



Weaverham High School

Courses At Key Stage 4 2026/27— 2027/28



Be the Best Version of You

Contents Page

Contents	Including:	Page
General Information	Introduction	3-7
	GCSEs	3-7
	Technical Awards	3-7
	EBacc Pot	3-7
	Will I be allocated subjects I would prefer to study?	3-7
	Restrictions	3-7
	KS4 and Exam Entry Policy	3-7
	Completion of the Decision-Making Process	3-7
	Careers Information	3-7
	Post 16 & College Information	3-7
Courses for 2025/6		
Core Subject Details	English Language	8
	English Literature	9
	Mathematics	10
	Combined Science AQA Trilogy	11
	Physical Education (Core)	12
	PSHCE Health Education	13
	Religion and World Views (Core)	14
Non-Core Subject Details	Art & Design GCSE	15
	Business GCSE	16
	Computer Science GCSE	17
	Construction (Eduqas Construction and the Built Environment Level 1/2 Technical Award)	18-19
	Design and Technology GCSE	20-21
	Drama GCSE	22
	French GCSE	23
	Geography GCSE	24
	German GCSE	25
	Graphic Design (Level 2 Technical Award)	26
	History GCSE	27-28
	History (Ancient) GCSE	29
	Hospitality and Catering (Eduqas Level 1/2 Award)	30-31
	Vocational Award ICT (Eduqas Level 1/2 Award)	32
	Music GCSE	33
	Photography GCSE	34
	Physical Education GCSE	35
	Religious Studies GCSE	36
	Single Sciences – Biology, Chemistry & Physics GCSEs	37
	Spanish GCSE	38
	Sport Studies (Cambridge National Certificate Level 1/2)	39
Preferences Process Timeline	Timeline and Dates for the Diary	40



Be the Best Version of You

Year 9 Preferences Process

General Information

Introduction

As a school we are committed to providing all students with the highest quality education at all stages of their learning journey at Weaverham High School, particularly in their GCSE years. We are committed to ensuring that all our students are able to enjoy a curriculum which is relevant and accessible to them as learners. Therefore, we have developed a preferences process which enables us to support and guide our students, allowing them to follow GCSE courses which are best suited to them as learners and most likely to guarantee the best combination of student engagement, progress and outcomes. Courses which, when combined with high quality teaching and learning, will prepare our students for the next stage in their learning journey as life-long learners.

We offer a very broad KS4 curriculum, through which we aim to meet the needs and aspirations of all our students. We intend the Year 9 preferences process to allow students to progress and have appropriate progression routes post Key Stage 4. It is important that each student understands their own strengths so that they can optimise opportunities to achieve success. In the lead up to decision making, we will support students in a range of ways such as a Year 9 Preferences Evening, one-to-one meetings with key staff, assemblies and activities in Form Time and through the LIFE curriculum. We recommend that each student selects KS4 courses in which they have a real aptitude as well as interest. All students will also have the opportunity to talk to subject teachers, parents and other adults to support their preference choices.

This booklet is designed to inform both students and parents about the courses available in Years 10 and 11. In addition to details about the compulsory core subjects and option courses, it also contains general information and advice to help you make informed decisions regarding the subjects you would prefer to study.

General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is the award offered by the majority of courses. Students will take external examinations at the end of the two-year course. In some subjects there is also controlled assessment/coursework. The amount of internal and external assessment is explained on the page for each individual subject. The grading system for all GCSEs goes from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest). GCSEs can be followed by A-levels, T-Levels, Apprenticeships or Vocational Qualifications. In Year 11, students will receive our full support in preparing for post-16 courses and applying for Post-16 institutions.

Technical Awards e.g. OCR National courses

Technical Awards, for example OCR National awards are nationally recognised qualifications which are equivalent to one GCSE. These courses have a greater emphasis on the application of the subject. These courses are recognised by the DfE as being high-quality qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills. They focus on the applied study of an industry sector or occupational area, or the acquisition of practical and technical skills. They will fulfil entry requirements for both academic and vocational study post-16, alongside GCSEs.

Courses

The **core subjects** are the courses which all students follow. These are:

- English (Language and Literature)
- Mathematics
- Combined Science
- Physical Education
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education
- Religion and Worldviews



Be the Best Version of You

Non-Core Subjects

These are the other courses which you may prefer to do should a place be available. Please refer to the contents page on page 2 to see the full list of non-core subjects and where to find specific details for all of these courses.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Pot

There is a national expectation that students will study at least one subject from the EBacc pot. You must study at least one of the following subjects available at Weaverham High School:

- Ancient History
- Computer Science
- French
- Geography
- German
- Modern History
- Single Sciences
- Spanish

Selecting Preferences

When making choices you are encouraged to do the following;

- discuss your ideas with your parents, Form Tutor and subject teachers.
- parents to attend the KS4 Preferences Evening to gather information and discuss with careers and subject teachers.
- Consult the WHS Careers Hub: https://sites.google.com/d/1f3o8NmidtyCTAQtrMd-yz5VQKa3dPbym/p/1xWOvYncVFD4z1RT7-59_GdYRUai62Cnw/edit
- Visit the Careers section in the library or book an appointment to speak to Ms Walsh for advice about careers.

Will I be allocated subjects I would prefer to study?

Although it is hoped that the majority of students will be allocated to their 'first preference' subjects, the school can only accommodate a certain number of students in each area. **Students will not be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis**, but each student will be considered in their own right. Some subject combinations may be impossible to fulfil due to clashing placements on the timetable, we do not know in advance which subjects will clash, as the combination of subjects chosen by students is unique to each year. If there is an important reason for preferring to study a particular subject, you must state this on the preferences form. Here at Weaverham, we set up blocks after pupil preferences are made to allow us to allocate 'first preferences' to as many students as possible. You will also be asked to rank order your preferences to aid us in making the process as fair as possible.



Be the Best Version of You

Restrictions

- Please be advised that some subjects are in high demand and places are limited due to the nature of the subject and our staffing capacity. We use a range of measures to make the process as equitable and fair as possible.
- Some subjects are only in one of the four blocks which makes certain combinations impossible (last year these subjects were Construction, German, Drama, French, Graphics, Ancient History, IT, Music and Spanish).
- We don't permit students to study the combinations of both PE and Sports Studies or both Graphics and Art
- All pupils must study an EBacc pot subject. These subjects are: Geography, History, Ancient History, MFL Subjects, Separate Sciences and Computer Science. Please note that RS is not an EBacc pot subject.
- The PE leadership team decide whether PE or Sport Studies is most suitable for students who have selected either of those two subjects.
- The Science leadership team will decide which pupils are able to study Single Sciences based on criteria. You will be able to make a special request if your child does not meet the criteria but would still prefer to study Single Sciences and a meeting will be arranged.
- If enough students do not select certain option courses, we reserve the right to remove that course altogether in which instance the reserve preferences will come into play.

KS4 Preferences and Exam Entry Policy

We aim to deliver a curriculum of the highest quality, to provide a stimulating and engaging education through which all our students can thrive. We have the highest expectations for all our students. We strive to meet the needs of all students, to enable all to achieve success.

All subjects have a clear intention for all students to achieve the very best and therefore we expect all students to be entered for all the subjects they were assigned and studied for the two years of KS4.

