

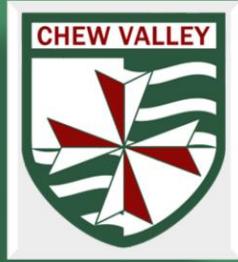


Chew Valley School

Options Booklet

Upper School Courses 2026-2028

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Upper School Courses 2026-2028

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Options Form

Please click the following link to submit your options - [Options Form](#)

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Introduction

What is this booklet about?

THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

The curriculum is a combination of subjects you have to study (The Core Curriculum) and subjects you can choose to study (Optional). The Core Curriculum is:

- English & English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- PE
- Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE)
- Philosophy and Ethics (RE)

These subjects develop the skills that are essential for all careers and for helping you to cope in the modern world.

What are the different qualifications on offer?

GCSEs

- GCSEs cater for all students.
- All GCSEs will be graded from 9-1 (with 9 being the highest).

Applied Qualifications

Applied qualifications (sometimes called “vocational” qualifications) offer an alternative to GCSE. They have a greater proportion of continuous assessment than GCSEs, although they do have an examined element.

- BTEC qualifications are work-related programmes of study designed to accommodate the needs of employers in skills-based industries.
- Cambridge Nationals are vocationally-related qualifications that take an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate is a certificate awarded to any student achieving 9-5 (or equivalent) in five separate elements:

1. GCSE English Language
2. Two Science GCSEs (either separate Sciences, or Combined Science. Computer Science also counts as a Science for the English Baccalaureate)
3. GCSE Mathematics
4. History or Geography GCSE
5. A Modern Foreign Language GCSE (French or Spanish)

The subjects included in the English Baccalaureate are designed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed off to you in terms of future progression. Subjects which qualify for the English Baccalaureate are flagged throughout this booklet.

Options Nomination

The majority of our options are a free choice. However, some options will be decided by your teachers based on your achievement in Years 7 to 9. These include:

Science: Your Science set is decided by your attainment in Science assessments throughout Key Stage 3. The majority of students study for two GCSEs in Combined Science. The highest attaining students follow a Triple Science course studying for separate GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. For more details see our Science pages. Please note that the number of triple groups does vary from year to year, therefore attitude to learning grades may also be considered in selection.

- **BTEC Construction:** This is a Level 1 course equivalent to GCSE grades 1-3. Students are nominated for this course based on their suitability by Learning Support, Design Technology and pastoral staff.
- **PE:** You can opt for a PE course, but PE staff will then place students on the most appropriate course (GCSE PE or Cambridge National Sport) based on prior attainment and participation in PE and Sport.



YOUR KEY STAGE 4 COURSE



The standard timetable will be made up in the following way:

SUBJECT	COMPULSORY OR OPTIONAL	PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT
English & English Literature	Compulsory	8
Maths	Compulsory	7
Combined or Triple Science	Compulsory	10
Physical Education	Compulsory	3
Philosophy and Ethics	Compulsory	1
RSHE	Compulsory	1
Option A	Choice to be made now	5
Option B	Choice to be made now	5
Option C	Choice to be made now	5
Option D	Choice to be made now	5
Total Lessons:		50

Course Viability

We will try to run every course on offer in this booklet. However, in some instances courses may not recruit enough students to create a viable option group.

If this happens you may be asked to opt again. In this case your tutor will meet with you to offer advice and help you to make a suitable alternative choice.

What to do next

- The subjects available next year are arranged in alphabetical order.
- Read the details of each course carefully.
- Seek advice and then make your decisions.

If at any stage a student or parent would like to meet with your tutor, or Head of House, please contact Reception to request a meeting, or you can email erogers@chewvalleyschool.co.uk or jbrice@chewvalleyschool.co.uk



Developing Skills

- Creativity
- Listening to others
- Understanding emotions
- Managing tasks
- Speaking engagingly

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

GCSE English Language

[Click here to watch the Welcome to English Language & Literature Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

- A course leading to a GCSE in English Language.
- A range of writing skills for fiction and non-fiction forms and purposes.
- Reading skills linked to a range of literary and non-fiction texts.
- Writing skills for a variety of different purposes and audiences.

Why study English?

- To develop crucial communication skills as a speaker and writer.
- To develop your reading skills, helping you not only to read more difficult texts but also to notice inference, implication and make deductions about what you read.
- To develop skills in analysing and thinking.
- To develop your ability to form opinions about the world and to consider a range of ideas.
- To learn about Literature and Media texts and what they show about the world around you.

How is the course assessed?

Two written exams at the end of Year 11.

Reading (50%) and Writing (50%)

A separate assessment of your speaking and listening skills reported with your examination results, for which you will complete the work in class.

Exam 1 (1 hour 45 minutes):

Section A - Reading: Answer four increasingly challenging questions on an extract from literary fiction (40 marks in total).

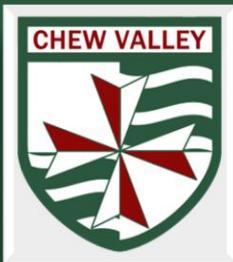
Section B - Writing: One extended writing task (40 marks).

Exam 2 (1 hour 45 minutes):

Section A - Reading: Answer four increasingly challenging questions on two non-fiction texts, some of which require you to compare them (40 marks in total).

Section B - Writing: One extended writing task (40 marks).

GCSE English is a vital qualification for most future jobs, 6th Form or further education, as evidence that you can read, write, speak, listen and think well!



Developing Skills

- Listening
- Analytical skills
- Generating ideas
- Recognising influence

GCSE English Literature

[Click here to watch the Welcome to English Language & Literature Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

- A course leading to a GCSE in English Literature.
- A modern prose or drama text, a Shakespeare play, a 19th Century novel and an Anthology of Poetry.
- There are some links with the English Language GCSE and some of the texts studied can provide useful practice for the unseen literary extracts in one exam.

Why study English Literature?

