Swakeleys
School for Girls

Year 8

Options Guidance

December 2025

Write your pathway below:

.....

Read each subject carefully – consider if it might be a subject you would enjoy and do well at. You will receive your options form in January during form time to make your final choices.

Subject	**Art, Craft & Design**
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	• GCSE Art is designed to inspire and broaden your creative ability. • Designed to help you express your own thoughts and ideas in a variety of different visual ways in 2 and 3 dimensions. • There are a number of trips that go on during the course such as The British Museum, Tate Modern and various others depending on the project.
How students will be assessed	**Portfolio- 60%** ▪ A selection of subsidiary units **OR** 1 major unit (Year 10) ▪ I major unit (Year11) A wide range of topics are chosen and studied throughout the course and you will get more of a say in what you look at as the course progresses, especially after spring in Year10. **Controlled exam – 40% (10 hours)** The exam paper is released in January of Year 11 and you will explore one of the suggested starting points over a 3-4 month period. The final outcome will be completed under exam conditions over the space of 2 days.
Staff to contact	Mrs Kumar
Why choose this subject?	• It is a creative subject with some written work • It allows you to express yourself in a range of styles • There are trips • The results in this subject are around 100% 9-4 • You can experiment with a wide range of media • NO Written exam!
Skills & qualities	• An enthusiasm for art, creating things. • An attitude of "I will try everything out" is essential. • Some of the skills you will develop are painting, drawing, modelling, sculpture, photography, creative textiles, batik and illustration. • You will explore the works of other artists, designers and cultures.
Further Education	GCSE Art leads naturally on to A Level Art and Design and Photography in our 6th Form Centre. Students generally then go on to a Foundation course and then to degree level.
Careers	Architecture, graphic design, web design, fashion design, textiles design, set and costume design, film, TV, product design, illustration, commercial design, curator for galleries etc.

<table>
<tr><td>Subject</td><td>Business Studies</td></tr>
<tr><td>Exam Board</td><td>Edexcel</td></tr>
<tr><td>Qualification</td><td>One GCSE</td></tr>
<tr><td>Course description</td><td>Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.
Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.</td></tr>
<tr><td>How students will be assessed</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Theme</th><th>Title</th><th>Type of Assessment</th><th>Weighting</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>Paper 1 – Investigating small business (written Paper)</td><td>Exam - 1hour 45 minutes</td><td>50%</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>Paper 2 – Building a business (written Paper)</td><td>Exam - 1hour 45 minutes</td><td>50%</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Staff to contact</td><td>Mrs Arnold</td></tr>
<tr><td>Why choose this subject?</td><td>If you enjoy:
• communicating and explaining your ideas
• thinking creatively and making decisions
• working with numbers to solve business problems
• learning about the world of business through real and relevant local and international brands then the GCSE Business course is the right subject for you.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Skills & qualities</td><td>After this qualification you'll understand the world of business and have developed skills in:
• making decisions and developing persuasive arguments
• creative and practical problem solving
• understanding data, finance and communication</td></tr>
<tr><td>Further Education</td><td>It's also a great step preparing you for further and higher education such as A levels and BTEC courses. A good grade will help you move onto A Level Business at our Sixth Form.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Careers</td><td>Entrepreneur, business analyst, business development manager, accountant, investment banker, project manager, sales executive, marketing executive, retail buyer, human resources officer, events manager, PR consultant, financial advisor, estate agent, market researcher, social media manager.</td></tr>
</table>

Subject	**Citizenship**
Exam Board	Edexcel
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	Citizenship is a challenging yet exciting subject which allows students to explore current topics, news items and controversial issues in the classroom. Students must have an interest in current affairs, politics and will need to keep up with the new events in the UK as well as around the world. There are five themes we cover throughout the course: • Living together in the UK • Democracy at work in the UK • Law and justice • Power and influence • Taking citizenship action
How students will be assessed	**100% exam** There are two exams of 1hr 45mins assessing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in each of the theme. Exams involve short answer questions and two essay responses. There is no coursework, but one section of paper 2 includes questions about a project students have carried out during lessons.
Staff to contact	Dr Laxton
Skills & qualities	• A good level of understanding of politics and society. • An ability to respond in detail written and verbal form. • An interest and knowledge of current affairs. • A will to make a difference to the community. • An enquiring and inquisitive mind.
Further Education	Citizenship can contribute to A Levels in Sociology, Law, History and Politics.
Careers	Politics, law, police, armed forces, teacher, media, journalist or civil service.