Completion of the Decision-Making Process

Once you feel confident that you have decided on your GCSE preferences, you will need to complete the Google Form provided by the Data Manager to parental email. This is a straightforward process, but support will be provided by our Year 9 preferences team where required. Please choose wisely as discussed in assembly. **Changes will not be permitted once more than two weeks of a course has been delivered.**

We very much look forward to supporting both students and parents throughout what will be an exciting process, as students make decisions to shape the next stage of their learning journey at Weaverham High School.

If you require further information or advice don't hesitate to contact me or the Year 9 pastoral team.

Kind regards,

Ms Sarah Brookes
Deputy Headteacher (Raising Standards)
Weaverham High School.



Be the Best Version of You



Careers Information

The Careers Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG) programme at Weaverham High School plays a major part in raising pupils' aspirations and supporting them in choosing pathways that suit their interests, abilities and individual needs. Our programme supports students in choosing 14 – 19 pathways that suit their interests and skills and inspires them to consider a range of career pathways to help ensure sustained employability throughout their working lives. Our careers programme lies at the heart of the school's personal development provision and our 'Aspire to Inspire' ethos.

Year 10 & 11 Careers Provision

The Careers programme is delivered through a combination of methods:

- Provision is made within the 'Life' (PSHCE) curriculum throughout Years 10 and 11.
- 'One to One' personal guidance appointments with a specialist careers advisor. to ensure that our programme can meet the individual needs of all students.
- Aspirational visits from a range of employers, including technical and vocational providers and bespoke visits to various workplaces and colleges.
- Further & Higher Education Colleges and providers are invited into school to give informative and aspirational assemblies to Years 10/11.
- In National Careers Week, all curriculum areas are involved in a whole-school CEIAG focus that involves Careers related lesson activities, assemblies, employer visits and external careers trips.
- In Year 10, all students take part in a meaningful work experience programme.
- In years 9-11 all students have the opportunity to speak to employers, FE/HE providers from a wide range work places and industries through our 'Aspirations Evening' careers fair, whereby parents and careers can join their children in investigating personalised future study / employment pathways.
- Clear links to careers opportunities within each curriculum area (focus area within National Careers Week) and review of local, regional and national Labour Market Information, ensuring our students develop a clear understanding of the prospective careers opportunities available to them within respective fields of interest.



All students have been provided with access to [UNIFROG](#) - a 24/7 'one-stop-shop' for local/national/international information links and resources relating to post-16/18 aspirations (colleges, sixth forms, apprenticeships and universities) plus information on a wide range of careers and how to compose CVs and letters of application.

Post 16 Options and College Information

In the autumn term of Year 10 & 11 pupils receive information from a range of local FE and vocational course providers. Pupils can also meet provider representatives and a wide-range of employers at our annual Careers Aspiring Futures event.

See the links below for more information about their provision.

[Sir John Deanes Sixth form college](#)

[Priestley College](#)

[Cheshire College South and West](#)

[Warrington Vale Royal College](#)



Be the Best Version of You

[Reaseheath College](#)

[Tarporley High School - Sixth Form](#)

[St Nicholas Catholic High School - sixth form](#)

For more information please visit our website by clicking the link below or contact Jennie Walsh (Careers Coordinator) at jennie.walsh@weaverhamhighschool.com

[Weaverham High School - Careers](#)



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject
GCSE (Eduqas Examination Board)	English Language
The course aims to: • encourage you to read widely, improving communication skills and vocabulary • develop creative and imaginative writing • enable you to express yourself fluently in speech and writing • look at texts from a variety of cultures • analyse how language is used to convey meaning • teach you the skills and techniques that are a necessary part of writing • develop confidence when presenting information.	
Grouping Classes are taught in mixed ability groups with all students sitting the same examinations. Time spent in school on this subject: Year 10: 8 hours per fortnight (jointly with English Literature) Year 11: 9 hours per fortnight (jointly with English Literature)	
Homework This will be given to support your exam preparation, revision, pre-learning and consolidation.	
Examination details: External Assessment: 100% examination across two papers. Component 1: Fiction Reading and Writing Component 2: Non-Fiction Reading and Writing Internal Assessment: Spoken Language endorsement graded at pass, merit or distinction.	
Links with advanced courses and careers: English is a key subject not just for school, but for the whole of your life. College courses have their own specific requirements regarding an acceptable grade. English Language and Literature AS and A levels. Media Studies AS and A level. English Language is a popular A Level course and is highly regarded by universities.	
For more information please contact: Mr Eaton on Chris.Eaton@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to your English teacher.	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification GCSE (Eduqas Examination Board)	Subject English Literature
The course aims to: • encourage you to read widely for pleasure • help you learn about the experiences of other people • broaden your knowledge and appreciation of a wide range of novels, plays and poetry • understand and analyse writers' craft	
Grouping Classes are taught in mixed ability groups with all students sitting the same examinations. Time spent in school on this subject: Year 10: 8 hours per fortnight (jointly with English Language) Year 11: 9 hours per fortnight (jointly with English Language)	
Homework This will be given to support your exam preparation, revision, pre-learning and consolidation.	
Links with advanced courses and careers: English Literature, English Language and Literature AS and A Levels. Media Studies AS and A level. English Literature is a popular A Level course for careers ranging from Law to Architecture. It is highly regarded by universities.	
For more information please contact Mr Eaton on Chris.Eaton@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to your English teacher.	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject						
GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	Mathematics						
The course aims to: • be enjoyable and give you a sense of achievement. • use mathematical knowledge and understanding to make connections between different areas of the subject. • apply functional elements of mathematics to solve problems in real life situations. • equip you with the mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding to succeed in today's technological world. • develop your thinking skills in reasoning, logic and proof. • provide you with the required mathematical skills for use in other subjects. • enable you to use a calculator to solve problems quickly and efficiently. The course content is based on Number, Ratio, Algebra, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measures, Statistics and Probability.							
Grouping Classes are taught in sets. There are 2 tiers of entry and the grades that may be achieved at each tier are as follows: <table> <tr> <th data-bbox="97 1081 796 1120">Tier</th><th data-bbox="799 1081 1497 1120">New GCSE grades</th></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="97 1124 796 1162">Higher</td><td data-bbox="799 1124 1497 1162">9 – 4</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="97 1167 796 1205">Foundation</td><td data-bbox="799 1167 1497 1205">5 - 1</td></tr> </table>		Tier	New GCSE grades	Higher	9 – 4	Foundation	5 - 1
Tier	New GCSE grades						
Higher	9 – 4						
Foundation	5 - 1						
Time spent in school on this subject: 8 hours per 2-week cycle. Homework is 1 piece per week (1.5 hours).							
Examination details External Assessment: 100%							
Links with advanced courses and careers: The course provides you with general skills which are transferable across a range of subjects and careers. In particular, the higher course provides good preparation for AS and A level Mathematics and Sciences.							
For more information please contact: Mrs Gadsby on Debbie.Gadsby@weaverhamhighschool.com Mr Bridges on John.Bridges@weaverhamhighschool.com							



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject
GCSE Two GCSEs (AQA Examination Board)	Combined Science AQA Trilogy
The course aims to: - inspire the next generation of innovators and critical thinkers. - maximise support for progression into the sciences at KS5. - build on scientific knowledge and skills gained from the Key Stage 3 Science course. - Extend your subject knowledge, so that you are able to offer informed opinion related to current social, ethical and environmental issues. - enhance your ability to solve practical problems and undertake scientific enquiry and investigation.	
Grouping Classes in combined science are taught in ability classes. Class numbers are usually less than 30. The course features foundation or higher-level examination papers, a decision as to which tier of entry is appropriate is usually made during year 10. Higher tier awards grades 4 – 9 Foundation tier awards grades 1 – 5	
Time spent in school on this subject: All groups are taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics during the two-week cycle, 9 hours in total.	
Examination details	External Written Assessment: 100% Six exams, 2 from each Science (1 hour 15 minutes each)
Links with advanced courses and careers: A level courses in the sciences e.g. Biology, Human Biology, Physics, Electronics, Geology and Chemistry. Vocational courses in science – based careers e.g. food production.	
For more information please contact: Mrs Spencer on rachel.spencer@weaverhamhighschool.com Mr Gallivan on Chris.Gallivan@weaverhamhighschool.com , Mr Jones on Jeffrey.Jones@weaverhamhighschool.com . <u>Or speak to your Science teacher.</u>	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification

No qualification.

