



# **Cranbury College**

## **Curriculum 2024 – 2025 Options Booklet**

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# Introduction

At Key Stage 3 all students study the same subjects. At Key Stage 4 students are provided with an element of choice over their curriculum, allowing them to progress their studies in areas that interest them and may be useful for their future pathways.

The Department of Education (DfE) stipulate that a students' studies should be broad and balanced, and our school agrees with this principle, alongside the importance of choice and diversity and the need to promote students' interests and abilities. There are some subjects' students have to continue to study (core subjects), whilst others they have the choice to study in more depth (option subjects).

The aim of this document is to:

- Give information about both the core and optional curriculum that will be studied.
- Give further information about optional subjects so that students can make informed choices.
- Give students advice and guidance on how they should make their choice.
- Let you know how the process is completed.

## Curriculum

The core curriculum contains subjects that a student must study, whilst the option curriculum gives students choice to choose the subject that most suit them and they are most interested in. Students are required to choose a balanced set of subjects as detailed below.

### Balanced Curriculum

To ensure a student's curriculum is balanced, students should study:

- English Language, Mathematics and Science.
- Physical Education
- Art
- Food Technology
- Personal Development
- An option subject from Hair & Beauty, Building and Construction, Childcare, Art, or Cookery.

### Core Curriculum

All students will take GCSEs or other relevant, appropriate qualifications in:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science

As part of our core curriculum offer, students are required to study (but not necessarily gain qualifications in):

- Physical Education (known as core PE)
- Art
- Food Technology
- Personal Development

N.B. Art and Cookery can also be studied as an option to gain a qualification.

## Option Curriculum

Students will choose an option subject which they will study for the next academic year. For those students in Year 10, this will be reviewed in the summer term so that the most appropriate choices can be made for the next year ahead:

- Hair & Beauty
- Building and Construction
- Childcare
- Cookery
- Art

Students should choose a reserve subject should their subject not be available (see below)

## Please Note

All courses running are subject to:

- A sufficient number of students opting for that course to make it viable.
- Decisions outside the school's control made by the Department of Education and OFQUAL.
- Approval of the students' choices by the school.

In some circumstances, the subject choice you have made may not be possible, in which case you will be asked to re-select.

## Advice to students

These are very important choices you are making, so think about them carefully and take into account the following advice

## Considerations:

Think about what subjects may be useful in the future. If you have an idea of what career or course you may want to pursue, then think about how your subject choice may enable this.

Think about which subjects you currently find interesting. You are more likely to succeed in a subject you are motivated to study.

Think about how the subjects are assessed. Would subjects with coursework/controlled assessment suit you? This requires projects to be worked over for long periods of time, you managing your work, keeping to deadlines and presenting your process and thoughts. Other subjects are assessed by written exams at the end of Year 11. Choosing all examination only subjects will result in lots of exams at the end, by choosing subjects with a lot of coursework, you will have to carefully manage your workload throughout KS4.

## Where to find advice:

- Use the information in this options booklet for information on each subject.
- Speak with your current teachers.
- Speak with our Vocational Lead Teacher Ms Clarke.
- Speak with your tutor.
- Speak with your parents / carers.
- Speak to Mr Baggley our Careers Lead.

## **Avoid:**

Avoid choosing subjects just because you like your current teacher. We all have people we relate to better, but you cannot guarantee they will be taking the lessons. Avoid choosing subjects just because your friends selected them. There is a possibility you could be in a different class and end up studying a subject you don't like. You want to do your best by concentrating in lessons and not being distracted by others.

# DEFINITIONS

**Core Subject** - A subject you must study to the end of KS4.

**Coursework / Controlled Assessment / Non-Examinable Assessment** - Exam work which you do during your course usually assessed by your teacher and often is completed under controlled conditions.

