



Guided Choices



YEAR 8 & 9

Choose #Crantastic
Community: Learning: Opportunities

Name : _____

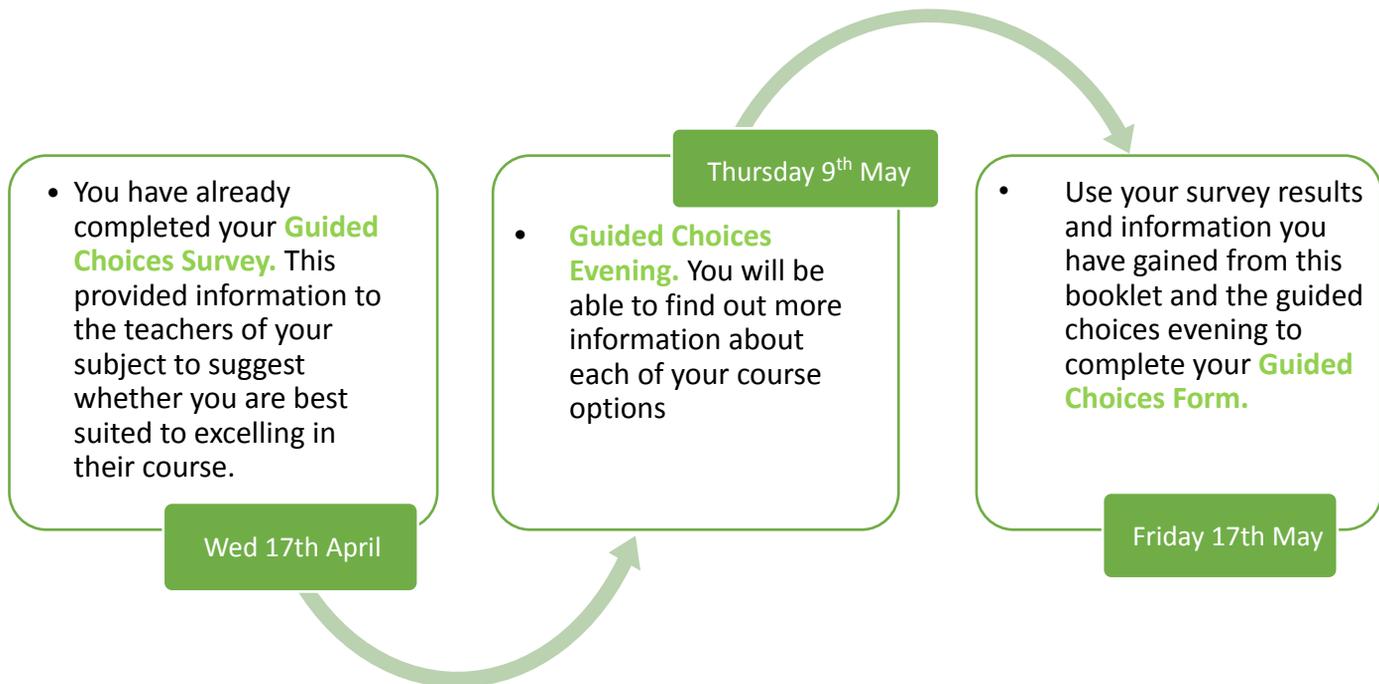
Year Group: _____ Head of Year: _____

Tutor Group: _____ Tutor: _____



As you progress into upper Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, to begin your GCSE courses, it is an exciting and important time to start thinking about your future. This booklet provides detail on each of the courses available to you and how this could support your future choices after your time at CEC .

Timeline



CEC KS4 Curriculum overview

In KS4 (Year 10 and 11) all our pupils will complete 9 GCSEs or equivalent.

- **English - 4 hours per week**
 - English Language (GCSE)
 - English Literature (GCSE)
- **Mathematics - 4 hours per week**
 - Mathematics (GCSE)
- **Science – 9 hours per fortnight**
 - Combined double award (GCSE)
- **French (GCSE) – 5 hours per fortnight**
- **Personal Development – 1 hour per week**
- **Core PE – 3 hours per fortnight**
- **Humanities x 1 – 5 hours per fortnight**
 - Geography (GCSE)
 - History (GCSE)
- **Open x 2 – 5 hours per fortnight**
 - Art (GCSE)
 - Computer Science (GCSE)
 - Performing Arts (Acting) – Drama (BTEC)
 - Music (GCSE or BTEC depending on cohort)
 - Sports Studies (OCR Cambridge National)
 - Separate Sciences (GCSE)

Year 8 Choices

If you are a Year 8 Pupil you are able to choose two Open Subjects. All other subjects will remain as core.

