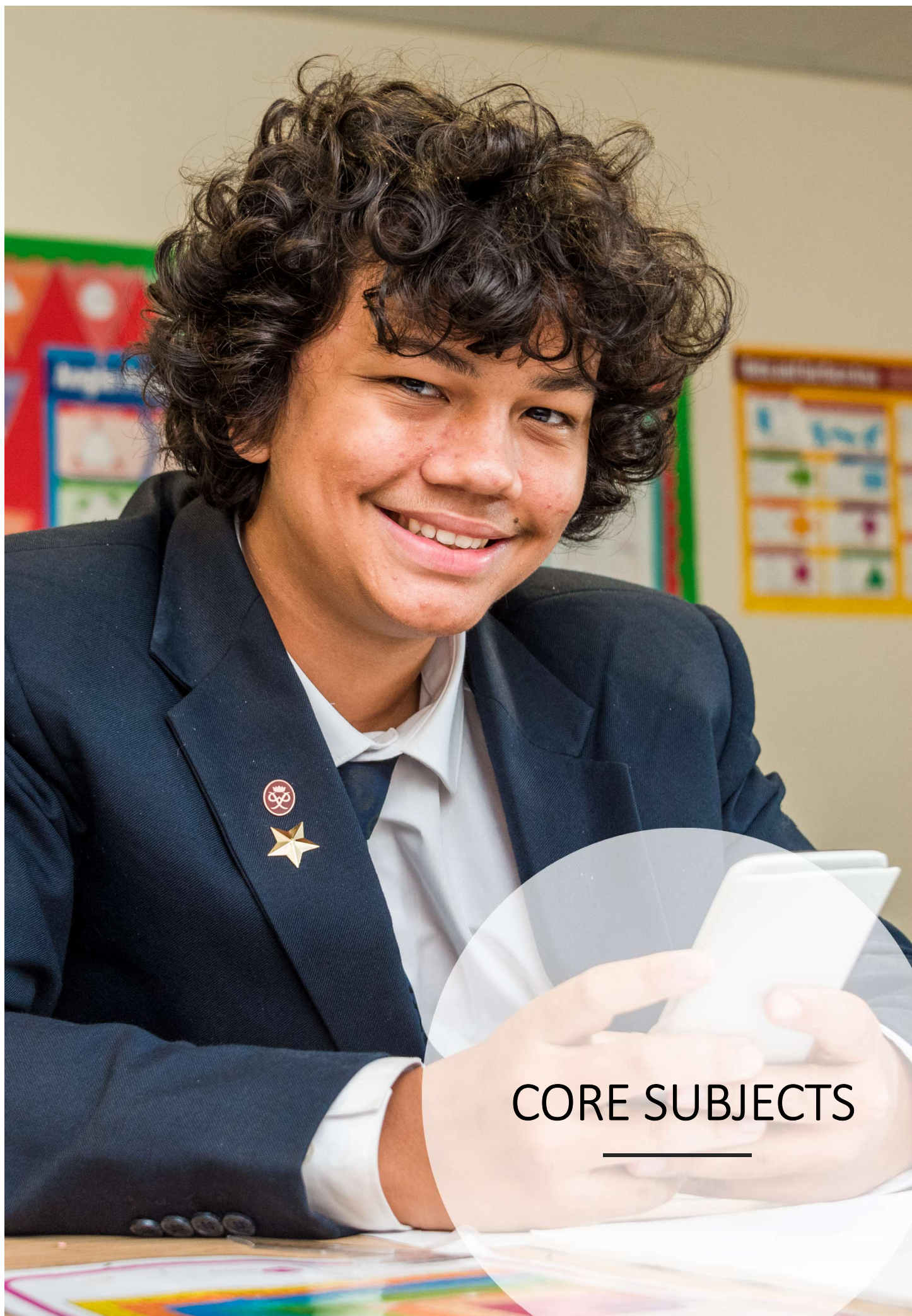
Year 9 Options Form 2026



* Due to the nature of the courses, students may not choose both GCSE Art and GCSE Textiles

The timetable will be built after students have selected their choices, which aims to give the maximum number of students all their first choices

The options form to complete and hand in is at the back of this booklet. There are also options forms available with form tutors. The final deadline for the submission of options forms is Friday 1st May.



CORE SUBJECTS

GCSE English and English Literature

Exam board: AQA

Awards 2 GCSEs

Course outline

English Language: explores creative reading and writing, and writers' viewpoints and perspectives. Students study of a range of fiction and non-fiction extracts focussing on writers' craft. We study high challenge extracts from novels such as 1984, The Handmaid's Tale and Enduring Love. Students use their understanding of writers' craft to develop their own creative ability in writing fiction and non-fiction.

English Literature: Students study Shakespeare's Macbeth and a 19th-century novel text study of Jekyll and Hyde, alongside 20th century literature through An Inspector Calls alongside the AQA Power and Conflict poetry anthology.



How many exams?