Subject	**Computer Science**
Exam Board	OCR
Qualification	One GCSE
Course Description	The course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computers work and insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes'. • **Component 1** – Introduces students to the central processing unit, computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science. • **Component 2** –Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 1. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking, algorithms, and programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation.
How Students will be Assessed	**Unit 1** – Computer systems (Written exam = 50% of final grade) **Unit 2** – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (Written Assessment = 50% of final grade)
Staff to Contact	Mrs Mantee
Why Choose this Subject?	If you take a GCSE in Computing and then go on to study the subject at A Level or university, you'll have an advantage over fellow students who are picking up the subject at these higher levels. The increasing importance of information technologies means there'll be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field. The course is also an excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on the skills you'll develop, especially where they're applied to technical problems.
Skills & Qualities	• Hard worker • Organised • Enjoy a challenge • Good mathematical skills
Further Education	The course provides excellent preparation higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science.
Careers	Computer programmer, Software developer, Games developer, Website designer, Network Manager, Artificial Intelligence.

Subject	**Dance**
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	During the course students will study an anthology of 6 professional works which they will critically appreciate. The anthology will be used to inform the students own choreography, performance and theory work. The course also gives the opportunity for the students to work on their own, and in groups where they can improve their team work and leadership skills. The GCSE Dance anthology includes: Kenrick H2O Sandy's *Emancipation of Expressionism*, Christopher Bruce's *Shadows*, Lucy Bennett's *Artificial Things*, Itzik Galili's *A Linha Curva,* James Cousins' *Within Her Eyes* and Wayne McGregor's *Infra.*
How students will be assessed	**Component 1: Performance & choreography** <u>PERFORMANCE</u> (30% of GCSE) • Set phrases through a solo performance • Duet/trio performance <u>CHOREOGRAPHY</u> (30% of GCSE) • Solo or group choreography **Component 2: Dance appreciation** WRITTEN (40% of GCSE) • Knowledge & understanding of choreographic processes and performance skills • Critical appreciation of own work • Critical appreciation of professional works
Staff to contact	Miss Coking
Why choose this subject?	✓ 60% Practical, so ideal for kinaesthetic learners ✓ Only 40% written ✓ Opportunity to perform & choreograph ✓ To gain a greater understanding of professional dance work
Skills & qualities	• The course gives you the opportunity to take a look at different choreographic styles, different professionals and different choreographies. • Learn about different dance styles and the importance of safe practice • An interest in dance – although you do *not* need to dance outside of school to take this as an option.
Further Education	You can go on to study dance at diploma level University, A Level dance, and then on to University to study for a degree in Dance or Performing Arts.
Careers	Performing professionally. Lecturing or teaching children, adults, the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged communities. Working as a choreographer or a rehearsal director in a variety of shows. Physiotherapy, Dance movement therapy, Dance injury prevention or working in other stage production areas such as costume design, lighting or wig making.

