

AVANTI HOUSE SCHOOL

YEAR 9 – KEY STAGE 4 CHOICES

2016 – 2018



AVANTI HOUSE

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The Avanti House Curriculum ABC

Academic, Balanced, Creative

The subject choices that you make for your studies at key stage 4 can have an enormous impact on your future career and life opportunities. It is important to take time, take good advice and to make choices wisely.

To keep as many career options as possible open to you, you must choose a *balanced* curriculum. Ours is a curriculum with an academic core. However, it is also a balanced offer; one which offers real choice, including all-important creative and practical options from which to choose. This ensures that your studies at key stage 4 play to all of your strengths, aspirations and goals.

This is the ABC of choices at Avanti House – Academic, Balanced, Creative.

The Academic Core

The Governing Body has agreed to a curriculum at key stage 4 where **ALL students** will study the following compulsory GCSE courses for two years.

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature (for the majority of students)

GCSE Religious Education (PRE) - including Hinduism, ethics and the study of at least one other religion

GCSE Chemistry (plus at least ONE other science; Biology or Physics – or all three if you choose)

GCSE Geography **OR** History (you can of course choose both if you wish to do that).

The vast majority of students will also be encouraged to study a modern foreign language – Spanish or French – especially those who are likely to have achieved at least a level 5a by the end of year 9

All students will also have two hours of non-examination PE each week (there is in addition a GCSE PE option that can be selected)

Students will then have between **0 and 3 additional, free choices** depending on their selection of the sciences, geography/history and a language.

Most students will study 9 or 10 GCSE subjects – slightly less than in the previous year due to the fact that almost ALL GCSEs for our current year 9 are of the new style (graded 1 – 9 rather than G – A*). These new-style GCSEs are more demanding and require more timetabled curriculum time.

The English Baccalaureate – for the top-ranking Universities

You may have heard of a national group of qualifications called the **English Baccalaureate™**. This came into being about four years ago.

The English Baccalaureate™ - intended for most students – is recognised to be the very best set of academic subject choices leading, ultimately to students been highly favoured by the highest-ranking, research-based (RUSSELL Group) Universities in the UK and beyond.

The subjects in the English Baccalaureate™ are called the 'facilitation' subjects. By studying the subjects in the English Baccalaureate at key stage 4, you keep the most open doors to study anything at the top Universities.

If YOU WANT TO QUALIFY for the English Baccalaureate™, then, in addition to the compulsory core you will HAVE to choose a Modern Foreign Language (Spanish or French). This is why we shall be encouraging ALL students who will be at level 5a and higher in year 9 to take a language.

Following this, if you go on to achieve a grade 4-9 in all of the academic core subjects (including English literature) and in your language (Spanish or French) then you will have achieved the English Baccalaureate™.

We shall then accredit your success in achieving the English Baccalaureate™ with a prestigious, additional **Avanti House Academic Award** on an evening in November 2018, when you receive your GCSE certificates.

Sanskrit is offered as a GCSE choice but does not qualify as part of the English Baccalaureate™ - you are, of course able to study both a modern foreign language (Spanish or French) AND Sanskrit if you choose.

How to make your choices

Because these are such important decisions that you are about to make, these are the resources we shall make available to you:

- **This Choices Booklet** – read it through, thoroughly and carefully many times
- **A Choices Mentor** – all students will be assigned a mentor to help guide you through the choices you are to make. You might meet 1:1 with your mentor. You might also invite your parents to meet with you. Your Head of Year and Miss Richardson will organize this.
- **Careers Advisor** – We shall have input from an independent careers advisor. We shall also have available software platforms for careers advice. For students who would like to meet with an independent careers advisor, that opportunity can be made available. This is more important for choices going into the sixth form; nevertheless, an appointment can be arranged for you if you wish – contact **Mrs Quelch** who is organizing all careers support.
- **Choices Assemblies** – we shall introduce some of the courses available for study (especially the newer ones) and also hear from Careers Advisors and members of the business community too – organized by Mrs Quelch, Miss Richardson and your Head of Year.
- **Parents' Options Evening** – Advice will be available at the parents' evening for year 9

Also, talk with your parents, do your own research.

Do not choose subjects JUST because your friends are choosing them or because you 'like the teacher'. Choose them because you want to study

them, because they provide a good balance to your studies and because they lead you to where you would like to go.