**Controlled Conditions** - Controlled Assessment that is completed in school, under exam conditions.

**Final / Terminal Exam** - An exam that is completed at the end of the course.

**Key Stage 3** - Years 7, 8 & 9.

**Key Stage 4** - Years 10 & 11.

**Level 1 Qualification** - Equivalent to grades 4 - 1.

**Level 2 Qualification** - Equivalent to grades 9 - 5.

**Optional Subject** - A subject which you can choose to study to the end of KS4.

**Portfolio** – A collection of work to submit for assessment to gain qualification.

# English Language (Compulsory)

Contact Mrs Willmott

## Why study English Language?

The skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are of vital importance. Not only are they essential in many careers, but they also underpin successful study at all levels and a proficiency in them can also add immeasurably to an individual's general quality of life. This course should prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities, career choices and to use language to participate effectively in society and employment.

## The course will cover:

### Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

#### Section A: Reading

- One literature fiction text.

#### Section B: Writing

- Descriptive or narrative writing.

### Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

#### Section A: Reading

- One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text.

#### Section B: Writing

- Writing to present a viewpoint.

## Non-Examination Assessment: Spoken Language

- Presenting.
- Responding to questions and feedback.
- Use of Standard English.

Awarding Body	Exam	Link
<b>GCSE</b> AQA English Language QN 601/4292/3	100%	<a href="#">GCSE English Qualification</a>
<b>Functional Skills</b> Pearson Entry level 1 QN 603/4286/9 Pearson Entry Level 2 QN 603/4287/0 Pearson Entry Level 3 QN 603/4288/2 Pearson Level 1 QN 603/4289/4 Pearson Level 2 QN 603/4290/0	100%	<a href="#">Functional Skills English</a>

# Mathematics (Compulsory)

Contact Mr Alcock

## Why study Mathematics?

This GCSE enables students to develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.

It helps students acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems. The qualification prepares students to reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions as well as comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

It provides students with evidence of mathematical achievements consistent with the highest performing jurisdictions globally and a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study and employment.

## The course will cover:

### Number:

- Algebra
- Ratio, Proportion, Rates of Change
- Geometry and Measures
- Probability
- Statistics
- Weighting of topic areas varies across the two tiers.

### Assessment:

- Externally Assessed.
- Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher.
- Students will sit three equally weighted papers at the end of the course.
- Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper; a calculator is allowed for papers 2 and 3.
- Each paper is 90 minutes long.

## Alternative Assessment

For students who haven't learned enough maths to do the GCSE yet, we do entry level functional skills qualifications. These come in 3 levels, Entry Level 1, Entry Level 2, and Entry Level 3. Over the course students can work their way up the levels and may be ready to take the GCSE at the end of year 11.

For students who are able, we also offer functional skills Levels 1 and 2 in addition to GCSE. These can offer a 'back-up' to secure the qualifications needed for college places, apprenticeships or employments.

Awarding Body	Exam	Link
<b>GCSE</b> Pearson Edexcel Mathematics QN 601/4700/3	100%	<a href="#">GCSE Maths Qualification</a>
<b>Functional Skills</b> Pearson Entry level 1 QN 603/4269/9 Pearson Entry Level 2 QN 603/4265/1 Pearson Entry Level 3 QN 603/4266/3 Pearson Level 1 QN 603/4267/5 Pearson Level 2 QN 603/4268/7	100%	<a href="#">Functional Skills Maths</a>

# Combined Science (Compulsory)

Contact Mrs McShee

## Why study Science?

Studying Combined Science will help students develop a curiosity and appreciation of the world around them and how Science works to impact their daily lives. The scope and nature of their study will be broad, coherent, practical and satisfying. Combined Science provides students with two GCSEs and is suitable for learners of all abilities, whether they intend to continue to study Science post-16 or not.

We follow the AQA specification, which presents Biology, Chemistry and Physics in separate teaching and learning units.

