



Year 9 Options Booklet 2024

A guide to the courses and qualifications
available to Year 10 and Year 11 students

Marple Hall School

MHS



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Make a choice that's right for you.....

In addition to your core subjects, you'll choose one Humanities subject and three options subjects.

Welcome to Year 9 Options

Dear Year 9 Student,

As you progress towards the end of Key Stage 3, it's time to reflect on the subjects that have captured your interest and those you would like to take on to a higher level of study. It is also time to consider a range of new subjects that might appeal to you.

Whilst you may not yet have a clear idea about the direction your future career might take, our advice is to keep your option choices as broad as possible. You should be thinking about the types of working environments you would feel happy in, and those that are not for you. This will help you decide on the range of skills you will need in the future and which subject combinations will be most valuable to you in Key Stage 4.

We offer a wide variety of courses and qualifications to provide a broad and balanced curriculum while still giving you a degree of choice. Some subjects that you study in Years 10 and 11 are compulsory (see page 7) and we feel that it is important that all students should study a humanities subject (Geography or History). If you are due to complete your MFL GCSE this Summer, you may also choose to select a second language as part of your Options choices.

The courses that you follow throughout Years 10 and 11 will influence your long-term future. You, and your parents and carers, will have access to several information sessions to discuss the options in lots of detail with the experts in school.

This booklet is designed to give you an overview of the subjects and courses available to you. When considering your options, please speak to your teachers and the subject leaders. It's important that you ask any questions that you may have.

We will give you as much help and advice on these important decisions as you need. We aim to give practical and straightforward information to guide and advise you to take courses that suit your goals and aspirations. Remember, **all** courses require hard work, determination and your full commitment, so it's vital that you take responsibility for researching your choices thoroughly.

Best of luck and I look forward to seeing the choices you make.

Miss Davies

Deputy Headteacher



The EBacc

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification in its own right. It's a combination of GCSE subjects that the Government puts an emphasis on for recommended study, as they offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

These subjects are:

- English
- Mathematics
- A Science (including Computer Science)
- A Humanities subject (Geography or History)
- A foreign language

These subjects give students a breadth of learning across the curriculum and are amongst the subjects that universities and employers are keen for students to pursue. We believe, like the Government, that EBacc subjects are important. We also believe that **every** subject we offer is uniquely important and we recommend that students study a broad range of subject qualifications. The subjects that are not in the EBacc are by no means inferior and they may prove very valuable.

Qualification Types

There are a wide variety of qualifications available and it's important that students, parents and carers understand the differences between these so that they are able to make informed decisions about which style of learning is best for each young person. The different types of qualifications we offer are GCSE and Vocational qualifications and both are Level 2 qualifications.

MAIN FEATURES

GCSE:

- Demanding content developed by exam boards and the Government
- Assessment mainly by exam with other types of assessment where there are essential skills to be tested (PE, Art etc)
- Courses designed with students taking all their exams at the end of the course
- A grading system 9 to 1, with 9 being the top grade. Grade 5 is regarded as a strong pass and a grade 4 classed as a standard pass.

VOCATIONAL:




- Vocational courses offer a mix of theoretical and practical learning through projects and assignments based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands
- As well as learning about the specific vocational area, students develop key skills
- Assessed through a range of internally and externally assessed practical assignments, alongside an exam
- A Pass, Merit, Distinction grading system.

Choosing your options

In most cases, the choices you make now will not generally affect your future education and career options. However, if you already have a clear idea of what you would like to do in Year 12 and beyond, it's a good idea to check if there are any specific requirements at GCSE level. For instance, some colleges will request that you complete specific courses in order to be able to do some of their A-level or vocational courses. Nevertheless, what is most important to sixth forms, colleges, universities and employers is how well you do in each of your subjects. For this reason it is vital that you consider the Do's and Don'ts below when making your choices.




Do choose...



-  **Subjects you like**
-  **Subjects you have done well in and gained good marks**
-  **Subjects you feel would help you to be successful in whatever you choose to do after the end of Year 11**

Don't choose...



-  **Subjects that your friends are choosing** (they may not be in your class)
-  **Subjects that your favourite teacher teaches** (you may not be in their class)
-  **Subjects you think other people would like you to take**

All students study the core subjects:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| • English Language | • Mathematics | • Geography or History |
| • English Literature | • Combined Science | • Core P.E. |

and pick three option subjects:

(please read the subject pages further on in this booklet for more information about each course)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and Design • Biology • Chemistry • Computer Science • Dance • Design and Technology • Drama* • Enterprise and Marketing • Film Studies • Food and Cookery • French • Geography • German | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • ICT • Italian • Music • Performing Arts* • Photography • Physical Education (PE)* • Physics • Religious Studies • Spanish • Sports Studies* • Statistics • Travel and Tourism |
|---|---|

***These subjects have significant overlap in course content which means that the following combinations cannot be taken together: GCSE PE and Sports Studies, GCSE Drama and Performing Arts**

Key Dates

It's important that your future learning choices are made for the right reasons.

Think about:

- ⇒ Subjects **you like**
- ⇒ Subjects **you're good at**
- ⇒ Subjects **you're interested in**
- ⇒ Subjects **you feel would help your career**

1

**Options
Launch**

November 2023

2

**PSHEE
Work**

November 2023

3

**Options
Booklet**

December 2023

4

**Individual
Meetings**

January 2024

5

**Options
Evening**

25/01/2024

6

**Options
Deadline**

08/02/2024



How do I indicate my option choices?

The options process takes place online. You will receive further information about how to make your final subject choices soon. The focus at this stage should be for you to carefully read the information contained in this booklet to support you in making your choices.

Why do some students not get all of their choices?

There are many reasons, such as too few or too many students opting for a particular subject, the combination of subjects chosen is not appropriate or, the subjects chosen do not fit into the timetable. We will make very effort to ensure as many students as possible get their first choices.

Why do I need a reserve?

It is important that you choose a reserve as some subjects may be under or over-subscribed, and therefore we will need to find an alternative option for you. Options are **not** allocated on a first come first basis so take your time when making your final choices! We do look at the order you place your subjects in though, so it is very important that you place your subjects in order of preference. **Place the subject you want to do the most at the top.**

What are my choices?

In addition to your core curriculum subjects, which are mandatory, you will choose one humanities subject (Geography or History) followed by three free choices. You are also asked to choose one reserve. Find out more about the subjects on offer to you next year inside this booklet.

It is important that you enjoy learning, so it is vital that you select courses that you find interesting, play to your strengths and develop your skills. You should consider carefully how these choices will affect your future at MHS and beyond.

If I change my mind can I change my options later in the year?

It may be difficult or even impossible to change your options as courses may be full or they may not fit onto your timetable. It is much better to get it right first time.

It is crucial that you gather as much information as possible before the final deadline from the Tutor Period programme, Options' Evening, the options booklet and from your subject teachers so you make the best choice.

When will I find out if I have got my preferred choices?

After the deadline it takes us a few weeks to model the timetable. If there's a problem with your choices Miss Davies will come and discuss it with you and let your parents and carers know. We will then work with you to find a solution. Once we have resolved any problems, we will email everyone with a confirmation of their choices. This usually happens in March but it can sometimes take us longer.

Careers Information

Careers information is located in the careers area of The Hub, and students can access careers programs on the PCs located in The Hub before or after school, during break and at lunchtime. Noticeboards in each Subject area outline careers open to students who wish to pursue that particular subject further.

Building on careers activities in Key Stage 3, students in Key Stage 4 will extend and develop their careers education during tutor period. They will focus on how to research jobs and courses, complete application forms and CVs and develop good interview techniques.

Careers activities in Year 10 include an individual careers guidance meeting with Miss Marney, our Careers Coordinator. In addition, we run an interview day in Spring term where students are able to develop their application and interview skills by being interviewed and given feedback by someone from the business world. In Summer Term, we hold a large Post-16 evening where students, parents and carers can talk to representatives from a wide range of local colleges, training providers and employers, and at the end of Summer Term, Year 10 have the opportunity to attend a week-long Work Experience placement.



Useful Websites for Options and Future Careers

www.gmacs.co.uk/schools

GMACS works alongside Xello to provide a balanced source of careers information. **Xello** has interactive assessments to help students understand their strengths, skills and interests, and gives access to hundreds of career profiles.

www.eclips-online.co.uk

eClips is the website we use in tutor period to help students find details on over 500 jobs/careers along with labour market information about career choices and lifestyle topics.