Your 'Free Choices' available for the two GCSE years 2016-2018 are as follows:

GCSE Biology and/or GCSE Physics

(You **MUST choose at least one of these** to supplement the compulsory GCSE Chemistry that you will be studying. If you are thinking of medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, nursing or any other medical career, you would probably choose biology to go with your chemistry. If you were thinking of engineering, surveying, architecture etc. you would probably choose physics to go with your chemistry. If you were not thinking of either of these two routes, then you choose either. You can also choose all three sciences – the most able students in UK schools often do – just to keep their career options wide open)

GCSE History or GCSE Geography

(You **MUST choose one of these humanities subjects**. You CAN choose both if you wish but most students choose one or the other to keep other option choices (e.g. practical/creative subjects) open for them.)

GCSE Spanish or GCSE French

(If you are likely to be at level 5a or higher by the end of year 9 you really should choose one of these two languages to give you a chance of achieving the English Baccalaureate TM.)

The **completely free choices** then available (between 0 and 3 of them depending upon what you have chosen above) are:

GCSE Sanskrit

GCSE Business Studies

GCSE Art & Design (any medium – can include photography as a module)

GCSE PE

GCSE Drama

GCSE Music

GCSE Dance

GCSE Design Technology

GCSE Food Studies

GCSE Media

GCSE Citizenship

What follows are pages providing some basic detail for each of the subjects – both the academic, compulsory core as well as the options (including subjects that are new to you). Following that, some examples of good and bad choices, a timeline for making these choices and the all-important Option Choices Form for students to complete and to hand in.

It is important to note that in no school do ALL options run. There has to be a viable group size in most cases. For example, although 3-4 students last year chose it, GCSE Food Studies did not run – the group size was not viable. Also, students will be asked to indicate two 'reserve' choices, just in case one or more of their main choices simply does not work. This rarely happens.

SUBJECT INFORMATION SHEETS

Compulsory Academic Core

GCSE Subject:	Mathematics
Subject Leader:	Head of Mathematics & Numeracy: Ms. Bardsley
Senior Line Manager:	Principal: Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	Mathematics is a compulsory core subject and one of our specialisms. At least a Grade 4 (and probably a 5) at GCSE will be required in order to later go on to University to study any subject.

GCSE Subject	English Language and English Literature
Subject Leader	Head of English & Literacy: Ms. Vasudeva
Senior Line Manager	Deputy Principal: Mrs. Morris
Basic Information:	English is a compulsory core subject. Students will need to achieve at least a grade 5 at GCSE if they wish to go on to university. As part of their GCSE students will study modern day and 19 th century fiction texts and creative writing.
*Assessment	Un-tiered (no lower or higher tier), linear (both examinations must be taken at the end of the two years) and no coursework – although there is an internally assessed, separate endorsement of Spoken English. Two externally assessed examinations: Paper 1 (50%) Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing and Paper 2 (50%) Writer’s Viewpoints and Perspectives. The qualification will be graded and certificated on the new nine grade scale from 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade; grade 5 is the ‘international benchmark standard’ to pass; grade 5 will be the equivalent of a current ‘C’ grade.
Career Pathways	GCSE English (and at a higher grade) is required for most jobs and career pathways. You need a higher-grade pass at GCSE to simply get into University. To study English at University, you will also need to have been successful in GCSE English Literature. The majority of key stage 4 students will be entered both for GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

*Assessment	Tiered – Foundation (1-5)/Higher (4-9), linear (all three examinations must be taken at the end of the two years) and no coursework. 2/3 is calculator, 1/3 is non-calculator. The qualification will be graded and certificated on the new nine grade scale from 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade. Grade 4 will set approximately at the level of a current Grade C although Grade 5 is the ‘international benchmark standard’ and may well become the new benchmark for having achieved a ‘higher-grade GCSE pass’.
Career Pathways	GCSE Mathematics (and at a higher grade) is required for most jobs and career pathways. You need a higher-grade pass at GCSE to simply get into University.

GCSE Subject:	Chemistry
Subject Leader:	Director of Futures & Acting Head of Science: Mr V P Patel

Senior Line Manager:	Deputy Principal: Nadira Morris
Basic Information:	<p>Subject content</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources
*Assessment	<p>TWO Written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes each</p> <p>Foundation and Higher Tier</p> <p>100 marks</p> <p>50% of GCSE for each paper</p> <p>Grading : 1-9</p>
Career Pathways	Of the three sciences, chemistry is the 'gateway' science. It is the only science that is required at A-level for medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and related medical professions. It is a preferred option at A-level (and therefore GCSE) for engineering.

