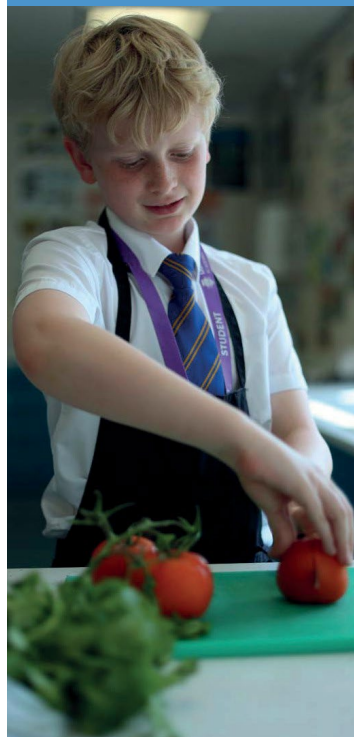


Future Pathways Key Stage 4



MARTIN
HIGH SCHOOL
Lionheart Educational Trust

Early indications for
Year 9 learners 2025-26



Be kind, Work hard, Aim High



CONTENTS

Welcome to the Martin High School options booklet	4
Key dates and advice for learners	5
Key stage 4 different pathways	6
THE CORE CURRICULUM	
English Language and Literature	8
Mathematics	9
Physical Education	10
Science - Combined Science	11
OPTIONS	
Art	14
BTEC ICT	15
Design Technology	16
Statistics	17
Art - Textiles	18
Food	19
Drama	20
Geography	21
History	22
Media Studies	24
French	25
Sport and Fitness CNAT	26
iMedia	27
Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)	28
BTEC Music	29
Health and Social Care CNAT	30



MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL

Lionheart Educational Trust

Martin High School
Link Road, Anstey,
Leicester LE7 7EB

www.martinhigh.org.uk

Tel: 0116 236 3291
Fax: 0116 235 2121
email: office@martinhigh.org.uk

Executive Head Teacher:
Laura Sanchez
Associate Head Teacher:
Nina Smith
Chair of Governors:
Linda Pile

Online options
Please ensure you follow
the link to the MHS website
on the letter you have
been sent to follow your
personalised link to your
options form.

[click this link](#) to go to the
options choices online
form

All option forms must be
submitted electronically
through the SIMS Options
form.

WELCOME TO THE MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS BOOKLET

As you approach the next two years of your education, you will be able to make some choices about which courses you wish to pursue to GCSE. This is one of the most important decisions you will make during your time at Martin High School. The choices you make now start to shape your future opportunities for University and employment. It is important that you think carefully about your options and talk widely with your parents and teachers.

At Martin High School, we have a clear set of beliefs that drive our school. We believe in promoting a broad and balanced curriculum which allows our learners to excel, both academically and holistically. With the right attitudes, skills, knowledge and capabilities in a supportive community, our pupils are not only ready for the outside world, but also develop a life-long love of learning.

The options process presents you with a genuine opportunity to compile a personalised curriculum appropriate to you. In creating the range of optional subjects, we have attempted to consider every interest and enthusiasm. Pupils of different aptitudes and abilities should be able to create a selection of courses that fulfil their ambitions and interests. Along with this, the compulsory core subjects, such as English, mathematics and science, will enable you to follow any future career pathways.

You will be aware that if you choose a route, which combines English, mathematics, science, history or geography and French, then you will be eligible to secure the English Baccalaureate. This will be an important qualification for pupils thinking of going to University in the future.

We are immensely proud of your achievements in your first three years at Martin High School, We are very confident that you will go on to achieve high levels of success in this very important phase of your studies and we will be here to support you in every way that we can.



Laura Sanchez
Executive Principal



Nina Smith
Associate Principal

KEY DATES AND ADVICE FOR LEARNERS

The key dates for the options process are:

Monday 10th November 2025 –Year 9 Options Event Evening

Wednesday 19th November 2025 –Year 9 Academic Progress Evening

Friday 13th February 2026 –Deadline for Online Submissions of Options

Advice for Learners

Important considerations for learners

You should find out about:

- Type of qualification
- What you will study on the course
- Entry requirements
- Closing dates
- Implications for career choice – what you can do after the course at A-level at Cedars Martin Sixth form centre or at college on a vocational pathway

Advice on choosing your subjects

- What do I want to do at Post -16
- Use your report grades to identify your strengths
- Do not pick a subject because you work well for that teacher. It may be a different teacher taking that subject
- If you have not studied the subject at key stage 3 discuss the course in detail with the
- teacher. Research its requirements online or meet with the careers team for further advice
- Do not choose subjects just because your friends have chosen them.
- Seek plenty of advice and ask lots of questions

MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 4

DIFFERENT PATHWAYS

Pathways

We have carefully crafted 2 bespoke learning pathways for our learners, academic and MHS. We have used several years worth of data and our deep understanding of each learner to ensure they are on the pathway that will allow them to maximise their potential in their GCSE studies and beyond. Academic pathway learners will have French pre-selected in SIMS options, MHS pathway learners will not. Each pathway is explained below in the illustrated pathways graphic.

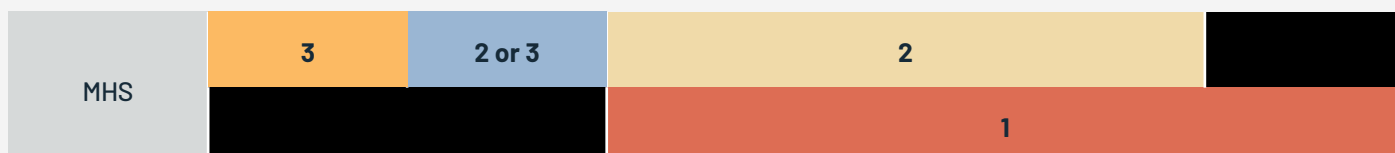
Academic

English Literature, English Language, Maths, Science and French are compulsory. Learners are then to select 2 options and 2 reserves, first from the Humanities and Creative blocks, secondly from the Humanities, Creative and Eclectic blocks.