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

The **apprenticeship website** has useful information about different types of apprenticeships and advertises vacancies for students to apply for.

www.ucas.com

UCAS is a great starting point for anyone looking to do some early research into entrance requirements for university.

www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

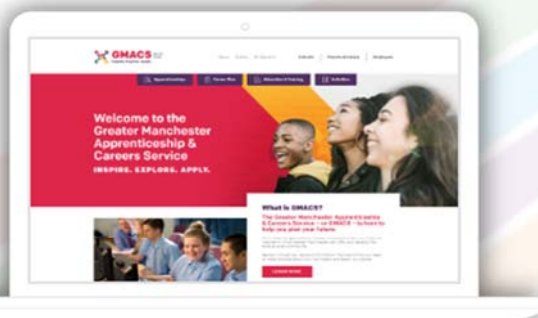
At the **National Careers Service** website, students can get personalised careers advice and information. They can explore and develop their career ideas linking subjects to possible careers.

www.marplehall.stockport.sch.uk/curriculum/careers/

Our school website provides access to a wealth of information on post-16 pathways, how our curriculum links to careers, careers talks, work experience opportunities, college information, apprenticeships, labour market information, university details and much more!

Xello and eClips

Xello provides interactive assessments to help students understand their strengths, skills, and unique interests and gives access to hundreds of career profiles. eClips helps students to find details on hundreds of jobs/careers, labour market information and employment sectors. Both tools could be really useful to you to find out more about your future career goals and help you to decide which options subject choices may help to get you there.



1. GMACS

Using Chrome, visit gmacs.co.uk

Click on



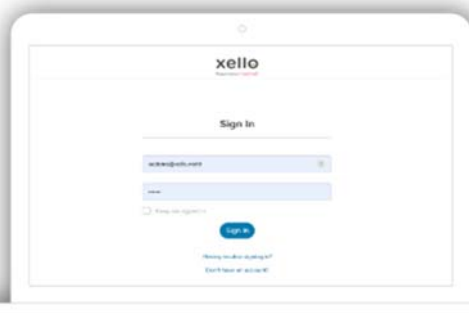
Career Plan



2. Xello - Career Planning tool

To access your career planning tool click on

LOG IN



3. Log in

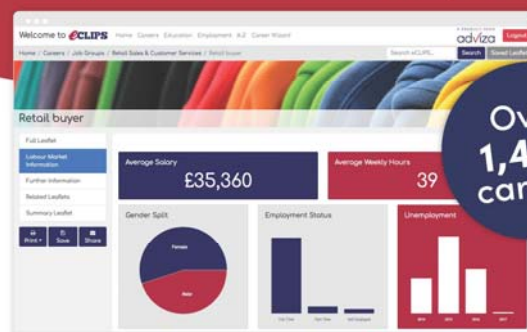
Use the log in below:

Username = **Student email address**

Password = **DOB (ddmmyyyy)**

eCLIPS

Want to know more about the jobs that interest you?



Over
1,400
careers

What does the job involve?

What grades and skills do I need?

What are similar jobs?

Can I do an apprenticeship?

What will I earn?

Where are the jobs?

Do I need a degree?

...and much more



1 Careers

- 1,400+ careers
- Labour market information
- Live vacancies
- Careers by school subjects
- Career matching tool

2 Education

- Options at Year 8/9
- Further Education
- Higher Education
- Taking a year out
- Funding your studies

3 Employment

- Employability
- Work experience
- Apprenticeships
- Work choices
- Applying for work

Login to

www.eclips-online.co.uk

Password: **sk6 6lb**

Post-16 Pathways

Young people are required to stay in some form of education or training until their 18th birthday. We know that Year 12 seems very far away right now, but if you are already considering your future career as part of making your Options choices, we thought it might be helpful to introduce you to the two main pathways available to you at the end of Year 11.



Full-time Education

- Sixth form school / Colleges
- Further Education Colleges
- Independent Education Providers

Courses on offer include both academic and vocational qualifications such as A-Levels, BTECs and T-Levels.



Work-Based Learning

- Apprenticeships
- Vocational Study
- Supported Internship
- Traineeship

Courses on offer include Intermediate, Advanced, Higher and Degree level Apprenticeships along with Vocational qualifications in a wide range of industry sectors.

Along with a detailed programme of careers activities that take place throughout Key Stage 4, in your one-to-one guidance meetings with our Careers Coordinator, Miss Marney, you'll find out more information about your Post-16 pathway choices and find the route that's right for you.

aquinas COLLEGE

 Apprenticeships

 **MARPLE**
SIXTH FORM
COLLEGE

 **Loreto**
sixth form college

 **STOCKPORT**
COLLEGE

 **Reaseheath**
College

 **THE**
CHEADLE
COLLEGE

 **Xaverian**
College

 **ASHTON**
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

 **Tameside College**

The Core

All students must study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science
- Geography or History
- Core P.E.



GCSE

Beyond GCSE

English skills are an essential requirement for all further education and Apprenticeship providers. English immediately opens the potential of A-Level study and degree possibilities. It combines well with History, Geography, Sociology, Government and Politics, and Languages and can also provide a balance to the Sciences and Mathematics.

Future Careers

All jobs and careers require English skills. If you are considering a career in Media, Publishing, Law, Marketing, Advertising, Theatre-related careers, Writing, Public relations, Teaching, Human Resources, Civil Service, excellent English skills are vital.

Exam Board:

AQA

8700

Course contact:

Mr Graves

laurence.graves@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



English Language

Overview

English Language is all around us and is something we use every day. English not only teaches us about language but also how to use it effectively and respond to it with understanding. It helps you to develop skills you will need in other subject areas, in everyday life and in your future career.

What's involved?

This course is designed to help students of all abilities develop the skills they need to read, understand, and analyse a wide range of different texts as well as to write clearly using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

You will learn how to understand what you read and develop strategies that help you get the most out of every text. You will develop a wide range of writing skills and gain experience writing for many different purposes and audiences. You will work on continually improving your verbal communication skills. Whether delivering a formal speech, working as part of a team, or taking on a role, you will have the opportunity to express yourself and grow as a result of listening to what others have to say.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by internal assessment (NEA) and two written examinations.

- NEA: Spoken language skills (graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction)
- Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing (50% of final grade)
- Paper 2: Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% of final grade)



English Literature

GCSE

Overview

English Literature will not only help you to develop your reading and analytical skills, it will also provide you with the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate a varied range of texts.

What's involved?

You will study interesting texts as part of this course and be introduced to many key figures from Britain's literary heritage. Whilst studying some brilliant novels, plays and poems, you'll learn more about the nature of humanity, social and historical contexts of works and the power of the written word.

You will learn how to identify language devices and explore their emotional power, expand your vocabulary, and how to challenge yourself and your thinking. Building on the skills of inference and analysis that you have developed in Key Stage 3, you will learn how to articulate and justify your thoughts to compare and evaluate how writers create ideas in a variety of different forms, and over a range of historical periods.

English Literature is an exciting subject to study because of its focus on developing the thoughts and opinions that you will form when engaging with texts. It also helps you to improve your writing by introducing you to academic writing skills that help you to consider how to approach and present clear and developed arguments and evaluations of texts.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by two written examinations.

- Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing (50% of final grade)
- Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% of final grade)

Beyond GCSE

As well as the option to study English Literature at A-Level and degree level, students will use the skills they have developed in this course in subjects where analysis and evaluation are important skills, such as Psychology, Sociology, Criminology, Drama, History and Apprenticeships in a variety of industries.

Future Careers

Media related careers, Publishing, Law, Marketing, Advertising, Theatre-related careers, Writing, Public relations, Teaching.

Exam Board:

AQA

8702

Course contact:

Mr Graves

laurence.graves@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



GCSE

Mathematics

Beyond GCSE

Mathematics underpins the global economy at every level. As well as A-level, Further Mathematics and Core Maths courses post-16, your GCSE Mathematics will benefit you in a range of other subjects for example Science, Technology, Engineering, Economics, Psychology, Business, Medicine and Accountancy. GCSE Maths has links to various T-Levels, particularly within the legal, finance and accounting sector.

Future Careers

Almost all jobs and careers require maths skills from science-based roles such as laboratory work, in business, engineering and government roles as well as the construction industry, where you'll use your number, measurement and ratio skills every day.

Exam Board:

Pearson

IMA1

Course contact:

Mr Ellis

tom.ellis@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

Overview

Mathematics covers many of the vital skills everybody needs and uses in a variety of ways all throughout their lives. You will use lots of the skills you learn in other subjects whilst at school too. For example, in Science you'll take measurements, use formulae and solve equations and in Geography you'll read diagrams and maps.

What's involved?

You will develop a wide range of skills in this course and learn how to use your mathematical knowledge to solve problems and apply logical thinking methods to reach an answer.

This course will help you to develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of Number, Probability and Statistics, Geometry, Ratio and Proportion and Algebra. You will use this knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts and learn how to apply the functional elements of maths in everyday real-life situations.