Subject**Core Physical Education****This course aims to give you the opportunity to :**

- participate in a variety of sporting activities.
- develop independent learning and experience more complex skills and tactics.
- develop other aspects of the sporting environment, namely the role of the coach, referee and official.
- have a greater understanding, knowledge and experience of physical health and a healthy lifestyle.
- improve confidence, knowledge and physical skill to help you participate in sporting activities beyond school.

You may only be withdrawn from Physical Education on medical grounds.

Grouping

Classes are taught in mixed ability groups.

Time spent in school on this subject:

One hour per week.

For more information please contact:

Mr Simpson on Stephen.Simpson@weaverhamhighschool.com



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification

Non-examined. Year 10 only. This is separate to Life (PSHCE) Curriculum every pupil receives at Weaverham.

Subject

Core Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE)

This course aims to:

The aim of RSE is to provide children with age-appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions about their health-related behaviour.

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of consent and the law.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of healthy relationship and safe sex.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of drugs and alcohol abuse and the effects it can have on a person/society.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of their finances and gambling. This includes how to effectively manage their money.
- Develop their knowledge for post 16 so that they understand the risks around driving and how they should become safe road users.

The course includes units on:

- Healthy Relationships (Grooming, Coercion, Pornography)
- Consent
- Sexual Health
- Drug use (county lines) and alcohol abuse
- Personal Finances (credit, loans, debt)
- Gambling
- Road and driver safety to support

Grouping

Classes are taught in mixed ability groups.

Time spent in school on this subject:

One hour per two-week cycle in Year 10.

For more information please contact: Miss Hill at
megan.hill@weaverhamhighschool.com



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification No qualification.	Subject Core Religion and World Views
Outline of the subject: The aims and objectives of this subject are to enable students to: • Develop their knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism. • Develop their knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of the religions they are studying. • Develop their ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject. • Engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life. • Develop an understanding of other cultures and how integration can prevent conflict within a multicultural society. Religion is a major source of inspiration, meaning, and controversy in human culture, informing history, politics, economics, art, and literature. Religious Studies is a diversified and multi-faceted discipline focusing on the study of specific traditions and the general nature of religion as a human phenomenon.	
Grouping Classes will be taught in their Science Group.	
Time spent in school on this subject: One period in a 2-week cycle and additional time during their English lessons.	
Links with advanced courses and careers: • AS and A level Religious Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Ethics, Critical Thinking and Law. • The subject itself can improve skills that relate to both traditional subjects and personal interests.	
For more information please contact: Mr Cole on Simon.Cole@weaverhamhighschool.com	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject
GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	Art & Design Full Course – Fine Art
This course aims to: • be vibrant and dynamic, encouraging you to work to your strengths and interests by offering a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to develop and explore your personal interests in art and design • offer a skills-based course in which we develop your knowledge and understanding through a variety of learning experiences and approaches. This will allow you to develop the skills to explore, create and communicate your own ideas • increase knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in contemporary societies and in other times and cultures • encourage you to develop creative and imaginative skills, and the practical ability to communicate and express ideas, feelings and meanings in art, craft and design • develop investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical skills • allow you to demonstrate these skills through the development, refinement, recording, realisation and presentation of your ideas through a portfolio and an externally set assignment.	
Student grouping Classes are taught in mixed ability groups.	
Time spent in school on this subject: 5 hours per two-week cycle. Students also can stay after school to attend Art Club and lunchtime Art Club.	
The final grade will depend upon the Component 1 Portfolio, which includes three projects of work, and Component 2, an externally set exam. Students can work in a variety of areas – drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, lens/light-based media, photograph, printmaking, mixed media, land art and ICT. Students will be expected to work using a range of materials, processes and techniques to explore their ideas. Work is assessed under four assessment objectives. Students will be expected to demonstrate their ability to: • AO1 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources. • AO2 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. • AO3 Record ideas, observations, and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. • AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.	
Homework 1½ hours. This is set each week, and it is a continuation of portfolio work, often to be completed in a sketchbook. It will help the development of the Portfolio.	
Examination Details	Component 1 Portfolio: 60%
	Component 2 Externally + set Assignment: 40%
Links with advanced courses and careers: • AS and A Level Art and Design courses. Careers in fine art, art history, graphic design, photography, textiles, jewellery design, printing, industrial and product design, architecture, set design, fashion design, multi-media, interior design, film and television design, music and gallery administration.	
For more information please contact: Ms Robinson on Sally.Robinson@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to your Art teacher.	



Qualification GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	Subject Business
This course aims to: - engage actively in the study of business in order to develop students as independent, critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. - use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts and opinions, to build arguments and make informed judgement. - develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts. - appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities. - consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable. - appreciate diversity and recognise similarities and differences of attitudes and cultures in society.	
Grouping Classes are taught in mixed ability groups. Your final grade will be based on external examinations. All examinations take place in Year 11.	
Time spent in school on this subject: 5 hours per two-week cycle.	
Homework Homework will consist of research and planning, exam style questions and reports/presentations based on class work. In addition, you will be expected to keep in touch with business affairs through TV, newspapers and the Internet.	
Links with advanced courses and careers: GCSE Business Studies provides an excellent foundation for AS and A level in courses in Business Studies, Accounts and Economics. It is worth noting that Business Studies is one of the most popular subjects in higher education with related subjects like marketing, international business, financial management and human resources.	
For more information please contact: Mrs Salh on Verinder.Salh@weaverhamhighschool.com	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject
GCSE (OCR Examination Board)	Computer Science
This course aims to ensure that each student is: • developing their understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work. • looking at the use of algorithms in computer programs. • becoming independent and discerning users of IT. • acquiring and applying creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts. • developing computer programs to solve problems. • evaluating the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of computer technology in society.	
Grouping Classes are taught in mixed ability groups.	
Time spent in school on this subject: 5 hours per two week cycle.	
Coursework <u>Programming Project</u> Students will complete a programming project in year 11, where they create solutions to computing tasks chosen from a set of options supplied by Edexcel.	
Examination Details	Paper 1: Computer Systems 50%
	Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming 50%
Links with advanced courses and careers: • This qualification supports progress to further study, including A-levels in Computer Science, BTEC National Qualifications in ICT and related subjects.	
For more information please contact: Mr Cowell on Damian.Cowell@weaverhamhighschool.com	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject	
Technical Award (WJEC / Eduqas Examination Board)	Construction Level 1 / 2 Vocational Award in Construction and the Built Environment	
The course aims to: • Develop skills, knowledge and understanding of the Construction Industry • Ensure you will learn about the Construction sector, types of buildings and structures • Trades, careers, professional roles. • Building types & structures, materials and technologies • Health & safety • Develop your understanding of roles and responsibilities in the Construction industry, and their importance • Develop skills, knowledge and understanding of three construction trades (such as, Joinery, Electrics, Tiling) including planning, undertaking and evaluating Construction tasks • Complete a construction project which focusses on the preparation and completion of three realistic trade-based tasks		
Grouping Classes are taught in mixed ability groups.		
Time spent in school on this subject: 5 Hours Per 2 Week Cycle		
Examination Details	Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment - Examination On-Screen Exam – 1 Hour 30 Minutes	40% of Qualification (80 marks)
	Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment – Controlled Assessment Theory and Practical operations in Construction	60% of Qualification (120 marks)
Links with advanced courses and careers: • Apprenticeships in trade areas such as Joinery, Plumbing, Electrics • BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Construction & the Built Environment (Equivalent to 2–3 A-levels, covering construction principles, surveying, estimating, and management, with progression to HNC/HND, foundation degrees, or employment)		