- **English - 4 hours per week**
 - English Language (GCSE)
 - English Literature (GCSE)
- **Mathematics - 4 hours per week**
 - Mathematics (GCSE)
- **Science – 4 hours per week**
 - Combined double award (GCSE)
- **French (GCSE) – 5 hours per fortnight**
- **Personal Development – 1 hour per week**
- **Core PE – 3 hours per fortnight**

Choice Subjects

- **Open – 5 hours per fortnight**
 - Art (GCSE)
 - Computer Science (GCSE)
 - Performing Arts (Acting) – Drama (BTEC)
 - Music (GCSE or BTEC depending on cohort)
 - Sports Studies (OCR Cambridge National)
 - Separate Sciences (GCSE)

Year 9 Choices

If you are a Year 9 Pupil you are able to choose two Open Subjects and a Humanities subject. All other subjects will remain as core.

Core Subjects

- **English - 4 hours per week**
 - English Language (GCSE)
 - English Literature (GCSE)
- **Mathematics - 4 hours per week**
 - Mathematics (GCSE)
- **Science – 9 hours per fortnight**
 - Combined double award (GCSE)
- **French (GCSE) – 5 hours per fortnight**
- **Personal Development – 1 hour per week**
- **Core PE – 3 hours per fortnight**

Choice Subjects

- **Humanities – 5 hours per fortnight**
 - Geography (GCSE)
 - History (GCSE)
- **Open x 2 – 5 hours per fortnight**
 - Art (GCSE)
 - Computer Science (GCSE)
 - Performing Arts (Acting) – Drama (BTEC)
 - Music (GCSE or BTEC depending on cohort)
 - Sports Studies (OCR Cambridge National)
 - Separate Sciences (GCSE)



Title of course: AQA GCSE Geography

Qualification/level at the end of the course: GCSE

Responsible to: Miss Jacobs (Head of Humanities)

Course Description and Content:

- Building on your KS3 knowledge, you will investigate different cultures and environments as well as different values and attitudes. Topics of study include: Natural Hazards, Coastal & River Landscapes, Urban Challenges & Opportunities, The Changing Economic World, Deprivation & Inequality, Resource management and Food, Ecosystem Balance, Tropical Rainforests, Deserts and Climate Change.

Course Requirements (Person Specification):

- Good written and verbal communication skills to debate key issues.
- To drive to manage and undertake fieldwork enquiries.
- The ability to work independently and within a team.
- The ability to use a wide range of data and statistical analysis.

Assessment: 3 Exams in Year 11.

- Paper 1 (Living with the physical environment) 1hr 30 (35% of GCSE)
- Paper 2 (Challenges in the human environment) 1hr 30 (35% of GCSE)
- Paper 3 (Geographical Applications) 1 hr 15 (30% of GCSE)

Course Preparations

- You must complete the Pre-Learning Module over Summer Term for this course.

Course Commitments:

- You must attend two fieldwork excursions in Year 11.
- You must complete all homework and classwork to a high standard consistently.

Future using this course:

- The skills and knowledge gained from studying GCSE Geography, such as spatial awareness, data analysis, critical thinking, and understanding of environmental processes, are highly transferable and applicable to a wide range of career choices. Therefore, individuals with a GCSE in Geography have the flexibility to pursue diverse career paths based on their interests and aspirations.



Title of course: Edexcel GCSE History

Qualification/level at the end of the course: GCSE

Responsible to: Miss Jacobs (Head of Humanities)

Course Description and Content:

- Building on Key Stage 3 foundations, the GCSE History course explores pivotal eras like Nazi Germany, Early Elizabeth I, and the Cold War, whilst also studying the theme of Medicine. You will analyse social, political, and cultural dynamics, fostering critical thinking. The curriculum aims to deepen historical understanding, connecting past and present, and developing key analytical skills for a comprehensive exploration of our shared history.

Course Requirements (Person Specification):

- Good written and verbal communication skills based around forming historical arguments.
- The ability to independently read and understand historical documents.
- The ability to write essay style questions independently.

Assessment: 3 Exams in Year 11.

- Paper 1 (Medicine in Britain, c1250–present + The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches) (1h 15m) 31% of GCSE
- Paper 2 (Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588 + Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91) (1h 45) 38% of GCSE
- Paper 3 (Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39) (1 hr 20m) 31% of GCSE

Course Preparations

- You must complete the Pre-Learning Module over Summer Term for this course.

Course Commitments:

- You must complete homework assignments each week, some involving independent research.
- You must complete all homework and classwork to a high standard consistently.

Future using this course:

- A GCSE in History cultivates essential career skills, including research, critical thinking, and effective communication. Students develop a nuanced understanding of context, empathy, and adaptability, making them well-equipped for diverse professions such as business, technology, and international relations. Particular focus is put on geopolitics throughout the GCSE, so these are well-matched to careers or courses in that industry.