4
exams

Written vs practical?

100%
exam

Future pathways

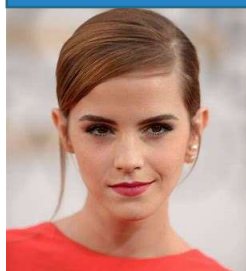
Sixth form: A-Level English Language, A-Level English Literature, A-Level Lit/Lang, A-Level Media Studies, A-Level Law, A-Level Religious studies, A-Level History

Apprenticeships Advertising and Media, Bid and Proposal Co-ordinator, Chartered Legal executive, Fundraiser, Conveyancing, Paralegal,

Higher Education BA English, BA Creative Writing, BA Linguistics BA Drama and English, BA English and Journalism, BA English language, literature and writing, BSc Business management, BA Classical Studies and English.



We studied English at degree level



Emma Watson, actress; Mark Kermode, film critic



Sue Perkins, comedian, presenter; Matt Damon, actor.



For more information contact Miss Fraser at frasere@sandymooroa.co.uk

GCSE Mathematics

Exam board: Edexcel

Course outline

GCSE maths aims to enable students to develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. It requires students to apply mathematical techniques to solve problems, reason mathematically and to communicate mathematical information.

The course covers the topic areas of Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change, Geometry and Measures and Statistics and Probability.

There are two tiers available, foundation and higher. The foundation tier is graded 1 to 5 and the higher tier is graded 4 to 9. Both tiers cover content from the above topic areas.



How many exams?

3
exams

Written vs practical?

100%
exam

Future pathways

Sixth form: A-Level Maths, A-Level Further Maths, A-Level Statistics, BTEC Product Design and Technology, A-Level Physics, BTEC Professional Engineering, BTEC Construction, T-Level Engineering

Apprenticeships Aerospace engineer, Architect, Building Energy Management Systems, Civil Engineer, Construction Quantity Surveyor, Intelligence Analyst.

Higher Education BSc Applied Mathematics, BSc Cybersecurity BSc Mathematics and economics, BSc Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, BEng Engineering (aerospace, civil, chemical, electrical, environmental, biomedical).



We studied maths at degree level



Romesh Ranganathan, Comedian;



Indra Nooyi, CEO Pepsi



Reed Hastings, co-founder of Netflix;



Rachel Riley, TV presenter.

For more information contact Mr Aylward at aylwardg@sandymooroa.co.uk

GCSE Science (Double Award)

Exam board AQA

Awards 2 GCSEs

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- Chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism



How many exams?

Written vs practical?

2 exams
per
science

100%
exam

Future pathways

Sixth form: A-Level Biology, A-Level Chemistry, A-Level Physics, A-Level Criminology, BTEC Applied Science, BTEC Applied Human Biology, BTEC Environmental Science.

Apprenticeships: Aerospace engineer, Architect, Building Energy Management Systems, Civil Engineer, Construction Quantity Surveyor, Intelligence Analyst.

Higher Education: BSc Environmental Science, BSc Biomedical Science, BSc Food science, nutrition and wellbeing, BSc Animal Science, BSc Sport, Exercise and Health Science, BSc Forensic Science, BSc Pharmaceutical Science, BSc Paramedicine.



We studied science at degree level



David Attenborough, Conservationist; Helen Sharman, first woman and first British astronaut to visit the Space Station
Dara O'Briain, comedian; Mayim Bialik, actor

For more information contact Mrs MacGruer at macgruerj@sandymooroa.co.uk

GCSE Science (Triple)

Exam board AQA

Awards 3 GCSEs

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- Chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Space physics



How many exams?

Written vs practical?

2 exams
per
science

100%
exam

Future pathways

Sixth form: A-Level Biology, A-Level Chemistry, A-Level Physics, A-Level Criminology, BTEC Applied Science, BTEC Applied Human Biology, BTEC Environmental Science.

Apprenticeships Aerospace engineer, Architect, Building Energy Management Systems, Civil Engineer, Construction Quantity Surveyor, Intelligence Analyst.

Higher Education BSc Medical Science, BSc Biomedical Science, BSc Applied Chemistry, BEng Chemical Engineering, MOptom Optometry, BSc Biochemistry, BSc Nursing, BSc Medical Biology, BSc Diagnostic Radiography, BSc Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, BSc Astrophysics.



We studied science at degree level



Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Sky at Night



Harry Hill, comedian



Brian Cox, Physicist; Tim Peake, British astronaut



For more information contact Mrs MacGruer at macgruerj@sandymooroa.co.uk

Core RE (non-examined)

Course outline

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards Christian, Muslim and humanist issues and how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our modern culture.

They will also develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills by focusing on different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society such as the value of human life, whether we are alone in the universe and the existence of God.

Core RE also promotes mutual respect, tolerance and understanding across different cultures and communities.

“The world respects us for our diversity and our openness and the way we respect every faith.”