Be the Best Version of You

- **T-Level in Design, Surveying & Planning for Construction**
(A two-year, Level 3 qualification equivalent to 3 A-levels. It combines technical study with a mandatory 45-day industry placement, aiming at roles in surveying, civil engineering, site management, and architectural technology)
- **City & Guilds Level 2 → Level 3 Technical Occupational Certificates**
(Trade-specific courses in areas like bricklaying, carpentry, painting & decorating, and plumbing. Level 3 options include site carpentry and bricklaying diplomas)
- **NVQ Level 2 to Level 3 Progression**
(Level 2 NVQs recognize operative skills; Level 3 builds on this with advanced technical competence and supervisory responsibilities, preparing learners to work more independently on job sites)
- **Develop life-skills in maintaining Construction projects at home.**
- **Develops 'real-life' attributes**

For more information please contact:

Mr R Walker, Head of Design & Technology, on russell.walker@weaverhamhighschool.com



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification D & T GCSE 9 – 1 (AQA Examination Board)	Subject Design and Technology
This course aims to: Prepare students to participate confidently in an increasing technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. GCSE Design and Technology allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth. D&T encourage you to demonstrate your design and technology ability, requiring you to combine skills, knowledge and understanding in order to design and make quality products. This course places a greater emphasis on the design process elements of the subject. Design & Technology requires you to develop your skills in/study: • research and design techniques • work of famous designers and design companies • communicating and developing ideas to other people/clients/target markets • computer aided design and computer aided manufacture • materials, tools, processes & equipment • making products using either electronic components and/or resistant materials (wood, metals and plastics. • design and technology in the wider world and its impact on the planet	
Grouping All classes are taught in mixed ability groups. Your grading will be dependent upon your performance throughout the first year of the course along with your performance in the controlled assessment and the final examination, the theory for which will be taught over the 2-year period. The course is aimed at all abilities and although it is not necessary for you to be of a high ability in designing or in any of the other practical skills, you will need to have an interest in generating ideas, researching and focussed practical tasks. Skills are taught thoroughly over the two years.	
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two-week cycle.	
NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) A variety of minor projects and focused tasks are assigned throughout the first year of the course aimed at developing skills in researching, designing, planning, communicating, construction and evaluating. The majority of the second year is spent working on the controlled assessment which involves the development of a detailed design portfolio in addition to the completion of elements of a final product. Home-Learning Support materials will be available on Google Classroom. You will be expected to allocate approximately 1½ hours per week to complete home-learning tasks.	
Examination Details	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA):
50%	



Be the Best Version of You

External Assessment (2-hour exam):**50%****Links with advanced courses and careers:**

- Design and Technology links with a variety of courses in post sixteen education including A level courses and a number of Vocational A-Levels and National Vocational Qualifications. Suitable career paths include Engineering, Architecture, Product Design, 3D Design, Robotics, Interior/Spatial Designer, Prop Maker/Set Designer, Construction, Aerospace and automotive Engineering.

For more information please contact:

Mr Walker or Mr Ripley on russell.walker@weaverhamhighschool.com or david.ripley@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to another member of the Design and Technology Department.



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification GCSE (EDEXCEL Examination Board)	Subject Drama						
The course aims to encourage you to develop: • an understanding of a range of play texts. • an appreciation of the ways playwrights achieve their effects and the ability to communicate the author's intention to an audience. • an awareness of social, historical and cultural contexts and influences through study of plays and devised drama based on a theme/topic. • an increased self and group awareness and the ability to appreciate and evaluate the work of others. • skills of creativity, self-confidence, concentration, self-discipline and communication.							
Grouping You will be taught in mixed ability groups for 5 hours per two week cycle, plus rehearsal time after school for assessed pieces.							
Controlled Assessment This drama qualification focuses on three components. The first focuses on devising , creating drama through a variety of stimuli, and how drama reflects aspects of social, moral and historical understanding. The second is a performance from a text . Whilst the third focuses on the practical understanding of a set performance text. The course is internally assessed and externally moderated and examined.							
Examination Details	<table> <tr> <td>Component 1: Devising (Practical involving written portfolio and devised performance)</td><td>40% (60 Marks)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Component 2: Performance from text</td><td>20%(48 Marks)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Component 3: Theatre makers in Practice (Written Exam)</td><td>40%(60 Marks)</td></tr> </table>	Component 1: Devising (Practical involving written portfolio and devised performance)	40% (60 Marks)	Component 2: Performance from text	20%(48 Marks)	Component 3: Theatre makers in Practice (Written Exam)	40%(60 Marks)
Component 1: Devising (Practical involving written portfolio and devised performance)	40% (60 Marks)						
Component 2: Performance from text	20%(48 Marks)						
Component 3: Theatre makers in Practice (Written Exam)	40%(60 Marks)						
Links with advanced courses and careers: • This course offers a good basis for AS, A level and advanced vocational courses in Theatre Studies, Performing Arts or Dance. • Drama is widely recognised as a vehicle to develop self-confidence but also offers students valuable transferable skills for any future career where collaboration, communication and creativity are key requirements. • Drama also involves analysis and evaluation skills. • Drama produces candidates who are creative, team workers and problem-solvers. They are much in demand by employers and future education providers.							
For more information please contact: Ms Murray on Charlotte.murray@weaverhamhighschool.com							



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject		
GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	French		
This course aims to: improve your communication skills and cultural awareness, develop spontaneity and fluency in the language by doing tasks in: • listening – to dialogues about everyday activities and personal details; radio and TV broadcasts on a variety of topics; conversations in public places; announcements heard over loudspeakers etc. • reading – emails and texts from penfriends; notes and messages from people; articles in books, magazines and newspapers; public signs and notices. • speaking/writing – about you, your home and family; your everyday activities; leisure; your town and area; your past experiences, eg. holidays; your future plans for education and work.			
Grouping • You will be grouped in sets according to ability, where the option block numbers allow. • The final decision about your entry levels is left until year 11. • You can be entered for either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier but you must enter at the same tier for all four skill areas.			
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two week cycle.			
Examination Details There will be four examinations which will take place at the end of year 11 in the following skill areas: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. All skills are equally weighted.			
Homework This can be written, reading or learning homework. • Learning homework can be vocabulary or grammar learning. • Written tasks could be a translating or reading comprehension task.			
Written Exam:	25%	Speaking Exam:	25%
Reading Exam:	25%	Listening Exam:	25%
Links with advanced courses and careers: • You can find a course involving French at AS and A level, in HND courses with a language element (eg. Leisure and Tourism) and NVQ courses requiring Business and Modern Language units. • Careers that may need languages include Leisure and Tourism, the Armed Forces, Engineering, Law, Journalism, Aid work, Interpreting & Translation and Teaching.			
For more information please contact: Mrs Merrick on Karen.Merrick@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to your Languages teacher.			