This course encourages the development of confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, Mathematics in your own life and as part of society. The ability to problem-solve is an important life skill and this course helps you to develop this skill. It also prepares you to make informed decisions about aspects such as the use of technology and the management of money.

How will I be assessed?

Mathematics GCSE has two tiers available:

- Foundation – Grades 1 to 5
- Higher – Grades 4 to 9

For both tiers, you will be assessed by three written examinations, each of which are worth a third of your final grade.

- Paper 1: Non-Calculator
- Paper 2: Calculator
- Paper 3: Calculator



Combined Science

GCSE

Overview

Science affects your life in many ways - the clothes you wear may include man-made fibres, the food you eat may include chemical preservatives and the appliances in your home contain electrical circuits. All students study science at Key Stage 4 and this course is the equivalent of two GCSEs. You can choose either this Combined Science course, or choose Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects (see page 39)

What's involved?

In Combined Science, you will study an equal amount of biology, chemistry and physics. You will develop strong reasoning and analytical skills, which are vital regardless of where your future studies or career takes you. You will develop an understanding of how science works and learn how to use scientific evidence to solve problems and answer questions. The course covers a wide range of topics in each subject area including cells, infection and respiration in biology, atomic structure, chemical changes and bonding in chemistry and forces, energy and electromagnetism in physics, to name just a few!

You'll have the opportunity to do some interesting practical work and develop and improve your scientific communication skills, using different approaches to identify, present and analyse information. Science will help you to gain good team-working skills and present arguments with balance and reason.

How will I be assessed?

Combined Science has two tiers available:

- Foundation – Grades 1 to 5
- Higher – Grades 4 to 9

For both tiers, you will be assessed by six written examinations, each paper is worth one sixth of your final grade:

- Two papers in biology
- Two papers in chemistry
- Two papers in physics

Beyond GCSE

Students who complete Combined Science can study science subjects at A-level, provided that they have achieved the minimum criteria for individual colleges.

A qualification in science will be required to access courses such as BTEC Applied Science and Apprenticeships in science-based industries, as well as being an entry requirement for A-level Geology, Geography, PE and Psychology.

Future Careers

For many careers, good science qualifications are essential. These include careers such as Healthcare professionals, Architecture, Engineering, Child Development, Construction, Agriculture, Surveying and many other careers that have a technical aspect.

Exam Board:

AQA

8464

Course contact:

Ms Carr

charlotte.carr@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



GCSE

Beyond GCSE

This course is a stepping stone to A-level and degree level Geography as well as an ideal foundation to many others that require investigative and analytical skills. Vocational options post-16 includes travel and tourism, construction, T-levels and a wide range of Apprenticeships.

Future Careers

Architecture, Civil Engineering, Economics, Conservation, Environment and Heritage roles, Agriculture, careers in the Media industry, Surveying, Teaching, Hospitality and Tourism, the Travel sector, Marketing, Geology, Landscape Design.

Exam Board:

OCR

J384

Course contact:

Ms Brown

lorna.brown@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Geography

Overview

Geography is all around us, in our present and our future world. We all live in the world and this course will help you to find out more about the physical and human elements of Geography in the UK and across the globe. You'll learn about the challenges, and the opportunities, that our world offers.

What's involved?

Exploring our natural world, you'll examine global hazards, such as tropical storms, droughts and earthquakes, and investigate climate change including its causes, effect and our response to it. You'll also learn about distinctive landscapes, looking at coasts and rivers and the process of how landforms are created. You'll delve into ecosystems, exploring tropical rainforests and polar environments.

In your studies on human geography, you'll explore people and society and how the urban population of the world is changing. You'll learn about developing countries, and how development is measured. You'll examine population and economic issues in the UK, and the part we play in the wider world. In your research into reliance on resources, you'll explore the concept of food security and ensuring there is enough food to go around.

Although you'll explore physical and human geography from the comfort of your classroom, you will also have the opportunity to apply your wider learning on two fieldtrips, one for each unit, where you'll carry out an investigation related to topics that you have studied. You'll also develop valuable transferable skills including organisation, communication and writing skills, research, problem-solving, analysis and interpretation skills.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by three written examinations.

- Paper 1: Our Natural World (35% of your final grade)
- Paper 2: People and Society (35% of your final grade)
- Paper 3: Geographical Exploration (30% of your final grade)



History

GCSE

Overview

History is a huge part of our world today; we wouldn't be where we are today without our history. It's a fascinating subject to study and gives us an insight into important things that have happened in the past. It helps us to understand where we came from and where we're going to. History gives us the opportunity to understand others and to appreciate the challenges faced by those that have gone before us.

What's involved?

This course will help you understand how the world was shaped and make you consider today's world in different ways. You'll learn about people – how they interact, govern, lead and champion change as well as factors that can tear people apart or help them work together for a common cause.

You'll also learn about countries, societies, and cultures - enemies, alliances, pacts, agreements and conflicts in the past and how they continue to be relevant today. You'll study a range of topics including Life in Weimar and Nazi Germany, the British sector of the Western Front during World War One and Medicine from medieval times through to the present day along with Anglo-Saxon and Norman England and Superpower relations and the Cold War.

You'll explore each of these topics deeply, developing your research and analysis skills along the way. You will develop critical thinking abilities and build on your communication, evaluation, and problem-solving skills.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by three written examinations.

- Paper 1: Medicine in Britain, and; the British Section of the Western Front (30% of your final grade)
- Paper 2: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, and; Superpower relations and the Cold War (40% of your final grade)
- Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany (30% of your final grade)

Beyond GCSE

History GCSE is not only an excellent preparation for A-level History but also equips you with a set of valuable skills that are applicable to a variety of academic and career pathways, making it an ideal choice for students interested in humanities, social sciences, and beyond.

Future Careers

Journalism, Entrepreneurship, Archaeology, Business, Law, Economics, Medicine, Historical Theatre & Film, Social Work, Teaching, Public Services, Politics, Cultural sector, Restoration & Architecture.

Exam Board:

Pearson

1H10

Course contact:

Mr Daniels

mark.daniels@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Core P.E.

Overview

Fitness and health are important. Core PE helps you to stay active, teaches you the importance of physical exercise, and leads to good habits for the future. You'll experience a broad curriculum which focuses on building a healthy and active lifestyle and develops the values of fairness, respect, teamwork, enjoyment, leadership, appreciation, and improvement of performance.

What's involved?

You'll build on the skills and knowledge you have gained in Key Stage 3, working with others in team and individual games to develop your skills, tactics and strategies in sport. You'll be encouraged to develop skills to improve your individual performance, and the performance of your team, to help beat your opponents.

Throughout the year, students are placed on a carousel of different activities.

In Term 1 & 2, your activities may include:

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Dance
- Dodgeball
- Fitness
- Football
- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Outdoor and Adventurous Activities
- Rugby (Touch Rugby/Rugby Union)
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball

In Term 3, your activities may include:

- Athletics
- Cricket
- Rounders
- Softball
- Tennis

How will I be assessed?

There are no formal assessments in this subject.

Course contact:

Mr Stretton

michael.stretton@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

The Options

Students choose three subjects:

- Art and Design
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Enterprise and Marketing (Cambridge National)
- Film Studies
- Food and Cookery (V Cert)
- Geography
- History
- ICT (Technical Award)
- MFL - French, German, Italian or Spanish
- Music
- Performing Arts (Technical Award)
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Separate Sciences - Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Sports Studies (Cambridge National)
- Statistics
- Travel and Tourism (BTEC Tech Award)

GCSE



Art and Design (Fine Art)

Beyond GCSE

Many students go on to study A-Levels in Art & Design or History of Art. GCSE Art students can seamlessly transition into T-Levels in digital production, design, or media, which offer a vocational approach to creative industries. The course serves as an excellent foundation for apprenticeships in the creative sector, spanning roles in graphic design, illustration, digital marketing, or visual merchandising.

Future Careers

Architect, Set Designer, Graphic Designer, Gallery Curator, Media and Film, Artist/Illustrator, Art Therapist, Fashion and Textile design, Advertising, Marketing, Teacher, Community Arts Worker.

Exam Board:

AQA

8202

Course contact:

Ms Mustill

holly.mustill@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

Overview

Art and Design isn't just a great choice for anyone looking to build a career in the creative sector, but also for those who want to express and expand their creative abilities. This course isn't simply about producing your own individual pieces of art, it's about bringing art and design to life as you do so.

What's involved?

Through interesting and inspiring topics, you'll develop your practical skills and expand your creativity, imagination and independence. Alongside your creative skills, you'll also develop essential life skills in thinking, reflecting and evaluating.