Subject	**Design and Technology**
Exam Board	Edexcel
Qualification	One GCSE
Course Description	The new GCSE Design and Technology course has six possible material areas to enable specialisation: Metals, Papers and boards, Polymers, Systems, Textiles, or Timbers. Students will focus on their specialism in their NEA which is 50% of the overall assessment. The exam paper is split *40% core* and *60% specialism*. The exam paper is half of the assessment, so assessment of the core content is only 20% overall.
How Students will be Assessed	Design and Technology consists of one externally-examined paper and one non-examined assessment component (coursework). **<u>Component 1: written examination</u>** 1 hour and 45 minutes 50% of the qualification 100 marks **Content overview:** Core content and any ***one*** from the following material categories: Metals, Papers and boards, Polymers, Systems, Textiles, Timbers **<u>Component 2: Non-examined assessment</u>** 50% of the qualification 100 marks **Content overview:** There are four parts to the assessment: 1 – *Investigate* This includes investigation of needs and research, and a product specification 2 – *Design* This includes producing different design ideas, review of initial ideas, development of design ideas into a chosen design, communication of design ideas and review of the chosen design 3 – *Make* This includes manufacture, and quality and accuracy 4 – *Evaluate* This includes testing and evaluation. Students will undertake a project based on a *contextual challenge* released by the exam board a year before certification. Students will produce a project, linked to their specialism, which consists of a portfolio and a prototype.
Staff to Contact	Mrs Yates
Why Choose this Subject?	GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.
Skills & Qualities	• Creativity and imagination to solve problems, generate informed concepts and a logical approach to develop them • Understand the role and impact that design and designers play in our modern world, ranging from economic factors right the way through to the effects design has on our environment • Understand that design is always evolving through the emergence and development of new/smart/modern materials and emerging technologies • The ability to express and create informative sketches, develop physical 3D models and generate computer-aided designs • The skill to plan and organise a design project from concept to realisation
Further Education	Students with strong creative skills will have solid foundations, as well as a breadth of knowledge and understanding of a range of materials, to move confidently into AS and A level and become a specialist in their chosen field.
Careers	Architect, product designer, design engineer, graphic designer, illustrator, car designer, interior designer, theatre designer, furniture designer.

Subject	**Drama**
Exam Board	Edexcel
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	**Component 1 –Devising Drama** ***40% of the qualification – 60 marks*** Students will create a devised performance in groups to perform. They will then complete a portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process. **Component 2 – Performance from Texts** ***20% of the qualification – 48 marks*** Students will study two key extracts from a text and perform to an audience as a drama production in front of an audience and an external examiner. **Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice** ***40% of the qualification– 60 marks*** Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text for the written exam.
How students will be assessed	**Component 1 –Devising Drama (40%)** • Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus. • Performance of this devised piece for this performance. • Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance. **Component 2– Performance from Texts (20%)** • Students will perform two key extracts from a performance text. **Component 3– Theatre Makers in Practice Written Exam (40%)** 1h30m • **Section A: Bringing Texts to Life:** This section consists of one question broken into six parts (short and extended responses) • **Section B: Live theatre evaluation** – This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen.
Staff to contact	Miss Coking
Why choose this subject?	✓ 60% practical ✓ Only 40% written ✓ To learn more about the world of performance and acting
Skills & qualities	• The confidence to perform in front of others is a **must**. • Team work and group communication skills are developed. • An interest in seeing a variety of shows, not just musicals, is desirable.
Careers	Acting, directing, teaching, criminal drama therapy, social worker, playwright, Stage performer, script writing etc. Students may also go into the production side of theatre e.g. stage management.

Subject	**Food Preparation and Nutrition**
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	The new GCSE will require pupils to acquire a good understanding of the scientific principles behind food and nutrition, and use a number of practical cooking techniques to prepare and cook food. The new qualification will be demanding and give students in-depth knowledge of nutrition, food choice, where food comes from, and practical cooking as well as the ability to apply this knowledge when cooking.
How students will be assessed	**Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition:** Food, nutrition and health Food science Food safety Food choice Food provenance **How it's assessed** Written exam: 1 hour (50%) 45 minutes 100 marks **Exam (50% of GCSE)** Multiple choice questions (20 marks). Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks). **Non-exam assessment (NEA)** **Task 1:** *Food investigation* Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. **Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.** Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation. **Task 2:** *Food preparation assessment* Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students 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. Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.
Staff to contact	Mrs Yates
Why choose this subject?	This qualification will give young people the preparation they need to succeed in the food and hospitality industries as well as giving them vital life skills.
Skills & qualities	Enthusiasm for designing and making food items, as well as being creative and innovative is important. This is however not purely a practical course; pupils need an inquiring mind and ability to research, produce designs, trial and test out their ideas. Practical making skills will be developed and improved throughout the course.
Further Education	Students can go to more specialist colleges to study courses such as Catering and Restaurant management, or on completion of their sixth form studies go on to take a degree in food science, food science with business or food technology and nutrition.
Careers	Food scientists and technologists, quality control specialists, food buyers, dieticians, various careers in hospitality, chefs, marketing, and Health and safety inspectors.

