

Meadowhead School
and Sixth Form



We make a difference

Key Stage 4 Courses Booklet 2026-2028

CORE SUBJECTS

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English Language

Exam board	AQA
What will I do on this course?	You will have 4 lessons of English a week (in Y10/Y11). You will be developing the skills you will need to help you in the exam. Some of the course will develop your reading skills, such as inference and deduction. You will also develop your writing skills exploring a range of different styles. In addition, there will be opportunities for you to develop your speaking and listening skills through group work, individual presentations and drama activities.
How am I assessed?	This GCSE will be assessed entirely by exams which you will take at the end of Y11. You will also be awarded a mark for 'speaking and listening' which will be recorded separately. There are two exam papers for English Language, each worth 50%: • Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing • Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
What skills do I need?	You will need to be able to: • <i>read fluently</i>, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism • <i>evaluate</i> texts critically and make <i>comparisons</i> between texts • <i>summarise</i> information or ideas from texts • <i>use knowledge</i> gained from wide reading to inform and improve your own writing • <i>write effectively</i> and coherently using Standard English appropriately • <i>use grammar</i> correctly and punctuate and spell accurately • <i>acquire and apply a wide vocabulary</i>, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language • <i>listen to and understand</i> spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.
What are the progression routes?	If you are successful on this course, you can then study either A Level English Language or English Literature at Sixth Form. A good GCSE grade in English is also essential for a majority of post 16 courses.

English Literature

Exam board	AQA
What will I do on this course?	You will have 4 lessons a week (in Y10/Y11). You will study a range of literature from different cultures and contexts in class, including both heritage and contemporary works. You will have opportunities to respond to texts through media, drama, discussion and written work. You will develop different skills such as empathy and analysis.
How am I assessed?	This GCSE will be assessed entirely by exams which you will take at the end of Y11. Again, there are two exams, each worth 50%: • Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel • Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry
What skills do I need?	• <i>Comprehension</i>: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; • <i>Critical reading</i>: identifying themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; exploring different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform your ideas; • <i>Evaluation of writers' choices</i>: analysing and evaluating how language, structure, form and presentation contribute to quality and impact; using linguistic and literary terminology • <i>Comparing and contrasting</i> texts studied, referring where relevant to themes, characters, context etc. • <i>Writing effectively</i> about literature for a range of purposes such as: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate; discussing and maintaining a point of view; selecting and emphasising key points; using relevant quotation and using detailed textual references • <i>Accurate Standard English</i>: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.
What are the progression routes?	If you are successful on this course, you can then study either A Level English Language or English Literature at Sixth Form. A good GCSE grade in English is also essential for a majority of post 16 courses.

Mathematics

Exam board	EDEXCEL 1MA1 (Higher), OCR J560 (Foundation)
What will I do on this course?	The importance of Mathematics cannot be underestimated. From calculating the correct change needed when shopping, or deciding how long until the next bus, to being able to pursue a degree or higher qualification in a number of subjects, you will need to be able to work confidently with numbers. All college courses now require a good grade in GCSE mathematics or for students to sit/resit a maths qualification alongside their main subjects. We aim to give you the best possible chance to succeed by making the subject accessible and relevant for you as an individual, whatever your mathematical ability. You will all study towards one good Mathematics GCSE. Our top attaining students may also study A Level bridging content so that they are ready to step up to join our successful sixth form provision. You will have 4 lessons a week of Mathematics in Year 10 & 11.
How am I assessed?	3 exam papers at the end of the course. Each paper is 90 minutes. 2 calculator allowed papers, 1 non-calculator.
What skills do I need?	• Good knowledge of number bonds and multiplication tables • At times the ability to follow instructions carefully • To be able to 'think' for yourself, and to think logically • The ability to be organised and take responsibility for your learning. • Good knowledge of the algebra content taught in Year 9 is highly beneficial going into Year 10.
What are the progression routes?	To progress on to A-level Mathematics you must have studied Higher tier GCSE and have a minimum grade of a 6. To study A-level Further Mathematics you will need a minimum grade of a 7. A-level Mathematics opens many doors at post 18 and is a required A-level for many careers in industry.

Science

All students will follow either GCSE Combined Science or they can choose GCSE Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). The separate sciences, referred to as Triple Science, is aimed at students working at GCSE 9-5. For more information on Triple Science see page 19.