You'll have the opportunity to experiment with a broad range of materials, equipment and techniques and learn how to use different mediums including ceramics, painting and drawing, printmaking, mixed media and digital technologies. Together with the practical aspects of the course, you'll also research and analyse different artists and designers and explore a variety of styles of work.

Through stimulating and challenging activities, you will develop your creative skills, your confidence and sense of individual identity. At the end of the course, your work will be included in an exciting exhibition event at school for your parents/carers to attend.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by internal assessment (NEA) and an externally set exam.

- NEA Portfolio (60% of your final grade). Comprised of coursework built throughout the course. Your portfolio projects will show the research behind your work, its development and the final pieces.
- Externally set task (40% of your final grade). Set by the exam board, students are given a starting point and produce a body of preparatory work before their final outcome, which takes place over a ten-hour period, split over two weeks.



Computer Science

Overview

Computing is a huge part of our global economy. Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that technology is used also continues to change and grow at a tremendous pace. You're already an important part of that growth, in your use of mobile devices and web-related technologies.

What's involved?

Computer scientists design new software, solve computing problems and develop different ways to use technology – but, whatever task they are doing, all computer scientists rely on computational thinking. Computational thinking involves looking at a problem and working out a way that a computer might be able to help you solve it. To do this, you need to understand how a computer processes information.

In this course, you will learn the fundamentals of computer networks and systems, including the components inside the system, the way data is stored, processed, and transferred.

You'll also get involved in computer programming (coding) and designing algorithms for searching and sorting data.

As well as the computing knowledge and skills this course will give you, you'll explore the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment and examine the important ethical and legal aspects of computing.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by two written examinations.

- Paper 1: Written exam (50% of your final grade)
- Paper 2: Practical programming exam (50% of your final grade)

GCSE

Beyond GCSE

This course prepares students well for any STEM subject post-16, as well as being a platform to A-level computing courses, BTEC Level 3 or T-levels in digital subjects and a vast range of Apprenticeships in the technology sector. As the course develops critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, it's also beneficial to those studying any post-16 subject that relies on these skills.

Future Careers

Programming Engineer, Web Developer, Data scientist, Software Tester, Systems Analyst, Business Analyst, Product Manager, Game Developer, Network Architect, Software Engineer, Tech Support, Cybersecurity, Digital Marketing.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This is a popular course with very demanding content. Students choosing this course should have consistently strong Attitude to Learning outcomes in their Year 8 and Year 9 gradebooks along with secure skills and abilities in both Maths and Science at Key Stage 3.

Exam Board:

Pearson

ICP2

Course contact:

Ms Thompson

jules.thompson@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

GCSE

Beyond GCSE

GCSE Dance provides an excellent preparation for A-Level courses in Performing Arts, Drama, or even Media Studies. It can be a solid foundation for Creative and Digital T-Levels.

The teamwork and project management skills you gain in GCSE Dance are relevant to a wide variety of Apprenticeships, particularly in roles that require collaboration and problem-solving.

Future Careers

Teacher, Dance Photographer, Dance Movement Therapist, Professional Performer, Musical Theatre, Choreographer, Arts Production, Arts Administrator, Community Arts Worker, Arts Management.

Exam Board:

AQA

8236

Course contact:

Mr Stretton

michael.stretton@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Dance

Overview

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, technical and expressive skills, as well as their intellectual capability; skills that aren't only essential in GCSE Dance, but also for becoming confident and independent learners in all subjects.

What's involved?

GCSE Dance offers students the opportunity to develop their performance and choreography skills, alongside developing their understanding of professional dance through critical analysis.

During your practical lessons, you will study a range of dance styles and techniques. You'll develop your understanding of performance skills including physical, technical and expressive skills which are required for Dance.

You'll also study the theory of dance and the importance of safe working practices, applying your learning in your practical lessons. Our theory lessons will include studying six professional works and analysing the production features such as lighting and costume. As part of your assessment, you will create your own choreography and perform in both group, solo and partner (duet/trio) performances. Although this course includes a lot of practical activities, there is also an equal amount of theory-based work including research, critical analysis and extended-writing.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by an exam and internal assessment (NEA):

- Written exam: Dance Appreciation (40% of your final grade)
- NEA 1a: Performance (30% of your final grade)
- NEA 1b: Choreography (30% of your final grade)



Design and Technology

GCSE

Overview

Product Design is something we come across every day; all products began life as an idea, and this course gets you involved in understanding how products are designed and manufactured, as well as why manufacturers made the decisions that they did along the way. You'll also get to apply your maths, science, art, computing and humanities learning in this course too.

What's involved?

Design Technology requires you to think deeply, question, explore, create, problem-solve, communicate, analyse and evaluate. You'll learn about how products are designed, not simply by innovation but also in response to solving a problem. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of interactive design processes as you explore, create and evaluate a range of products, from prototypes through to finished articles, learning how to work safely as you do. You'll investigate and use different materials and consider the part that technology can play in the product design process. In Year 11, you use your knowledge and understanding of product design and hone your creative skills as you design, develop, model and manufacture your own realistic working product in response to the brief set by the exam board. Although this course includes practical activities, there is an equal amount of theory-based work including research, critical analysis, evaluation and extended-writing.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by an exam and internal assessment:

- Written exam (50% of your final grade)
- NEA: Investigate, design, make, analyse and evaluate a product in response to a brief (50% of your final grade)

Beyond GCSE

Product Design is excellent preparation for A-Level courses in Design and Technology, Business Studies, or even Media Studies. This course can lay the groundwork for pursuing Creative and Digital T-Levels. Technical knowledge and problem-solving abilities are in high demand in the technology sector. This makes it excellent preparation for a wide array of Apprenticeships in fields like engineering, industrial design and product development.

Future Careers

Architect, Interior Designer, Mechanical Engineer, Product Designer, Software Engineer, Materials Technologist, Teacher, Furniture Designer, Structural Engineer, Construction Trades, Advertising, Multimedia Design, Web Design.

Exam Board:

AQA

8552

Course contact:

Ms Sargent

eva-joy.sargent@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

GCSE

Beyond GCSE

Many students choose to delve deeper into the world of drama by pursuing A-Level Drama, Theatre Studies or Media. In addition, GCSE Drama can serve as a strong foundation for various performing arts courses at a variety of different levels. The skills you gain in Drama can make you a well-rounded, adaptable, and effective apprentice across many different sectors.

Future Careers

Professional Performer, Stage Technician, Costume Designer, Producer, Writer, Teacher, Journalist, Set Designer, Sales, Camera Operator, Animator, Publisher, Broadcaster, Public Relations, Events Management, Politics and Government.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

There are two different pathway choices available, for more details about each one to help you choose, please speak to Mr Osgood.

Exam Board:

AQA

8261

Course contact:

Mr Osgood

dean.osgood@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Drama

Overview

Drama is an empowering subject that encourages students to work imaginatively and collaboratively with others. It is a creative and challenging course that develops both knowledge and skills. Students' performance skills grow alongside their communication, teamwork, confidence, empathy, resilience, and negotiation skills.

What's involved?

There are two Drama pathways available at MHS, Acting or Design.

The Acting pathway focuses on performance and the Design pathway explores the aspects of backstage, costume, set, lighting and sound.

Whichever pathway you choose you'll develop organisation skills, presentation techniques, research and analysis, critical thinking and evaluation skills, as well as your design or performance skills.

You'll learn about empathy and what it's like to put yourself in someone else's shoes and examine plays, performances and productions by other people. As you develop your knowledge and skills in understanding Drama, you'll investigate and explore how theatre and drama are made, studying plays in detail and visiting a live performance. You will work independently and with others to practically explore devising themes, issues and challenging scripts as well as learn about the technical side of theatre and performance. In Year 10, you'll work with a group of actors and designers to devise and design your own pieces of work and perform this to an audience. In Year 11 you will either perform two extracts from a published play, or design a costume or set for a performance. This work will be assessed by a visiting examiner.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by exam, external assessment and internal assessment (NEA):

- Written exam: Understanding Drama (40% of your final grade)
- NEA 1: Devising Drama (40% of your final grade)
- NEA 2: Texts in Practice (20% of your final grade)



Enterprise and Marketing

Overview

An understanding of how business works helps us to make sense of the world that we live in. This course is about industry, businesses and companies, and how these organisations identify, develop and market new and innovative ideas or products not only to make profit but also to help solve problems in wider society.

What's involved?

The course will equip you with important business and marketing skills, the ability to think commercially and creatively, and reflect with an enquiring mind. You'll learn about the subject in a variety of ways including research, investigation and practical activities.

You'll learn all about the key factors to consider and activities that need to happen to operate a successful start-up business. You'll explore what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur, how to use market research, the costs involved in producing a product and the importance of financial viability as well as the key principles of marketing.