MHS

English literature, English Language, Maths and Science are compulsory. Learners are then to select 2 options and 2 reserves from the Language, Humanities and Creative blocks (cannot be 2 from the same block). Learners then select 1 more option and reserve from the Language, Humanities, Creative and Eclectic blocks.

	Core	Science	Language	Humanities	Creative	Eclectic
Block	English Literature	Science Trilogy	French	Geography	Art (Fine)	Health and Social CNAT
	English Language	Separate Science		History	Drama	BTEC ICT
	Mathematics			Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)	Design and Technology	Creative iMedia
	Physical Education				Food	Sport and Fitness CNAT
	Personal Development Curriculum				Media Studies	Statistics
					Art (Textiles)	Music





THE CORE CURRICULUM



SUBJECT
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ENGLISH LITERATURE

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA

What qualification will I get and how will I use it?

You'll be building on all of the key skills that you've worked so hard on over KS3, studying prose, poetry, plays and non-fiction texts; showcasing both your imagination and technical skills through a range of written tasks; performing and developing your speaking and listening skills and confidence.

You will study both English language and English literature, which means that you'll receive two GCSEs at the end of the two years. You'll also receive a 'Spoken Language' level, which will be reported separately. You'll undertake all of your exams at the end of the two years, usually between May and June.

We can't understate how important developing your English really is; a 9-5 in English shows that you are a hard-working, confident and creative person who has a wealth of transferable skills to offer. Obtaining that vital 5 or above is the key to unlocking huge opportunities for you in the future – from getting on your dream college or university course to securing your very first job; English can and will do these things and so much more.

- Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%)
- Paper 2: Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)

Non-exam Assessment: Spoken language (no weighting)

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (40%)
- Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60%)

Future career pathway

Sports journalist
Lawyer
Film director
Public relations
Executive
Fashion journalist
Author
Newsreader
Politician
Actor
Architect
Creative director
Scriptwriter





SUBJECT
MATHEMATICS
***AQA FURTHER MATHS**

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA

What topics will I study?

The new curriculum in GCSE mathematics falls under six main strands; Number, Algebra, Geometry, Ratio and Proportion, Probability and Statistics. All topics contain a practical, real life element to develop student communication and problem solving skills. On the course you will develop skills in problem solving and apply structured and logical reasoning, both independently and with your peers.

Why study it? What skills will I develop?

Maths helps us find patterns and structure in our lives. Practically, Maths helps us put a price on things, create graphics, build websites, build skyscrapers and generally understand how things work.

How will I be assessed?

Learners are continually assessed during lessons, via their weekly homework and formally at the end of each half term. Intervention and extension measures can then take place where necessary.

What jobs/career path/KS5 can it lead to?

Maths helps you communicate complicated ideas in a clear and unambiguous way. People working in science, business and many other areas use maths to explain complex situations, like analysing a company's profits or checking that a building will stay standing. Maths also teaches you how to handle and interpret data, sifting through the numbers to come up with a solution.

How will you be taught?

The Mathematics department is housed in its own suite of seven dedicated rooms, each of which is equipped with a fully interactive whiteboard and provides an engaging environment for students to learn and progress.

The Mathematics team strive to create a positive and vibrant learning environment – the access to a range of practical equipment and a large number of software packages means we are able to present the subject in a variety of ways, thus capturing the interest of all our learners.

The course is split into two tiers:

- The Foundation course covers grades 1 to 5
- The Higher course from 4 to 9

*The Level 2 Qualification in Further Mathematics will be available to our best mathematicians; this is particularly useful for those aiming to do A-level Mathematics.

Future career pathway

Accountant
Actuary
Criminologist
Cyber Intelligence officer
Electrical engineer
Financial advisor
Software developer





SUBJECT
CORE PHYSICAL
EDUCATION

QUALIFICATION
N/A
EXAMINING BOARD
N/A

Important course information

When you move into KS4, you will still continue accessing PE lessons in a similar way to KS3. As part of our Healthy Active Lifestyles curriculum, you will continue to cover a wide range of sports (please see below) in either a single gender or mixed gender group.

Throughout your core PE lessons you will engage in activities that will allow you to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. We want you to be reflective performers as well as managers, officials and umpires. You will be provided with the tools to build a fit and healthy future, developed on the foundations of physical and emotional well being.

Our aim is that when every learner finishes at school, they will understand the importance of a healthy active lifestyle and be able to successfully continue with this into their adult life.

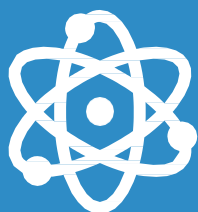
You will be assessed in CORE PE in the same way as you were in KS3, using an average of our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These are:

1. Your best individual sport
2. Your best team sport
3. Your leadership skills
4. Your fitness levels
5. Your commitment to sport beyond PE lessons (ie extra curricular clubs or sport outside of school)
6. Your knowledge and understanding of PE (based on your end of topic online quizzes)

There will also be opportunities for you to continue taking part in extra curricular clubs at KS4 and playing for the school teams.