GCSE Combined Science AQA

Exam board	AQA		
What will I do on this course?	In the AQA Combined Science course, students explore essential topics in biology, chemistry, and physics. They cover areas such as cell biology, the periodic table, energy resources, forces, and ecosystems. Throughout the course, students conduct practical experiments, which help them develop skills in observation, analysis, and evaluation. The curriculum emphasizes understanding scientific methods, interpreting data, and applying knowledge to solve problems. Students will sit for exams that assess their grasp of concepts, ability to apply them in new situations, and skill in handling scientific information, preparing them for further study or various career paths in science and technology.		
How am I assessed?	All exams are at the end of year 11. Students gain two GCSE grades.		
	Summary	Length	Percentage of final mark
	Biology paper 1(topics 1-4)	1h 15 mins	16.7%
	Biology paper 2 (topics 5-7)	1h 15 mins	16.7%
	Chemistry paper 1 (topics 1-5)	1h 15 mins	16.7%
	Chemistry paper 2 (topics 6-10)	1h 15 mins	16.7%
	Physics paper 1 (topics 1-4)	1h 15 mins	16.7%
	Physics paper 2 (topics 5-7)	1h 15 mins	16.7%
What skills do I need?	To succeed in AQA Combined Science, students need strong analytical and problem-solving skills, attention to detail, and an ability to interpret data. Practical skills for conducting experiments safely and accurately are essential, as well as critical thinking to apply scientific concepts to new situations and exam questions. After completing AQA Combined Science, students can pursue various careers, such as laboratory technician, healthcare assistant and environmental technician. The course also provides a foundation for further study in fields like healthcare, engineering, environmental science, and technology, leading to careers in nursing, pharmacology, forensics		
What are the progression routes?	Progression to A- level courses in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. You will need to achieve at least two grade 6 Science GCSEs to take any of these A level courses. Progression to BTEC Level 3 course in Applied Science. You will need to achieve at least a grade 5 to take this course.		

Ethics

What is this course?	This course has been specifically designed to meet the statutory requirements for RSE, PSHE, Careers and Religious Education, as well as providing a rounded education, with topics not covered by other aspects of the school curriculum. The course introduces students to some of the skills and ideas present in Sociology and Psychology, at A Level, thus preparing them for Post-16 education.
What will I do on this course?	Year 10: Gangs and knife crime, drugs education, Financial education (Consumer rights, tax and benefits and mortgages and renting), Relationships and Sex (Abortion, adoption and fostering, STDs, healthy relationships, coercion and domestic violence) and careers (CV writing, interview techniques and mock interview preparation) Year 11: Animal Rights (The use of animals, animal testing, hunting, the role of zoos, religious views on animal rights), Medical Ethics (Ethical decision making, IVF, genetic engineering, blood transfusions and euthanasia), Sex and Relationship Education and A-Level Subjects (Introduction to Psychology and Sociology – with a focus on crime)
What skills do I need?	• To participate actively in each lesson. • An ability to argue for and against points of view. • To give your own opinions, with reasons. • To be prepared to be up to date with the news and the live issues in today's society.
What are the progression routes?	Ethics as a non-examined subject provides students with a forum to construct opinions, learn how to express them in the correct way and how to manage their emotions and wellbeing. It supports students to develop into well rounded, valuable members of society who understand their rights. With the wide range of topics covered, Ethics provides a good amount of knowledge to support all progression routes, but particularly further study in Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, History and Politics.

Health, Fitness & Well-Being

What will I do on this course?	All students that do not choose a KS4 Sport course will take part in one hour in Y10/Y11. Students will choose an activity to participate in for a 4 week block. There will be a number of activities to choose from, and the emphasis is on participation and enjoyment within PE. After each 4-week block, students will choose a new activity to take part in to ensure change and a balanced curriculum. You must wear Meadowhead PE kit at all times for practical lessons.
What skills do I need?	• To participate in all lessons • To be well motivated • To be organised with the correct kit to every lesson • To remove all jewellery for lessons and tie up long hair • To work in a co-operative manner with other students

EBACC

SUBJECTS

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History

Exam board	EDEXCEL GCSE History (9-1)			
What will I do on this course?	This course allows you to develop an understanding of some key events of British and World History from across a broad period. You will gain an historical perspective on some of the main issues facing Britain and the World, allowing you to develop a better understanding of the nation and world you live in today. • Medicine in Britain, c1250-present, and the British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.* - You will look at how beliefs about the cause and treatment of disease, surgery, and public health have developed over time since the medieval period. For the historic environment, you will study the injuries suffered and medical treatment used on the Western Front in World War I. • Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88. – This depth study will focus on the reign of Elizabeth I. You will consider the challenges she faced as a woman on the throne, and the many challenges she faced at home and abroad due to religious division, including Catholic plots and the Spanish Armada. You will also look at what Elizabethan society was like, in particular the influence of exploration, education and entertainment. • Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91. – This period study looks at the origins and developments of the Cold War. You will look at what caused tension between the USA and USSR and how this tension increased over time, with focus given to key events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Berlin Crisis. The unit ends with understanding the reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union. • Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39. – This unit will focus on the development of Germany after WWI. You will look at the establishment, development and failures of the Weimar Republic and how this created the context for the rise of Hitler. You will look at the reasons for rise of the Nazi Party, Hitler’s creation of a dictatorship, and what life was like in Nazi Germany. *There will also be a History Trip organised in Y10 to visit the Battlefields in Belgium and France to develop your understanding of medicine on the Western Front in WWI.			
How am I assessed?	Component		%	Content
	Paper 1:Thematic study and historic environment		30%	1. Medicine in Britain, c1250-present, and the British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18.
	Paper 2:Period study and British depth study		40%	2. Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88. 3. Superpower relations and the Cold War.
	Paper 3:Modern depth study		30%	4. Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 – 39.
What skills do I need?	* To be able to investigate historical events, changes, people and issues. * To be able to use historical sources critically and draw conclusions. * To be able to compare and analyse different historians’ interpretations. * To be able to read regularly to reinforce learning. * To be able to produce extended pieces of writing.			
What are the progression routes?	History is a very highly regarded subject amongst employers. Many of the skills developed are transferable and there are a wide variety of jobs to which History can make a contribution. You can continue to study history at A Level through Post 16 at Meadowhead as well as A Level Politics. Many students also continue to study History at University. It is an extremely popular, interesting and relevant subject – we are looking for students with a genuine passion for the subject.			