GCSE Subject:	Religious Studies (PRE)
Subject Leader:	Head of PRE – Mrs. Kahn
Senior Line Manager:	Principal: Mr. Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>As an all-through, Hindu-designated faith school, the foundations of our PRE curriculum, from Reception through to year 9 have a strong, Hindu focus, whilst also embracing comparative study from all of the world's major religions and philosophical traditions.</p> <p>At GCSE, in Religious Studies, this will culminate in the choice of a specification, which allows students to demonstrate what they know and understand from the Hindu tradition alongside a broader assessment of philosophy and ethics influencing those of all religions and none.</p>
*Assessment	<p>A full-award GCSE (many students in other schools do short-course, half-GCSE RE) Specification (2012 onwards) not yet determined.</p> <p>The current cohort are studying AQA but for the new cohort the specification is still to be confirmed.</p> <p>Two examinations. Overall award graded 1-9</p>
Career Pathways	Any humanities qualifications at GCSE provide a good basis for study post-16 and on into positions in people-orientated career pathways – e.g. administration, consultation, law, communications, social service, public service, teaching

Additional Science Choice – Either Biology or Physics (or both)

GCSE Subject	Biology
Subject Leader	Director of Futures & Acting Head of Science: Mr V P Patel
Senior Line Manager	Deputy Principal: Mrs. Morris
Basic Information	<p>Subject content</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response

	<p>4. Bioenergetics</p> <p>5. Homeostasis and response</p> <p>6. Inheritance, variation and evolution</p> <p>7. Ecology</p>
Assessment	<p>TWO Written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes each</p> <p>Foundation and Higher Tier</p> <p>100 marks</p> <p>50% of GCSE for each paper</p> <p>Grading : 1-9</p>
Career Pathways	<p>Biology (in addition to chemistry) can be a useful addition (at A level/IB) for entry into medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and related medical professions and also for some university courses for bioengineering. In addition, biology paves the way for careers in laboratory based research, pathology, forensic science and biomedical sciences to name but a few.</p>

GCSE Subject	Physics
Subject Leader	Head of Physics: Mrs S Julka
Senior Line Manager	Director of Futures & Acting Head of Science: Mr V P Patel
Basic Information	<p>Subject content</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forces 2. Energy 3. Waves 4. Electricity 5. Magnetism and electromagnetism 6. Particle model of matter 7. Atomic structure 8. Space physics (physics only) pto...
*Assessment	<p>TWO Written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes each</p> <p>Foundation and Higher Tier</p> <p>100 marks</p> <p>50% of GCSE for each paper</p> <p>Grading : 1-9</p>
Career Pathways	<p>Physics at GCSE is a must for numerate students looking to study either engineering or physics at university. Students seeking a career in medicine, dentistry or the study the sciences at top universities should study physics at GCSE.</p>

Humanities Choice: Either History or Geography or both

GCSE Subject:	History
Subject Leader:	Head of History: Mr M Heffernan
Senior Line Manager:	Director of Heritage: Ms J Quelch
Basic Information:	<p>Grading 9-1</p> <p>Unit 1: Thematic study and historic environment</p> <p>Students will have a choice of answering one thematic question from the following 3 options:</p>

	<p>1) Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present. 2) Medicine in Britain, c1250–present. 3) Warfare and British society, c1250–present</p> <p>Unit 2: Period study and British depth study Students take one of the following British depth study options: 1) Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88 2) The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216 3) Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40 4) Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88</p> <p>Additionally students have a choice of one of the following period study options 1) Spain and the ‘New World’, c1490–c1555 2) British America, 1713–83: empire and revolution 3) The American West, c1835–c1895 4) Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91 5) Conflict in the Middle East, 1945–95.</p> <p>Unit 3: Modern depth study Students will study one of the following modern depth studies: 1) Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–41 2) Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39 pto... 3) Mao’s China, 1945–76 4) The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad.</p>
*Assessment	<p>The Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) in History consists of three externally examined written papers.</p> <p>Unit 1 makes up 30% of the overall GCSE grade, unit 2 40% and unit 3 30%.</p>
Career Pathways	<p>A qualification in history provides students with a wide range of transferable skills, which are important in many career fields. Understanding and analysis of issues and events are of key importance to historians and can be applied in many other fields of work. Examples of some of the career paths include, politician, journalist, barrister, lawyer, teacher/lecturer, archivist and spy agent.</p>