SPORTS THAT YOU WILL STUDY EACH YEAR IN KS4 CORE

Year 10	Year 10	Year 11	Year 11
Football	Benchball	Football	Table Tennis
Netball	Futsal	Netball	Futsal
Volleyball	Softball	Volleyball	Flag Football
Fitness Suite	Table Tennis	Fitness Suite	Rock It Ball
Basketball	Indoor Cricket	Basketball	Indoor Cricket
Rugby	Rounders	Rugby	
Handball	Flag Football	Handball	
Dodgeball	Rock It Ball	Dodgeball	
Badminton	Tennis	Badminton	
Leadership/OAA		Leadership/OAA	



**SUBJECT
SCIENCE
QUALIFICATION
GCSE (9 -1) TRILOGY
SCIENCE (COMBINED PATHWAY)**

**SEPARATE SCIENCE (TRIPLE
PATHWAY)
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA**

Studying GCSE Science here at MHS provides the foundation for understanding the material world around us. Our aim is to develop our future scientists and inspire learners to undertake science post-16 and establish careers in the scientific field.

We deliver two inclusive GCSE (9-1) pathways through the AQA exam board. The trilogy pathway (Combined Science Pathway) and the Separate Science Pathway (Triple Science Pathway). We want to ensure that our learners opt onto the right pathway so every learner can enjoy science and succeed in their studies. *As the triple route is more challenging, there will be an additional after school lesson to support their learning, and with ongoing progress checks we will ensure that they remain on the right course throughout.*

How many practicals will I undertake?

Learners will carry out a series of carefully considered practicals that will enable them to enhance their investigative thinking, improve their mastery of techniques and consolidate their understanding of key scientific concepts. During their studies we develop transferable communication and mathematical skills that are essential to become a proficient scientist.

There are 21 compulsory practicals for combined scientists and 28 compulsory practicals for the triple scientists. Compulsory practicals will be examined as part of the external examination programme. There are no internal controlled assessments.

What will I study?

Overview of content for both Trilogy and Separate Science

During the Biology aspect of the course, learners will study the following: cells and control, genetics, natural selection and genetic modification, health, disease and the development of medicines, plant structures and their functions, animal coordination, control and homeostasis, exchange and transport in animals, ecosystems and material cycles.

During the Chemistry aspect of the course, learners will study the following: states of matter and mixtures, chemical changes, extracting metals and equilibria, Groups in the periodic table, rates of reaction and energy changes, fuels and Earth science.

During the Physics aspect of the course, learners will study the following: motion and forces, conservation of energy, waves, light and the electromagnetic spectrum, radioactivity, energy, forces doing work, forces and their effects, electricity and circuits, magnetism and the motor effect, electromagnetic induction, particle model, forces and matter.

Learners undertaking the separate science route will study extensions of all the above themes and in greater depth.

How will I be assessed?

The trilogy (combined pathway) has 6 terminal examinations, two for each discipline (biology, chemistry and physics). The separate science (triple pathway) has 4 terminal examinations. All examinations will last for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Examinations and assessments are a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. Skills in answering these successfully will be developed during the course.

The learners will be awarded a grade on a 9-1 scale.

The MHS science department have an excellent track record of achieving outstanding GCSE science results and take pride in being above the national average in many performance measures.

How will I be supported?

The science department ensures that our GCSE learners are fully supported during their GCSE learning journey. We have a comprehensive homework programme to support their independent learning, intervention drop in sessions, 1:1 intervention tutorials, master classes and revision programmes to fully prepare learners for their examinations.

Future career pathway

Doctor
Researcher
Biotechnologist
Teacher
Clinical psychologist
Health visitor
Midwife
Nurse





OPTIONS



SUBJECT
ART
(AVAILABLE IN ALL PATHWAYS)

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA

What topics will I study?

- Drawing & painting
- Collage/mixed media
- Printing
- Photography

Throughout the fine art course you will enjoy opportunities to explore, extend and develop new and more advanced 2D art skills.

You will choose from a selection of artists from which your own personal work will evolve. Most of the work you do will be produced in the classroom under the guidance of your teacher. Regular homework tasks are an essential part of the course and will be vital to achieving success in this area.

In each of the topics below you will decide what direction to take from a starting point set by your teacher.

In any one GCSE group, there may be several different kinds of activities taking place within one art room; no two students have to produce the same kind of work - even if you are working on the same project.

ART		
Unit 1a Food in Art	Year 10 30 Weeks	30% of your final grade
Unit 1b Portrait (Mock exam)	Year 10/11	30% of your final grade
Unit 2 - externally set task - 12 weeks sketchbook work - 10 hours final exam	January - May in year 11	40% of your final grade

How will I be assessed?

100% of your final grade in Art is 100% Coursework.

There is a 10 hour practical exam at the end of the course.

There is no written exam.

Why study Art? What skills will I develop?

Art is a very enjoyable and rewarding subject that develops your creative thinking, communication and self-organisation skills. These are highly desirable personal qualities wanted by most employers.



SUBJECT
DIGITAL IT QUALIFICATION

QUALIFICATION
BTEC TECH AWARD LEVEL 2
EXAMINING BOARD
PEARSON-EDEXCEL

Why study it?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying project planning, data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

Why study it?

- development of key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces and dashboards as a way to present and interpret data
- process that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct
- attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

How will I be assessed?

The course is made up of three core components:

Component 1 – Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques

- Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of supervised assessment. 60 marks.

Component 2 – Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

- Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of supervised assessment. 60 marks.

Component 3 – Effective Digital Working Practices

- External assessment set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions. The assessment will be completed in 1 hour 30 minutes within the period timetabled by Pearson. 60 marks.

Where will it take me?

- A-level Computing
- Vocational IT qualifications
- Industry-standard IT qualifications
- Degree courses in Computing, Engineering and Science.