Geography

Exam board	AQA Specification A		
What will I do on this course?	You will study a combination of physical and human topics that are designed to give you a wide range of knowledge and understanding. These topics have a strong emphasis on how we can live sustainably on our planet. As well as teaching content there is an emphasis on developing skills and vocabulary in order for students to confidently tackle the end of course assessment. • Living with the physical environment (physical geography) –Natural Hazards, UK physical landscapes, Coasts and Rivers landscapes and the Living World (Tropical Rainforests and cold environments). • Challenges in the human environment (human geography) –Urban Issues and Challenges, The Changing Economic World, and Resource Management (Food, Water, Energy). • Geographical Applications Exam – Part 1: this section contributes a critical thinking and problem-solving element to the assessment structure based on a resource booklet given to students prior to the exam. Part 2: you will complete a fieldwork investigation on both human and physical geography. The methods, skills and your geographical understanding will be assessed during an exam.		
How am I assessed?	Summary		%
	Paper 1 - Living with the physical environment exam		35%
	Paper 2 - Challenges in the human environment exam		35%
	Paper 3 - Geographical Applications exam		30%
What skills do I need?	• Take an interest in topical subjects and be aware of geographical issues arising at a local, national and global level. • Be willing to work independently with a degree of initiative and offer an opinion on geographical issues. • Be willing to attend trips and make the most of enrichment opportunities offered. • Be willing to develop a range of geographical skills including cartographic and numerical skills alongside extended writing.		
What are the progression routes?	Geography equips with a range of desirable and transferrable skills that are highly sought after by employers. Recent data shows that Geography students have the highest levels of graduate employment (Higher Education Careers Service Unit). Geography is valued highly by the 'Russell Group' of universities and is one of the facilitating subjects. This course fully prepares students for the study of Geography at A Level, which is a successful and popular option available at Meadowhead School. You will also have an opportunity to attend a fieldtrip in Y10 or Y11 to prepare for the fieldwork element of Paper 3. In the past, we have also run residential visits to Sorrento, Italy and Snowdonia, North Wales.		

French, German, Spanish

Exam board	EDEXCEL GCSE French, German, Spanish			
What will I do on this course?	This is a brand new course, which is designed to help students of all abilities to develop their language skills and to achieve their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. You will build on the skills and knowledge which you have acquired in Y7, Y8 and Y9. This course also aims to expand students' cultural knowledge whilst developing their language skills, so students can expect to work on more authentic texts, such as songs, videos and news articles. You will study a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to students' current and future needs: My personal world; lifestyle and wellbeing; my neighbourhood; media and technology; studying and my future; travel and tourism.			
How am I assessed?	There are 2 levels of entry: higher grades 9-4 and foundation grades 5 – 1. The exact weighting for the exams will be the following:			
	Exam	Quantity	Timing	Percentage
	Reading Exam	1	End of Y11	25%
	Listening Exam	1	End of Y11	25%
	Writing Exam	1	End of Y11	25%
	Speaking Exam	1	End of Y11	25%
What skills do I need?	Languages students must be prepared to learn vocabulary and grammar thoroughly on a regular basis, both in school and at home. It's also expected that students will participate actively in speaking activities, so it's important that you are resilient and not afraid to make mistakes. An interest in the culture of your chosen language is also recommended.			
What are the progression routes?	In order to continue studying a foreign language at A-Level, our students would need to achieve at least a grade 6 at GCSE. Any student who achieves a language GCSE will stand out to college and universities' admissions tutors and future employers, as it's a very well respected academic qualification. Obviously having a second language is extremely valuable in the world of work, because you can travel and work abroad or communicate with customers and partners in different countries. However, learning a language also helps you to develop a wide array of transferable skills, such as problem-solving, better listening skills and improved memory. For some jobs you may need to be an expert linguist, such as translating, interpreting and teaching languages. However, there are also lots of careers where having a GCSE language qualification would be a real asset. For instance, the ability to speak another language at any level is highly sought after in marketing, law, business, the travel and tourism industry, logistics, medicine and many more.			