Former US president Barack Obama



Future pathways

Core RE allows young people growing up in a diverse society to understand the views and opinions of people whose beliefs, values and actions differ from their own – skills highly valued by college providers, universities and employers. It also builds pupils' confidence when speaking. More employers now rate communication skills as one of their highest priorities, alongside qualifications, so the ability to express and structure ideas is more important than ever before.

Whilst core RE is not assessed, the skills and knowledge developed support students who are interested in careers working with the public such as social action groups, medicine, emergency services, law and the military.



We studied religion at degree level



Ricky Gervais, Writer, Comedian; Matt Groening, creator of the Simpsons

Lana Del Rey, musician; Win Butler, lead singer Arcade Fire.

For more information contact Mrs Lyne at lynem@sandymooroa.co.uk

Core Personal Development (non-examined)

Course outline

Core PD allows pupils to build the skills and knowledge to keep themselves safe, to be active and responsible citizens, to lead healthy lives, to be financially literate and to plan a fulfilling career.

This includes helping them to deal with critical issues they face every day such as friendships, emotional well-being, mental health and dealing with personal change. From making informed decisions about money to helping selecting a career and succeeding in their first job, Personal Development helps pupils prepare for all the opportunities, challenges, life decisions and responsibilities they'll face.

The taught element of the Personal Development programme is supported by further opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders' Award and the Prince's Trust Achieve programme, which all aim to help our pupils make a difference in their lives and their communities.



Future pathways

Core PD is about preparing students for the real world outside of the classroom - including emotional well-being, physical health, academic attainment and preparation for work.

While it is not assessed, it does help students develop employment-ready skills such as the ability to recognise bias, evaluate an argument, weigh up evidence and look for alternative viewpoints.

In years 10 and 11, there is dedicated time in PD lessons to help students develop their career choices and next steps after Sandymoor through external speakers, career fairs, career interviews and work experience.



For more information about PD contact Mr Latta at lattai@sandymooroa.co.uk

For more information about Careers, contact Mr Davies at daviesd@sandymooroa.co.uk

Core Physical Education

Course outline

The national curriculum for physical education aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- are physically active for sustained periods of time
- engage in competitive sports and activities
- lead healthy, active lives

In core PE in Key Stage 4 students take the knowledge and understanding acquired from KS3 and develop a greater understanding through an increase in complexity of skill and application.

Core PE skills and application are developed through game-based scenarios to allow for a greater emphasis on tactics, rules and regulations.



Future pathways

Through core PE lessons students develop qualities such as team-work, resilience, determination and leadership that will help in all future pathways. Whilst core PE is not assessed, the skills and knowledge developed support students who are interested in achieving coaching awards, working with community, youth and social action groups, and progressing to science and health-based areas of study.





OPTION
SUBJECTS

GCSE Art/Textiles

Exam board AQA

Course outline

Creativity is one of the most desired attributes potential employers look for. Creative thinkers are adaptable, quick thinking and problem solvers. Art gives you the opportunity to express yourself and develop your own skills.

This course is designed for students to work through various processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources to generate different outcomes. Students will explore, through a range of two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional processes and media, practical application of skills and relevant critical and contextual sources such as the work of contemporary artists, craftspeople and designers, alongside different purposes, intentions and functions of art, craft and design as appropriate to their own work. Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the subject content and areas of study.



How many exams?

Exam vs coursework?

10 hour
exam

Portfolio
& exam

Future pathways

Sixth form: A-Level Art – 3D design, A-Level Art – Fashion and textile design, A-Level Art – Fine Art, A-Level Art – Graphic Design, A-Level Art Photography, BTEC Production Arts, BTEC Graphic Communication and Digital Design, Foundation Art and Design. BTEC Hair and Media make-up, BTEC Theatrical make-up.

Apprenticeships Bespoke Furniture maker, Bespoke tailor and cutter, Content creator, Costume performance technician, C Curator, Jewellery, silversmithing and design, animator, beauty and make-up consultant.

Higher Education BA Art History and Archaeology, BA Fine Art, BA Game Development: Art, BA Fine Art Printmaking, BSC Digital Design, BA Architecture, BA Interior Architecture and Design, BEng Architectural Engineering.



We studied art/textiles at degree level



Stella McCartney, fashion designer; Alexander McQueen, fashion designer

Catherine, Princess of Wales; Dominic Skinner, Senior make up artist for MAC

For more information contact Mrs Collins at collinsc@sandymooroa.co.uk

NCFE Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years

Exam board NCFE

Course outline

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years is designed for learners who want an introduction to child development and care that includes a vocational and project based element., covering topics such as health and wellbeing for child development, creating conditions in which children can thrive, creating safe environments for children, the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years, Roles and responsibilities within early years settings and expectations of early years practitioners, and the development of a child from one to five years, using observation and research techniques.



How many exams?

Exam vs coursework?

1 exam
+
50%
coursework

50%
exam

50%
cwk

Future pathways

Sixth form BTEC Early years, childcare and education. T Level Education and Childcare.