- Develops your ability to respond to others' ideas and ways of seeing the world.
- Further develops your ability to communicate effectively and to think independently. To succeed, you need to analyse well and develop lively and interesting essays.
- It is even more evidence of good reading and writing skills to add to your English Language GCSE.
- Leads directly to English Literature or Language and Literature at A Level.
- The analytical, expressive and argumentative skills that you will develop will be useful for your future career and further study.

How is the course assessed?

Two written exams at the end of Year 11.

Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel (40%) and Modern Texts and Poetry (60%)

Shakespeare & the 19th Century novel (1 hour 45 minutes)

Section A – Two-part question on a studied Shakespeare play. One in response to an extract and one an extended response on the whole play.

Section B – Two-part question on a studied 19th Century novel. One in response to an extract and one an extended response on the whole text.

Modern Texts and Poetry (2 hours 15 minutes)

Section A – An essay on a studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B – Comparative essay on two poems from studied anthology.

Section C – Two responses to unseen poetry.



Developing Skills

- Problem Solving
- Staying positive
- Working effectively
- Developing strategies

Foundation Tier graded 1-5
Higher Tier graded 4-9

GCSE Mathematics

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Mathematics Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

You will build on and widen your knowledge in the following main areas: **Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measures, Probability and Statistics.**

You will continue to develop skills in problem solving and applying your knowledge to new situations. The GCSE syllabus will require you to become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics, to reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry, and to solve problems by applying mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems. You will have to choose an appropriate method and then set out your own strategy for solving the problem. Marks will be awarded for the quality of your written communication in Maths.

Why study Maths?

- It will develop your ability to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.
- It is a language that can be used to describe the world around us.
- It provides a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study and for employment.
- There is presently a national shortage of mathematically trained students, therefore having a strong Maths GCSE makes you very employable.

How is the course assessed?

You will follow a linear course during the two years and you will be assessed over three, 1.5 hour written exams at the end of the course. The content of the curriculum will be assessed across all three papers.

One non-calculator paper and two calculator papers

Foundation Tier

Topic area	Weighting
Number	22 - 28%
Algebra	17 - 23%
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change	22 - 28%
Geometry and Measures	12 - 18%
Statistics & Probability	12 - 18%

Higher Tier

Topic area	Weighting
Number	12 - 18%
Algebra	27 - 33%
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change	17 - 23%
Geometry and Measures	17 - 23%
Statistics & Probability	12 - 18%

Homework is given on a weekly basis. This is an important aspect of the course as it allows you to consolidate your learning, as well as allowing your teacher to monitor your understanding.



Developing Skills

- Problem Solving
- Creativity
- Aiming High

Most students will follow the 'Combined Science' qualification equivalent to two GCSEs and graded as 4,4 or 7,7

GCSE Science

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Science Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

The Science course draws together the essential skills of **Biology**, **Chemistry** and **Physics**. It is all about the laws of the universe, and how they apply to living things, chemicals and the interactions between them, including:

- How living things work, reproduce and affect each other and the natural environment.
- How we can use and exploit the world's natural resources.
- How we can develop alternatives to the fast-diminishing resource of the planet and attempt to safeguard our future.
- How we can apply technologies, both old and new, to improve our daily lives.

Where possible, we try to use experiments and demonstrations to cover the ideas.

Topics covered include cells, inheritance, ecology, atomic structure, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, forces, energy and electricity.

Why study Science?

- The course lets you develop your scientific skills further.
- The nation as a whole needs to have a good grasp of scientific ideas so that we can make sensible choices about our future. This course provides a lot of the information and analytical skills necessary to allow you to contribute in an informed manner.
- The triple or combined GCSE options are the essential qualifications needed if you plan to take any science (including Environmental Science, Geology and Psychology) further.
- A huge number of career paths need science qualifications, including engineering and all medical careers.

How is the course assessed?

There will be no coursework component. Instead, all students will carry out required practical assessments that will be tested within the written examinations. There will be six exams at the end of the course; two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics.

Combined Science Exam weighted equally between Biology, Chemistry and Physics

At the end of Year 9 and as a result of performance in Year 9, either one or two groups of students will be given the option of doing the Triple Science course where students study three separate Science GCSEs in the curriculum time given for two. This will involve completing extra content for Biology, Chemistry and Physics and is suitable only for those students whose performance and attitude is deemed by their teachers to warrant a place on the course. Parents will be informed at the end of Year 9 if their children have been offered a place.



Developing Skills

- Problem solving
- Keeping trying
- Leadership
- Teamwork

The criteria for a pass include a 95% participation rate

What do you study?

During your Core PE lessons in Key Stage 4 we hope that you will complete your vocational qualification that you began in Year 9. This is called the Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership, known as SLQ for short. You will continue to cover the pattern of activities that you have opted for. The criteria for a pass include a 95% participation rate so you must bring your kit to all lessons.

You will be given a logbook to record your leadership experiences. This could be anything from leading a warm up in your core PE lesson to organising a sporting festival for 150 Year 2 students. Your logbook provides the evidence to award your certificate at the end of the course.

During lessons you will be developing your practical skills but also learning leadership skills that will help you in all aspects of your future, for example, organisation, communication, fair play, officiating and health and fitness. You will get the opportunity to practice these skills through a variety of different activities.

Core Physical Education

[Click here to watch the Welcome to Core Physical Education Vimeo](#)

Why study Core Physical Education?

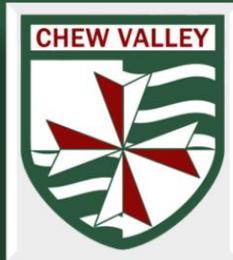
- It is important to look after your physical and mental health during your exam years. Core PE allows you time to break from academic studies and give your mind and body a break.
- To help you to develop a positive approach towards physical activity and understand the place that regular physical activity has within a healthy, active lifestyle.
- You will continue to learn new activities that you may find you want to continue with when you leave school.
- Through taking on different roles within activities:
 - Your communication skills will continue to be built
 - You'll have the opportunity for lots of team-work.

How is the course assessed?

Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (SLQ)

In Year 11, you will have the opportunity to choose a variety of activities that will encourage you to follow a healthy, active lifestyle. We will encourage you to complete sport specific leadership and officiating qualifications, but these will be optional.

Head of Physical Education Science - Miss J Hibbert



Developing Skills

- Listening – recognising influence
- Problem solving – analysing problems
- Staying positive – managing risks and rewards
- Leadership – supporting others
- Teamwork – contributing to the group

Relationships, Sex and Health Education

What do you study?

All students will follow a programme in RSHE. This will involve learning about a range of issues that are important and relevant to the lives of all young people, looking at how society affects you, and your role and responsibilities. The programme will include:

- Sex and Relationships Education
- Drug Awareness Education
- Risk awareness including e-safety
- Physical and emotional wellbeing

RSHE will be timetabled once a fortnight and lessons will be run by one of a specialist team. There will be opportunities for you to work in a variety of ways including pair work, group discussion, student presentations and to join larger groups on topical projects.

Citizenship is also an important part in the school curriculum and you will have an opportunity to take part in a range of activities including community service, charity fundraising, representation on the school and Year Council and initiatives such as recycling and healthy eating.

Why study RSHE?

This programme is devised to give you information about a wide range of issues but also to help develop your confidence, your ability to share your views and opinions and to tolerate and support those of your peers. It also fulfils the statutory RSHE curriculum laid down in legislation.

How is the course assessed?

No RSHE Exam

Evidence of your work and involvement will be recorded in your monitoring and assessment profile.



Developing Skills

- Listening – listening critically
- Teamwork – contributing to the group

What do you study?

The course covers a wide range of topics from Philosophy, Religion and Ethics.

Students will consider their own views on these issues and will consider a range of different religious and non-religious viewpoints.

[Click here to watch the Welcome to PRE Vimeo](#)

Why study Philosophy, Religion and Ethics?

The Philosophy, Religion and Ethics course builds on the course studied in Years 7 to 9. Philosophy and Ethics addresses issues of faith and fulfils our legal obligation to teach Religious Education and the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. In addition to this it provides young adults with a forum to face some deep and difficult questions about our lives and behaviour and the opportunity to develop critical thinking and analytical skills which will enhance their learning experience across the curriculum and allow them to communicate their ideas in a more sophisticated way.

It will enable students to:

- Develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, a study of religion and its relation to the wider world;
- Develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of religion by exploring the significance, impact of beliefs, teachings, sources, practices, ways of life and forms of expressing meaning;
- Express their personal responses and informed insights on fundamental questions about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitment.

How is the course assessed?

No Exams in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

Evidence of your work and involvement will be recorded in your monitoring and assessment profile.

Head of PRE and RSHE – Mrs L Pope

Every accomplishment starts with the decision to **try**.



During Year 9...

You carried out work on your career ideas and destinations in Aspire and may have taken part in our careers fair at school. This should give you some ideas about future careers which may interest you. In Year 10 you will take part in "Aspire +" with sessions tailored to help you decide your future pathways, and in a week's Work Experience during the month of June. It is really worth booking into your placement as early as possible, so hunting for a place starts in October, some placements get booked up very, very quickly.

You will be given guidance about how to apply and have access to our extensive list of approved placements which have been checked for Health and Safety, however, any place will be considered given enough time to complete the required checks (these can take over 8 weeks).

In Year 11 you will be given guidance about post-16 options, including careers talks and individual interviews. Independent advice can also be found on the following website: www.careerpilot.org.uk

In school, we also use www.unifrog.org



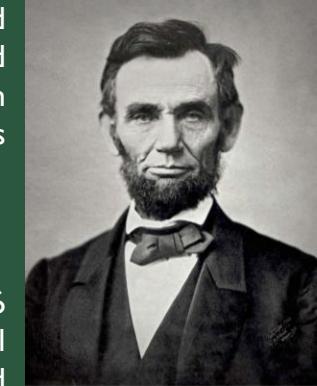
You become what you believe.

Oprah Winfrey



Whatever you are, be a good one.

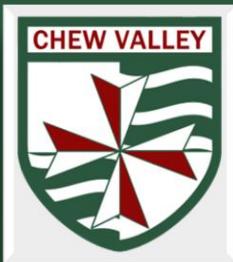
Abraham Lincoln



Who to Contact:

Mrs Farr is our Careers Advisor who is available for group and individual appointments throughout Year 10 and Year 11. To contact Mrs Farr please email: jfarr@chewvalleyschool.co.uk

If students, parents/carers have any concerns about work experience, please contact Mrs Fenlon at kfenlon@chewvalleyschool.co.uk



Developing Skills

- Problem Solving
- Generating Ideas
- Keep Trying
- Working Effectively

Graded 1-9

with 9 being the highest

GCSE Art

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Art Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

This is a two-year GCSE course. During these two years, some of the most important skills you will be expected to develop are:

- Learning to draw and express yourself through mark making, using a wide variety of materials and techniques.
- Researching, referencing, refining and emulating many different artists and designers and finding inspiration through their methods of working.
- Independent and sustained study in class and at home.
- Refining initial ideas, improving and focusing, culminating in a successful final piece.

Why study GCSE Art?

Art is a creative subject that promotes and encourages independent resourceful, ingenious, self-disciplined learning. Students achieving grades 9-5 could go on to study Art (Fine Art), Textiles or Photography at A level.

You will study and practise a broad range of skills, techniques, themes and artists. Although the majority of your assessed work will be developed in your sketchbooks, you will also be expected and encouraged to produce a number of quality, 2D/3D pieces of 'finished' artwork to complete your portfolio.

How is the course assessed?

60% Coursework Portfolio and 40% OCR-set task (Exam)

There are four Assessment Objectives that carry equal weight. Your coursework portfolio and your final set task (exam) will be marked under:

- **Develop** – 25%. Ideas and investigations informed by research into art and artists.
- **Experiment** – 25%. Select and use materials, techniques and processes.
- **Record** – 25%. Drawing and recording observations.
- **Present** – 25%. A personal and informed response, connecting ideas, research and observations as a final piece.