You'll build on the knowledge and skills you develop in the early part of this course to design your own business proposal. Carrying out market research, identifying a customer profile, generating product design ideas and examining the risks and challenges involved in your proposal.

The final part of this course is when you pitch your proposal to an audience (think Dragon's Den, but without the money!). Don't worry, you won't go into this activity without lots of learning, practice and support behind you. You'll know your product inside out and will have learned all about branding, customer profiles, promotional campaigns, presentation styles and how to pitch.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by an exam and internal assessment (NEA):

- Written exam (40% of your final grade)
- NEA 1: Design a business proposal (30% of your final grade)
- NEA 2: Market and pitch a business proposal (30% of your final grade)

Vocational

Beyond GCSE

Enterprise and Marketing skills are highly sought after in various apprenticeships, particularly in business management, digital media and marketing. The course is excellent preparation for A-Level courses in Business Studies, or Economics, as well as Level 3 BTECs such as Business or Marketing. Enterprise and Marketing can also lead to T-levels in Administration and Digital Business and Management

Future Careers

Business Administration, Project Manager, Sales and Marketing, Entrepreneur, Finance, Digital Marketing, Public Relations Specialist, Social Media Manager, Digital Strategist, Advertising Copywriter.

Exam Board:

OCR

Cambridge National, J837

Course contact:

Ms Thompson

jules.thompson@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

GCSE

Beyond GCSE

Many students choose to extend their exploration of visual storytelling by pursuing A-Level courses in Media Studies, English Literature, Psychology, History or Politics. GCSE Film Studies has strong links to various T-Level courses such as Media Production, Digital Media and Marketing. This course would prepare you well for a variety of apprenticeships in the film, media, and creative arts sectors.

Future Careers

Film Maker, Director, Advertising, Journalism, Teaching, Film Critic, Scriptwriter, Visual Effects Artist, Digital Media Designer, Set Designer, Film Historian.

Exam Board:

WJEC

C670QS

Course contact:

Mr Follett

richard.follett@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Film Studies

Overview

Film is widely regarded as an art form of the 20th century. During our lifetimes, every single one of us has experienced film and this course gives students tools to understand and analyse film. From the pieces themselves through to history of film and production techniques. Film Studies is enjoyable, but it's not an easy option! Alongside its practical elements, it requires research, critical-thinking, analysis, evaluation and extended writing.

What's involved?

You'll study the theory of Film – understanding how a film is constructed to have an impact on the viewer through research, investigation, discussion, evaluation and analysis.

You'll become a Film critic – using your analytical skills again, you'll explore and assess the merits of specific films, from the classics through to the contemporary. Examining film extracts is a part of the course, but it's only a part and there are many more parts involved, we do not watch films every lesson!

You'll also learn about the history of Film. You'll discover the origin of film, the major changes and development over time and the part that new technologies play in its development today.

In Year 11, you'll use the knowledge, skills and experience you've developed to plan and produce your own film extract.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by exams and internal assessment (NEA):

- Written exam 1: US Film (35% of your final grade)
- Written exam 2: Global Film (35% of your final grade)
- NEA: Plan, produce, edit and evaluate an opening to a film (30% of your final grade)



Food and Cookery

Vocational

Overview

Food, and preparing food, is something we encounter every day. This course provides students with the opportunity to explore and understand a wide range of themes connected with the subject. Through both theory and practical activities, students will learn how to prepare food that is healthy and nutritious.

What's involved?

You'll study a wide range of food and cookery topics and develop transferable skills such as decision-making, communication, planning, problem-solving, teamwork and evaluation along the way.

You'll start with safe working practices and health and safety relating to food, nutrition and the cooking environment.

You'll also learn about food legislation and the provenance of food (where it comes from, its origins). Have you ever wondered why people make the food choices they do, or you do? We'll broaden our understanding of what can influence choice by investigating a variety of factors that affect food choice including health conditions, allergies and food intolerances. As part of our studies into nutrition, you'll explore different food groups, key nutrients and a balanced diet.

Your practical tasks will get you involved in food preparation, cooking skills and techniques. You'll also develop, and refine, recipes and put together your own menu in response to the exam board brief.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by exam and internal assessment (NEA):

- Written exam (40% of your final grade)
- NEA: A 16.5-hour Extended project task set by the exam board, split over several sessions (60% of your final grade)

Beyond GCSE

Many students choose to deepen their understanding of food science or nutrition by pursuing A-Level courses in Food Technology or Biology. Food and Cookery can be a strong stepping stone to various apprenticeships in the food and hospitality sector as well as an excellent foundation for T-Levels in Hospitality and Catering. Food and Cookery provides a strong foundation for culinary arts courses and chef training programs.

Future Careers

Manufacturing, Hospitality, Catering Professional, Retailing, Marketing, Education, Research and Development, Quality Assurance, Nutritionist, Food Critic, Food Law Enforcement.

Exam Board:

NCFE

603/7014/2

Course contact:

Mr Purdie

alex.purdie@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



GCSE

Beyond GCSE

This course is a stepping stone to A-level and degree level Geography as well as an ideal foundation to many others that require investigative and analytical skills. Vocational options post-16 includes travel and tourism, construction, T-levels and a wide range of Apprenticeships.

Future Careers

Architecture, Civil Engineering, Economics, Conservation, Environment and Heritage roles, Agriculture, careers in the Media industry, Surveying, Teaching, Hospitality and Tourism, the Travel sector, Marketing, Geology, Landscape Design.

Exam Board:

OCR

J384

Course contact:

Ms Brown

lorna.brown@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Geography

Overview

Geography is all around us, in our present and our future world. We all live in the world and this course will help you to find out more about the physical and human elements of Geography in the UK and across the globe. You'll learn about the challenges, and the opportunities, that our world offers.

What's involved?

Exploring our natural world, you'll examine global hazards, such as tropical storms, droughts and earthquakes, and investigate climate change including its causes, effect and our response to it. You'll also learn about distinctive landscapes, looking at coasts and rivers and the process of how landforms are created. You'll delve into ecosystems, exploring tropical rainforests and polar environments.

In your studies on human geography, you'll explore people and society and how the urban population of the world is changing. You'll learn about developing countries, and how development is measured. You'll examine population and economic issues in the UK, and the part we play in the wider world. In your research into reliance on resources, you'll explore the concept of food security and ensuring there is enough food to go around.

Although you'll explore physical and human geography from the comfort of your classroom, you will also have the opportunity to apply your wider learning on two fieldtrips, one for each unit, where you'll carry out an investigation related to topics that you have studied. You'll also develop valuable transferable skills including organisation, communication and writing skills, research, problem-solving, analysis and interpretation skills.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by three written examinations.

- Paper 1: Our Natural World (35% of your final grade)
- Paper 2: People and Society (35% of your final grade)
- Paper 3: Geographical Exploration (30% of your final grade)



History

GCSE

Overview

History is a huge part of our world today; we wouldn't be where we are today without our history. It's a fascinating subject to study and gives us an insight into important things that have happened in the past. It helps us to understand where we came from and where we're going to. History gives us the opportunity to understand others and to appreciate the challenges faced by those that have gone before us.

What's involved?

This course will help you understand how the world was shaped and make you consider today's world in different ways. You'll learn about people – how they interact, govern, lead and champion change as well as factors that can tear people apart or help them work together for a common cause.

You'll also learn about countries, societies, and cultures - enemies, alliances, pacts, agreements and conflicts in the past and how they continue to be relevant today. You'll study a range of topics including Life in Weimar and Nazi Germany, the British sector of the Western Front during World War One and Medicine from medieval times through to the present day along with Anglo-Saxon and Norman England and Superpower relations and the Cold War.

You'll explore each of these topics deeply, developing your research and analysis skills along the way. You will develop critical thinking abilities and build on your communication, evaluation, and problem-solving skills.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by three written examinations.

- Paper 1: Medicine in Britain, and; the British Section of the Western Front (30% of your final grade)
- Paper 2: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, and; Superpower relations and the Cold War (40% of your final grade)
- Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany (30% of your final grade)

Beyond GCSE

History GCSE is not only an excellent preparation for A-level History but also equips you with a set of valuable skills that are applicable to a variety of academic and career pathways, making it an ideal choice for students interested in humanities, social sciences, and beyond.

Future Careers

Journalism, Entrepreneurship, Archaeology, Business, Law, Economics, Medicine, Historical Theatre & Film, Social Work, Teaching, Public Services, Politics, Cultural sector, Restoration & Architecture.

Exam Board:

Pearson

1H10

Course contact:

Mr Daniels

mark.daniels@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

Vocational

Beyond GCSE

ICT is an excellent foundation for apprenticeships in the IT and technology sector, where you can work in roles like IT support, software development, or network administration.