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject
GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	Geography
The course aims to: Provide opportunities for fieldwork; students will be given the chance to gain first-hand experience of investigating places, environments and human behaviour. They will link physical and human geographical concepts; help develop spatial awareness; build a knowledge and understanding of current events from local to global; develop transferable skills for the future, including literacy, numeracy and statistics, ICT, problem solving, team work, thinking skills and enquiry. Topics Studies: • The challenge of natural hazards – tectonic hazards, extreme weather and climate change. • Physical landscapes in the UK – coast and river features and management. • The living world – ecosystems, tropical rainforests and hot deserts. • Urban issues and challenges – growth of urban areas, opportunities and challenges within urban areas and urban planning. • The Changing Economic World – managing population change, growth of tourism, trade, aid and debt and the economic futures and sustainability in the UK. • The Challenge of Resource Management – food and natural resources supplies and issues, specifically food demand and sustainable management.	
Grouping All classes are taught in mixed ability groups, the size of which will vary depending on the number of students opting to take Geography.	
Time spent in school on this subject 5 one hour lessons per two week cycle.	
Fieldwork Two contrasting studies take place where primary data is collected on both physical and human geographical topics. These are reflected upon in lessons and used for the Paper 3 exam. Homework This is set each week and supports classwork and examination practice.	
Examination Details	External Assessment: Consisting of three exams. 100%
Links with advanced courses and careers: • There are AS and A level courses in Geography. The variety of skills and topics covered means that Geography integrates well with all subjects, including Science A-levels, geology, sociology and psychology. Geography also links well with a wide range of career options including: sustainable management, project management, construction and engineering, market research, logistics and distribution, political risk analysis, development worker, commercial surveyor, environmental consultant, teacher, architect, law, Military and the police.	
For more information please contact: Mrs Bee on kathryn.bee@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to your Geography teacher.	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject		
GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	German		
This course aims to: improve your communication skills and cultural awareness, develop spontaneity and fluency in the language by doing tasks in: • listening – to dialogues about everyday activities and personal details; radio and TV broadcasts on a variety of topics; conversations in public places; announcements heard over loudspeakers etc. • reading – emails and texts from penfriends; notes and messages from people; articles in books, magazines and newspapers; public signs and notices. • speaking/writing – about you, your home and family; your everyday activities; leisure; your town and area; your past experiences, eg. holidays; your future plans for education and work.			
Grouping • You will be grouped in sets according to ability, where the option block numbers allow. • The final decision about your entry levels is left until year 11. • You can be entered for either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier, but you must enter at the same tier for all four skill areas.			
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two week cycle.			
Examination Details There will be four examinations which will take place at the end of year 11 in the following skill areas: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. All skills are equally weighted.			
Homework This can be a written, reading or learning homework. • Learning homework can be vocabulary or grammar learning. • Written tasks could be a translating or reading comprehension task.			
Written Exam:	25%	Speaking Exam:	25%
Reading Exam:	25%	Listening Exam:	25%
Links with advanced courses and careers: • You can find a course involving German at AS and A level, in HND courses with a language element (eg Leisure and Tourism) and NVQ courses requiring Business and Modern Language units. • Careers that may need languages include Leisure and Tourism, the Armed Forces, Engineering, Law, Journalism, Aid work, Interpreting & Translation and Teaching.			
For more information please contact: Mrs Merrick on Karen.Merrick@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to your Languages teacher.			



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject				
NCFE Technical Award Level 1 and Level 2	Graphic Design				
This course aims to: • Provide a high-quality technical qualification which is appropriate for students who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experience and through content which is concrete and directly related to those experiences. This qualification aims to: • Focus on the study of the graphic design sector. • Offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge. • Provide opportunities to acquire a number of design practical and technical skills. The objectives of this qualification are to provide an understanding of: • Components and Principles of graphic design • Work of graphic designers • Requirements of a graphic design brief • Planning, development and experimentation of media and techniques • Graphic design production • Displaying, presenting and promoting graphic design work					
Grouping All classes are taught in mixed ability groups. Your grading will be dependent upon your performance in the externally set N.E.A and examined assessment. The course is aimed at all abilities, but it is necessary for you to have an interest in graphics and designing and be able to draw/design at a reasonable level. All required skills will be covered and taught over the two-year course.					
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two-week cycle.					
The qualification has 2 assessments externally-set by NCFE One non-exam assessment: 60% of the technical award. The non-exam assessment will assess the learner's ability to effectively draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the whole vocational area. This will be externally set, internally marked and externally moderated. One written examined assessment: 40% of the technical award. The written examined assessment will assess the learner's knowledge and understanding of all content areas. This will be externally set and marked.					
Home Learning A variety of hard copy support materials will be available to you along with materials available on Google Classroom to assist with home learning and classwork assignments. You will be expected to allocate approximately 1½ hours per week.					
Examination Details	<table> <tr> <td>Externally-set non exam assessment (NEA):</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr> <td>External Assessment: EA</td><td>40%</td></tr> </table>	Externally-set non exam assessment (NEA):	60%	External Assessment: EA	40%
Externally-set non exam assessment (NEA):	60%				
External Assessment: EA	40%				
Links with advanced courses and careers: Graphic Design links with a variety of courses in post sixteen education including A level, B-Tec and T-level courses. Suitable career paths include: Graphic Designer, Web Designer, Animator, Illustrator, Photographer, Print Operator, Architect, Games Designer, Fashion Designer and Interior Designer.					
For more information please contact: Mr Ripley on David.Ripley@weaverhamhighschool.com					



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	Subject History		
The course aims to: Inspire students' historical interest through engaging, enthusiastic teaching and a variety of activities in lessons. • Develop the ability to argue, debate, discuss and explain. • Develop skills of analysis, evaluation and interpretation. • Develop essential study skills relevant to all subject areas e.g. use of ICT, literacy and analytical skills. • Make sense of the present by acquiring a sound understanding of the past. • Develop personal sets of values by understanding how the world around them has come to be the way it is. • Help students to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. GCSE History You will study the following components during the two year course: • One Period Study – America 1920s – 1973: Opportunity and inequality. - This study will include; American people and the Boom, Bust – Americans and the Depression and New Deal and America's post war society. • One Wider World Depth Study – Conflict and Tension, 1918 – 1939. - This study will include; Peace Making after WWI, The League of Nations and international peace and the origins and outbreak of WWII, including the rise of Hitler. • One Thematic Study – Britain: Health and the People c1000 to present. - This study will include; Medicine stands still, the beginnings of change, a revolution in medicine and modern medicine. • One British Depth Study including the Historic Environment – Elizabethan England 1568-1603. - This will include; Elizabeth's Court and Parliament, Life in Elizabethan times, Troubles at home and abroad and the Historical Environment of Elizabethan England.			
Grouping History is not a tiered examination. Classes are taught in mixed ability groups where the range of GCSE grades is accessible to all candidates. All students are challenged and supported to do their very best and achieve impressive results.			
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two week cycle.			
Examination Details	<table> <tr> <td> Examination: Paper 1 – Understanding the Modern World (50%) 2 hours - America and Conflict and Tension Paper 2 – Shaping the Nation (50%) 2 hours - Health and Elizabethan England </td><td> 100% </td></tr> </table>	Examination: Paper 1 – Understanding the Modern World (50%) 2 hours - America and Conflict and Tension Paper 2 – Shaping the Nation (50%) 2 hours - Health and Elizabethan England	100%
Examination: Paper 1 – Understanding the Modern World (50%) 2 hours - America and Conflict and Tension Paper 2 – Shaping the Nation (50%) 2 hours - Health and Elizabethan England	100%		
Links with advanced courses and careers: • History is recognised as an excellent academic discipline and a springboard for entry into a wide range of careers. • It is well respected by big business and universities and is a sought after qualification for those considering entry into professions such as law, accountancy and medicine. • It is applicable for all career choices due to the skills it develops.			
For more information please contact:			



Be the Best Version of You

Head of Department, Mrs Jones at katie.jones@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to your History teacher.