Apprenticeships Early years practitioner, Nursery Practitioner, Adult Care worker, Children, young people and families' manager, Early intervention practitioner, Youth support worker, Teaching Assistant. Social Worker.

Higher Education. BN Children's Nursing, BSc Psychology, Childhood and Education studies, BA Social Work, LLB Law, BSc Mental health nursing, BSc Health and Social Care.



We studied childcare or education at degree level



Princess Diana; Samuel L. Jackson, actor

Claire Roberts, CEO Kids Planet Nurseries; Greg Davies, comedian and writer

For more information contact Mrs Ruddock at ruddockr@sandymoora.co.uk

GCSE Computer Science

Exam board OCR

Course outline

Computer programmes directly affect every aspect of our lives; we rely on computer scientists for this. Computer scientists theorise, design, develop and apply the software and hardware for technology most of us use every single day. As the digital world is rapidly evolving, the need for computer scientists continues.

We study topics such as systems architecture, network security, the ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology, algorithms, programming, Boolean logic and programming languages, to name a few!



How many exams?

2 exams

Exam vs coursework?

100%
exam

Future pathways

Sixth form A Level Computer Science, BTEC Information Technology, T Level Digital Production, Design and Development, BTEC Computer Game Development.

Apprenticeships Cyber Security technician, Data analyst, Digital marketer, Game programmer, Air traffic controller, Business Analyst, Information Communications technician, International Freight forwarding specialist, Network Engineer, Rail infrastructure operator.

Higher Education BSc Computer Science, BSc Computer Games Technology, BA Computer Arts, BA Game development: Business, FdA 3D animation and visualisation for film and games, BEng Electronic Engineering, BSc Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence, BSc Business Management.



We studied Computer Science at degree level



Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft; Karlie Kloss, model

Larry Page & Sergey Brin, founders, of Google; Marissa Mayer, CEO Yahoo.

For more information contact Mr Crewe at crewel@sandymooroa.co.uk

Cambridge National in Creative Media

Exam board OCR

Course outline

The Cambridge National qualification in Creative Media enables students to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media – such as

- how media products get their meaning across, create impact and appeal to people
- how to create original digital graphics for specific audiences
- how to plan and create animations with audio
- creating, testing and making playable digital games

The course helps you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations. Students study key topics of creative media in the media industry and digital graphics, and will also study animation and audio and digital games.



How many exams?

Exam vs coursework?

1 exam
2
coursework

40%
exam
60%
coursework

Future pathways

Sixth form A Level Media Studies, BTEC Computer Game Development, T Level Digital Production Design and Development T Level Media, Broadcast and Production

Apprenticeships Media and Broadcast Assistant Pathway, 2D Artist, Animator, Content Creator, Creative Digital Design, Digital marketer, Game programmer, visual effects artist.

Higher Education BSc Computer Games technology, BA Computer Arts, BA Game development: Business, FdA 3D animation BSc Business Management.



We studied Creative Media at degree level



Markus Persson, creator of Minecraft; Nick Grimshaw, DJ

Sir Lenny Henry, actor, writer, founder of Comic Relief; Nick Park, animator

For more information contact Miss Tate at tatek@sandymoora.co.uk

BTEC Dance

Exam board: EDEXCEL

Course outline

This course gives learners the opportunity to develop their dance knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment and aims to broaden students experience and skills participation in different types of performance activities. - **Exploring the Performing Arts, Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts and Responding to a Brief**

To be successful on this course what skills, abilities and interests should I have?

Skills: You should be able to demonstrate a good level of physical, expressive and interpretative skills to take part in the dance course. Research and analysis skills are also important when completing your coursework as well as teamwork, organisation and communication skills. .

Abilities: The ability to perform in front of an audience and be resilient throughout the rehearsal process is essential. Hard work and imagination are required to memorise movement material and use your own personal interpretation when performing.

Interests: To be successful on this course you should have a keen interest in dancing, choreographing and performing. Working as part of a team through the rehearsal process together is important.



How many exams?

Exam vs coursework?

100%
coursework

Future pathways

Sixth form A Level Dance, A Level Drama And Theatre, A-level Performing arts, BTEC Level 2 Diploma In Performing And Production Industry Practice, BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts Practice (Dance), BTEC Level 3 Contemporary and Commercial Dance.

Apprenticeships Sports and Dance Coaching.

Higher Education. BA Dance, BA Dance and Drama, BA Stage and Production Management BSC Sport, Physical Education And Health (Dance), BA Dance and Choreography, BA Business Management and Dance.



We studied Dance at higher level



Matthew Bourne, choreographer; Jenna Dewan, dancer & actress

Tom Holland, actor & dancer; Karen Hauer, dancer.

For more information contact Miss Booth at boothh@sandymoora.co.uk

NCFE Engineering

Exam board NCFE

Course outline

Engineering is designed for students who want an introduction to engineering that includes a vocational and project-based element.