60% is based on the Coursework Portfolio. This portfolio is made up of projects and the best pieces of work produced over the two years. The more you do and the more involved you are in the course, the higher your grade will be. There will be Art trips to generate source material for a successful coursework portfolio.

40% is based on the OCR-set task (exam). You will have a 10-hour practical, (run over two days, under exam conditions) to present a personal response. All the preparation work for the set task is produced in the weeks beforehand and is an important element of your assessment.



Developing Skills

- Creativity
- Communication
- Problem Solving

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

Cambridge Nationals in Enterprise & Marketing

[Click here to watch the Welcome to Enterprising and Marketing Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

Enterprise and Marketing is a vocationally related course, where you develop knowledge by applying your learning in a work-related context. You will take responsibility for your own learning and develop skills, such as team-working and working to tight deadlines that are essential for the modern-day workplace.

The course consists of 3 units:

- Design a Business Proposal
- Market and Pitch a Business Proposal
- Enterprise and Marketing Concepts

Why study Business Studies?

- You will develop communication, problem-solving, information technology and numeracy skills – all essential practical skills for future employment.
- You will understand that business affects virtually every aspect of our lives.
- The IT skills you develop are vital in many careers.
- The course will allow a natural progression to Advanced Business courses at Post-16.

How is the course assessed?

Two units of Coursework and one Exam

The exam is taken either in January of Year 11 or June of Year 11. Coursework makes up 60% of the final grade.

Design a Business Proposal

This unit will provide learners with the skills and knowledge to design a product proposal to meet a business challenge scenario. Learners will be able to identify a customer profile for their own product design, develop market research tools and use these to complete market research for their product. Learners will complete financial calculations to select a pricing strategy and determine whether their proposal is viable.

Market and Pitch a Business Proposal

This unit will provide learners with the skills and knowledge to create a brand identity and promotional plan. They will be able to pitch their product proposal to an external audience after completing a practice pitch and complete a review of both their pitching skills and product proposal.

By completing this unit, learners will know how to use a combination of branding and promotional methods that complement each other and appeal to a specific customer profile. They will gain the crucial skills of professionally pitching to an unknown audience. This will help to prepare them both for employment situations such as interviews and for starting up a business in the future, while also developing the transferrable skill of presenting information to others in a clear and persuasive manner.

Enterprise and Marketing Concepts

By completing this unit, learners will understand the main activities that will need to happen to support a start-up business and what the key factors are to consider when starting up a business. Learners will understand how and why customer segmentation is used and how to target a customer market. They will also develop an understanding of how to attract and retain customers, the techniques to use when developing products and how to investigate what makes a product viable.



Developing Skills

- Organisation
- Problem solving
- Analytical skills
- Independence
- Keep trying

Graded scale of
Distinction, Merit, Pass &
Unclassified.

BTEC Level I Certificate in Construction

[Click here to watch the Welcome to BTEC LI Construction Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

All students will take these core units:

- Being organised
- Developing a personal progression plan
- Making carpentry joints
- Fixing a water leak
- Making an electrical circuit

All units are assessed using a grading scale of Distinction, Merit, Pass and Unclassified. Students may also have the opportunity to study the Level I Diploma in Construction.

Why study Construction?

Students are nominated to join this course by teaching staff

The BTEC in Construction aims to encourage you to develop the personal skills and qualities you need for work, learning and to help you achieve your full potential. BTEC qualifications are intended as practical “hands on” programmes with each one taught in the context of real jobs and careers in a chosen vocational sector. This course will give you a chance to explore the opportunities offered in that sector and to acquire appropriate vocational skills.

How is the course assessed?

The Level I Certificate in Construction is made up of 5 units

Level I Diploma

This course is made up of an additional five units, which enable students to study construction skills and gain a higher-level award.

Additional units include:

- Working with Others
- Researching a Topic
- Drawing a Plan of a Room
- Decorating an Inside Wall
- Developing Building Maintenance Skills

All units are assessed using a grading scale of Distinction, Merit, Pass and Unclassified.

A BTEC Level I qualification in Construction can prepare you for employment in the Construction industry. You may also have the opportunity to go on to study the Level 2 in Construction (or similar) at college or join an apprenticeship scheme. The BTEC in Construction is a double option, taking up two spaces in the options pattern.



Developing Skills

- Problem Solving
- Analytical skills
- Independence
- Keeping trying

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

GCSE Design and Technology

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Design & Technology Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

Design and technology is a rigorous and challenging subject that promotes and encourages independence, resourcefulness and imagination. It will develop your designing skills and technical knowledge through problem solving and design iteration. It enables you to apply academic learning, so that you can convert your ideas and raw materials into the products and services that we all need and use every day of our lives.

The diversity of the course provides an excellent foundation for anybody considering a future within the design and manufacturing industry, for example: Engineering; Architecture; Product Design; Graphic Design; Textile Design; Interior Design; Fashion Design; Marketing etc.

You can continue your studies at Chew Valley School by following an A Level course in Design Technology or Textiles.

Why study GCSE Design and Technology?

During Year 10, you will complete a series of practical projects and undertake dedicated theory sessions and home learning tasks, to develop your technical knowledge and practical skills. You will work as designers and manufacturers to develop an awareness of product development and the design industry. In line with the ever-changing world of design, this fantastic GCSE encompasses all material areas (including: paper; wood; metal; plastic; electronics; textiles; smart & modern materials).

The areas studied will include:

- Designing skills – 2D and 3D drawing; CAD; iterative design; modelling.
- Developing ways to construct 2D and 3D products.
- Experimenting with a broad range of manufacturing techniques.
- The work of designers.
- Sustainability and implications to the wider world.
- Material (properties, provenance and uses).
- Use of a broad range of equipment, industrial machinery and software.

How is the course assessed?

There are two elements in this GCSE. There will be a single tier of entry.

NEA – A sustained design & make investigation (50%) & a written Examination (50%)

There are two elements in this GCSE.