Computer Science GCSE

Exam board	OCR
What will I do on this course?	Do you want to work on future versions of GTA/COD or perhaps develop software such as Microsoft Office? If so then this may well be the course for you. The computer games industry in Sheffield is constantly growing as are jobs in manufacturing which require programming skills to operate state of the art robotics. Computer Science is a modern, fascinating subject. The world depends on computers. In this GCSE you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenges. Computer Science is a great subject but combined with other subjects it can open up a whole world of opportunities. As part of the course you will learn to program. Programming is a very important skill to learn. It helps you to: Break down problems effectively Solve complex problems Think logically Learn through exploration. Currently computer programmers are in high demand with a lack of skilled people to fill these positions. A skilled programmer is a good career for the future.
How am I assessed?	Two exams 1 hr 30 minutes each 80 marks each Component 1 – Computer Systems Component 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
What skills do I need?	Interest in programming and games design Be working at Maths level 6 or above Sound basic knowledge of ICT skills and techniques Ability to maintain interest in a task over an extended period of time Desire to succeed in an interesting, but demanding course
What are the progression routes?	Post-16 opportunities – This course will prepare students well if they wish to take an AS / A2 level course such as Computer Science or ICT. A GCSE in computing would also prepare students effectively in the use of ICT skills needed in careers such as games design, web design, financial services, healthcare, construction, transport, logistics, security & tracking, engineering & manufacturing, defence, simulation, retail & marketing, education and journalism.

Triple Science

Exam board	AQA		
What will I do on this course?	AQA Triple Science suits students who have a strong interest in science, are motivated to explore complex concepts in-depth, and aim for science-focused careers or advanced study. This rigorous course covers separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry, and physics, providing a detailed understanding of each discipline. Topics include cell biology, chemical reactions, energy resources, organic chemistry, and astrophysics. Students will enhance their practical skills through experiments and develop analytical and problem-solving abilities. The Triple Science course offers a thorough scientific foundation, preparing students well for A-level sciences and careers in medicine, engineering, research, and other technical fields.		
How am I assessed?	Summary	Length	Percentage of final mark
	Biology paper 1(topics 1-4)	1h 45 min	50%
	Biology paper 2 (topics 5-7)	1h 45 min	50%
	Chemistry paper 1 (topics 1-5)	1h 45 min	50%
	Chemistry paper 2 (topics 6-10)	1h 45 min	50%
	Physics paper 1 (topics 1-4)	1h 45 min	50%
	Physics paper 2 (topics 5-8)	1h 45 min	50%
What skills do I need?	To complete AQA Triple Science, students need strong analytical skills, critical thinking, and the ability to grasp complex concepts in biology, chemistry, and physics. They should have solid mathematical skills for data analysis, be detail-oriented for conducting experiments, and possess problem-solving abilities to apply scientific principles. Completing Triple Science can lead to careers in medicine, veterinary science, engineering, pharmacology, environmental science, forensics, biotechnology, and research. It also provides an excellent foundation for further studies in science at A-level and university, opening pathways to high-level scientific and technical professions.		
What are the progression routes?	Progression to A level courses in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. You will need to achieve at least two grade 6 Science GCSEs (one of which must be in the subject you wish to study) to take any of these A Level courses. You must achieve at least a 6 in Maths if you wish to do A-level Physics. The triple science route offers an excellent grounding in all areas of science and prepares students very well for A level study at Meadowhead and beyond.		

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Religious Studies

Exam board	AQA GCSE Full Course Religious Studies Syllabus A (8062)
What will I do on this course?	You will examine the key beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam. You will explore their beliefs about God and life after death, and the lives of key religious figures including Jesus, Muhammad (PBUH) and Ibrahim. You will investigate how Christians and Muslims show their religious beliefs through worship, festivals, rites of passage and pilgrimage. You will also examine religious (Christian and Islamic) and non-religious perspectives on a range of ethical issues. The topics studied are: • Crime and the causes of crime (such as why people commit crime, punishments and religious responses to forgiveness). • Peace and conflict (such as questions about when it is acceptable to go to war, how can we help those who are victims of war). • Life (such as different beliefs about the creation of the world, and attitudes to looking after the environment, abortion). • Relationships and families (such as should equal marriage be allowed, what is the purpose of families).
How am I assessed?	You will take two exam papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each. The first will examine the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam. The second will examine a range of religious and non-religious perspectives on ethical issues. There is no coursework element to this course.
What skills do I need?	• To participate actively in each lesson. • An ability to argue for and against points of view. • To write extensively about an issue, giving information and developing arguments and examples. • To give your own opinions and support them with reasons. • To be prepared to be up to date with the news and the live issues in today's society. • To be interested in how other people experience life and how it can be different from your own.
What are the progression routes?	This is a highly respected qualification, which develops students' critical thinking and demonstrates their abilities to think for themselves, and articulate a point of view clearly with use of evidence and example. For this reason, it prepares students very well for a wide range of careers and courses, in particular A Level Philosophy, Sociology and Psychology, and English Literature, which are offered at Meadowhead.