In addition, ICT can lead to T-Levels specialising in digital production, IT support, or software development for a vocational approach to digital industries.

Future Careers

IT Support Specialist, Software Developer, Data Analyst, Digital Content Producer, Finance Sector Professional, Systems Engineer, Web Marketing Developer, Project Manager, Business Administrator.

Exam Board:

WJEC

5539QA

Course contact:

Ms Thompson

jules.thompson@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



ICT

Overview

Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) is a critical part of our global world and economy. It's hard to imagine any part of modern life that doesn't include ICT in some way. Students will discover the wide range of ICT use, how ICT is used in different settings and learn about databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images.

What's involved?

You'll explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society and investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use.

Through teaching, investigation and research, you'll learn how ICT can be used to meet the needs of individuals as well as big businesses, and develop your understanding about hardware, software and applications. You'll also delve into data; establishing what data is, how its stored and the different methods available to transfer it. Using ICT comes with a great deal of responsibility and part of your learning on this course will include examining the legal, moral, ethical, cultural and environmental impacts of ICT and the need for cybersecurity.

In the development of your practical skills, you'll gain a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images and be able to plan, create, modify and use these.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by exam and internal assessment (NEA):

- Written exam: ICT in Society (40% of your final grade)
- NEA: ICT in Context (60% of your final grade)



MFL French, German, Italian or Spanish

GCSE

Overview

Languages are a tremendous asset in the world we live in. Students that choose a language enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures. Learning a language is not easy and you'll have to take responsibility for independent learning and demonstrate resilience and resourcefulness. However, it's easier to learn a second language once you've learned one, and you have more opportunities if you speak two foreign languages.

What's involved?

MFL students develop well-rounded communication skills, self-confidence and independence. You'll learn about your chosen language in a range of contexts and develop your ability to communicate effectively through both spoken and written word. Whichever language you choose to study, you'll study it across three different themes. These themes help you learn your chosen language in context and the themes are applied in the examinations that you'll take at the end of the course.

You'll learn about identity and relationships with others, healthy living and lifestyle and education and work. You'll also explore free-time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations, and celebrity culture. You'll delve into travel and tourism too, including places of interest, media and technology, and the environment and where people live.

As you can see from this content, this course isn't just about learning how to speak your chosen language, it's about immersing yourself in it and learning all about the country and its communities.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE MFL has two tiers available:

- Foundation – Grades 1 to 5
- Higher – Grades 4 to 9

For both tiers, you will be assessed by four examinations, each of which are worth 25% of your final grade:

- Speaking • Listening • Reading • Writing

Beyond GCSE

Multilingualism is a valuable asset. You can study languages at A Level and they complement many other subjects such as, history, politics, law or even business. A language can enhance your readiness for vocational learning in a variety of fields.

Future Careers

Interpreter, Foreign Relations, International Law, Teacher, Foreign Service Officer, Secret Service, Language Analyst, Journalism, Sports, Travel, Food and Fashion industries. Languages could open the door to work in other countries.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Students who gain a grade 6 or above in their Year 9 MFL GCSE and wish to study that language to A-Level, can opt to study a Bridging Course. This maintains their language proficiency and builds on fluency and knowledge ready for A-Level.

Interested? see page 47 for more information and speak to your MFL teacher before the options deadline.

Exam Board:

AQA

8658/8668/8698/8633

Course contact:

Ms Castillo

ana.castillo@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

GCSE

Music

Beyond GCSE

Many students choose to deepen their musical knowledge by pursuing A-Level Music or Music Technology. These courses offer advanced exploration of music theory, composition, and performance. BTEC courses related to Music or Music Production, offer a more practical and vocational approach to music education

Future Careers

Musician, Composer, Teacher, Producer, Sound Engineer, Music Therapist, Events Promoter, Events Manager, PR, Marketing.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

It is expected that students will have tuition through school or privately to improve their standard of performance.

Exam Board:

AQA

8271

Course contact:

Ms Fallows

kath.fallows@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

Overview

This course is a challenging and rewarding creative experience centred around music performance, composition and listening. The course allows students to express themselves musically, build their confidence and improve their thinking, analysis, evaluation and problem-solving skills.

What's involved?

If you are considering taking GCSE Music, you should enjoy performing and be prepared that some of your homework tasks will be to rehearse after school.

It is also expected that students will have tuition through school or privately to improve their standard of performance.

You'll learn about a wide variety of different musical styles in this course. You'll find out more about the origins of different types of music, investigate how music is put together, perform musical pieces both as a soloist and in an ensemble (group), and write your own pieces as part of your assessment at the end of the course.

Although this course includes practical activities, there is an equal amount of theory-based work including research, critical analysis, evaluation and extended-writing.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by internal assessment and two written examinations.

- Written exam: Understanding Music (40% of your final grade)
- NEA 1: Performing Music (30% of your final grade)
- NEA 2: Composing Music (30% of your final grade)



Performing Arts

Overview

Embark on a transformative journey into the heart of the Performing Arts industry with this new course. Tailored for students looking to hone their performance skills and gain insights into the industry, this course elevates your understanding of the sector while offering hands-on opportunities to master practical skills.

What's involved?

You'll study a wide range of drama performance elements in this course, learning both theory and practical skills and techniques, advancing your acting skills and building your knowledge of the Performing Arts sector. You'll explore the performance element of Drama – learning the skills and techniques needed to reproduce existing pieces of professional work. From researching and rehearsing, to reviewing and reflecting on each piece. You'll delve into the world of devising Drama, where collaboration takes centre stage! You'll work with a group to collectively generate, develop, and communicate ideas while also crafting your individual performance pieces. Our interesting and exciting lessons will help you to harness your skills, incorporating aspects like voice modulation, movement, scripting, and improvisation into your creative process. As a thoughtful artist, you'll also evaluate and analyse to reflect, review, and refine your work.

In your final assessment, Performing Arts in practice, you'll look at the factors that influence the creation of work, create a performance work, promote and pitch this work and evaluate your performance.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by external and internal assessment (NEA) set by the exam board and completed over several sessions:

- NEA 1: Performing -10 hours (30% of your final grade)
- NEA 2: Creating -10 hours (30% of your final grade)
- NEA 3: Performing Arts in Practice - 20 hours (40% of your final grade)

Vocational

Beyond GCSE

A Performing Arts qualification opens the door to A-Levels in Drama, Theatre Studies, or Media for a deeper exploration of the performing arts. Further opportunities for vocational study at Level 3 include dance, performing arts, or acting. The skills you gain in this course can make you a well-rounded, adaptable, and effective apprentice across many different sectors.

Future Careers

Actor, Performer, Teaching and Coaching, Arts Administration, Theatre or Media work, Stage Technician, Costume Designer, Producer, Writer, Teacher, Journalist, Set Designer, Sales, Camera Operator, Animator, Public Relations

Exam Board:

WJEC

5639QA

Course contact:

Mr Osgood

dean.osgood@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

GCSE

Beyond GCSE

Many students choose to continue their artistic journey by pursuing A-Level Art and Design, focusing on photography as a specialised medium for artistic expression. There are several Level 3 photography courses offered at further education colleges, which provide a deeper exploration of photography techniques and concepts. Photography skills are highly sought after in apprenticeships, particularly in the creative and media sectors.

Future Careers

General Photographer, Fashion Photographer, Nature and Wildlife Photographer, Wedding Photographer, Sports Photographer, Digital Imaging Specialist, Film Maker, Art Therapist.

Exam Board:

AQA

8206

Course contact:

Ms Sargent

eva-joy.sargent@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Photography

Overview

Photography isn't just a great choice for anyone looking to build a career in the creative sector, but also for those who want to express and expand their creative abilities. You'll need to be an independent learner with good time management skills and have a genuine interest and enthusiasm for photography.

What's involved?

This course allows students to refine their creative techniques and encourages the development of organisation, reflection, presentation and observational skills. Through interesting and inspiring topics, you will develop your practical skills and expand your creativity, imagination and independence. You'll learn the practical skills of using a DSLR camera and explore traditional and digital photographic techniques, along with developing your skills in editing software. You'll have the opportunity to experiment with a broad range of mixed media in a variety of contexts and settings. Together with the practical aspects of the course, you'll also research and analyse different artists and designers, their influences and explore a variety of styles of work. Through stimulating and challenging activities, you will develop your creative skills, your confidence and sense of individual identity. Although this course includes practical activities, there is an equal amount of theory-based work including research, critical analysis, evaluation and extended-writing.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by internal assessment (NEA) and an externally set exam.