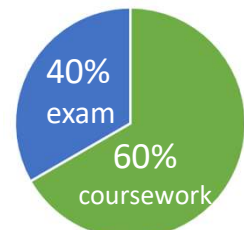
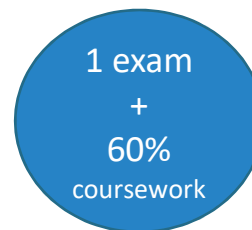
This qualification focuses on an applied study of engineering and students will gain a broad knowledge and understanding of working in the sector. This qualification has been designed for students who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences and through content that is concrete and directly related to those experiences

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



How many exams?

Coursework vs exam?



Future pathways

Sixth Form: A level Engineering, BTEC Level 3 in Civil Engineering, BTEC Level 3 in Engineering

Apprenticeship:— Accident repair technician, mechanic, electrical power network engineer, engineer surveyor, engineering design and draughtsperson, rail infrastructure technician.

Higher Education: – Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Communications Engineering and Advanced Vehicle Engineering.



We studied Engineering at degree level



Adrian Newey, Mechanical engineer Formula One; Gwynne Shotwell, President SpaceX

Rowan Atkinson, actor; Mary Barra, CEO General Motors Company

For more information contact Mrs Collins at collinsc@sandymoora.co.uk

GCSE Geography

Exam board: AQA

Course outline

The GCSE course is split into 3 sections to ensure wide coverage of geographical issues.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: This covers physical geography and includes the study of natural hazards, ecosystems (with a focus on the rainforest and hot deserts) and rivers and coasts.

Paper 2. Challenges in the human environment: This is based on human geography. The topics covered include the current issues in cities, our changing economic world and resources around the world.

Paper 3. Geographical applications and skills: This is a skills paper. Part of this will link to fieldwork. All students must take part in a human and physical fieldwork study. This is essential to the course and all students will need to commit to this. In addition to questions on fieldwork, half of this paper is a synoptic assessment. Approximately 3 months before the exam students are given a pre-release booklet. This will be on a topical issue that links together their geographical understanding. In the exam students will be expected to make a reasoned decision based on the information they have been given and their learning over the two years.



How many exams?

3 exams

Coursework vs exam?

100%
exam

Future pathways

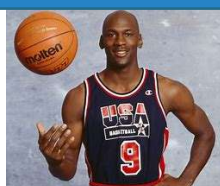
Sixth form A level Geography, A level Geology, A level Environmental Science, T Level Design, surveying and planning for construction, T level management and administration, BTEC Environmental science, BTEC applied science, BTEC construction and quantity surveying.

Apprenticeships Air traffic controller, countryside ranger, Environmental health practitioner, Geospatial survey technician, Landscape technician, Sustainability business specialist, survey technician, town planning assistant, train driver.

Higher Education. BSc in Geography, BSc In Geoscience, BA in Geography and Archaeology, BA in Geography and Planning, BSc In Economics and Geography, BA in Geography and Tourism.



We studied Geography at degree level



William, HRH Prince of Wales; Michael Jordan, Basketballer; Hugh Dennis, writer and comedian

For more information contact Mrs Lyne at lynem@sandymoorroa.co.uk

GCSE History

Exam Board: Edexcel

Paper 1: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18. Students will learn about the development of medicine over the different periods studied, and the factors leading to change within periods and across the theme. The Historic Environment focuses on the development of medicine in the British sector of the Western Front during World War One

Paper 2: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England/ Superpower relations and the Cold War. Students undertake a depth study of early medieval England covering 28 years, to understand the complexity of medieval society and the changes that arise after the Norman Conquest in 1066 and a breadth study of the political, economic and military rivalry and conflict between the USA and USSR after the end of World War Two.

Paper 3: The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad investigates American politics, society, economy and military features in depth, specifically focusing on the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War. The paper develops historical skills around the use of sources as evidence and how different scholars interpret the period studied.



How many exams?

3 exams

Coursework vs exam?

100%
exam

Future pathways

Sixth Form: A- Level History, A Level Law, A Level government and politics, T Level Legal services, T Level education and childcare, T Level management and administrations, BTEC Forensic and Criminal Investigation, BTEC Applied law, BTEC public services.

Apprenticeships: Archaeological Specialist, Laboratory scientist, Laboratory technicians, Archivist and Records Manager, Museum and Gallery technician, paralegal.

Higher Education BA History, BA International Relations, BA Politics, BA Business BA/ LLB Law, BA Economics, BA Journalism, BA Sociology, BSc Criminology.



We studied History at degree level



Greg Jenner, writer and broadcaster; Lucy Worsley, Historian



Steve Carrell, Actor; Chris Martin, Musician



For more information contact Mrs Lyne at lynem@sandymoora.co.uk

GCSE Music

Exam Board: Eduqas

Component 1: Composition - coursework

Students will create two contrasting pieces of music using music writing software.