Subject	**Geography**
Exam Board	Edexcel Syllabus A
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	This specification takes a thematic approach, with content organised by physical and human environments. It also enables students to explore the people-environment challenges we face in the UK. - Paper 1: The Physical Environment (1 hour 45 minutes) ▪ The changing landscape of the UK (River and Coastal Landscapes) ▪ Weather hazards and climate change ▪ Ecosystems, biodiversity, and management - Paper 2: The Human Environment (1 hour 45 minutes) ▪ Changing cities ▪ Global development ▪ Resource management (Energy) - Paper 3: Geographical Investigations (1 hour 30 minutes) ▪ Fieldwork (human and physical) ▪ UK Challenges
How students will be assessed	**Examinations:** There are **three** exams at the end of the course and no coursework. **Weightings:** Paper 1 = 37.5% Paper 2 = 37.5% Paper 3 = 25% **Geographical Investigation** This course includes 2 days of **compulsory** fieldwork. The 2 days of fieldwork that students are expected to be completed are written up in class and then examined in paper 3.
Staff to contact	Mrs Bradnum
Why choose this subject?	Geography takes a multi-disciplinary approach that links with many other subjects and gives geographers a good understanding of the world around them.
Skills & qualities	Geographers develop a wide range of useful skills: problem solving, independent research, data presentation and analysis, cartographic skills, spatial awareness, mapping skills, and decision making.
Further Education	Geography can be taken at AS and as a full A-Level in our 6th Form. It can be studied as a subject in its own right at university, or lead to other subjects like environmental sciences, ecology, or geology. It has links with many subjects, especially Biology.
Careers	Many careers require the skills, knowledge and understanding that Geographers develop; from education and government, to financial management, journalism, environmental agencies and project management.

Subject	**History**
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	One GCSE
Course Description	**Outline Studies:** • America 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality • Conflict and tension: The First World War, 1894–1918 • Health and the people: c1000 to the present day • Elizabethan England, c1568–1603
How students will be assessed	2 exam papers at the end of year 11 **Paper One**: (worth 50%) – 2 hours • America 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality • Conflict and tension: The First World War, 1894–1918 **Paper Two:** (worth 50%) – 2 hours • Health and the people: c1000 to the present day • Elizabethan England, c1568–1603
Staff to contact	Ms Morais
Why choose this subject?	• History is a well-respected academic subject accepted by all universities • Prepares students for a wide range of careers
Skills & qualities	• Open to any student • Ability to write at length • Analysis of source material • Enquiring mind • Hard worker • Have an interest in the subject
Further Education	History can be taken at A Level in our Sixth Form. History is always preferred for those who wish to go on and study law at a later date. Also is a good subject to take alongside other Humanities subjects such as English, Economics, Sociology, Psychology and Politics.
Careers	Lawyer, Journalist, Civil Service, Archaeologist, Police, Armed forces, Set/Costume Designer, Media… to name but a few. Have a look at the careers listed in the history rooms.