Future career pathway

Data analysis
Engineering
Finance
Business
Information scientist





SUBJECT
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
PRODUCT DESIGN

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA

Why study it?

Design and Technology: Product Design is an exciting and challenging course which combines practical processes with creative design. This GCSE combines all material areas within Design and Technology: Wood and metal work, plastics, electronics and even Textiles. This allows learners to use all the skills they have developed during KS3, along with their imagination, to design and manufacture unique, innovative products.

What will I learn?

- The iterative design process is at the core of this course with an emphasis on sketching, CAD (Computer Aided Design), modelling and experimentation to develop creative prototypes and products.
- You will study the work of iconic designers and influential styles such as Art Deco, Art Nouveau and Modernism.
- Learners who choose Product Design will gain in depth knowledge of wood, plastic and metal materials and their application in products through academic theory as well as using these materials in the workshop.
- How things are designed and manufactured in 'the real world'
- The importance of sustainability and environmental issues in Product Design

How will I be assessed?

- Written 2-hour exam – Worth 50% of the overall grade
- Non examined assessment (NEA), - Worth 50% of the overall grade

The NEA, sometimes known as 'coursework', is a large design and make project where learners have the opportunity to design and make a complex product, using all the workshop manufacturing skills they have acquired during Year 10.

Where can it lead?

Design and Technology: Product Design provides great preparation for a variety of rewarding careers, including many in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) industries. You could also go on to study the subject at A-level and beyond.

Future careers include the opposite:

Future career pathway

Product Designer
Architect
Engineer
Interior designer
Graphic designer
Jewellery designer
Various careers in the construction industry.





SUBJECT STATISTICS

**IMPORTANT: LEARNERS WILL NEED TO BE
VERY STRONG IN MATHEMATICS**

**QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA**

Why choose Statistics?

Selecting GCSE Statistics offers Year 9 pupils the opportunity to develop valuable analytical and problem-solving skills, which are useful in both academics and everyday life.

The course teaches pupils how to interpret and analyse data, skills that are essential in a data-driven world.

GCSE Statistics supports other subjects, such as mathematics, science, and the humanities, by providing a deeper understanding of data, probability, and averages.

What qualification will I gain and how will I use it?

You will earn a GCSE in Statistics.

GCSE Statistics also opens doors to various career opportunities in fields like business, healthcare, and data science. GCSE Statistics enhances decision-making abilities and helps pupils assess risks and draw informed conclusions. The subject is engaging for those who enjoy working with numbers and offers a foundation for further studies in fields like economics, business, or data science.

How are you assessed?

To enable your learners to show their breadth of knowledge and understanding, AQA have created a simple and straightforward structure and layout to their papers, using a mixture of question styles. There will be no coursework.

Paper 1

What's assessed

All specification content.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Tiered Higher and Foundation
- 80 marks

Questions

- Multiple choice, short answer and a Statistical Enquiry Cycle (SEC) question.

Paper 2

What's assessed

All specification content.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Tiered Higher and Foundation
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, short answer and a Statistical Enquiry Cycle (SEC) question.

Entry Requirements

You must have strong mathematical skills and be in set 1 or 2 at the time of application.

Next Steps

GCSE Statistics is useful regardless of the job, career or further study you pursue. Careers that specifically value a background in statistics range from civil engineering and financial planning, to accounting and research science.

Opposite is a list of several careers that use statistics.

Future career pathway

Actuary
Biostatistician
Brand optimisation analyst
Business analyst
Data analyst
Data scientist
Director of analytics
Geneticist





SUBJECT
ART
TEXTILES

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA

The GCSE Textiles qualification is designed for students who want to study fashion and textiles in a hands on, practical way.

It is a creative, vibrant course that feeds perfectly into Key Stage 5 and further study. Textiles students are encouraged to develop their skills in a wide range of materials, techniques and processes. Lessons will be practical and engaging, with learners experimenting and exploring a variety of traditional and modern techniques. Theory is important too, so learners will be conducting research into influential fashion designers, looking at iconic designs and learning about styles and movements that inspire the ever changing world of fashion.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio 60%

Component 2: Externally set assignment 40%

The course is comprised of two units, Component 1, a portfolio of work and Component 2, an externally set task.

The portfolio has been developed to encourage students to explore their own interests and become creative and imaginative with their work. Students will build up their textiles skills and techniques through a range of trials and experiments based on their responses to a gallery/ museum visit early within the course which will help them produce a sustained portfolio developed in response to a given brief. Skills built up within the year range from looking at surface decorations, building on their sewing machine skills to the complete construction of their own garment designed within their portfolio.

The externally set task is provided by the exam board and will be delivered during the latter part of year 11. The exam consists of a 10 hour practical assessment for which students will plan and prepare for based around their set theme.

Where can it lead?

The GCSE Textiles course will equip students with the key skills and understanding to further develop and progress onto A level Textiles. There are a vast range of University courses available within Textiles and fashion for students wanting to study this at higher education, a few being Fashion buying, Fashion design, Management, merchandising, Textiles promotion and marketing, contour fashion and many others.



SUBJECT
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
FOOD PREPARATION AND
NUTRITION
(AVAILABLE IN ALL PATHWAYS)

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA

Have a keen interest in food, cooking, and nutrition.

Are willing to commit to bringing ingredients for weekly practical lessons (except for Pupil Premium or Free School Meals students, where support is available).

Are prepared to engage in written work and theory alongside practical lessons.

What will students learn?

Practical Skills:

- A wide range of cooking techniques and methods.
- Presentation and plating skills.
- Time management and organisation in a kitchen.

Scientific Understanding:

- The functional, physical, chemical, and biological properties of foods.
- The science behind food preparation and nutrition.