- **NEA - A sustained design and make investigation: accounts for 50% of the final mark**
- **A written examination: accounts for 50% of the final mark**

Year 11 will predominantly focus on the NEA, (an independent research, design and make coursework project). Learners will be required to use critical thinking to design and make prototypes in a material(s) of their choice to solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.



Developing Skills

- Aiming high
- Organisation
- Analytical skills
- Independence
- Keep trying
- Problem solving

Graded 1-9

with 9 being the highest

GCSE Food, Preparation & Nutrition

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Food, Preparation & Nutrition Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

This exciting and creative GCSE course equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to prepare food, while applying the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Following this qualification will encourage learners to prepare dishes whilst making informed decisions about nutrition and food provenance. This allows students to understand the huge challenges we face globally, to supply the world with sustainable, nutritious and safe food.

The course provides an excellent foundation for anybody considering a future within the Hospitality and Catering Industry and within careers linked to Health, Fitness and Nutrition.

Why study Food, Preparation & Nutrition?

During Year 10, you will learn about commodities, their value in the diet and their working characteristics. Each term will focus on a different commodity (i.e. cereals; fruit and vegetables; sugars; dairy; meat; fish; meat substitutes). Lessons will be a mixture of practical and dedicated theory session and will be accompanied with home learning tasks. For each commodity the following key areas will be covered:

- Food Nutrition and Health
- The Science of Food
- Food spoilage
- Where food comes from
- Factors affecting food choice
- Preparation and cooking techniques

The topics taught in year 10 will be investigated and developed during year 11, through 2 NEA's (a food science investigation and a food preparation extended task).

How is the course assessed?

There are three elements in this GCSE. There will be a single tier of entry.

A written examination and two pieces of non-exam assessed work (both carried out in Year 11)

NEA 1 is a Food Science Investigation which accounts for 15% of the final mark allocation.

NEA 2 is a Food Preparation assessment which accounts for 35% of the final mark allocation.

A single written exam paper will make up the remaining 50% of the total GCSE mark.



Developing Skills

- Teamwork
- Creativity
- Leadership

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

GCSE Drama

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Drama Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

GCSE Drama is a subject that is both practical and creative, while also being academically challenging. You will study a range of plays, including a set text, to explore different aspects of theatre-making such as acting, design, and directing. You will develop your understanding of live theatre by watching and reviewing a professional performance. In lessons, you will also explore plays practically, using a script to build performance skills and create a polished scripted performance of extracts for a visiting examiner. Alongside this, you will learn how to devise your own work, using improvisation and drama techniques to create an original performance inspired by a chosen stimulus.

During the course you will:

- Learn to work as part of a group.
- Learn to use and understand a range of practical skills.
- Read and study plays from a performance perspective.
- Develop strong analytical and evaluative skills' as the fourth bullet point.
- Study how live theatre works effectively.
- Learn to write about the performances you see during the course.

Why study GCSE Drama?

- GCSE Drama is a creative, practical subject where you learn by doing.
- Drama teaches powerful transferable skills like communication, creativity, problem-solving, and empathy; skills which are valued in every career.
- You will develop your opinions about the theatre you are presented with and learn how to analyse the impact of it on an audience both verbally and in written form.

GCSE Drama is not simply about training actors. Skills learned in GCSE drama will help you in any area of work where you have to work with people.

If you enjoy expressing yourself, working with others, and challenging yourself both practically and academically, Drama is for you.

How is the course assessed?

There are three elements in this GCSE.

Practical & Written Coursework and two Examinations

30% practical devising and scripted performance exams: You will take part in **two practical performance exams** during the course. One from an existing play script and one devised from stimulus material.

40% written examination:
A 90 minute written exam in two sections. Section A will ask questions on a play studied during the course and Section B questions on a play seen live.

30% written coursework

During the devising unit of work you will produce a portfolio of evidence notes explaining how and why you developed ideas in a certain way. Leading up to the scripted performance exam you will produce a written concept for your interpretation of your character/ design and scenes chosen for the examiner to use as part of their assessment of your performance.



Developing Skills

- Speaking
- Listening
- Problem solving
- Staying positive
- Aiming high – developing strategies

GCSE French

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE MFL Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

French is the language of our closest neighbours on the continent of Europe. It is also spoken by large numbers of people in Belgium, Switzerland, West Africa, the Caribbean and the Far East. And don't forget that French culture has given us champagne, brie, baguettes, Renault, Citroën, Peugeot, tennis, Alpine ski resorts, Orangina, beautiful beaches, Matisse, Debussy...

Subject Content

Students study three broad themes of:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the World around us.

Why study GCSE French?

The ability to speak and understand a foreign language is becoming more and more valuable for people who want to hold down key jobs in industry and business. It also makes holidays and trips abroad more enjoyable. Learning a foreign language also helps people to have a better understanding of their own language.

How is the course assessed?

There are four elements in this GCSE.

Four Examinations – Foundation/Higher Tier

Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper 1: Listening - 25%

Answering questions about information you hear on the track, including a dictation section

Paper 2: Speaking - 25%

Includes reading aloud, a role play and a conversation around a photo.

Paper 3: Reading - 25%

Answering questions based on written French information, including translations into English.

Paper 4: Writing - 25%

Includes translating into French and an open-ended writing task.



Developing Skills

- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Aiming high
- Leadership
- Teamwork

What do you study?

The course looks at both physical and human geography and covers 6 topics:

- The challenges of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes of the UK
- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

GCSE Geography

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Geography Vimeo](#)

Why study GCSE Geography?

Study Geography if you are:

- Interested in places
- An appreciation of the environment and awareness of the ways in which people and places interact
- Interested in current affairs
- Wants the opportunity to carry out practical work outdoors as well as class work
- Enjoys travel

How is the course assessed?

There are three elements in this GCSE.

Three Written Examinations

Living with the physical environment – 35% (88 marks)

1 hour and 30 minutes written exam

- The challenges of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes of the UK.