Subject	**Media**
Exam Board	EDUQAS
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	**Exploring the Media:** For this exam, you will be assessed on media language and representation in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements. **Understanding Media Forms and Products:** Students will explore media industry issues to show their knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, audiences and media industries in relation to television and music. **Creating Media Products:** This is the non-examined assessment element of the course. Students will create media products using a range of equipment and editing software. An individual media production for an intended audience in response to a choice of briefs set by EDUQAS, applying knowledge and understanding of media language and representation.
How students will be assessed	**Non-Examined Assessment** – 30% of final grade **Two written exams –** 70% of final grade (40% and 30% respectively)
Staff to contact	Ms Alleyne
Why choose this subject?	• The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society • The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and operate as commercial industries on a global scale • Chance to learn practical editing and production skills • Learn to use new technology and equipment • Study a contemporary and relevant set of topics • To develop analysis skills
Skills & qualities	• Open to any student • Suited to those with practical, analytical flair • Requires organisation and ICT skills • Good team working essential • Excellent English skills are a necessity
Further Education	Media and Film A Level is offered in the Sixth Form. At degree level students can specialise in one area of Media Studies, such as theory or production. A good subject for those wishing to demonstrate communication skills. It goes well with English, Sociology, Psychology and ICT.
Careers	Journalist, publisher, graphic design, film and television related careers.

Subject	**Music**
Exam Board	EDEXCEL
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	GCSE Music is designed to open your horizons to a variety of styles and types of music from different centuries and countries. Eight pieces of music are set which cover music from different backgrounds and genres. A new aspect of wider listening has been added for students to appraise unfamiliar music in order to understand the wider context of music in general. This will help your understanding of the development of music from Baroque to Pop. The syllabus is based on three key areas - Performing, Composing and Listening.
How students will be assessed	**Performing Music [Controlled Assessment] 30%** • One solo (voice or instrument) • One ensemble/in a group (voice or instrument) **Composing Music [Controlled Assessment] 30%** • One to a set brief. • One as a free composition - any style that you choose! **Listening and Appraising Music [Exam] 40%** Written paper lasting 1hr 45 mins • Section A – Six compulsory questions based on extracts from 8 set works. One question on aural/rhythmic dictation and one question identifying features of an unfamiliar piece of music. • Section B – One extended writing question on comparing 2 pieces of music-one familiar, one unfamiliar.
Staff to contact	Miss Coking, Mrs Dennis
Why choose this subject	Choose this subject if: • You enjoy playing or singing music. • You are creative and want to compose your own music • You like reflecting on music and why it has been composed • You wish to study the key elements of how a piece of music works • But most of all you have a passion and love for music!
Skills & qualities	The ability to perform on an instrument or sing is **essential**. Performing and composing skills will be developed throughout the course. In depth analysis of music from a variety of genres will take place, enabling you to appreciate the complexities of the subject.
Further Education	GCSE Music is a good preparation for further study and a solid foundation for A Level or you may feel like combining it with Dance and/or Drama in a Performing Arts Course beyond 16.
Careers	There are many careers that involve music - performing, arts administration, teaching, music therapy, sound engineering, music journalism, community arts work to name just a few.

Subject	**GCSE PE**
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	One GCSE
Course Description	This qualification is designed for students who are serious about their sport; it is for those who enjoy and would like to know more about the theory behind sport. During the course students will develop their sporting performance across a range of sports and their ability to critically analyse their own sporting performance. Students will also develop their knowledge on the human body and movement in sport, as well as, the socio-cultural influences in physical activity and sport.
How Students will be Assessed	**Component 1: The human body and movement in sport.** EXAM (30% of GCSE) Topics include: • Applied anatomy and physiology • Movement analysis • Physical training **Component 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in sport.** EXAM (30% of GCSE) Topics include: • Sports psychology • Socio-cultural influences • Health, fitness and well-being **Component 3: Practical performance in physical activity and sport** PRACTICAL PERFORMACE (30% of GCSE) • One team base sport • One individual sport • One free choice WRITTEN EVALUATION OF SPORT PERFORMANCE (10% of GCSE)
Staff to Contact	Mrs Peace
Why Choose this subject?	Opportunity to be assessed in sports which are not covered in school such as *cycling, swimming, skiing, boxing, rock climbing* plus many more Opportunity to learn more about how the human body works and factors which influence sport participation and performance
Skills & Qualities	The course requires commitment to playing regular *competitive* sport either inside or outside of the school setting. You can perform to a good level in at least *three* sports. You have an interest in sport science.
Further Education	GCSE PE gives you a good grounding to progress onto other higher level courses leading into many vocational BTEC courses, A Level and university degrees such as sport science, sports journalism, sports coaching plus many more.
Careers	The course develops transferable and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include further training in areas such as physiotherapy, recreational management, teaching, coaching, the fitness industry, the armed forces and the Civil Service.