Theoretical Knowledge:

- Nutrition and health.
- Food provenance and sustainability.
- Food safety and hygiene.

Critical Thinking:

- Evaluating recipes and ingredients.
- Analysing food-related issues such as ethical sourcing and dietary needs.

Course Structure and Assessment:

Year 10 – Skill Development:

- Weekly Practical Lessons: Building essential cooking skills and exploring the science of food.
- Theory Lessons: Preparing for the written exam with a focus on food science and nutrition.
- Mock NEA 1: A practice Non-Examined Assessment to prepare for Year 11.

Year 11 – Assessment Focus:

- NEA 1 (15%): Food investigation task (September–October).
- NEA 2 (35%): Food preparation task, including a three-hour practical exam (November–March/April).
- Written Exam (50%): A 1 hour 45-minute exam in June covering all theoretical content.

Students will need to:

- Bring ingredients for practical lessons almost every week (support is available for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals students).
- Complete regular written homework to consolidate theory learning.
- Engage with both practical and theoretical aspects of the course.

Future career pathway

Chef or Food Stylist
Nutritionist or Dietitian
Food Scientist or Technologist
Product Development Chef
Food Buyer or Entrepreneur
Hospitality or Catering Manager





SUBJECT
DRAMA
(AVAILABLE IN ALL PATHWAYS)

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
OCR

What does GCSE Drama involve?

To study Drama you must have a keen interest in the subject. Drama involves group work but one of the biggest challenges you will face is the confidence to perform alone and the ability to work independently. You will need to be resilient and understand it takes hard work and commitment to improve. Lastly creativity is one of the key skills you will need, so don't be afraid to experiment and make mistakes, this is all part of the learning process.

Drama is a practical course which allows you to learn and develop performance and devising skills, however 70% of the course is written so you will need to consider this when opting. It is open to all students, although some experience of drama is necessary. It is essential that students commit to extra-curricular sessions to rehearse and develop their skills. You will often work in groups and develop skills such as, confidence and presentation skills which are transferable to other subjects and areas of life.

Results history

Since we started GCSE Drama at the Martin High School, results have been high and well above the national average. This is mainly because learners who opt for drama have the desire to succeed and, quite simply, commit to and enjoy the course.

How will I be assessed?

Devising Drama = 30%

You will research and explore a stimulus, working collaboratively to create your own devised piece. Alongside the practical element you also write a portfolio reflecting and evaluating on your process and finished piece.

This unit is broken down in the following way: 20% written portfolio and 10% practical performance.

Presenting and performing texts = 30%

You will develop and apply theatrical skills in acting by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a scripted piece of text. We are currently using the scripts 'Things I know to be true', 'Girls like That', 'Teachers' and 'Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time'.

This unit is broken down in the following way: 20% practical performance to a visiting examiner and 10% written concept pro forma.

Drama Appreciation = 40% (90 minute written paper)

The paper is in two sections- Section A: You will explore and analyse the performance text 'Blood Brothers' to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of Drama.

This section of the paper is marked out of 50. Section B: Is an essay response analysing and evaluating a piece of live theatre. This section of the paper is marked out of 30.

Homework

Commitment to attending theatre visits, making time for after-school rehearsals each week during assessment phases, as well as completing essays and written responses will be set to extend your written and performance skills.

Entry requirements

You must have an interest in drama and theatre and have a desire to perform. You must be able to commit to extra rehearsals outside of lesson time to enhance your performance skills.

Future career pathway

Actor
Arts administrator
Community arts worker
Digital marketing officer
Dramatherapist
Entertainer
Events manager





SUBJECT
GEOGRAPHY
(AVAILABLE IN ALL PATHWAYS)

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
OCR B

What topics will I study?

The exam board is OCR B

- Our natural world
- People and society
- Geographical exploration

Come and speak to Mr Hackett or Mr Williams to find out more!

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Our natural world

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 70 marks
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: People and society

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 70 marks
- 35% of GCSE
-

Paper 3: Geographical exploration

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 60 marks
- 30% of GCSE

Why study geography?

The global challenge we face is how to raise living standards for all without causing irreversible damage to the environment. Geography explains why and helps you prepare for these changes and issues.

GCSE Geography...

- Provides you with opportunities through fieldwork, for first hand investigations of places, environments and human behaviour.
- Develops skills employers' value, including cartographic, graphical, numerical, statistical, data use, enquiry and literacy skills.
- Opens up many career opportunities in fields such as tourism, planning, Local Government, education,
- leisure, charity, finance, the armed forces, emergency services, the civil service, retail and many more.

Future career pathway

Archaeologist
Cartographer
Countryside ranger
Diplomatic service officer
Drone Pilot
Ecologist





SUBJECT
HISTORY
(AVAILABLE IN ALL PATHWAYS)

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA

What topics will I study when I take AQA history GCSE?

Paper 1

The USA 1920–1973

The Cold War 1945–1972

Written exam: 2 hours

84 marks

50% of GCSE

Paper 2

Elizabethan England 1568–1603

Medicine 1000–present day

Written exam: 2 hours

84 Marks

50% of GCSE

Why Study History?

Studying History at GCSE is more than exploring the past – it's about building the skills and mindset that shape your future. Whether you choose university, college, apprenticeships, or direct employment after leaving school, a strong grade in History signals that you are a capable, thoughtful, and skilled individual.

History helps us understand the world we live in today and prepares us to tackle tomorrow's challenges. It develops transferable skills that are highly valued across a wide range of careers. Find out more from Mr. Rowlett, Miss. O'Neil and Mr. Hickling.