Challenges in the human environment – 35% (88 marks)

1 hour and 30 minutes written exam

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management.

Geographical Application – 30% (76 marks)

1 hour and 30 minutes written exam

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork
- Geographical skills
- Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before Paper 3 exam.



Developing Skills

- Understanding emotions
- Speaking clearly
- Listening
- Creating plans

Cambridge Nationals Health & Social Care

[Click here to watch the Welcome to Health & Social Care Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

You will study a Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care. You will learn how to use effective communication skills, plan a health campaign to tackle issues such as obesity and learn the values of care that health and social care workers need to uphold. The exam is worth 40% of the course and there are two coursework modules which are worth 30% each. The care values unit explores how to protect individuals in various care settings and learn about the impact of life events.

Why study Health & Social Care?

Health, Social and Child Care are key industries in our society. This course is designed to provide an excellent understanding of the issues and ideas within the field, as well as giving you a taste of what it would be like working in these areas. You will develop a range of skills which will help you to become an independent worker, valued by employers and higher education.

The Cambridge National is a vocational course, providing a direct route into studying the Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Health & Social Care (offered at Chew Valley School for post-16 students), Level 3 apprenticeships or employment, as well as being accepted as a qualification to pursue A levels.

How is the course assessed?

Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate - there are two elements.

Coursework and Examination

Assessed through Years 10 and 11
60% Coursework Portfolio (two units)

Assessed at the end of Year 11
40% Examination (one unit)



Developing Skills

- Contributing to the group
- Developing ideas
- Listening critically
- Creating plans

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

GCSE History

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE History Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

History GCSE allows you to investigate the most important advances in medicine from the time of the Black Death, through early plastic surgery, right up to advances in cancer and genetic treatments. We find out about influential individuals in our medical past, across the last 2000 years, in the First World War and how their innovations and world events impact our health.

Study the fascinating world of Tudor England - learn how Elizabeth I navigated a world of death threats, spies and possible religious invasions. At the same time dealing with poverty at home, in an age famous for Shakespeare, world travel and the beginnings of football as we know it.

The depth study will answer all your questions about growing up in Germany while Hitler was in power. What was it about the German economy, the social situation in the 1930s and the political situation that allowed Hitler to take power?

Why study GCSE History?

History at GCSE is an exciting and stimulating course, for those with an interest in people, their beliefs and actions and their impact on the world. Then and now.

- We examine historical sources and evaluate their importance and reliability to reach well informed opinions.
- You will develop your critical analysis skills, we study the reasons for change in the past, the significance of these changes for everyday life and who these changes have the most impact on.
- You will learn to use your historical knowledge to make overall judgements on events and people in the past or argue how convincing you find historical interpretations.

How is the course assessed?

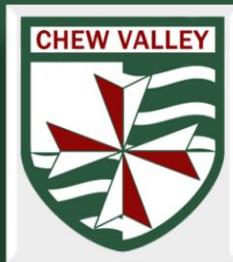
There are three exam papers which account for 100% of the total mark

Three Examinations

The skills developed in History support development across many other GCSE subjects and are valued by educators and employers beyond A-Level study. The History Course is designed to introduce you to the exciting nature of historical inquiry and these skills are further developed in the Advanced Level History course in Years 12/13.

The work covers 5 programmes of study, examined in three papers:

- **Thematic Study and Historic Environment:** Medicine in Britain, c.1250-present, and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches
- **Period Study and British Depth Study:** The American West c1835-c1895 and Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588
- **Modern Depth Study:** Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39.



Developing Skills

- Creativity
- Aiming high
- Problem solving

The grades awarded are in the format of Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass

Cambridge Nationals in iMedia

[Click here to watch the Welcome to iMedia Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

Visual identity and digital graphics

Identity is a vital component of any business, product or brand. A visual identity communicates values and core principles to the consumer, user or customer. It makes a brand recognisable and helps sell a product or idea to a target audience. Logos, shapes, typography, colour theory and composition are all used to generate visual identities which work across different platforms and media, and user interface and experience are key considerations in the design process. 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. Completing this unit will introduce the foundations for further study or a wide range of job roles within the media industry.

Interactive digital media

Interactive digital media products are found across the media industry, in games, websites and apps, learning and knowledge-based systems, simulations and in commerce. At the heart of digital media products is a fusion of media rich content including text, images, sounds, video and animation. This content is combined with UX and UI design to create an immersive and engaging environment which can promote, educate, entertain, inform or influence.

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. Completing this unit will provide you with the basic skills for further study or a range of creative and technical job roles within the media industry.

Creative iMedia in the media industry

The media industry is vast, covering both traditional and new media sectors and providing work for individual freelance creatives as well as large teams in design houses and multinational companies. Job roles frequently overlap multiple sectors, and products often need to be suitable for more than one kind of output. However, there are common aspects to all media products. Pre-production and planning are vital; saving clients time and money and enabling creatives and designers to charge appropriately for their services. Products also make use of similar media codes to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. In this unit you will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. You will learn the legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products. You will learn how media codes are used within the creation of media products to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. You will learn to choose the most appropriate format and properties for different media products. Completing this unit will provide you with the basic skills for further study or a range of creative job roles within the media industry.

Why study GCSE iMedia?

- Modern and relevant course teaching practical elements of ICT including creating engaging and interactive visual content.
- Large coursework contribution to the final grade – suits learners who enjoy coursework more than exams.
- Progress into ICT and other practical courses at Sixth Form.
- All resources are accessible from home at any time.

How is the course assessed?

3 Units. Pre-production skills is assessed by an exam board set examination to be taken in Year 11.

The other two units are assessed by teachers and then moderated by the exam board. Coursework makes up 60% of the final mark.



Developing Skills

- Creativity
- Problem solving
- Aiming high
- Leadership

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

GCSE Computer Science

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Computer Science Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

Principles of Computer Science including computational thinking.

Understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to follow, amend and write algorithms; ability to construct truth tables. Data – understanding of binary, data representation, data storage and compression. Understanding of hardware and software components of computer systems and characteristics of programming languages. Networks – understanding of computer networks and network security. Issues and impact – awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, and the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

Problem solving with programming.

The main focus of this paper is; understanding what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work in relation to creating programs, understanding how to decompose and analyse problems, ability to read, write, refine and evaluate programs.

Why study GCSE Computer Science?

- Engaging and contemporary.
- Focus on real world threats and cyber security – including phishing, malware and firewalls.
- You will develop skills in computational thinking.
- You will learn to program!
- Online programming exam.

You will need to have shown good skills in Computer Science in Years 8 and 9, as well as excellent progress (working at a grade 6 or higher) in Maths. Part of the course requires you to download the free programming software Python on your home computer and a willingness to commit to extra-curricular learning is necessary. Please be aware this is an academically challenging course and you should speak to Mr Attfield, Mrs Gardiner, or your class teacher, if you require further information.

How is the course assessed?

There are two elements in this GCSE.

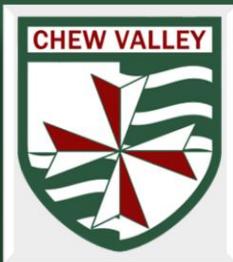
Written Examination and Online Examination

Written Exam – 50%

Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science.

Online Exam – 50%

Unit 2: Problem solving using programming 5.



Developing Skills

- Analytical Skills
- Recognising influence
- Understanding emotions
- Listening critically

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

GCSE Media Studies

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Media Studies Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

You will study 9 different media forms:

Music, Video, Video Game, Film, Magazine, Television, Radio, Advertising and Marketing, Newspapers and Online.

Media Studies is a practical subject. You will acquire the skills and knowledge to design websites, storyboard film scenes and create magazine pages using Adobe Photoshop software. There is a fascinating analytical element to the course that means you will be studying the media types in depth. You will also learn a lot of new terminology, much of which can be used in other subjects. The content of the course is very different to English but many of the analytical skills are similar, so students often find that their English grades improve as a result of choosing Media Studies.

Why study GCSE Media Studies?

Studying the media means studying how we live. The media saturates everything we do in the 21st Century; it is estimated that we are bombarded with an average of 5000 adverts per day; we spend more and more time interacting with social media; massive online companies are challenging and changing the way we access news and information. Doesn't it make sense to learn how all this works?

Media Studies is a rigorous and challenging subject that opens a route into a variety of jobs and careers including journalism, politics, advertising, marketing and any number of creative positions within media companies. The GCSE course allows you to develop your understanding of how the media industry works, making it a truly vocational course.

How is the course assessed?

There are three elements in this GCSE.

Assessment (30%) and Two Examinations (70%)

Exam 1: Television and Promoting Media.

Written Paper – 1 hour 45 minutes (including 30 minutes viewing time for a clip). Students will explore how media products construct meaning.

Exam 2: Music and News.

Written Paper – 1 hour 15 minutes. Students explore the four key concepts: media language, representation, audiences and media industries.

NEA (non-exam assessment or coursework): Creating Media.

Students create media products through applying the knowledge and understanding they have acquired on the other parts of the course.

Head of Media – Mr E Sanderson



Developing Skills

- Teamwork
- Creativity
- Staying positive
- Understanding emotions
- Analysing

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

GCSE Music

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Music Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

Performing for a start! You will get plenty of time to make music and you will be encouraged to get involved in concerts and performances such as the Autumn Extravaganza and the Battle of the Bands.

Composing two original pieces is also part of the coursework and you can decide the style yourself. Of course there is listening to music too and the genres covered include film music, songs and rock music, as well as different rhythms from around the world.

The course is based around the following areas of study:

- My Music
- The Concerto Through Time
- Rhythms of the World
- Film Music
- Conventions of Pop

Why study GCSE Music?

It will be good fun and will help build social skills and contribute to key skills including ICT. If you already play an instrument or sing well, this will give you a great head start on the course and grade 4 is the equivalent of a top grade! If you like using Garageband or Logic, or even DJing or Beatboxing, then the course is made for you. Those who enjoy making up their own songs will find that GCSE Music gives you the time and opportunity to develop your own individual style.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (60%) and Listening Examination (40%)

The coursework element of the course is worth 60% of the final mark and consists of two performances and two compositions.

The linear listening examination is worth 40%, making the course very easy to understand and complete.

Head of Music – Mr P Stinchcombe



Developing Skills

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Finding opportunities
- Analytical skills

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

GCSE Physical Education

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Physical Education Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

Practical Performance –

Develop your ability and aptitude in physical activities, demonstrating a range of skills and techniques.

Health, Fitness and Wellbeing –

Explore the benefits of participating in physical activity and sport to health, fitness and wellbeing.

Physical Training –

Understand different methods and principles of training in order to plan, monitor and evaluate exercise and training programmes.

Sport Psychology –

Investigate psychological factors that can affect performance.

Socio-Cultural Influences –

Evaluate factors that impact on physical activity and sport, and the impact of sport on society.

Anatomy and Physiology –

Understand key body systems and how they impact on health, fitness and performance in sport.

Why study GCSE Physical Education?

If you enjoy participating in physical activity and sport then this is the perfect course for you! It will give you an in-depth insight into a wide variety of topics through engaging activities. Practical lessons will help further enhance your ability and fitness as a performer, while theory lessons will develop your knowledge and understanding of the subject. A GCSE PE qualification will also provide a pathway into a career in a sporting industry.

Please note:

We will be advising students as to the appropriate PE course for them (GCSE or Cambridge National) at the Year 9 Parents' Evening.

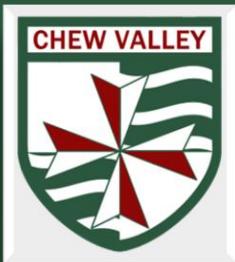
How is the course assessed?

Two Examinations (60%) and Practical (40%)

60% theory based on two external examinations. Both exams will include multiple choice questions, short answers and extended answers.