Title of course: AQA Art & Design (fine art)

Qualification/level at the end of the course: GCSE

Responsible to: Mrs Salas Subject lead for Art

Course Description and Content:

- To study GCSE Art is to become a practicing artist right from the start. You'll be taught the skills and knowledge in workshop style lessons, such as, printmaking and sgraffito from the beginning, moving on to creating your own visual diary based on a variety of themes. No two sketchbooks are alike because you will grow your own style, interests and portfolio of work, including your artist influence pages and analysis.

Course Requirements (Person Specification):

- An interest in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and photography.
- The ability to work independently on your work in school and at home.
- Confidence in yourself to create artwork and experiment with ideas.

Assessment: Portfolio (component 1) & ESA (component 2)

- Component 1: Portfolio = 60% of overall grade (Year 10 + 11 until Christmas)
- Component 2: Externally Set Assessment = 40% of overall grade (January of year 11-April)

Course Preparations

- You must visit as many galleries and museums as possible!
- Set aside time each week to draw or create something.

Course Commitments:

- You must complete all independent study on time to stay up to date with deadlines
- You must complete all work to a high standard consistently.

Future using this course:

- The skills and knowledge gained from studying GCSE Art will allow you to access a range of creative studies and career opportunities in the future, such as graphic design, architecture, fashion and photography. Having the skills to express yourself with art can lead to a being a professional artist, as well as giving you the tools to make artwork for yourself. You'll develop transferable skills such as critical thinking and analysis, as well as building your cultural and historical awareness.



Music

Title of course: BTEC Tech Award Music Practice

Qualification/level at the end of the course: Level 2 BTEC

Responsible to: Ms Hawkins Subject Lead for Music

Course Description and Content:

- This course is an opportunity to develop your musical skills through practical and written work. Lessons will encourage you to develop your musical knowledge and skill through practical activities. You will be involved in live performances or events and given the opportunity to share your work with others. You will choose at least two of the three pathways: production, performance and creation.

Course Requirements (Person Specification):

- Interest in music
- Attending rehearsals in the lead up to performances or assessments
- Participating in live performances/workshops
- Ability to play an instrument and/or use a DAW (like Bandlab for Education)
- Joining an extracurricular group.

Assessment: 3 Exams in Year 11.

- Component 1 (Exploring Music Products and Styles) Dec Assessment y10 (Internal)
- Component 2 (Music Skills Development) March Assessment y10 (Internal)
- Component 3 (Responding to a Music Brief) March Assessment y11 (External)

Course Preparations

- Practising your instrument and preparing a performance piece.

Course Commitments:

- Performance and Composition for Component 1 and 2
- Good attendance to stay up to date with Coursework.

Future using this course:

- The skills gained from BTEC Music Practice, such as Time management, reflection and evaluation skills, group work, independent research and analysis, self-confidence are highly transferable and applicable to a wide range of career choices. Therefore, individuals who study music can pursue diverse career paths. This course can also lead to a job in the creative industry which is worth £108 billion pounds (gov.uk) in the UK.



Title of course: BTEC Tech Award: Performing Arts

Qualification/level at the end of the course: BTEC

Responsible to: Miss Britland (Teacher of Drama)

Course Description and Content:

- The BTEC offers students a dynamic and hands-on exploration of the world of performing arts. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore Drama through performance and theoretical studies
- Students will delve into various acting methods, character development techniques, and performance styles. Through practical workshops, rehearsals, theory and performances, students will be able to refine their performance, creativity and confidence skills

Course Requirements (Person Specification):

- Development of key skills that prove their aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire and responding to stimuli
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the performing arts, including personal management and communication

Assessment: Year 10 - Component 1 & 2 Year 11: Component 3

- Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (30%)
- Component 2: Developing Skills & Techniques in the Performing Arts (30%)
- Component 3: Responding to a brief (40%)

Course Preparations

- Read through the monologue scripts on Google Classroom and pick one you enjoy the most

Course Commitments:

- You must be committed to stay after school for performances and rehearsals if/when needed
- Be involved in some capacity in the school production (Performing OR Backstage)

Future using this course:

- The skills and knowledge gained from studying BTEC Drama, such as spatial awareness, creativity, confidence, and understanding performance skills, are highly transferable and applicable to a wide range of career choices, not just in the Arts. Therefore, individuals with a BTEC in Drama have the flexibility to pursue diverse career paths based on their interests and aspirations.