- NEA Portfolio (60% of your final grade). Comprised of coursework built throughout the course. Your portfolio projects will show the research behind your work, its development and the final pieces.
- Externally set task (40% of your final grade). Set by the exam board, students are given a starting point and produce a body of preparatory work before their final outcome, which takes place over a ten-hour period, split over two weeks.



Physical Education (P.E.)

GCSE

Overview

Physical Education allows students to develop and strengthen not only their practical abilities in a range of sports and activities, but also their understanding of the theory and biological workings of a variety of skills. Students that choose this course must be organised, dedicated and passionate about both practical and theory aspects of sport, and a healthy active lifestyle.

What's involved?

You will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and learn how to use this knowledge and understanding to improve performance.

You'll research, analyse and evaluate the contribution that physical activity and sport can have on health, fitness and wellbeing and be able to identify and explain the effects that energy use, diet, nutrition and hydration have on performance.

You'll explore the socio-cultural factors that impact on physical activity and sport, and the impact of sport on society.

In our practical work, you'll undertake different physical activities and develop your skills and techniques by selecting and using tactics, strategies and ideas.

Although this course includes practical activities, there is an equal amount of theory-based work including research, critical analysis, evaluation and extended-writing.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by written exams and internal assessment (NEA):

- Paper 1: Fitness and Body Systems (36% of your final grade)
- Paper 2: Health and Performance (24% of your final grade)
- NEA 1: Practical Performance (30% of your final grade)
- NEA 2: Personal Exercise Programme (10% of your final grade)

Beyond GCSE

Many students choose to deepen their knowledge of sports science and physical education by pursuing A-Level PE. BTEC courses related to Sport and Exercise Sciences, which offer a more practical and vocational approach, are also available.

Future Careers

Sports Coach, Personal Trainer, Physiotherapist, Sports Scientist, Sports Psychologist, Military or Police Officer, Nutritionist, Fitness Technology Developer, Teacher, Health and Fitness Writer, Sports Medicine Researcher, Community Development Officer.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Students must be actively involved in two sports, either outside school at a club, or at school in extra-curricular activities. Students who aren't actively involved in two sports would be better suited to the Sports Studies course.

Exam Board:

Pearson

IPE0

Course contact:

Mr Stretton

michael.stretton@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

GCSE

Beyond GCSE

Many students choose to pursue A-Level courses in Religious Studies, Philosophy, Sociology or History. T-Levels in Education and Childcare or Health and Science can benefit from your understanding of ethics and social issues.

Future Careers

Social Worker, Teacher, Human Rights Advocate, Counsellor or Therapist, Journalist, Charity Work, Public Relations and Communications, Politician, Ethical Advisor, Foreign Service or Diplomacy, Law and Legal Services.

Exam Board:

Pearson
1RB0

Course contact:

Mr Machin

steven.machin@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Religious Studies

Overview

In a multi-cultural society, the ability to understand the beliefs that others hold is a valuable asset. Religious Studies students have a curious mind, they enjoy debate, critical thinking and learning about the world around them. This course examines religious beliefs and how they affect people's lifestyles and the decisions they make.

What's involved?

This course helps to develop analytical and critical thinking skills along with communication skills in debate, discussion and writing. You will study engaging, current and sometimes controversial topics. This course will challenge you and your thinking by discussing important questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth. Although we will explore a range of belief systems, your studies will focus on Christianity and Islam. Through our studies into Religion and Ethics, we'll consider the Christian faith and Believing in God, Matters of Life and Death, Living a Religious Life and Marriage and Family. Our study into Religion and Society will examine the Christian and the Muslim faith. We'll deepen our awareness on Believing in God and Living a Religious Life and explore matters of Crime and Punishment, and Peace and Conflict.

Through group work, discussion and debate, you'll be encouraged to express your own views and opinions as well as gain the knowledge and understanding you need to be able to justify your thinking both verbally and in written form.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by two written examinations.

- Paper 1: Christianity (50% of your final grade)
- Paper 2: Islam (50% of your final grade)



Separate Sciences

Overview

Science is a subject based on asking inquisitive questions, investigating, problem solving and analysis. Scientific understanding changes lives and is vital to the world's future. Choosing Separate Science is an option for students who wish to explore scientific ideas and each of the sciences; biology, chemistry and physics, in greater depth. At the end of the course, students achieve a separate grade for each subject.

What's involved?

In this academic course, students combine laboratory based practical techniques with data interpretation skills and fundamental scientific concepts to learn the key components of the environment and life systems, materials around us and the way things work.

In GCSE Biology you'll encounter key biological principles and concepts such as cell division, respiration and photosynthesis. In GCSE Chemistry you'll explore important principles like atomic structure and the periodic table. You'll study bonding, structure and the properties of matter as well as quantitative chemistry. In GCSE Physics you'll delve into energy, particles and forces. Building on your scientific learning, you'll also study the physical concepts of the atom and space. You'll explore each subject deeply, developing your research and analysis skills along the way. You will develop critical thinking abilities and build on your communication, evaluation, leadership and problem-solving skills.

How will I be assessed?

Each subject has two tiers available; you can study each subject differently (e.g. Biology-Higher, Chemistry-Foundation, Physics-Higher)

- Foundation – Grades 1 to 5
- Higher – Grades 4 to 9

You will be assessed by two written examinations in each subject, with each paper being worth 50% of your final subject grade:

Biology

- Paper 1
- Paper 2

Chemistry

- Paper 1
- Paper 2

Physics

- Paper 1
- Paper 2

GCSE

Beyond GCSE

A qualification in science will be required to access courses such as BTEC Applied Science and Apprenticeships in science-based industries, as well as being an entry requirement for A-level Geology, Geography, PE and Psychology.

Future Careers

For many careers, good Science qualifications are essential. These include careers such as Healthcare Professionals, Child Development, Engineering, Architecture, Construction, Agriculture, Surveying and many other careers that have a technical aspect.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Separate Science is a popular and over-subscribed course. There are a limited number of places available and, if the number of students choosing this course exceeds the number of places available, we will allocate places to students who have placed it at the top of their choices.

Exam Board:

AQA

8461, 8462, 8463

Course contact:

Ms Carr

charlotte.carr@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

Vocational

Beyond GCSE

Many students choose to do BTEC courses related to Sport and Exercise Sciences, which offer a more practical and vocational approach. Sports Studies provides access to a variety of apprenticeships in the sports and leisure sector, including roles in sports coaching, fitness instruction, sports management, or event planning.

Future Careers

Exercise Physiologist, Fitness Industry Practitioner, Personal Training, Sports Coach, Teacher, Sports Development Officer.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Sports Studies is less reliant on your practical ability but does involve a lot of coursework which will require you to stay organised and on top of your workload.

Exam Board:

OCR

Cambridge National J829

Course contact:

Mr Stretton

michael.stretton@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Sports Studies

Overview

This interesting course allows you to develop your knowledge and understanding of the wider concept of Sport and is an alternative option to GCSE PE. As well as the skills they'll develop, students that choose this course develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally and the different leadership roles within the industry.

What's involved?

You'll develop your independence and confidence using your sports whilst building important transferable skills such as research, team-working, analysis and evaluation, communication and leadership. You'll learn about the contemporary issues in sport, like funding, participation, barriers, values, ethics and role models and the factors that can impact on the popularity of sport, both positively and negatively. You'll also explore new and emerging sports, the Olympic and Paralympic movement, sporting behaviours, high-profile sporting events, national governing bodies and the use of technology in sport. In your Performance and Leadership studies, you'll learn how to develop your skills as both a performer and as a leader. In this unit you'll get the opportunity to plan, lead and review safe and effective sporting activity sessions yourself.

You will develop your knowledge about a range of different outdoor activities, for example camping, cycling or trekking and learn about terrain and environment, as well as the critical equipment and safety aspects, of each one. You'll take part in some of these outdoor activities during the course.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by an exam and internal assessment (NEA):

- Written exam: Contemporary issues in Sport (40% of your final grade)
- NEA 1: Assignment - Performance and leadership in sports activities (40% of your final grade)
- NEA 2: Assignment - Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities (20% of your final grade)



Statistics

Overview

Statistics is a field of ‘applied’ mathematics – this means that we use it to make sense of the world around us. For example, statistics helped us during the Covid-19 pandemic – we used it to report rates of infection, inform decision making (eg lockdown), compare with different regions/countries, test the effectiveness of vaccines and analyse the social and economic impact of the pandemic.

What’s involved?

Statisticians know how to collect, analyse and interpret data. Data is being collected on a massive scale, and sometimes we don’t even realise it – just think about the number of apps that use cookies.

You’ll develop understanding of the basic concepts of statistical problem-solving, along with skills planning, collecting, processing, analysing and representing data. You’ll study data presented in various ways, draw diagrams, do calculations and explore prediction, probability and data interpretation.