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification GCSE OCR examination board	Subject Ancient History
The course aims to: Inspire students' interest of the Ancient World through engaging, enthusiastic teaching and a variety of activities in lessons. • Develop a knowledge of the Ancient World and its relevance and importance to today. • Develop the ability to argue, debate, discuss and explain. • Develop skills of analysis, evaluation and interpretation. • Develop essential study skills relevant to all subject areas e.g. use of ICT, literacy and analytical skills. • Develop personal understanding how the world around them has come to be the way it is. • Help students to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Course content: A Period Study: The Persian Empire • This focuses on the on the narrative of the Persian Empire under its great rulers: ◦ Cyrus the Great ◦ Darius I ◦ Cambyses II ◦ Darius I • It also looks at Persia's relations with Ancient Greece and Egypt A Greek Depth Study: Alexander the Great • This unit will focus on Alexander and looks at: ◦ Alexander's upbringing, character and beliefs ◦ Significant events in Alexander's life ◦ Alexander's military campaigns ◦ The Macedonian army under Alexander A longer Period Study: The Kings of Rome and the early Roman Empire • This unit explores the relationships between the kings, the Roman people and other countries; the changing role of plebeians and patricians, and Rome's growing influence in the ancient world A Roman Depth Study: Cleopatra: Rome and Egypt, 69-30BC • This unit will focus on Cleopatra and looks at: ◦ Cleopatra's life and character ◦ Cleopatra's political and personal relationships with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony ◦ Cleopatra as Queen of Egypt ◦ The Battle of Actium and its significance for Rome and Egypt	
Grouping There is no tiered examination and classes will be taught in mixed ability sets.	
Time spent in school on this subject: 5 hours per fortnight	
Examination Details Paper 1 - 50% - Greece and Persia • Section A – five compulsory questions (55 marks) • Section B – four compulsory questions (45 marks) • Plus five marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar Paper 2 - 50% - Rome and its neighbours • Section A – four compulsory questions (55 marks) • Section B – four compulsory questions (45 marks) • Plus five marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar Both papers are 1 Hour and 45 Minutes	Examination: 100%
Links with advanced courses and careers: This course would enable you to study History; Ancient History or Classics at A Level and then onto degree level. You will need a Grade 5 to do A Level History. It is a very highly regarded subject, which is normally only studied in the independent sector. Linked careers include; working in a museum, Archaeologist, Teaching. It would also be useful for any career needing analytical and evaluative skills, e.g.; Banking, Law, Medicine or Accountancy	
For more information please contact: Mr Holian on Liam.Holian@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to your History teacher.	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering	Subject Hospitality and Catering				
This vocational award aims to enable students to gain knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the Hospitality and Catering sector and to develop essential employability skills that are valued for higher education and by employers. The Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools who want to learn about this vocational sector and provides students with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills. Unit 1 enables students to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry, learning about the range of establishments, how the industry operates, health & safety and food safety. Unit 2 enables students to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively. This qualification is graded Level 2 Distinction*, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Pass, Level 1 Distinction*, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Pass*. Level 1/2 awards are broadly equivalent to GCSE grades 9 – 1.					
Grouping Classes are taught in mixed ability groups. For this qualification, students must achieve both units, one externally assessed and one Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) unit.					
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two-week cycle.					
External Assessment (80 marks; 40%) Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry. This is a 1 hour 20-minute, written exam with short and extended questions based around applied situations. Units covered include – establishments which provide hospitality and catering services; how hospitality and catering providers operate; Health and safety and food safety in hospitality and catering. This unit will be taught across Year 10 and Year 11 and the exam taken in the summer of Year 11. Controlled Assessment (120 marks; 60%) Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action. In this unit students will gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. Students will also need to apply knowledge gained in unit 1 in the following topic areas to be able to complete this assessment: • The importance of nutrition • Menu planning • The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes • Evaluating cooking skills An assignment brief will be provided by the exam board, which will include a scenario and several tasks that all students will complete. This unit is internally assessed and externally moderated.					
Examination Details	<table> <tr> <td>External Assessment: June 2028</td><td>40%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Controlled Assessment: Spring 2028</td><td>60%</td></tr> </table>	External Assessment: June 2028	40%	Controlled Assessment: Spring 2028	60%
External Assessment: June 2028	40%				
Controlled Assessment: Spring 2028	60%				
Links with advanced courses and careers: Completion of this qualification would support entry to courses to gain further skills to work in hospitality and catering and food, science and nutrition qualifications. • WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition • Level 2 Certificate in Professional Food and Beverage Service Skills • Level 2 NVCE Diploma in Professional Cookery • Level 3 NVCE Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery. Can also lead to careers in Environmental Health, Childcare, Dietician and Nutrition, Food Industry Nutritionist and New Product Development. https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/#tab_keydocuments					



Be the Best Version of You

For more information please contact:

Mrs Phillips on Sarah.Phillips@weaverhamhighschool.com



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject				
Vocational Award in ICT (WJEC) Level 1 / 2	ICT				
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 – find out more about this exciting qualification today! WHAT WILL I STUDY? The qualification is made up of 2 units: Unit 1: ICT in Society You will: • Explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society • Investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and homes Unit 2: ICT in Context • Gain a working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images • Learn to apply your knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings.					
Student grouping All classes are taught in mixed ability groups. Your grading will be dependent upon your performance in classroom assessed projects and an external exam. The course is aimed at all abilities and all skills are taught thoroughly over the two years. During this course you build on knowledge, skills and understanding of IT in different contexts by designing products to meet specific briefs.					
Time spent in school on this subject: 5 hours per 2 week cycle					
Controlled Assessment Unit 2 will be assessed with project work (no exam) which is worth 60% of your qualification. As part of this assessment, you will be given a scenario and will need to undertake a number of tasks. External Assessment Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam which is worth 40% of your qualification. The exam will last 1 hour and 20 minutes, it will be made up of short and extended response questions.					
Examination Details	<table> <tr> <td>Controlled Assessment:</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr> <td>External Assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes</td><td>40%</td></tr> </table>	Controlled Assessment:	60%	External Assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes	40%
Controlled Assessment:	60%				
External Assessment: 1 hour 30 minutes	40%				
Links with advanced courses and careers: • Upon completion, will allow you to continue on to further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships. • Students could also consider moving into A Level Computer Science. • There are many different careers that this qualification could help you move towards. These include: Data analyst, Digital content producer, Systems engineer, Web marketing manager.					
For more information please contact Mr Cowell on Damian.Cowell@weaverhamhighschool.com or Mr Gill on Adam.Gill@weaverhamhighschool.com					