Subject	**Photography**
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	• GCSE Photography is designed to inspire and broaden your creative ability. • Designed to help you express your own thoughts and ideas in a variety of different visual ways using digital media and in particular photography. • There are a number of trips that go on during the course for photo shoots such as Central London, Tate Modern and various others depending on the project. • You have to purchase a camera and an SD card for this course.
How students will be assessed	**Portfolio- 60%** ▪ A selection of subsidiary units **OR** 1 major unit (Year 10) ▪ I major unit (Year11) A wide range of topics are chosen and studied throughout the course and you will get more of a say in what you look at as the course progresses, especially after spring in Year10. **Controlled exam – 40% (10 hours)** The exam paper is released in January of Year 11 and you will explore one of the suggested starting points over a 3-4 month period. The final outcome will be completed under exam conditions over the space of 2 days.
Staff to contact	Mrs Kumar
Why choose this subject?	• It is a creative subject with some written work • It allows you to express yourself in a range of ways using digital media • There are trips • You learn how to use Photoshop properly • No written exams!
Skills & qualities	• An enthusiasm for art, creating things. • An attitude of "I will try everything out" is essential. • Some of the skills you will develop are compositional skill, photography, Photoshop, Fine art. • You will explore the works of other Photographers, artists, designers and cultures.
Further Education	GCSE Photography leads naturally on to A-level Photography in our Sixth Form. Students can then go on to a foundation course and then to degree level.
Careers	Web design, Media careers, Fashion design, textiles design, set and costume design, film, TV, product design, graphic design, illustration, commercial design, and architecture.

<table>
<tr><td>Subject</td><td>Psychology</td></tr>
<tr><td>Exam Board</td><td>AQA</td></tr>
<tr><td>Qualification</td><td>One GCSE</td></tr>
<tr><td>Course description</td><td>

Cognition and behaviour
This section covers topic areas such as: memory, perception, development and research methods.
Social context and behaviour
This section covers topic areas such as: social Influence, language, thought and communication, brain and neuropsychology, and psychological problems.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>How students will be assessed</td><td>Examination
All students are entered for the same exam.
<table>
<tr><th>Sections</th><th>Paper one
50% of the final grade
(1hour 45 minutes)</th><th>Paper Two
50% of the final grade
(1hour 45 minutes)</th></tr>
<tr><td>A</td><td>Memory.</td><td>Social Influence.</td></tr>
<tr><td>B</td><td>Perception.</td><td>Language, thought & communication.</td></tr>
<tr><td>C</td><td>Development.</td><td>Brain and neuropsychology.</td></tr>
<tr><td>E</td><td>Research Methods.</td><td>Psychological problems.</td></tr>
</table>
There is NO coursework in GCSE Psychology</td></tr>
<tr><td>Staff to contact</td><td>Mrs Popat</td></tr>
<tr><td>Why choose this subject?</td><td>

An interesting subject
You learn skills to carry out your own investigation
Learn about the various approaches and methods in psychology

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Skills & qualities</td><td>

Good communication skills.
Research skills.
Problem Solving.
Improving own learning and performance.
Critical analysis and independent learning.
Enquiring mind.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Further Education</td><td>The AQA specification has been developed to enable a smooth progression to A level Psychology, so pupils who do GCSE Psychology will be well prepared when moving on to A level Psychology which is also offered in our Sixth Form.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Careers</td><td>Teaching, Police, Psychologist, Counsellor, Child Psychologist.</td></tr>
</table>