Title of course: OCR Cambridge National in Sports Studies

Qualification/level at the end of the course: GCSE

Responsible to: Mr Buckingham (Subject Lead Physical Education)

Course Description and Content:

Our Cambridge National in Sport Studies empowers pupils to develop independent thinking skills in the study of sport and its practical applications in real-life scenarios. Through this program, pupils delve into contemporary issues impacting the sports realm, engage in both playing and leading sports activities, and explore the realm of outdoor adventure activities.

Course Requirements and commitments (Person Specification):

- Participate in at least 1 extracurricular sports club
- Proficient in writing long, detailed coursework assignments
- Meet deadlines consistently
- Conduct thorough research tasks
- Confidently lead sports sessions
- Experienced and confident in cycling to undertake a Mountain Biking Assessment

Assessment: 2 Coursework Components (Including Practical assessments) 1 Written Examination

R185 - Performance & Leadership in Sport

Topic 1 Practical Coursework Assessment (September 2024-December 2025)

Topic 2 Written and Practical Coursework (September 2024-December 2024)

Topic 3, 4, 5 Written and Practical Coursework (January 2025 - April 2025)

R187 - Outdoor Adventure Activities

Topic 3,4 Written and Practical Coursework (April 2025 - July 2025)

Topic 1,2 Written Coursework (September 2025 - December 2025)

R184 Contemporary Issues in Sport

Topics 1,2,3,4,5 (Written Exam January 2026 - Exam taken in May)

Course Preparations

- You must complete the Pre-Learning Research tasks over Summer Term.

Future using this course:

- The skills and knowledge gained from studying CNAT Sports Studies such as spatial awareness, data analysis, critical thinking, and understanding of environmental processes, are highly transferable and applicable to a wide range of career choices. Therefore, individuals with a CNAT Sports Studies have the flexibility to pursue diverse career paths based on their interests and aspirations.



Title of course: Edexcel GCSE Computer Science

Qualification/level at the end of the course: GCSE

Responsible to: Mr Meehan (Head of Computing)

Course Description and Content:

- Building on your KS3 knowledge, you will explore how computers function; from their most basic components to the running of an entire system. You will explore how data is used to represent sound, images, text and a whole lot more. Following this you will get to explore networks and security. You will also benefit from greatly developing your programming skills; developing interesting and complex algorithms.

Course Requirements (Person Specification):

- Good problem solving skills and a desire to develop into a highly skilled programmer.
- A desire to code not only in school but also in your free time.
- Resilience; learning to code doesn't always go according to plan.
- Good English and Maths skills; in order to interpret task requirements.

Assessment: 3 Exams in Year 11.

- Paper 1 (Principles of Computer Science) 1hr 30 (50% of GCSE)
- Paper 2 (Application of Computational Thinking) 2hr (50% of GCSE)

Course Preparations

- Time2Code.com
- Craig N Dave Youtube

Course Commitments:

- You must complete all independent programming challenges set
- You must complete all homework and classwork to a high standard consistently.

Future using this course:

- The skills and knowledge gained from studying GCSE Computer Science are applicable to a wide range of modern career paths; programming bespoke software for new devices, AI and machine learning, cyber security, web development and application development.



Title of course: Edexcel GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE and Physics

Qualification/level at the end of the course: GCSE x 3

Responsible to: Mrs McPherson (Head of Science)

Course Description and Content:

- Building on your KS3 knowledge, you will explore current scientific understanding of a broad range of content across all three science. Topics of study include all content from the combined science course plus: Homeostasis, antibiotics, plant disease, chemical analysis, clean fuel cells, alcohols, nuclear reactions, static electricity and astronomy.

Course Requirements (Person Specification):

- Good written and verbal communication skills to write extended explanations and evaluations of practical techniques.
- The ability to work independently and practically within a team.
- The ability to use a wide range of applied mathematical techniques.

Assessment: 9 Exams in Year 11, 3 per separate GCSE, all 1hr 10min.

- Biology Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3
- Chemistry Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3
- Physics Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3

Course Preparations

- You must complete the Pre-Learning Module over Summer Term for this course.

Course Commitments:

- You must complete a total of 24 core practical investigations.
- You must complete all homework and classwork to a high standard consistently.

Future using this course:

- The skills and knowledge gained from studying separate GCSE sciences, such as problem-solving and critical thinking, along with an understanding of the essential role science plays in our society, are highly transferable and broadly applicable. Studying science is not only beneficial for academic and career advancement, but also for personal enrichment and understanding of the world around you.

To make your choice please use complete the relevant form for your year group using the QR codes or links below. All choices must be made by **Friday 17th May**

If you have any questions please contact your child's Tutor or Head of Year.

Year 8 Guided Choices Form Link:
<https://forms.gle/BNhkojSc9rUfycsj7>



Year 9 Guided Choices Form Link:
<https://forms.gle/5kyx5w8dvnXm3VSC7>



Notes