The Benefits of GCSE History

History is recognised by further education providers and employers as one of the most valuable GCSEs for developing critical thinking and communication skills. It builds skills such as research, analysis, decision-making, and presenting arguments – all essential in careers like law, journalism, business, public services, and heritage industries.

The subject also opens doors to a wide range of career pathways, including politics, civil service, education, media, and roles in museums, archives, and cultural organisations. History is an academic subject, but at The Martin High School, we ensure that all learners – regardless of starting point – make strong progress and gain confidence in applying historical skills to real-world contexts.

Future career pathway

Law and Legal Services

Journalism and Media

Teaching and Education

Public Sector and Civil Service

Politics and Government

Business and Management

Marketing and Communications

Museums, Heritage and Archival Work

Police and Security Services

Social Work and Community Services





SUBJECT
MEDIA
(AVAILABLE IN ALL PATHWAYS)

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
EDUQAS

Why Choose Media Studies?

By the end of the course, you will be confident and skilled in a variety of media types; you will have developed your teamwork and creative skills and created a portfolio of your best work for further study.

Aside from learning how to operate new technologies like video cameras, editing software and photographic equipment you will also:

- Develop your critical thinking and decision-making skills.
- Begin to analyse key media texts.
- Use your knowledge to create new and exciting types of media.

What qualification will I gain, and how will I use it?

You'll earn a single-award GCSE in media studies, with the examination board AQA.

If you have ambition in gaining a career in filmmaking, magazines, photography or advertising, then studying media studies at GCSE will ensure that you have the key skills to pursue your goals. However, media will not only equip you for further vocational courses – aspects of sociology, politics, business and history run throughout the course, meaning that a GCSE in media will offer you a wider set of options if you decide to continue your studies at KS5.

Next steps:

Advertising account executive, broadcast journalist, editorial assistant, event manager, film director, magazine journalist, market researcher, marketing executive, media researcher, photographer, UX designer, writer, digital marketer, media buyer, media planner, media researcher, music producer, public relations officer, runner, social media manager, television/film producer, web content manager... the list goes on and on...

Component 1: Exploring the Media
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
40% of qualification

Section A: Exploring Media Language and Representation

This section assesses media language and representation in relation to **two** of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements. There are **two** questions in this section:

- **one** question assessing media language in relation to **one** set product (reference to relevant contexts may be required)
- **one** two-part question assessing representation in relation to **one** set product and **one** unseen resource in the same media form. Part (a) is based on media contexts. Part (b) requires comparison through an extended response.

Section B: Exploring Media Industries and Audiences

This section assesses **two** of the following media forms: film, newspapers, radio, video games. It includes:

- **one** stepped question on media industries
- **one** stepped question on audiences.

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
30% of qualification

This component assesses all areas of the theoretical framework and contexts of the media in relation to television and music.

Section A: Television

- **one** question on **either** media language **or** representation, which will be based on an extract from **one** of the set television programme episodes to be viewed in the examination (reference to relevant contexts may be required)
- **one** question on media industries, audiences or media contexts.

Section B: Music (music videos and online media)

- **one** question on **either** media language **or** representation (reference to relevant contexts may be required)
- **one** question on media industries, audiences or media contexts.

Component 3: Creating Media Products
Non-exam assessment
30% of qualification

An **individual** media production for an intended audience in response to a **choice of briefs set by WJEC**, applying knowledge and understanding of **media language and representation**.



SUBJECT
FRENCH
(AVAILABLE IN EBACC & PATHWAY 1)

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
EDEXCEL

French at MHS: Which course will I be following?

For GCSE French, we follow the Edexcel course, which is designed to build onto your skills and knowledge learnt at KS3.

What topics will I study?

The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to their current and future needs.

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

Students will learn how to speak and write confidently about these topics, as well as to listen and understand to show comprehension on the themes too. You will develop your knowledge of the language and grammar, to enable you to become more independent in your own use of the language. You will also learn how to communicate in real-life scenarios, such as restaurant and shopping conversations, work interactions and interactions with other people.

How will I be assessed?

For GCSE French you complete 4 exams in the summer term of Year 11 and each have equal weighting:

- Listening – 25%
- Speaking (conducted by your teacher, marked by Edexcel) – 25%
- Reading – 25%
- Writing – 25%

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

It is important that you are prepared to learn the vocabulary set throughout the course and you must be prepared to speak in French from the very beginning. If you have enjoyed French at KS3 this is a great course for you.

Why is GCSE French a good qualification to gain?

French will count towards the EBacc qualification. In today's world, it is so important to learn a language and to show an understanding of the wider world we live in. Having the ability to speak another language will be a real asset for so many careers, in the world of work and business. It will help if you are interested in a career in the travel and tourism industries and could also be used if you are interested in living and working abroad. It will also boost your general communication skills, which will in turn help you in all aspects of life. There is no doubt that people who can speak more than one language have a real asset for life. This qualification also focuses on practical French you will use if you go on holiday to France or a Francophone country. There will be an opportunity for some KS4 students to take part in a residential trip to France too.

Future career pathway

Travel – pilot, air cabin crew, airport

Tourism – tour guide, hotel staff, museum staff

Media and journalism

Sport

Teaching

Business, marketing, advertising

Translator, interpreter



Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs Esposito - MFL Subject Leader



SUBJECT
SPORTS STUDIES
(AVAILABLE IN ALL PATHWAYS)

QUALIFICATION
CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS
SPORTS STUDIES
EXAMINING BOARD
OCR

Course details

The OCR CNAT Sports Studies course is tailored towards students who have a keen interest in the sporting world and a desire to improve their leadership and practical skills in physical activity.