Subject	**Sociology**
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	One GCSE
Course description	• **Studying society –** What is Sociology? Including Families and Education. • **Families –** Including how the changing nature of relationships between men and women influences the ways in which we live together**.** • **Education –** Including why the social background of pupils influences their educational achievements. • **Crime and Deviance –** Raises questions about the accuracy of people's perceptions about the pattern of law breaking behaviour in Britain. • **Social Stratification –** Including why some live in luxury while others have little. • **Sociological research methods –** explaining methods and its issues.
How students will be assessed	**Examination** **Paper One** **50% of the final grade (1hour 45 minutes)** Section A – Families Section B – Education and sociological research methods **Paper Two** **50% of the final grade (1hour 45 minutes)** Section A – Crime and Deviance Section B – Social Stratification
Staff to contact	Mrs Popat
Why choose this subject?	• It's an exciting, relevant and interesting subject • It will encourage you to develop your questioning, critical and evaluative skills
Skills & qualities	• Ability to write at length. • Analysis of source material. • Organisation of knowledge and understanding in different ways. • Ability to base reasoned judgements and arguments on evidence. • Hard worker.
Further Education	A level Sociology are offered in our Sixth Form, and would be a good progression from GCSE.
Careers	Police, Social work, Nursing, Teaching, Advertising, Journalism and Law.

Subject	**GCSE Triple Science**
Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	One Additional GCSE to the Combine GCSE Science Double Award
Course description	• All students at Swakeleys will do the Combine GCSE Science Double Award giving a double grade, for example 5-5 in Science. • This course will increase the content level of all three sciences allowing students to receive a distinct grade in Biology, Chemistry and Physics rather than the combined GCSE. For example 5 in Biology, 7 in Physics and 6 in Chemistry.
How students will be assessed	• There are **six written exams** at the end of Year 11 (two per subject). • Each exam is **1 hour 45 minutes**, worth **100 marks** and counts as **50%** of that GCSE. • There is **no coursework** – required practicals are assessed through exam questions.
Staff to contact	Mr Try, Mrs Hayes or Miss Gowrikanthan
Why choose this subject?	• It is designed for students who have a strong interest in science and may wish to continue science at A Level and beyond. The course develops scientific knowledge and understanding, practical skills, analytical thinking and problem-solving abilities. It also deepens awareness of how science applies to everyday life, technology and careers. • It is a hard course and therefore should be taken if there is evidence for academic success in science. • There is an entrance test in the summer term of Year 7 and this score will be part of the eligibility criteria.
Skills & qualities	• Scientific investigation and practical lab skills • Data analysis and problem solving • Critical thinking and evaluation of evidence • Applying mathematical skills in science • Clear communication of scientific ideas
Further Education	Triple Science provides the strongest preparation for studying: • A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics • Level 3 Applied Science • Other science-related sixth form and college pathways
Careers	This course supports progression into careers such as: Medicine • Dentistry • Veterinary Science • Pharmacy • Engineering • Forensic Science • Biomedical Research • Nursing • Environmental Science • Astronomy • Laboratory Technician and many more.