## The course encourages students to develop:

- A substantive body of knowledge across all three Sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Practical skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works, through the completion of compulsory practicals, the understanding of which is assessed within the written exams.
- Scientific enquiries that help students to answer scientific questions about their world and lives.
- Observational, modelling and problem-solving skills in a range of learning environments.
- Their ability to evaluate claims based on Science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

## Students can progress from this qualification to:

- GCEs (A levels), for example in Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics.
- Level 3 vocational qualifications in Science, for example BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science.
- T-levels for example animal care & management, engineering, manufacturing, processing & control.
- Employment, for example in a Science-based industry where an apprenticeship may be available.

## Assessment:

This course consists of six equally weighted exams (2 per subject), which are externally examined.

Awarding Body	Exam	Link
<b>GCSE</b> AQA Combined Science Trilogy QN 601/8758/X	100%	<a href="#">GCSE Combined Science Qualification</a>

# Hair and Beauty

Contact Ms Clarke

## Why choose Hair & Beauty?

The AQA Unit Award Scheme allows students to be rewarded with a certificate each time they successfully complete a Hair or Beauty unit. They can build up a portfolio of certificates to evidence the skills and knowledge that they have acquired. Students will learn valuable transferable life skills that will benefit them in other areas of their life, such as good communication skills and teamwork.

## The course will cover:

AQA Unit Awards will consist of both practical and theory, students will learn about:

- Health and Safety in a salon
- The structure of hair, skin, and nails
- Shampooing and conditioning hair
- Styling hair
- Plaiting hair
- Nail art
- Skin care

## Learners who have previously studied the above will learn about:

- Indian Head Massage
- Hair -up
- Basic hair colouring theory
- Application of colour products to hair
- One length hair cutting
- Weekend lash application
- Creative workshop-make-up
- 3D nail art
- Applying a nail tip with acrylic overlay
- Work experience in a salon

## Possible Careers:

Students will have the opportunity to progress further once they leave us here at Cranbury College, Reading College recognises the knowledge acquired from studying AQA Unit awards. There are many opportunities for progression in this industry such as: Hairdresser, Barbering, Beauty Therapist, Make-Up Artist, Nail Technician, working on film sets or working on a cruise liner.

Awarding Body	Portfolio	Link
AQA Unit Award Scheme	100%	<a href="#">Hair &amp; Beauty Unit Awards</a>



# Childcare - Caring for Children

Contact Mrs Syed

## Why choose Childcare?

This qualification will enable you to gain the understanding and knowledge to be able to care for young children. The qualification does not require you to look after a baby or young child through the length of the course. You will be complete both a wide variety of both written and practical tasks to build a portfolio for submission to gain your qualification. All units will be internally assessed using a range of methods.

## The course will cover:

- Sharing learning experiences with children.
- Growth and development of young children.
- Healthy eating for families.
- As well as the above units there will be an opportunity to earn credits on additional units.

## Possible Careers:

- Childminder
- Nursery Nurse
- Social Care
- Teaching

Awarding Body	Portfolio	Link
NCFE CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Caring for Children	100%	<a href="#">Caring for Children Qualification</a>

# Art & Design GCSE

Contact Miss Hutt

## Why choose GCSE Art & Design?

GCSE Art & Design offers a pathway into a number of jobs within the creative industries. It allows you to develop your creative thinking skills in a way few other subjects do, problem solving, and creative thinking are qualities most employers are looking for in the modern world. GCSE Art & Design also gives you the freedom to explore your own identity, interests and to express yourself in a visual form and is beneficial to visual learners.

## The course will cover:

For this course, you will produce a portfolio of coursework focusing on a theme of your choice - usually this is a sketchbook of work and a final piece painting, but it can be any media if it is all on one theme. Besides this, you need to submit a 'selection of further work' which can be anything that is not about your theme, can be drawing skills tests, photography you have done, any craft projects/skills learning we have done.

At the beginning of January in Year 11 you will be given an 'external assignment' from the exam board to pick one of 7 themes. You will then have until the first week of May to produce an 'exam preparation portfolio' which is usually a sketchbook following the same structure as your coursework theme book. Starting the first week of May, you will take a Timed Art Exam over 2 or more consecutive days totalling 10 hours (don't panic, this is usually half days with normal break and lunch) during this time you will make a final piece which could be a painting or a sculpture that relates to the theme you chose for your exam.