GCSE Subject:	Geography
Subject Leader:	Head of Geography: Mrs Quelch Lead Teacher: Mr Driscoll
Senior Line Manager:	Director of Heritage: Ms J Quelch
Basic Information:	<p>GCSE - AQA Examination board - Geography A (Linear) 9030 Geography at GCSE encompasses a variety of learning styles including independent study, group work, field work, use of ICT, case study analysis, map skills, understanding theory, debate. Geography at this level is a popular choice for many as they start to consider potential career options.</p> <p>The GCSE consists of three parts:</p> <p>People and the physical environment – the fascinating study of coasts, rocks, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and how and why they are formed / happen / managed People and the human environment – which builds on Year 9 work through the study of population, tourism, development, interdependence and globalisation Controlled Assessment -This requires candidates to collect primary data, locally, to investigate one question or hypothesis</p>
*Assessment	GCSE assessment consists of three parts

	<p>Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment – 35% - (Physical Geography)</p> <p>3.1.1 Section A: The challenge of natural hazards, 3.1.2 Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK, 3.1.3 Section C: The living world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST)) <p>Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment – 35% (Human geography)</p> <p>3.2.1 Urban issues and challenges, 3.2.2 The changing economic world, 3.2.3 The challenge of resource management, 3.4 Geographical skills</p> <p>Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes</p> <p>88 marks (including 3 marks for SPGST)</p> <p>Paper 3 – Geographical Applications – 30% (Controlled Assessment)</p> <p>3.3.1 Issue evaluation, 3.3.2 Fieldwork, 3.4 Geographical skills pto...</p> <p>Written exam: 1 hour</p> <p>76 marks (including 6 marks for SPGST)</p> <p>Pre-release resources made available from 15 March in the year of the exam</p>
Career Pathways	Any humanities qualifications at GCSE provide a good basis for study post -16 and onto careers in people orientated career pathways – e.g. administration, journalism, marketing, consultation, law, communications, social service, public service, teaching alongside archaeology, NGOs, government and politics.

SUBJECT INFORMATION SHEETS – COMPLETELY FREE CHOICES

GCSE Subject:	Design Technology (Product Design)
Subject Leader:	Head of Design & Technology and Lead in Outdoor Education: Mr V Patel (VPA)
Senior Line Manager:	Director of Futures: Mr V P Patel (VPT)
Basic Information:	<p>GCSE Design and Technology: Product Design enables students to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques.</p> <p>Packaging, labelling and instructions are encouraged as part of the complete design proposal and advertising, points of sale can be used to supplement the making experience and help create products which can be evaluated for their commercial viability.</p> <p>This course has 60 per cent controlled assessment in order to recognise the importance of practical work within this subject</p>

Assessment	Written Paper: 40% Design and make: 60% Final grading: GCSE A - G pto...
Career Pathways	Possible career routes, following graduation or apprenticeship include engineering, applied mathematics, architecture, interior design, surveying, product Design, Illustration and advertising.

GCSE Subject:	Computer Science
Subject Leader:	Head of Computer Science: Mr J Yates
Senior Line Manager:	Director of Futures: Mr V P Patel
Basic Information:	<p>Component 01 Computer Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems architecture • Memory • Storage • Wired and wireless networks • Network topologies, protocols and layers • Network security • System software • Moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns <p>Component 02 Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translators and facilities of languages • Algorithms • High- and low-level programming • Computational logic • Data representation <p>Component 03 Programming Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming techniques • Design • Development • Effectiveness and efficiency • Technical understanding • Testing, evaluation and conclusions <p>Grading 1-9</p>
*Assessment	Component 01 and Component 02 are assessed as two 90 minute written exams and represent 40% of the course each. Component 03 represents the remaining 20% which is an externally moderated non-exam assessment.
Career Pathways	Computing in general has become ubiquitous in today's workplace, whether in finance, engineering, scientific, artistic or otherwise. Learning how to code and manage a computer system will have real benefits for future career paths. It is highly recommended for students looking to study engineering or the physical sciences at university.