Component 2: Performance - coursework

Two performances are required for this component. One will be an ensemble performance where students will play music alongside others, and one performance which will be a solo. There will be opportunities to take up an instrumental lesson separate from their classroom lessons with a private tutor within school hours, and there are plenty of opportunities to use the performing facilities and practise during dedicated classroom time.

Component 3: Listening and Appraising

This component is in the form of a written exam. Students will study two pieces of music and be able to answer questions about them. There are eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study:

Musical Forms and Devices	Music for Ensemble	Film Music	Popular Music
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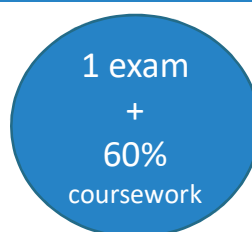
Skills, Abilities and Interests

To be successful on this course students must show a keen interest in all styles and genres of music. They must be willing to demonstrate a hardworking attitude to their instrumental practice in their own time and show that they have the teamwork skills to work with others in a musical ensemble.

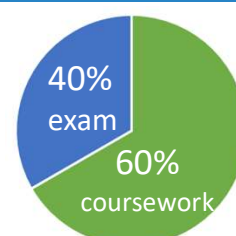
The ability to perform in front of others is key and they must be able to display resilience skills throughout the creative and composing process, understanding that they will have a great many opportunities to re-draft any ideas. They must show the willingness to develop your theoretical skills and knowledge when analysing a musical score and when learning the key knowledge that underpins all areas of music.



How many exams?



Coursework vs exam?



Future pathways

Sixth form A Level Music, BTEC Music (Vocational) – Performance & Production Pathways, BTEC Technical Theatre, BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts.

Apprenticeships [Apprenticeships \(brittrust.co.uk\)](http://brittrust.co.uk) [Homepage - UK Music](#)

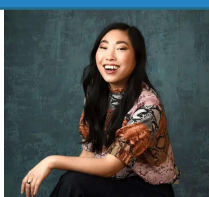
Higher Education. HND Music, BMus Music, BA Commercial Music,, BMus Commercial Music Technology, BA Music Business Management, BA Music Production and Music Business, BA Popular Music Performance and Music Production, BA Music and Sound Production, BA Music Marketing, Media and Communication.



We studied Music at degree level



Pharrell Williams, producer, Akwafina, Actor,



Lady GaGa, musician, , Calvin Harris, musician & producer



For more information contact Mrs James at jamesa@sandymoora.co.uk

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam board AQA

*Learning to cook is a key **life skill**, it's something that we all need to be able to do.*

Development of other skills such as **communication, determination, resilience, confidence** and **independence**. This GCSE focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

This qualification is made up of 5 sections:

Food, nutrition and health

Food Choice

Food science

Food provenance

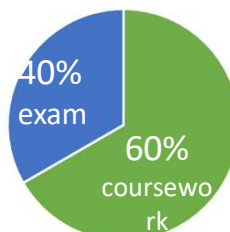
Food safety



How many exams?

1 exam
+
60% NEA

Coursework vs exam?



Future pathways

Sixth Form: A-Level Food science and nutrition, A-Level Home economics: Food, Nutrition and Health, BTEC Diploma in Hospitality and Catering, Advanced Technical Diploma in Professional Cookery, Advanced Technical Diploma in Food and BTEC Applied Science, BTEC Sports Science, Beverage Service Supervision., T-Level Health, BTEC Culinary Skills.

Apprenticeships: Baker, Chef de Partie, Commis chef, Hospitality manager, maritime caterer, production chef,

Higher Education BSc Food and Consumer Science, BSc Food, Nutrition and Health, BSc Business and Healthcare management, BBA Culinary Industry Management, BA International Hospitality and Tourism Management, BSc Sport and Exercise Science, BSc Food Science and Technology,



We studied Food at higher level



Nadiya Hussein, TV chef; Tom Kerridge, chef,

Pru Leith, food critic and cookery writer; Paul Hollywood, Baker and TV presenter

For more information contact Mrs Collins at collinsc@sandymoora.co.uk

GCSE Psychology

Exam board AQA

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour – both of individuals and of groups. Students will study cognition and behaviour, investigating areas such as memory, perception, brain development and research methods, and examine social context and behaviour through disciplines such as social influence, language and neuropsychology.

This course will introduce you to the fundamentals of the discipline of psychology, of how the human mind works, the mechanics of social behaviour and human development. Students will also develop critical analysis and independent thinking and develop research skills.



How many exams?

2 exams

Coursework vs exam?

100%
exam

Future pathways

Sixth Form: A-Level Psychology, A-Level Criminology, A-level Sociology, A-Level Religious Studies, BTEC Public services, A-Level Biology, BTEC Applied Human Biology. BTEC Health and Social Care, BTEC Public Services.

Apprenticeships: Children, Young People and families manager, Clinical Coder, Clinical Trials Specialist, Community, Health and Wellbeing worker, Early intervention practitioner, Occupational therapist, play therapist.