Through our interesting lessons, you’ll learn how to ask the right questions, design the right experiments, and input the right data sets to solve a problem.

You’ll learn how to examine your results to identify what they are telling you about the data and make conclusions.

As well as important statistical knowledge, you’ll develop your critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills.

How will I be assessed?

Statistics GCSE has two tiers available:

- Foundation – Grades 1 to 5
- Higher – Grades 4 to 9

For both tiers, you will be assessed by two written examinations:

- Paper 1 (50% of your final grade)
- Paper 2 (50% of your final grade)

GCSE

Beyond GCSE

Many students choose to pursue A-Level courses in Mathematics, Economics, or Sciences. BTEC courses related to Data Science or Data Analytics, which offer a more practical and vocational approach to statistics and data analysis, are available.

In addition, apprenticeships in various sectors are available that rely on data analysis, such as marketing, finance, or scientific research. GCSE Statistics is a valuable precursor to various T-Levels, especially those related to data analysis, mathematics, and research.

Future Careers

Data Analyst, Statistician, Actuary, Market Researcher, Economist, Business Intelligence Analyst, Social Researcher, Risk Analyst, Sports Statistician, Forensic Analyst.

Exam Board:

Pearson

IST0

Course contact:

Mr Ellis

tom.ellis@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk

Vocational

Beyond GCSE

As a practical and vocational qualification, BTEC Travel and Tourism aligns well with T-Levels in Travel and Tourism, offering a transition to more hands-on, industry-specific training. Level 3 Travel and Tourism courses are available, as well as a variety of apprenticeships in the tourism sector. Travel and Tourism links well to A-Level Geography, Business Studies and Economics.

Future Careers

Travel Agencies, Aviation Industry (Ground Crew, Air Crew, Airport Operations), Teacher, Information Centres, Visitor Centres, Marketing, Event Planner, Sustainable Tourism Specialist, Tourism Development Officer, Hospitality Management, Tour Operator.

Exam Board:

Pearson BTEC

603/7048/8

Course contact:

Ms Fern

sarah.fern@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk



Travel and Tourism

Overview

Students will explore UK and global travel and tourism, and the geography, knowledge and skills required for different roles. Ideal for anyone interested in pursuing a career in the sector and for students who wish to develop employability skills such as organisation and communication, marketing, event management, planning and customer service.

What's involved?

You will delve into the workings of contemporary travel organisations, explore various countries and investigate operational procedures of the tourism industry.

You'll explore different technologies and the part that they play in the industry, along with developing your understanding of the different types of tourism and visitors.

You will use your investigation and analysis skills to learn how market research is used to identify customer needs and preferences and explore how organisations meet customers specific needs.

In our work on global travel and tourism, we'll discover the different factors that could influence global travel and how organisation and destinations respond to these. We'll also find out about the potential impact of tourism to global destinations and how these destinations can control tourism development to make it sustainable.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by an exam and internal assessment (NEA):

- Written exam: Influences on global travel and tourism (40% of your final grade)
- NEA 1: Assignment – Travel and tourism destinations and organisations (30% of your final grade)
- NEA 2: Assignment – Customer needs in travel and tourism (30% of your final grade)

Submitting Your Choices

All students submit their choices using our Options Online system.

The following pages contain helpful planning information and detailed instructions about Options Online.

Option Choices for September 2024

Choice 1 *(Choose one)*

Geography

☐

History

☐

Choices 2, 3 & 4 *(Choose three - only one of each of the colour shaded courses is possible)*

OPTION CHOICE	2	3	4	If you pick this option...
Art and Design				
Computer Science				
Dance				
Design and Technology				
Drama - Acting*				...you cannot pick Drama Design or Performing Arts
Drama - Design*				...you cannot pick Drama Acting or Performing Arts
Enterprise and Marketing				
Film Studies				
Food and Cookery				
French				
Geography				
German				
History				
ICT				
Italian				
Music				
Performing Arts*				...you cannot pick Drama Acting or Drama Design
Photography				
Physical Education*				...you cannot pick Sports Studies
Religious Studies				
Separate Sciences				
Spanish				
Sports Studies*				...you cannot pick Physical Education
Statistics				
Travel and Tourism				

**you are unable to take more than one of the subjects that have the same colour shading*

TEMPLATE FORM

Use this page to record your choices, your final choices will be made online.

Look carefully at the Options Choices on the opposite page.

Choice 1 - Geography or History

Now write your **three** remaining choices in order of preference.
Put the subject you would like to do the most first. If a course becomes full, we will allocate places based on your order of preference.

Choice 2:

Choice 3:

Choice 4:

Reserve:

Classes at Key Stage 4 are run according to demand and if only a very small number of students choose a particular option, it might not be viable to run the course. For these reasons we ask you to choose a reserve subject in case your preferred option is not available.

The deadline for choices to be made is
Thursday 8th February 2024

Options Online

To tell us which options choices you have made, we use an system called Options Online.

You can access this system in two ways, by typing the address into your web browser or by navigating through the school website.

The website address is <https://www.sims-options.co.uk/> or you can go to the school website, select the **Student** menu at the top of the page and choose **Y9 Options Online**.

When the Sign in to SIMS Options online box appears on your screen, choose the **'Sign in with Microsoft'** icon to log in.

You may then be asked to sign into Microsoft.

To sign in to Microsoft, use your school email address and usual school password.

Your Options Online homepage looks like this:

The screenshot shows the SIMS Options Online interface. On the left, the 'Humanities' section allows selecting between Geography and History. Below it, the 'Free Options' section displays a grid of various subjects (e.g., Art & Design, Computer Science, Music, etc.) with 'Reserve' buttons. On the right, three panels are visible: 'Priority Choices' (empty), 'My Choices' (empty), and 'My Reserves' (empty). A sign-in box at the top right shows the 'Sign in with Microsoft' option highlighted.

Use the information you have written on your Template Form on page 45 to help you to fill in your choices.

Select your **Humanities** choice first, then move on to your **Free Options** choices.

To choose a subject, click on the name of the subject (e.g. Music), the subject line will then turn blue to indicate that you have selected it, and the information will appear in the 'My Choices' panel on the right-hand side of the screen. If you want to unselect a subject, simply click on it again.

In the Free Options section, the subjects will be prioritised in the order that you select them, but you can change this order in the 'My Choices' panel on the right-hand side of the screen.

To choose your Reserve subject, click on the 'Reserve' button, the subject line will then turn orange to show that you have picked this.

Example:

In this example, the student has chosen Geography as their Humanities subject and chosen Separate Science, Drama-Design and Design Technology as their Free Choices, with Film Studies as their Reserve choice.

The screenshot displays the 'Humanities' section where 'Geography GCSE 9-1 Full Course' is selected. The 'Free Options' section shows three choices: 'Separate Science GCSE 9-1 Full Course', 'Drama - Design GCSE 9-1 Full Course', and 'Design Technology GCSE 9-1 Full Course'. The 'Priority Choices' section lists 'Geography GCSE 9-1 Full Course Humanities' as the first choice. The 'My Choices' section lists 'Separate Science GCSE 9-1 Full Course Free Options', 'Drama - Design GCSE 9-1 Full Course Free Options', and 'Design Technology GCSE 9-1 Full Course Free Options'. The 'My Reserves' section lists 'Film Studies GCSE 9-1 Full Course' as the first reserve choice.

The order of preference is important because if a subject becomes full we have to limit places. This means we will allocate places to those students who placed it in position 1, then 2 etc.

Options are **not** allocated on a first come first served basis, do not rush, most students get to study all the subjects they choose. Take your time to make the correct choices for you.

It may not be possible for you to change your mind at a later date.

You can leave a comment in the comment box on your options form if there is anything else that you want to tell us about your options choices.

MFL Bridging Unit

If you are doing French or Spanish GCSE in Year 9 and you would like to take it at A-Level after Year 11, we offer an optional Bridging Unit class.

The Bridging Unit is two lessons of MFL instead of two lessons of Core PE. This is not a formal qualification so no certificate would be awarded at the end of Year 11. However, it is an opportunity for you to practice your language skills in preparation for A-Level.

If this is something you are keen to do, please speak to your languages teacher as soon as possible and email your interest to data@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk before the Options deadline.

It will not be possible for you to join the Bridging Unit group after the start of Year 10.

Remember - the deadline for choices to be made is
Thursday 8th February 2024

Contact us:

For subject choice advice and guidance, please speak to the nominated course contact (email addresses are provided on each subject page)

For general enquiries and technical advice, or help with Options Online, please contact the Data Team:

✉ data@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk
☎ 0161 427 7966 (option 4)