Art, Craft and Design

Exam board	AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design 8201			
What will I do on this course?	This is a general art course that will use a wide variety of skills and materials. As well as drawing and painting, you may work with sculpture, printmaking, photography and lots more- it is a good course if you want to try lots of types of art. You will research artists' and makers' work, develop ideas and experiments with making your own art in different ways. Drawing is important so you need to be prepared to improve and practise. You will work in sketch books and on presentation sheets. Homework will develop from what you do in class, and it's an essential part of the course.			
How am I assessed?	Single tier: All grades from 9-1 are available. The work is all marked at the end of the course but we give you grades and assessment as you go along. You have to do 2 units.			
		% of final mark	Component	
	Component 1	60%	A portfolio of selected art work. This is done in class and at home.	It consists of at least 2 full projects.
	Component 2	40%	An externally set task done in Year 11, Term 2.	You choose one starting point. You plan and prepare the Project. You then have 10 hours to carry it out.
What skills do I need?	Be passionate about making art; enjoy exploring and researching art forms and working independently. Be able to discuss your art work and use advice. Care about presenting your art work really well. Be ready to work at improving skills and learning new ones. You will need basic equipment at home to carry on with your work. Good organisational skills to produce neat and effective sketchbook work.			
What are the progression routes?	All the art courses will allow you to move on to Creative learning pathways in further education. If you get a grade 5 or higher on this course, you can go on to study the GCE A Level Art, Craft and Design course at Meadowhead. This course continues the range of experiences and style of assessment as the GCSE course but in much greater depth.			

Art & Design - Textiles Design

Exam board	AQA GCSE Art and Design – Textiles Design 8204		
What will I do on this course?	You will explore and experiment with a wide range of media and processes which may include: constructed textiles (weaving/knitting/felting), dyeing and printing processes, fabric embellishment and fashion design. You will learn to investigate a theme thoroughly using sketchbook practice and analyse the work of relevant artists to inform creative decisions. You will develop a range of ideas based upon a set theme, experiment with appropriate techniques and evaluate the creative process throughout. In Year 10 and Year 11 you will produce 2 projects to complete your portfolio of work. There is an 'exam' part to this course, this is in Year 11 and you will choose 1 topic from 7 starting points set by the Examination Board.		
How am I assessed?	All grades from 9-1 are available. Your portfolio is marked at the end of the course but we will give you grades and assessments as you go along. You have to do 2 units.		
		% of final mark	Component
	Component 1	60%	A portfolio of selected art work. This is done in class and at home.
	Component 2	40%	An externally set task done in Year 11, Term 2.
What skills do I need?	To be able to work independently to a high standard. To enjoy developing your own creative and imaginative ideas and experimenting with different materials and techniques. Good organisational skills to produce neat and effective sketchbook work		
What are the progression routes?	We offer a GCE A Level in Textile Design. It is an excellent creative continuation from this course.		

Art & Design – Photography

Exam board	AQA GCSE Art and Design – Photography 8206			
What will I do on this course?	On this course you will develop your skills in producing digital photography through developing your own work in response to a variety of themes and briefs. You will build skills in using cameras, in digital editing and most importantly, how to use your photography to explore and express your creative ideas. Researching the work of photographers, learning from them and using them as inspiration for your own work will form a vital part of the course and you will be expected to organise, present and explain your research and your own developments. This course will suit you if you have a proven interest in photography and are committed and determined to improve. You will need to be prepared to continue to develop your work outside the lesson, conducting independent photo shoots and organising images to use in school.			
How am I assessed?	All grades from 9-1 are available. The work is all marked at the end of the course but we give you grades and assessment as you go along. You have to do 2 units.			
		% of final mark	Component	
	Component 1	60%	A portfolio of selected art work. This is done in class and at home.	It consists of at least 2 full projects that are responses to a variety of briefs.
	Component 2	40%	An externally set task done in Year 11, Term 2.	You choose one starting point and plan and prepare the project. You then have 10 hours to carry out a final outcome.
What skills do I need?	Be passionate about the creative arts and in particular researching, taking and making digital photography; enjoy exploring and researching art forms and working independently. Be able to discuss your photography work and use advice. Care about presenting your work really well. Be ready to work at improving skills and learning new ones. Be happy to analyse and write about your work and the work of Photographers. You will need basic equipment at home to carry on with your work. Good organisational skills to produce neat and effective sketchbook work.			
What are the progression routes?	All the art courses will allow you to move on to Creative learning pathways in further education. If you get a grade 5 or higher on this course, you can go on to study the GCE A Level Photography course at Meadowhead. This course continues the range of experiences and style of assessment as the GCSE course but in much greater depth.			