<table>
<tr><td>Subject</td><td>BTEC Child Development</td></tr>
<tr><td>Exam Board</td><td>EDEXCEL</td></tr>
<tr><td>Qualification</td><td>BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development (1 GCSE)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Course description</td><td>A BTEC qualification is a nationally recognised work-related qualification designed to provide you with a choice of routes into further education or employment. The Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development consists of three core units which are mandatory. One unit is a Synoptic External.
<table>
<tr><td>Core Unit</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>Children’s Growth and Development – 30% of GCSE</td><td>Internal non-exam assessment</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>Learning Through Play – 30% of GCSE</td><td>Internal non-exam assessment</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop– 40% of GCSE</td><td>Synoptic External Task</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>How students will be assessed</td><td>60% of the course is assignment based; this consists 5-6 tasks which are typed up and based on a case study. The assignments are over a period of 2 months to be taken in Y10. 40% is an externally assessed exam sat in Y11. Pass – Distinction*</td></tr>
<tr><td>Staff to contact</td><td>Mrs Dhokia</td></tr>
<tr><td>Why choose this subject?</td><td>• Helps prepare for further learning or training and/or develop knowledge and/or skills in child development and care
• Provides a good foundation for those who wish to progress into childcare
• Learn how to work with children in a variety of settings
• An understanding of the stages and sequence of child development
• Learn how to observe and cater for individual needs of children</td></tr>
<tr><td>Skills & qualities</td><td>• Enthusiasm and energy
• A desire to work with young children
• A willingness to explore new ideas and to communicate them effectively
• A willingness to work independently and as part of a team</td></tr>
<tr><td>Further Education</td><td>This course supports progression to higher level professional training, including:
• Level 3 Award and Certificate in Child Development
• Level 3 Diploma or a Foundation Degree in Children’s Play Learning and Development. Education</td></tr>
<tr><td>Careers</td><td>Child Minder, Nursery Assistant/Manager, Midwife, School Nurse, Social Worker, Play Group Staff, Teaching Assistant, Primary School Teacher, Day-care Centres, Pre-schools, Crèches, Child Development Officer, Teaching Child Development in Secondary Schools & Further Education</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td>Subject</td><td>BTEC Health and Social Care</td></tr>
<tr><td>Exam Board</td><td>EDEXCEL</td></tr>
<tr><td>Qualification</td><td>BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care (1 GCSE)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Course description</td><td>A BTEC qualification is a nationally recognised work-related qualification designed to provide you with a choice of routes into further education or employment. The Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care consists of three core units which are mandatory. One unit is a Synoptic External.
<table>
<tr><td>Core Unit</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>Human Lifespan Development – 30% of GCSE</td><td>Internal non-exam assessment</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>Health and Social Care Values – 30% of GCSE</td><td>Internal non-exam assessment</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>Health and Well-being – 40% of GCSE</td><td>Synoptic External Task</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>How students will be assessed</td><td>60% of the course is assignment based; this consists 5-6 tasks which are typed up and based on a case study. The assignments are over a period of 2 months to be taken in Y10. 40% is an externally assessed exam sat in Y11. Pass – Distinction*</td></tr>
<tr><td>Staff to contact</td><td>Mrs Dhokia</td></tr>
<tr><td>Why choose this subject?</td><td>• Independent Learning
• 60% is a controlled assessment completed in the classroom
• Working on your own or as part of a team
• Doing short projects and long assignments
• Completing part of the course in Y10
• The opportunity to implement knowledge during Y10 work shadowing for a period of 1 week in a health or social care sector</td></tr>
<tr><td>Skills & qualities</td><td>• A lively and enquiring mind
• An interest in the health care sector
• A willingness to explore new ideas
• An ability to communicate your ideas effectively
• A willingness to present your ideas to other people and work as a team</td></tr>
<tr><td>Further Education</td><td>A BTEC First Extended Certificate gives you a good grounding to progress onto other higher level courses such as the Level 3 BTEC National Subsidiary or Diploma, as offered in our Sixth Form.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Careers</td><td>Midwife, School Nurse, Social Worker, Support Officer, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Mental Health Nurse</td></tr>
</table>

Options – Common questions…and the answers!

Does options affect the set I am in for English, maths or science?

NO *- core subject sets are all set separately and this is not part of the options process*

Why can only some students opt for triple science?

It is very content heavy and puts a real pressure on exam performance. Students need to have been involved since year 7 to ensure they are fully committed to the high demands of the course.

What is the deadline for option forms and when will we know which courses we have?

The deadline for handing in options forms is Wednesday 3rd February and choices will be confirmed in May. We have to check we can staff all courses and this takes time

Why do we need to pick back up subjects?

Unfortunately you may NOT get all of your first choices – we sometimes have to use back-ups if courses are full or not running so pick these carefully too!

What if I change my mind or make the wrong choice?

There are two windows to request a change to your option choices; one in June and another at the end of September in Year 9. Remember, changes can only be made if there is space in the course.

Some subjects are completely new – how will I know if I would like them?

In December you will be able to sign up to a maximum of three tasters sessions in the 'new' subjects. These taster sessions will run in the first week back in January and are for: business, citizenship, media, psychology, sociology, BTEC Child Care, BTEC Health & Social Care.

All other subjects will run taster sessions as part of year 8 timetabled lessons.