The course runs for 2 academic years and will allow learners to develop a wide range of skills, techniques and attributes that are highly desirable for a wide range of employers including the ability to lead a group of students, work collaboratively with others and meet coursework deadlines.

How will you be assessed?

The OCR CNAT Sports Studies course comprises of 3 separate units:

- Sport in the Media (Coursework completed in Y10)
- Practical and Leadership (Coursework started in Y10 and completed in Y11)
- Contemporary Issues in Sport (Exam taken at the end of Y11).

Sport in the Media

Learners explore the relationship between sports and the media: how sport uses the media to promote itself and the media uses sport to expand and maintain uptake of its products. They look at the differences in sports coverage across a range of media outlets and over time and the effect that media has had on public interest and involvement in sport.

Practical and Leadership

Learners learn about some of the knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to be an effective sport leader. They put their knowledge into practice by planning and delivering safe and effective sporting activity session to the rest of the class. Afterwards they review their performance.

Contemporary Issues in Sport

Learners explore a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, such as participation levels and barriers, promoting values and ethical behaviour, and how sport contributes to society as a whole beyond simply providing entertainment.

Future Careers/Next Steps

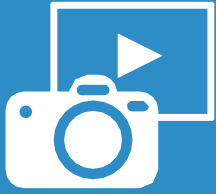
CNAT Sports Studies allows students to progress to next steps in both vocational courses (such as Level 3 in Sports Coaching), Apprenticeships (ie Level 3 Personal Trainer) and also academic courses (ie A Level Physical Education).

These can then lead to either further work based training opportunities or degree courses at universities such as Sports Science.

Future career pathway

Sports Psychologist
Physiotherapist
Sports Coach
Sports Development Officer
Leisure Centre Manager
Sports Journalist





SUBJECT
CREATIVE iMEDIA

QUALIFICATION
CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS
CREATIVE iMEDIA
EXAMINING BOARD
OCR

Why study it?

The Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia is aimed at students aged 14–16 years and will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used in the media industry. You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- developing visual identities for clients
- planning and creating original digital graphics
- planning, creating and reviewing original digital media products.

What will I learn?

- The sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry
- The legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products
- How media codes are used within the creation of media products to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences
- How to choose the most appropriate format and properties for different media products

How will I be assessed?

The course is made up of three core components:

Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry (written paper). This unit is assessed by an exam. The exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes. It has two sections – Section A and Section B. • Section A has 10 marks • Section B has 60 marks • The exam has 70 marks in total

Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics (coursework component). In this unit you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. You will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate your visual identity to engage a target audience.

Unit R097: Interactive digital media. Interactive digital media. In this unit you will learn to design and create interactive digital media products for chosen platforms. You will learn to select, edit and repurpose multimedia content of different kinds and create the structure and interactive elements necessary for an effective user experience

Where will it take me?

- A-level Computing
- Vocational IT qualifications
- Industry-standard IT qualifications

The creative and technical skills you learn are relevant to a host of careers in a range of sectors, from arts and graphics-based roles.



SUBJECT
PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS
(RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

QUALIFICATION
GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD
AQA

Course content

Studying AQA GCSE Philosophy & Ethics / Religious Studies is an exciting way to explore the world beyond your daily experience and gain a deeper understanding of diverse beliefs, cultures, and ethical issues that shape our world. This course doesn't just teach you about religion—it helps you develop critical thinking skills, learn to respectfully engage with different perspectives, and tackle big questions like “What is right and wrong?” or “What gives life meaning?” These are not just academic questions—they're issues you'll face in life, in relationships, and in careers. Plus, Religious Studies makes you stand out to universities and employers by showing you can think deeply, debate confidently, and approach the world with empathy and open-mindedness.

The course content over the two years is as follows:

- **Component 1:** Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World (Written examination: 2 hours - 50% of qualification)
 - Theme 1: Relationships
 - Theme 2: Life, Death and the Universe
 - Theme 3: Religion, Peace and Conflict
 - Theme 4: Good and Evil
- **Component 2:** Study of Christianity (Written examination: 1 hour - 25% of qualification)
- **Component 3:** Study of Buddhism (Written examination: 1 hour - 25% of qualification)

Type of qualification

GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)

All Year 10 and 11 students take one hour of Core RE each week as part of our curriculum. For those looking to deepen their understanding, GCSE Philosophy & Ethics builds on this foundation, offering the chance to develop academic skills in RE further and achieve a full qualification.

Careers associated with the subject

A qualification in RS / Philosophy and Ethics is valuable in any career that requires an understanding of people and an appreciation of the diverse world we live in. Some examples include:

- Law
- Medicine
- Social work / youth work
- Journalism
- Public services e.g. police force, prison service
- Teaching / education

Studying AQA GCSE Religious Studies builds skills like critical thinking, communication, and understanding diverse perspectives, all of which are valued in careers like law, medicine, business, and journalism. It shows employers and universities you can handle complex ideas, work with different people, and make ethical decisions, giving you an edge in the job market.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

CONTINUED

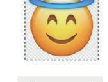
Progression to sixth form

A-level Philosophy; A-level Religious Studies, overlap with content covered in A-Level Psychology, A-Level Sociology.

Related subjects include health and social care, geography, law, history, classical civilisation, sociology, philosophy, psychology, government and politics, communication and culture.