GCSE Music

Exam board	Eduqas
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What will I do on this course?	On this GCSE Music course, you will undertake a variety of activities to develop your performance, composition and appraising skills. 1. Musical Forms and Devices 3. Music for Ensemble 2. Film Music 4. Popular Music The areas of study provide a focus for you to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language. You must be able to listen attentively to unfamiliar music from all four areas of study to identify and accurately describe musical elements and use musical language (including staff notation). This course has been structured to allow you to develop skills in: • Performance • Composition Listening tasks, based around the 4 Areas of Study		
How am I assessed?	There is one level of entry. The course will be assessed in the following areas: • Performance (weighting: 30%) • Listening (and contextual understanding) exam (weighting: 40%) Composition (weighting: 30%)		
	Component	Timing	Percentage of final mark
	1. Listening exam	May, Year 11	40%
	2. Performance	Continuous in Year 10/11	30%
	3. Composition	Continuous in Year 10/11	30%
What skills do I need?	To already play an instrument, or sing, to a grade 2 (ABRSM, Trinity, LCM, Rock School) standard or higher at the start of the course. You should be aiming to perform at a Grade 3 standard or higher by the end of the course. To be able to read and understand treble clef and bass clef staff notation. To enjoy listening to a variety of music and be willing to demonstrate determination, resilience and commitment throughout all areas of the course.		
What are the progression routes?	This is a desirable qualification for any career in music but is also an enjoyable course for all. This course can lead to a variety of opportunities for in further education; A-Level, BTEC level 3, Diploma, Degree as well as for a diverse range of careers such as solo or ensemble performance, links within the media, composition score writing etc. This course will greatly enhance and develop your skills as a young musician.		

Eduqas Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Music)

Please note: If you opt for this course, you will be unable to take GCSE Drama

Exam board	Eduqas
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What will I do on this course?	You will learn about the various music products, develop valuable skills and techniques in music creation, performance and production, and explore potential careers in the industry. You will study 3 units: <u>Unit 1: Performing</u> You will learn the skills and techniques needed to produce a successful performance of an existing piece of music. <u>Unit 2: Creating</u> You will learn how to create and refine your own original work. You will create a composition using music technology. <u>Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice</u> You will learn about areas of the performing arts industry that need to be considered when responding to a commission and will consider these when coming up with and pitching your own idea.																	
How am I assessed?	<table><tr><td colspan="3">Each unit will gain you points that culminate in a final grade; L1 Pass, Merit, or Distinction, L2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction *.</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Title and weighting</td><td>Assessment method</td></tr><tr><td>Performing</td><td>30%</td><td>Internal</td></tr><tr><td>Creating</td><td>30%</td><td>Internal</td></tr><tr><td>Performing Arts in Practice</td><td>40%</td><td>External</td></tr></table>			Each unit will gain you points that culminate in a final grade; L1 Pass, Merit, or Distinction, L2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction *.			Title and weighting		Assessment method	Performing	30%	Internal	Creating	30%	Internal	Performing Arts in Practice	40%	External
Each unit will gain you points that culminate in a final grade; L1 Pass, Merit, or Distinction, L2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction *.																		
Title and weighting		Assessment method																
Performing	30%	Internal																
Creating	30%	Internal																
Performing Arts in Practice	40%	External																
What skills do I need?	• An excellent level of musical knowledge with the ability to perform by voice or on an instrument. • The confidence to perform on your own, in groups and in front of other pupils, showing good communication skills. • Good basic composition skills. • To be able to participate in a mixture of practical/written activity during lessons each week.																	
What are the progression routes?	This is a desirable qualification for any career in music but is also an enjoyable course for all. This course can lead to a BTEC Diploma in Performing Arts/Music, ‘A’ Level and Degree.																	

GCSE Drama

Please note: if you opt for this course, you will be unable to take Eduqas L1/L2 Tech Award Performing Arts in Music. If you wish to study Music alongside Drama, you should opt for GCSE Music.

Exam board	OCR
What will I do on this course?	Develop skills in performing, devising and evaluating live theatre. Explore the processes and approaches that underpin effective ways of creating and presenting theatre.

	Gain knowledge that underpins theatre historical, social, political and cultural contexts. Reflect on the professional theatre work of others.		
How am I assessed?	All grades from 1-9 available. The course will be assessed on the following areas: • A devised drama performance in response to a stimulus. You will collate a portfolio of evidence which details your devising process and reflections on this. • Performance of two scripted extracts from one play to a visiting examiner • Response and knowledge of professional works in context (written exam) All assessments will take place in Y11 of the course.		
	Number	Assessment method	Unit & GLH
	01 /02	Moderation	30%
	03	Visiting examiner	30%
	04	Written Exam	40%
What skills do I need?	A high level of commitment and willingness to participate in practical performance work. The confidence to perform to different audiences. The ability to work in group situations in a cooperative and creative manner. The ability to generate creative performance ideas and enjoy exploring and developing them. The ability to evaluate and reflect on your own work and the work of others constructively. The ability to write confidently about theatre. Lots of energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the subject, as you will be completing extensive study and varying styles of written evidence, in conjunction with the practical work.		
What are the progression routes?	This course can lead to all routes at A-Level and BTEC Level 3 Drama and Performing Arts and beyond. The course is rich in transferable skills which are seen as desirable in most further education and employment settings.		