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject
GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	Music
The course aims to: • develop your understanding and appreciation of a range of different kinds of music, extending your own interests and increasing your ability to make judgements about musical quality. • equip you with the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to make music, both individually and in groups, to develop a life-long interest in music and to progress to further study and/or follow a music-related career where appropriate. • develop broader life-skills, critical and creative thinking and emotional and cultural development.	
Grouping Music is taught in mixed ability groups. Your final grade will depend on the tasks you do throughout the two years, on the quality of your coursework and on your performance in the final exam.	
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two week cycle.	
Controlled Assessment Performing Students present between 4 and 7 minutes of performance, of which a minimum of 1 minute will be an ensemble performance. This is on your choice of instrument: keyboard, voice, drums, guitar, turntables, rapping, flute, clarinet... the list is endless! The recordings will be made during year 11. Composing You will have to submit between 3 and 4^{1/2} minutes of music which you compose – throughout Years 10 and 11. Homework is set weekly and may include activities such as research, individual practice and continuing composition work begun in class.	
Examination Details	Controlled Assessment: 60%
	External Assessment: 40%
Links with advanced courses and careers: • There is a range of AS and A level courses available in music and music technology. If you are considering a music related career, a GCSE qualification in music will be expected when seeking access to relevant courses.	
For more information please contact: Mrs Clark on Anna.Clark@weaverhamhighschool.com or Mrs Atkinson on Amanda.Atkinson@weaverhamhighschool.com	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	Subject Photography GCSE
The course aims to: • be vibrant and dynamic, encouraging you to work to your strengths and interests by offering a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to develop and explore your personal interests in photography • offer a skills-based course in which we develop your knowledge and understanding through a variety of learning experiences and approaches. This will allow you to develop the skills to explore, create and communicate your own ideas • increase knowledge and understanding of photography in contemporary societies and in other times and cultures • encourage you to develop creative and imaginative skills, and the practical ability to communicate and express ideas, feelings and meanings in photography • develop investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical skills • allow you to demonstrate these skills through the development, refinement, recording, realisation and presentation of your ideas through a portfolio and an externally set assignment.	
Grouping Classes are taught in mixed ability groups.	
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two week cycle.	
The final grade will depend upon the Component 1 Portfolio, which includes three projects of work, and Component 2, an externally set exam. Students can work in a variety of areas – portraiture, location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation, documentary photography, photo-journalism, moving image, film and fashion photography. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas. Within the context of photography, students must develop the ability to use photography techniques and processes, appropriate to students' personal intentions: e.g. lightening, aperture, viewpoint and depth of field. Work is assessed under four assessment objectives. Students will be expected to demonstrate their ability to: • AO1 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources. • AO2 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. • AO3 Record ideas, observations, and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. • AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language. Home learning 1½ hours. This is set each week and it is a continuation of portfolio work.	
Examination Details	
Portfolio: 60%	
Externally-set Assignment: 40%	
Links with advanced courses and careers: AS and A Level Photography courses.	
For more information please contact: Miss Hazeldine: Elizabeth.Hazeldine@weaverhamhighschool.com Ms Robinson: Sally.robinson@weaverhamhighschool.com	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification GCSE (AQA Examination Board)	Subject Physical Education (PE)
The course aims to: • Develop knowledge and understanding of the key body systems and how they impact on health, fitness and performance in physical activity and sport. • Enhance knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of movement and their effect on performance in physical activity and sport. • Develop knowledge and understanding of the principles of training and different training methods in order to carry out, monitor and evaluate personal exercise and training programmes. • Gain knowledge and understanding of data analysis in relation to key areas of physical activity and sport. • Improve knowledge and understanding of the psychological factors that can affect performers in physical activity and sport. • Give knowledge and understanding of the socio-cultural factors that impact on physical activity and sport. • Develop sporting ability across three sports (team and individual) and the ability to assess own performance in those respective sports.	
Grouping Classes are taught in mixed ability groups. Your final grade will depend on your practical performance throughout the two years and on your performance in the final exam.	
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two-week cycle. *It would also benefit you to attend as many after school and out of school clubs as you can to develop practical performance.	
Controlled Assessment • Up to 30% of the marks are awarded based upon their practical performance in a variety of sporting activities. This will be assessed throughout the two years. • Up to 10% of the marks are awarded based upon the 'Performance assessment analysis.' The students' ability to analyse and evaluate their own performance or that of another person. This can be carried out in either a written or a verbal format. External Assessment Up to 60% of the marks are awarded to the student based upon how well they perform in two external written exams. Each exam lasts for 1 hour and 15 minutes and is a combination of multiple choice, short answers and extended writing questions. Home learning A variety of different homework tasks will be given to you over the year. You will need to research the information from the library, internet, newspapers and textbooks.	
Examination Details	Controlled Assessment: 40% External Assessment: 60%
Links with advanced courses and careers: • There are AS and A level courses in Physical Education which can then lead to undertaking a sports related degree at University. • Chance to develop prowess and skill in a number of sports. • The course will provide you with the skills necessary to enter a variety of different careers including journalism, management, sports education & coaching, sports analysis, medicine and physiotherapy.	
For more information please contact: Mr Simpson on Stephen.Simpson@weaverhamhighschool.com	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification GCSE (EDEXCEL Examination Board)	Subject Religious Studies
This course aims to help candidates: • develop an understanding of faith and how this impacts on individuals, communities and nations. • identify, investigate and respond to fundamental questions of life and human experience. • comment on the morality of society and the state. • consider the nature of societal conventions and how they are developed. • challenge the prejudices that are held by society and the intrinsic bias of traditional outlets. This qualification will let students apply a wide range of concepts allowing them to confidently interpret, contextualise and analyse the expressions of religions and world views they encounter. It will also enable students to have a deeper understanding of the world that they live in and the reasons behind the actions of individuals, groups and nation states free from media bias.	
Grouping All classes are taught in mixed ability groups.	
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two-week cycle.	
Examination Details	External and Internal Examinations: 100% Two 1½ hour examinations
Links with advanced courses and careers: • AS and A level Religious Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Ethics, Theology, Critical Thinking and Law. • GCSE Religious Studies is an ideal background for anyone considering careers in Law, Medicine, Journalism or any career which involves working with/understanding people. • It provides a unique opportunity to question the world around and the accepted nature of our society. • Critical Thinking skills are developed throughout the course and therefore it provides a benefit to any further study. • The course will aid anyone who wishes to study Theology, Philosophy, Politics or Ethics in the future.	
For more information please contact: Mr Cole on Simon.Cole@weaverhamhighschool.com	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject
GCSE (3 Separate GCSEs) (AQA Examination Board)	Single Sciences Biology, Chemistry & Physics
The course aims to: - inspire the next generation of innovators and critical thinkers. - maximise support and ease of progression to study sciences beyond GCSE. - build on scientific knowledge and skills gained from the Key Stage 3 Science course. - extend your subject knowledge, so that you are able to offer informed opinion related to current social, ethical and environmental issues. - enhance your ability to solve practical problems and undertake scientific enquiry and investigation. Choosing this option extends the depth and breadth of all three science disciplines – Biology, Chemistry and Physics.	
Grouping To be considered for separate science and to make sure you succeed in following the most appropriate course you will need to: - Be working at or have the potential to achieve a grade 6 in Science and a grade 5 in Maths - A good homework and in class learning record. - A positive attitude to learning. - A good attendance record. - A passion and enjoyment for science	
Time spent in school on this subject The three subjects will be taught in a total of 14 one-hour lessons over the 2-week cycle. Five hours from the subject block and nine from the Core Science time.	
Examination Details	External Written Assessment: 100% Two exams for each of the three sciences (6 exams in total) (1 hour 45 mins each)
Links with advanced courses and careers: - A level courses in the sciences e.g. Biology, Human Biology, Physics, Electronics, Geology, Chemistry, Accounting and Engineering. - Vocational courses in science-based careers e.g. food production. - Career options are so vast from an acoustic consultant to a zoologist.	
For more information please contact: Mrs Spencer on Rachel.Spencer@weaverhamhighschool.com Mr Gallivan on Chris.Gallivan@weaverhamhighschool.com Mr Jones on Jeffrey.Jones@weaverhamhighschool.com or	