## Possible Careers:

Fashion designer | Graphic designer | Animator | Video game designer | Illustrator | Photographer | Architect | Product designer | Textiles & Fashion design | Ceramics | Movie Special Effects | Publishing | Interior design | Hair and make-up design | Retail design | Jewellery design | Artist | Teaching.

Did you know more people work in the creative industries than the finance industry! The creative industries generate £84.1 billion to the United Kingdom (UK) economy each year and employ over 2.8 million people.

Awarding Body	Exam/Portfolio	Link
GCSE AQA Fine Art and Design	Exam and Exam Prep 40% Portfolio 60%	<a href="#">GCSE Fine Art and Design</a>

# Cookery

## Contact Mr Bedford

### Why choose Cookery?

Cookery at Cranbury will give you the knowledge, skills and understanding required to work safely and hygienically in the kitchen, as well as developing your practical skills in utilising a wide range of preparation and cooking techniques to make some amazing food.

Not only will you learn how to prepare tasty and nutritious meals, but you will also learn vital transferable skills in time management, multi-tasking, problem solving, evaluation and improvement.

### The course will cover:

Food Hygiene and Health and Safety:

- How to safely handle, store, prepare and cook food ensuring it is safe to eat and learning about the common food poisoning and spoilage risks.
- How to identify common hazards in a kitchen environment, the safe working practices required to minimise the risks and how to maintain the safety of yourself and those around you.
- Knife skills: How to safely use a variety of knives, selecting the most appropriate knife for a given task and how to correctly and safely maintain knives.
- Vegetables: The different types of vegetables, how to prepare and cook them in a variety of ways both as side dishes and as integral ingredients in complex dishes.
- Soups and Sauces: Preparing and cooking broths, puree and cream soups, as well as classic French mother sauces and their derivations and how they can form the perfect accompaniment to a dish.
- Bread, Dough, Pastry & Cakes: How to prepare and cook a range of dishes using bread, dough, pastry and cakes. Both sweet and savoury dishes will be covered as well as the knowledge of how these dishes get their textures and flavours.
- Meat, Poultry & Fish: How to safely prepare and cook a range of dishes using meat, poultry and fish, covering a wide range of preparation and cooking techniques.

### Possible Careers:

Students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full-time career in the catering or food industries

Awarding Body	Portfolio	Link
Gateway - Hospitality and Catering	100% Portfolio	<a href="#">Cookery Gateway Qualification</a>
BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Introduction to Culinary Skills Pearson	100% Portfolio	<a href="#">BTEC Cookery qualification</a>
BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Introduction to Professional Cookery		

# Building and Construction

Contact Mr Trinder or Ms Clarke

## Why choose Building and Construction?

Gateway qualifications are intended to provide learners with a broad introduction to the building and construction industry. They equip learners with underpinning knowledge and skills specific to the sector alongside a range of transferable employability skills. They are designed to support progression to further learning and ultimately to work in building and construction or other related sectors.

## The course will cover:

- Gateway units will consist of both practical and theory, students will learn about:
- Health and Safety in Construction
- Working in construction
- Bricklaying skills
- Construct a timber product.
- Plastering skills

## Possible Careers:

This course can lead to further careers in bricklaying, bench joinery, craft masonry, building maintenance, painting and decorating, plastering

Awarding Body	Portfolio	Link
Gateway Level 1 Award in Building and Construction	100% Portfolio	<a href="#">Building and Construction Qualification</a>

# Option Form

Name:	
Year Group:	
Please number your option choice in order of preference - (1 being your first choice to 5 being your last)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hair & Beauty <input type="checkbox"/> Building and Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare <input type="checkbox"/> Cookery <input type="checkbox"/> Art
Signed:	

Please note – by signing this form you are agreeing to commit to studying this option and working towards a qualification in it for your time at Cranbury or at least the next academic year, whichever is first.