GCSE Philosophy & Ethics

Component 1: Philosophy and Ethics



Theme 1: Relationships

- The family
- The role of men and women
- Marriage and cohabitation
- Adultery and divorce
- Sexual relationships and contraception
- Same-sex relationships



Theme 2: Life and Death:

- Humanism and Atheism
- The Big Bang
- Evolution
- Stephen Hawking's book "The Grand Design"
- The Environment
- Sanctity of Life
- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Death and the afterlife

Theme 4: Good and Evil:

- How should we treat others? (ethics and morality)
- Why is there so much evil and suffering in the world?
- Crime
- Prisons and the death penalty
- Forgiveness



Theme 3: Peace and Conflict:

- Human rights and social justice
- Censorship and the media
- Religious extremism
- Prejudice and discrimination
- Wealth and poverty in the UK and abroad

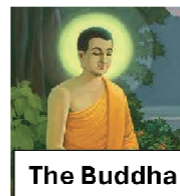
Component 2: Christianity

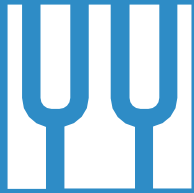
What do Christians believe? How do Christians practice their religion?



Component 3: Buddhism

What do Buddhists believe? How do Buddhists practice their religion?





SUBJECT
MUSIC PRACTICE
(AVAILABLE IN EBACC & PATHWAY 1)

QUALIFICATION
BTEC LEVEL 1/2
TECH AWARD IN MUSIC
PRACTICE

What will I study?

The BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice allows you to learn about the various music products, develop valuable skills and techniques in music creation, performance and production and explore potential careers in the music industry.

What skills and qualities are required?

The BTEC Level 2 Award in Music practice course is a course designed for pupils who have an interest in performing, composing, music technology and music production.

You have the opportunity to learn basic skills in music technology at Key Stage 3 and to further develop these skills and gain a qualification at KS4. It gives you the opportunity to create and perform music using instruments and technology, and to learn about other key job roles within the music industry.

What is the course content?

As the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, you will explore how to develop skills, including teamwork, leadership and communication through performance, composition and technical assignments. These are developed throughout the first two internally assessed components. You will then complete the third component task set by the exam board in which you will develop and present music to a brief through performance, composition or using music technology. You will complete many writing and practical tasks, collating evidence that shows that you know about the subject of each component, combined with hands on, studio-based recording, composing, performing and production work.

How will I be assessed?

The course has two internally assessed components, and one that is externally assessed. There is no written exam for this qualification, all work submitted is coursework.

Component 1: 'Exploring Music Styles' (30% Internal)

You will explore different styles and genres of music from game music to gamelan, pop, film and jazz. You will take part in practical workshops to understand stylistic features and characteristics.

Component 2: 'Music Skills Development' (30% Internal)

You will develop Music Skills, knowledge and techniques and applying them to a product. You will reflect on your progress, and on areas for improvement. You will choose a job role and explore the skills needed to fulfil it and apply skills and techniques in a music performance, creation or production.

Component 3: 'Responding to a commercial brief' (40% External)

You will choose an area of the industry that excites you (composer, performer, or producer). You will explore the brief and come up with possible responses and ideas and then use relevant resources, skills and techniques to develop and refine musical material. Finally, you will present your response in a solo, group or as a production and then review and reflect your approach to the brief and the final outcome.

Where could it lead?

Completing this qualification provides a pathway to further Level 3 courses, for example the BTEC Level 3 performing arts courses, BTEC National Extended Diploma in Music, a Foundation Diploma in Production Arts Practice or 'A' Levels.

Additional requirements/information:

The music department organises various workshops, and workplace visits during the BTEC course and it is advantageous for BTEC music pupils to also attend extra-curricular groups to develop their music production skills through experience.

Future career pathway

Performer
Composer
Sound engineer
Music producer
Recording studio manager
Music Technology teacher
Radio broadcast assistant
Concert tour manager
Music researcher





SUBJECT **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

QUALIFICATION **CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS** **LEVEL 1/2 CERTIFICATE**

How will I be assessed?

- Essentials of Health and Social care (Exam) 25% of final grade.
- Working with individuals in early years settings (Coursework) 25% of final grade.
- Creating activities for early year's settings (Coursework) 25% of final grade.
- Using basic first aid procedures (Coursework) 25% of final grade.

What will I learn?

Health and Social care is a vocational subject which aims to provide you with the best possible pathway to a future career in the health or social care sector. For the examined unit you will learn the basics of how to communicate with people both young and old. The other units are all coursework based where you have the opportunity to present information in different ways. The first aid unit will provide you with an opportunity to complete an accredited first aid qualification while contributing to your overall grade. Half of the course focusses on early years with creating activities for primary and nursery stage children.

What is the course content?

As the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, you will explore how to develop skills, including teamwork, leadership and communication through performance, composition and technical assignments. This is developed throughout the first two internally assessed components. You will then develop and present music to a brief in the third component through performance or using music technology. You will complete lots of writing and practical work, collating evidence that shows that you know about the subject of each component, combined with hands on, studio-based recording, composing, performing and production work.

What opportunities are there?

During the course we intend to visit health and social care settings such as a nursery or a care home. You will also receive a first aid qualification in line with your completion of the course.

Who should pick it?

Anyone who is possibly interested in a career in health and social care sector or if you want to carry on with your study post 16. The course is suitable for all and we want to encourage boys as well as girls to choose it.

Where will it take me?

There is clear progression to study at Level 3 (after your GCSE's.) This course provides a very good foundation for anyone who is considering a career in the Health and Social care sector.

Future career pathway

Health administration.
Further Education teaching
Charity Officer
Social work
Nursing







MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL

Link Road, Anstey, Leicester
Leicestershire LE7 7EB



0116 236 3291



office@martinhigh.org.uk



www.martinhigh.org.uk



[@martinhighsch](https://twitter.com/martinhighsch)



[MartinHighSchoolAnstey](https://www.facebook.com/MartinHighSchoolAnstey)



**MARTIN
HIGH SCHOOL**
Lionheart Educational Trust