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification		Subject	
GCSE (AQA Examination Board)		Spanish	
The course aims to: improve your communication skills and cultural awareness, develop spontaneity and fluency in the language by doing tasks in: • listening – to dialogues about everyday activities and personal details; radio and TV broadcasts on a variety of topics; conversations in public places; announcements heard over loudspeakers etc. • reading – emails and texts from penfriends; notes and messages from people; articles in books, magazines and newspapers; public signs and notices. • speaking/writing – about you, your home and family; your everyday activities; leisure; your town and area; your past experiences, eg. holidays; your future plans for education and work.			
Grouping • You will be grouped in sets according to ability, where the option block numbers allow. • The final decision about your entry levels is left until year 11. • You can be entered for either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier but you must enter at the same tier for all four skill areas.			
Time spent in school on this subject 5 hours per two-week cycle.			
Examination Details There will be four examinations which will take place at the end of year 11 in the following skill areas: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. All skills are equally weighted.			
Homework This can be a written, reading or learning homework. • Learning homework can be vocabulary or grammar learning. • Written tasks could be a translating or reading comprehension task.			
Written Exam:	25%	Speaking Exam:	25%
Reading Exam:	25%	Listening Exam:	25%
Links with advanced courses and careers: • You can find a course involving Spanish at AS and A level, in HND courses with a language element (e.g. Leisure and Tourism) and NVQ courses requiring Business and Modern Language units. • Careers that may need languages include Leisure and Tourism, the Armed Forces, Engineering, Law, Journalism, Aid work, Interpreting & Translation and Teaching.			
For more information please contact: Mrs Merrick on Karen.Merrick@weaverhamhighschool.com or speak to your Languages teacher.			



Be the Best Version of You

Qualification	Subject				
Cambridge National Certificate Level 1/2 (OCR)	Sport Studies				
The course aims to: • Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations. • Gain understanding of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including; funding, participation, ethics and role models, sport and the media and the high-profile events in sport, as well as how technology is used within sport. • Develop skills as a performer in two different sporting activities and learn how to lead sporting activity sessions • Create a plan, write and evaluate an activity session, to further develop leadership skills • Analyse their own performance to help improve themselves and their skills in sport • Develop the skills of team working, research and planning and understand that sports performance goes far beyond just the simple physical activity of sport • Take part in outdoor and adventurous activities in natural settings, learning how to do this safely as well as understanding the benefits that these activities offer to people					
Grouping The students are taught in mixed ability groups.					
Time spent in school on this subject The course is 5 hours over a 2-week cycle.					
Controlled Assessment The students complete three units when doing this course, two mandatory and one optional: • Contemporary issues in sport 40% (Mandatory) - Examined • Performance and leadership in sports activities 40% (Mandatory) - Moderated • Sport and the Media or Outdoor Adventurous Activities unit (Optional) 20% – Moderated Internal Assessment The units of 'Performance and leadership in sports activities' and 'Sport and the media' are assessed internally. External Assessment The unit of 'Contemporary issues in sport' is assessed externally.					
Examination Details	<table> <tr> <td>Controlled Assessment:</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr> <td>External Assessment:</td><td>40%</td></tr> </table>	Controlled Assessment:	60%	External Assessment:	40%
Controlled Assessment:	60%				
External Assessment:	40%				
Links with advanced courses and careers: • The knowledge and skills required to progress into a career in the sports industry as well as providing them with a valuable social-science based background if they chose to progress at Level 3 into a more Leadership, Development or Media focused course. • Can lead to post 16 courses such as: A Level in Physical Education and Levels 2 & 3 in Cambridge Technical for Sport and Physical Activity. • Transferable skills, such as presentation skills, report writing, team working, leadership and research skills.					
For more information please contact: Mr Simpson on Stephen.Simpson@weaverhamhighschool.com					



Be the Best Version of You

KS4 Preferences Process January and February 2026: Timeline of Events

<u>Curriculum Needs Analysis</u> Meeting of Deputy Headteacher (Raising Standards), Deputy Headteacher (Ethos and Behaviour), Head of Year 9, Year 9 PSM and SENDCO to discuss the learning and curriculum needs of all Year 9 students.	Week Beginning 5 th January 2026
<u>Curriculum Team Support</u> All departments will provide detailed information to students through lesson time and Google Classroom. Individual pupils can access guidance from class teachers should they need it.	Monday 5 th January – Thursday 12 th February 2026
<u>Targeted Preferences Guidance Meetings</u> SLT, Head of Year 9, Year 9 PSM and SENDCO will meet with key pupils. Any pupil will access guidance from the team should they request it via Deputy Headteacher (Raising Standards).	Monday 5 th January – Thursday 12 th February 2026
<u>KS4 Preferences Assembly</u> Preferences assembly where full process explained to all pupils and KS4 Course Booklet provided.	Wednesday 7 th January 2026
<u>GCSE Course Booklet</u> GCSE Courses Booklet 2024-26 is available on the school website in section entitled 'Year 9: GCSE Preferences Process'.	Thursday 8 th January 2026
<u>Tutor Time Information Giving</u> Tutors will gradually share the recordings from each subject to Year 9 tutor groups to help pupils make well-informed choices regarding their preferences.	Monday 12 th January – Friday 6 th February 2026
<u>Aspiring Futures Careers Event</u> An evening to support course choices and career aspirations. A drop-in careers fayre with a range of employers, Further Education and Higher Education institutions.	Thursday 15 th January 2026
<u>Parent and Pupil KS4 Preferences Evening</u> A drop-in event where pupils and parents will have the opportunity to ask subject leaders questions about GCSE courses.	Thursday 22 nd January 2026
<u>Taster Session Registration Link</u> A taster session link will be sent along with the preferences form link to allow pupils to sign up to taster sessions if they are considering certain subjects.	Wednesday 28 th January 2026
<u>Taster Session Registration Deadline</u> Deadline for registering interest in taster sessions with Mrs. Case.	Wednesday 4 th February (11am) 2026
<u>Taster Sessions</u> Pupils who have chosen subjects they have never experienced will have the opportunity to take part in a short taster lesson to check it is what they want to pursue.	Friday 6 th February 2026 (& Thursday 5 th too if needed)
<u>Preference Document Release</u> Preferences form (Google Form) is released to pupils via parental email.	Friday 6 th February 2026 (5pm)
<u>Final Deadline</u> Deadline for the submission of preference choices to Mrs. Case. Google Form must have been submitted at this point.	Friday 13 th February 2026



Be the Best Version of You