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance)

BTEC Level Tech Award in Sport

Exam board	EDEXCEL
What will I do on this course?	You will cover the following potential modules:

	1) Component 1- Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity 2) Component 2- Taking part and improving other participant's sporting performance 3) Component 3- Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity		
How am I assessed?			
		Timing	
	Written and practical	Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity	30%
	Written and practical	Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance	30%
	Written	Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity	40%
What skills do I need?	To be well motivated to produce written coursework on a regular basis. Homework and assignments will be set every week. Good ICT skills. To be organised and meet regular deadlines. Be prepared to be a role model for younger students with behaviour, attitude and kit. A strong interest in sport that could lead to further study. You must wear Meadowhead PE kit at all times. This BTEC qualification gains the equivalent points of 1 GCSE 1-9 grades.		
What are the progression routes?	A-Level PE, BTEC Level 3 Sport		

GCSE Sports Studies

Exam board	EDEXCEL		
What will I do on this course?	You will take part in a range of different sports and will be assessed in each. Your THREE best marks from your practical activities will be used as part of your final grade. You will have at least one theory lesson per week, where you will learn about different aspects of sport and health and fitness. The topics that you will cover include: Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training, Sports Psychology, Socio-Cultural influences and Health, fitness and well-being. You will have the opportunity to devise a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) and take part in analysing performance.		
How am I assessed?	After each theory unit, an end of unit test is taken and this will give you an indication of how well you are doing and what you need to do to improve. You will also create a PEP and analyse performance. This will make up 10% of your final grade.		
		Timing	Percentage of final mark
	Practical	Y10 and Y11	30%
	Final Exam 1- 1hr 30min	Y11	36%
	Final Exam 2- 1hr 15min	Y11	24%
	Personal Exercise Programme	Y11	10%
What skills do I need?	A willingness to learn different theory aspects associated with sport and exercise. A very keen interest in taking part in different sports. Able to perform WELL across a range of practical sports. Good organisation skills- including homework and correct kit. Good attendance and participation.		
What are the progression routes?	A-Level PE, BTEC Level 3 Sport		

BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care

Exam board	EDEXCEL BTEC First Award in Health and Social Care			
What will I do on this course?	This course is made up of three components; Each component is made up of different criteria that must be achieved in order to pass the course.			
How am I assessed?	You will have controlled assignments to complete each unit. (Component 3 being an external exam task) There are 7 grades: Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 distinction and Level 2 Distinction*			
	The assessment tasks are then moderated by officials from the examining board and a final grade is collaborated.			
	Component number	Component Title	Timing	How assessed
	1	Human Lifespan Development	Y10	Controlled assessment
	2	Health and Social Care Services and Values	Y11	Controlled assessment
	3	Health and Wellbeing	Y11	External exam
What skills do I need?	The course involves many practical skills and you must be prepared to work independently and in groups. Good organization skills and time management is essential for hitting coursework deadlines. High attendance and punctuality are key to ensure no class work is missed			
What are the progression routes?	This qualification would be relevant if you are considering a career in private care, the NHS, education or the Local Authority as a care practitioner. You can continue studying HSC at level 3 at Meadowhead.			

GCSE Design & Technology

Exam board	AQA GCSE
What will I do on this course?	This course encourages you to design and make quality products through a variety of practical activities using a range of materials and techniques. You will build on the skills and prior knowledge taught at KS3 and develop experience of a wide range of manufacturing techniques such as CAD/CAM. You will learn to use the extensive range of equipment within the department to develop practical skills working in a wide range of materials. You will learn how to follow the design process, which will show the development of your product from initial designs to completed prototype.
How am I assessed?	All final assessments take place in Y11 and consist of an examination (50%) and a Non Examined Assessment task (50%). Throughout Y10 the course will consist of a series of design and make assignments and focused practical tasks along with building subject knowledge related to the exam content. In Y11, the focus will be on the NEA where you will choose one of several contextual challenges set by the exam board. You will follow the design process to produce the practical element in the form of a working product and a digital design portfolio.
What skills do I need?	A subject target grade of 9- 5. Be prepared to work in both practical and theory lessons. To be creative, innovative and have good workshop skills. To be health and safety conscious at all times.
What are the progression routes?	• Product Design at AS/A2 level • Product/Furniture design • Graphic design • Architecture • Engineer – mechanical, civil, aero etc. • Surveyor • CAD Technician/Modeller • Packaging design • Teacher • Product Research and development • Interior design

Constructing the Built Environment

Exam board	WJEC / EDUQAS Level 1 /2 Vocational Award (Technical Award)
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What will I do on this course?	This course provides you with an introduction to the construction industry. You will develop an understanding of the relationship between the construction process, the planning of construction projects and construction site safety. Over the two year course you will learn a range practical skills including carpentry/joinery, electrical work and plumbing.
How am I assessed?	Unit 1 (40% Exam) introduces learners to the built environment and provides them with the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment. Learners will explore a range of profession and trade roles, and some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment. Unit 3 (60% Internal Assessment) offers learners the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of three construction trade areas of the built environment, including planning, undertaking and evaluating construction tasks.
What skills do I need?	You need a genuine interest in a career within the construction industry. You need to be well motivated and prepared to work hard in both theory and practical lesson and follow health and safety rules at all times.
What are the progression routes?	This course is seen as a college entry qualification, which will support a wide range of courses from foundation level to A Level. This qualification will prepare you for virtually any career in the construction sector. It will introduce you to key roles you may be interested in exploring. • Joiner • Plumber • Construction • Electrician - Plasterer - Maintenance engineer - Bricklaying - Painting and Decorating