Higher Education BA Psychology;; BA Psychology with Forensic Investigative Psychology; BA Psychology and Counselling; BA Psychology and Criminology; BSc Sport and Exercise Psychology; BSc Environmental psychology; BSc Psychological and Cognitive Neuroscience; BSc Public Services.



We studied Psychology at degree level



Jo Brand, Comedian; Natalie Portman, actor



Mayim Bialik, actor; Emelie Sande, Musician



For more information contact Mrs Griffiths at griffithsk@sandymoora.co.uk

GCSE Religious Studies

Exam board AQA

Students build on their knowledge and skills of the world's two biggest religions – Christianity and Islam and how followers' beliefs and practices shape the identity of more than 4 billion people.

They'll also study big life issues including divorce, contraception, human sexuality and critically question the ethical arguments on abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty as well as developing philosophical arguments on the nature of existence and what happens when we die.

Paper 1: Christianity & Islam - beliefs and practices.

Paper 2: Thematic studies – including the existence of God, peace and conflict, crime and punishment, relationships and families.



How many exams?

2 exams

Coursework vs exam?

100%
exam

Future pathways

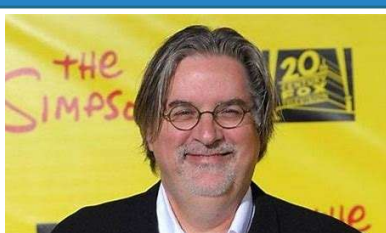
Sixth Form: A- Level Religious Studies, A Level History, A Level Law, A Level Government and Politics, T Level Legal services, T Level education and childcare, T Level management and administrations, BTEC Forensic and Criminal Investigation, BTEC Applied law.

Apprenticeships: Archaeological Specialist, Laboratory scientist, Health and Social Care, Laboratory technicians, Archivist and Records Manager,, Museum and Gallery technician, paralegal.

Higher Education BA (Hons) in Philosophy, BSc in Community and Public Services, BA Anthropology, BA in Modern languages, philosophy, ethics and Religion, BSc Health and Social Care, BSc Social Work, BA/BSc Counselling



We studied religion/ philosophy at degree level



Ricky Gervais, Writer, Comedian; Matt Groening, creator of the Simpsons

Lana Del Ray, musician; Win Butler, lead singer Arcade Fire.

For more information contact Mrs Lyne at lynem@sandymooroa.co.uk

GCSE Spanish

Exam board: Edexcel

At Sandymoor we are passionate about the benefits learning a language can bring. We strongly believe in languages as a skill for life and something students should enjoy and find rewarding. The new exam is designed to focus more on **communication and high-frequency vocabulary**, rather than long lists of memorised words. All four skill areas (reading/writing/listening/speaking) are examined.

The themes covered (revisited from KS3) include:

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



How many exams?

4 exams

Coursework vs exam?

100%
exam

Reading Writing,
Speaking, Listening

Future pathways

Sixth Form: A- Level Spanish, or learn a new language from scratch (French, Mandarin, German)

Apprenticeships: Travel consultant, Transport Planner, Cabin Crew, Air Traffic Controller, International Freight Forwarding Specialist, Commercial Procurement and Supply, Aviation Operations Manager

Higher Education: BA in Spanish, (any language) BA Journalism and Spanish, BSC Economics and Spanish, MA Business and Spanish, BSC International Management, BA International Politics with Modern Languages.



We studied languages at degree level



Julia Donaldson, author



Tom Hiddleston, actor



Chris Martin, singer



Bear Grylls, adventurer.

For more information, contact Mrs Leaver at leavera@sandymooroa.co.uk

BTEC Sport

Exam board EDEXCEL

Students explore the different needs of participants in sport to gain an understanding of how to increase participation in sport and physical activity and further develop their knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology. Students undertake practical sessions to develop skills in planning and delivery of sports activity sessions to participants. The qualification enables learners to develop their sector-specific skills, such as sport analysis and sports leadership, using realistic vocational contexts and personal skills, such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork.

Skills, Abilities and Interests

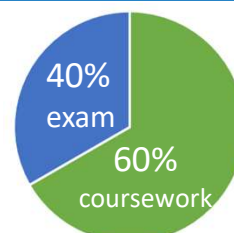
To be successful on this course students must show a keen interest in sport and fitness. They must be willing to demonstrate a resilient attitude, be able to work in a coaching relationship with others, and give and take feedback. Students on this course should actively be engaged in sports, both through school based or outside school based clubs. They must show the willingness to develop their theoretical skills and knowledge when analysing key components of sport and fitness.



How many exams?

1 exam
+
60% NEA

Coursework vs exam?



Future pathways

Sixth Form: A- Level Physical Education, A –Level Biology, Level 3 Sport, Level 3 Sports Coaching and Development, BTEC Applied Human Biology, BTEC Sport and Exercise Science.