40% practical based on three activities (one individual, one team and one of either) as a performer and a written piece of coursework.

Head of Physical Education – Ms J Hibbert



Developing Skills

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Finding opportunities
- Analytical skills

What do you study?

The Sports Studies course looks at topics connected to the different types of sporting and physical activity. This includes how sports are organised and also the different roles available in them. There are two compulsory units on Contemporary Issues in Sport and Developing Sports Skills and two extra units based on Sports Leadership and Developing Skills in Outdoor Activities. Much of this course is taught in a practical way.

How is the course assessed?

There is one unit assessed by a 1 hour and 15 minute long examination on the topic of Contemporary Issues in Sport.

Examination and Coursework

All other units are assessed by ongoing controlled assessment that is internally marked by your teachers but moderated by an external examiner.



Cambridge Nationals in Sports Studies (Level 2)

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Physical Education Vimeo](#)

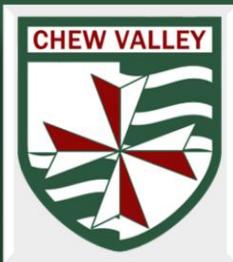
Why study Cambridge National in Sports Studies?

- For enjoyment! If you like playing sport and you are interested in all aspects of sports preparation and performance – then this will appeal to you.
- It develops your own understanding of how sports performance develops especially the key skills of various sports, and Outdoor and Adventurous activities
- It makes the most of your leadership skills, developing them further.
- You'll understand the structure of sport in the UK and the employment opportunities that are available.
- It provides a progressive route to further study.

This vocational course is excellent when thinking about a career in the leisure industry. You can access A level PE through this route.

Please note:

We will be advising students as to the appropriate PE course for them (GCSE or Cambridge National) at the Year 9 Parents' Evening.



Developing Skills

- Listening – listening critically
- Creativity – developing ideas
- Aiming high – setting goals
- Teamwork – contributing to a group

Graded 1-9
with 9 being the highest

GCSE Religious Studies

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE Religious Studies Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

The GCSE is divided into 2 parts:

- Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World.
- Beliefs and Practices of Buddhism and Christianity.

Why study GCSE Religious Studies?

- A qualification in Religious Studies enables you to gain an insight into the beliefs and values of different people.
- To broaden your understanding of the world.
- In the world of work employers look for someone with an enquiring mind, an appreciation of other people's viewpoints and an ability to come to clear, balanced decisions. These skills develop through studying religions.
- If you want to work with people in caring work, teaching, journalism, publishing, policing, with children, health, catering, leisure and tourism or work abroad or in a cosmopolitan setting, Religious Studies will give you plenty to think about and valuable skills.
- It is also a valuable entry qualification to post-16 education, AS and A2 levels and vocational courses.

How is the course assessed?

Three Examinations

The course is assessed by one 2 hour exam and two 1 hour exams.

In Philosophical & Ethical Studies in the Modern World you will study:
Issues of Relationships - Family, sexual relationships, marriage and divorce and issues of equality.

Issues of Life and Death - The world, the value of life, death and the afterlife, euthanasia and abortion.

Issues of Good and Evil - The nature of good and evil, suffering, crime and punishment, forgiveness.

Issues of Human Rights - Racism, wealth and poverty, social justice and Britain in the 21st Century.

In Beliefs and Practices you will study:

Christianity

The nature of God - Forms of Worship
Creation - Sacraments

Jesus - Pilgrimage

Salvation - The Church in the local community
The afterlife - The worldwide Church

Buddhism

The Buddha - Buddhist places of worship
The Dhamma - Meditation
The Four Noble Truths - Devotional practices
Human personality - Death and mourning
Human destiny and ethical teaching - Festivals and retreats.



Developing Skills

- Speaking
- Listening
- Problem solving
- Staying positive
- Aiming high – developing strategies

GCSE Spanish

[Click here to watch the Welcome to GCSE MFL Vimeo](#)

What do you study?

After Chinese and English, Spanish is the most widely spoken language in the world. By learning Spanish you are getting a passport to Spain, South and Central America and parts of the Caribbean. Spain is a major holiday destination and is the land of Real Madrid, bullfighting, tortillas, Picasso, Barcelona, sherry, flamenco music and the guitar.

Subject Content

Students study three broad themes of:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the World around us.

Why study GCSE Spanish?

The ability to speak and understand a foreign language is becoming more and more valuable for people who want to hold down key jobs in industry and business. It also makes holidays and trips abroad more enjoyable. Learning a foreign language also helps people to have a better understanding of their own language.

How is the course assessed?

There are four elements in this GCSE.

Four Examinations – Foundation/Higher Tier

Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper 1: Listening - 25%

Answering questions about information you hear on the track, including a dictation section.

Paper 2: Speaking - 25%

Includes reading aloud, a role play and a conversation around a photo.

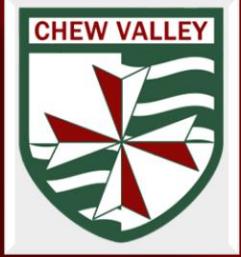
Paper 3: Reading - 25%

Answering questions based on written Spanish information, including translations into English.

Paper 4: Writing - 25%

Includes translating into Spanish and an open-ended writing task.

2026-2028 OPTIONS



Step One Option A – Choose one

Computer Science

French

History

Geography

Spanish

Step Two Option B – Choose one

Art

Business Studies

Computer Science

Drama

French

Geography

History

PE

Spanish

Step Three

Options C & D

Choose any two Options

Reserve Choice

We ask all students to make a reserve choice. This must be something they are willing to study. Students will need to choose one reserve choice from Option A or B and one reserve choice from Option C and D.

Double Option

Construction is a Double Option subject taken in both Options C and D.

PE

Two PE courses are available – a GCSE and a National Course. Students are asked to opt for PE and staff will then allocate students onto the correct course based on suitability

Prohibited combinations

You cannot take the same subject twice.

Please complete your
Options Form using the
following link
[Options Form](#)

2026-2028 Chew Valley School
Options