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Exam board	WJEC GCSE
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What will I do on this course?	You will be given the opportunity to make a huge variety of products over the course of the two years including making pasta from scratch, different pastries, to meringues and cakes. Each half-term also includes making a product that you have chosen yourself. This course will give you valuable life skills enabling you to cook and make informed decisions about what and how well you are eating. During the course, you will have the opportunity to practise a wide range of skills whilst gaining a greater understanding of nutrition, the science behind food as a material and wider environmental aspects associated with food.		
How am I assessed?	All assessments take place in year 11.		
	Component	% of final GCSE grade	Timeframe
	Non Examination Assessment (NEA) Task 1 – Food Science investigation E.g. To investigate the most effective raising agent to use in a scone.	15%	September-October
	Non Examination Assessment (NEA) Task 2 – Food preparation assessment, to plan, prepare, cook and present a 3-course menu	35%	November-February
	Written examination	50%	May/June
What skills do I need?	A genuine interest in food and nutrition is essential. You must have excellent organisational skills – in a practical lesson, when it comes to homework/revision and with regards to being prepared for practical lessons. You need to be well motivated and prepared to work hard in both theory and practical lessons.		
What are the progression routes?	Food is largest manufacturing sector in the UK which employs 400,000 people. GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a desirable qualification for any career in Food, but it is also an enjoyable course for any student that just loves food. The course can lead to a variety of opportunities for further education including Level 3 in Food Science and Nutrition, courses in Hospitality and Catering, Bakery and Patisserie. It can also lead to many careers including: Dietician/Nutritionist, Food packaging designer, Food developer, Health and Safety officer, Food Technologist, Environmental health, Chef/Baker, Caterer, Food Photographer, Health promotion worker and teaching.		

Eduqas Level 1 /2 Vocation award in ICT

Exam board	Eduqas
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What will I do on this course?	Are you passionate about technology? Do you like solving problems? Are you curious about all things digital, and want to learn some fantastic new skills? If so, it's time to uncover your potential! You will acquire and develop skills in using a large range of software packages and techniques. The course will equip you with the technical knowledge, skills and understanding to use digital computer based applications competently either in the workplace, or in further education or training. On completion, you should be confident users of digital applications who are able to apply their skills purposefully and effectively in the production of their coursework.			
How am I assessed?				
	Type	Number	Timing	% of final mark
	On-screen exam	1 Unit – ICT in Society	Y11	40%
	Coursework	1 Unit – ICT in Context	Y10 / Y11	60%
What skills do I need?	Commitment to devote extra time to this Single Award Course and work steadily throughout the course, meeting any deadlines that are set. Interest in the use of ICT in all aspects of life. Sound basic knowledge of ICT skills and techniques. Desire to succeed in an interesting, but demanding course. Be committed to producing coursework and studying for an exam.			
What are the progression routes?	You can continue studying ICT level 3 at Meadowhead and it is useful for a range of jobs across many sectors. It could lead to employment in the Information and Communication Technology sector particularly in job roles where you will be expected to use ICT skills, liaise with users and carry out ICT support roles.			

BTEC Level 2 in Enterprise (Business Studies)

Exam board	Edexcel
What will I do on this course?	Ever wondered how businesses work, why some brands are so successful, and how some companies make it to number 1 in their field? Or have you had ideas about a business of your own you want to start? Studying a BTEC

	in Enterprise gives you the scope to develop a broader understanding of business organisations and practices, providing subject-specific skills and knowledge about markets, customers, finance, marketing, operations, communication, information technology and business strategy. Practical assignments set in real-life business scenarios help you learn, build skills and develop behaviours which you'll use whatever career you choose in the future			
How am I assessed?				
	Type	Number	Timing	% of final mark
	Written Exam	1 Unit	Y11	40%
	Coursework	2 Additional Units	Y10 / Y11	60%
What skills do I need?	Commitment to devote extra time to this Single Award Course and work steadily throughout the course, meeting any deadlines that are set. Interest in businesses and how they operate. Desire to succeed in an interesting, but demanding course. Be committed to producing coursework and studying for an exam.			
What are the progression routes?	You can continue studying for a Business pathway at Meadowhead post-16 and it is useful for a range of jobs across many sectors. With business needed in every industry, you can be sure that studying Enterprise will support you in your career goals. Here are a few ideas to get you started: Business Advisor, Civil Servant, Financial Manager, Management Consultant, Project Manager, Marketing Executive, Retail Manager, Office Manager			