Apprenticeships: Outdoor Activity Instructor, Community Activator Coach, Community Sport and Health operator, personal trainer, sporting professional excellence apprenticeship, sports coach.

Higher Education BSc Sport and Exercise Science, BA Sport and Management, BSc Sport and Exercise therapy, BSc Sport Rehabilitation, BSc Sports Science



We studied sport at degree level



Wladimir Klitschko, Boxer; Sue Smith, Footballer and TV analyst,

Sir Dave Brailsford, Director of Sport, Ineos; Ella-Mae Rayner, aka Comet, Gladiators.

For more information contact Miss Green at greens@sandymoor.co.uk

GCSE Statistics

Exam board: EDEXCEL

Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it is the study of data which allows us to summarise large sets of numbers, understand groups and individuals and make predictions about the future.

Studying GCSE Statistics provides learners with skills to collect, analyse, interpret, and present data, making it a versatile area of maths and opens a door to a variety of vocations, from weather forecasting to the biological sciences. It can transform interests into careers - the need for statisticians and data scientists keeps growing. In fact, studies predict we'll see a shortfall of thousands of statisticians within the next five years.

GCSE Statistics is broken down into 3 key areas: Collection of data; Processing, representing and analysing data and Probability. The course will allow students to develop their confidence and competence with statistical techniques to enable them to apply those techniques flexibly to solve statistical problems.



How many exams?

Coursework vs exam?

2 exams

100%
exam

Future pathways

Sixth Form: A-Level Statistics, A-Level Mathematics, A-Level Biology, A-Level Physics, A-Level Chemistry, A-Level Psychology, A level Business Studies, A level Economics, Sport level 3 extended certificate

Apprenticeships: Business and administration, Transport and logistics, Finance and accounting, Engineering and manufacturing, Health and science, Sales marketing and production

Higher Education BA/BSc in: Mathematics and Statistics; Computer Science; Mathematics; Economics; Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE); Biochemistry; Biomedical Sciences; Chemistry; Environmental Science; Sociology; Veterinary Science; Medicine



We studied statistics/ economics at degree level



Cate Blanchett, actor,



Konnie Huq, TV presenter



Tiger Woods, sportsman,



Arnold Schwarzenegger, actor & politician

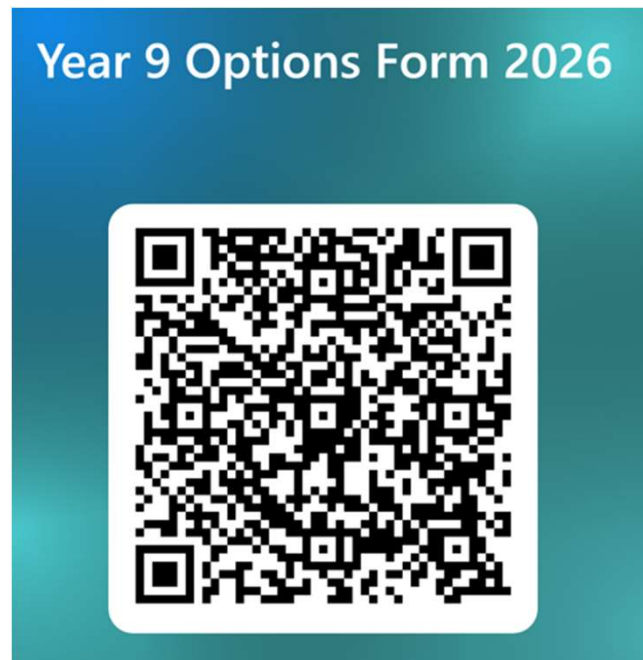
For more information contact Mr Aylward at aylwardg@sandymoora.co.uk



Options form

Please complete via the QR code.

If you are unable to do this, use the paper form on the next page.



Year 9 GCSE options form 2026

First name _____ **Surname** _____
Form _____

1. Label 1st option (1) and a reserve (2) from this box.

GCSE Computer Science		GCSE Geography		GCSE History		GCSE Spanish		GCSE Triple Science	
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2. Rank your option choices below.
3. Label your first option (1) and second option (2) choices from the box below.
4. Label your reserve choices (3) and (4).
5. Remember that you must be willing to study your reserve choices.

GCSE Art*		GCSE History	
NCFE Child Development and Early Years		GCSE Music	
GCSE Computer Science		GCSE Psychology	
Cambridge National Creative Media		GCSE Religious Studies	
BTEC Dance		GCSE Spanish	
NCFE Engineering		BTEC Sport	
GCSE Geography		GCSE Statistics	
GCSE Food and Nutrition		GCSE Textiles*	

** Due to the nature of the courses, students may not choose both GCSE Art and GCSE Textiles.*

I have read and understood the options process, I am happy with the choices that I have made above.

Signed _____ (student) date _____

Signed _____ (parent/carers) date _____

Hand your completed options form to the office by Friday 1st May