GCSE Subject	Dance
Subject Leader	Lead Teacher (Dance): Ms. Onuphre
Senior Line Manager	Senior Leader: Assistant Principal (Director of Artistry): Mr Nash
Basic Information	<p>GCSE Dance at Avanti House School combines practical and written skills with a focus on dance technique, choreography and performance, as well as analysis and criticism of dance. The new specification in Dance incorporates written work (40%, Critical Appreciation of Dance) and practical aspects of Dance.</p> <p>Component 1: Performance and choreography</p> <p>What's assessed: Performance</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration) • Duet/trio performance (three and a half minutes in duration) Choreography • Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes) <p>Component 2: Dance appreciation</p> <p><u>What's assessed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills • Critical appreciation of own work • Critical appreciation of professional works <p>Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First Certificate in Performing Arts (Dance) is being considered as an alternative to AQA GCSE dance from September 2016.</p>
*Assessment	<p>Component 1: Performance and choreography Internally marked and externally moderated</p> <p>Performance 30% of GCSE 40 marks (15 marks for set phrases and 25 marks for duet/trio performance)</p> <p>Choreography 30% of GCSE 40 marks Total component 60%</p> <p>Non-exam assessment (NEA) marked by the centre and moderated by AQA</p> <p>Component 2: Dance appreciation 40% of GCSE</p> <p>Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks pto... Questions based on students' own practice in performance and choreography and the GCSE Dance anthology.</p>
Career Pathways	Dance provides a solid foundation for a career in dance or performing arts and/or further studies in dance or performing arts, including A-level Dance.

GCSE Subject:	French – you must study one language to achieve the English Baccalaureate
Subject Leader:	Head of MFL: Ms. Justine
Senior Line Manager:	Director of Heritage: Mrs. Quelch
Basic Information:	Students cover vocabulary, language structures and grammar within the contexts of

Topic areas:	<p>Identity & Culture, Local area, holidays and travel, School, Future aspirations, study and work, international and global dimension</p> <p>Study will be through a range of approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbooks and worksheets • Listening practice through CD target language material • Pair and small group work (particularly for developing oral skills) • Weekly homework involving reading, writing and memorising. • IT (word processing, CD-ROMs and use of the internet) • Translation activities
*Assessment	<p>Listening examination in Year 11 (foundation or higher level): 25% of overall grade</p> <p>Reading examination in Year 11 (foundation or higher level): 25% of overall grade</p> <p>Writing examination in Year 11 (foundation or higher level): 25% of overall grade</p> <p>Speaking examination in Year 11 (foundation or higher level): 25% of overall grade</p> <p>Final grading: GCSE 9-1</p>
Career Pathways	<p>Highly regarded by Universities as a facilitation subject, there are specific career opportunities which include teaching, translating and interpreting. The ability to offer a language is welcomed in many aspects of business, science, engineering and the medical profession.</p>

GCSE Subject:	Spanish – you must study one language to achieve the English Baccalaureate
Subject Leader:	Acting Head of Modern Foreign Languages: Ms Sadhvani
Senior Line Manager:	Director of Heritage: Mrs. Quelch
Basic Information:	Students cover vocabulary, language structures and grammar within the contexts of Identity & Culture, Local area, holidays and travel, School, Future aspirations, study and work, international and global dimension
Topic areas:	<p>Study will be through a range of approaches:</p> <p>Textbooks and worksheets</p> <p>Listening practice through CD target language material</p> <p>Pair and small group work (particularly for developing oral skills)</p> <p>Weekly homework involving reading, writing and memorising.</p> <p>IT (word processing, CD-ROMs and use of the internet)</p> <p>Video material.</p>
Assessment	<p>Listening examination in Year 11 (foundation or higher level): 25% of overall grade</p> <p>Reading examination in Year 11 (foundation or higher level): 25% of overall grade</p> <p>Writing examination in Year 11 (foundation or higher level): 25% of overall grade</p> <p>Speaking examination in Year 11 (foundation or higher level): 25% of overall grade</p> <p>Final grading: GCSE 9-1</p>
Career Pathways	<p>Highly regarded by Universities as a facilitation subject, there are specific career opportunities, which include teaching, translating and interpreting. The ability to offer a language is welcomed in many aspects of business, science, engineering and the medical profession.</p>

GCSE Subject:	Art & Design
Subject Leader	Lead Teacher (i/c Art): Ms. Devalia
Senior Line Manager:	Assistant Principal (Director of Artistry): Mr Nash

Basic Information:	<p>An exploration of practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and new media technologies.</p> <p>This is an unendorsed course – which means that students can work in appropriate art, craft and design materials and processes dependant on their interest and individual abilities.</p> <p>Students are able to produce practical and contextual work associated with two or more of the areas (endorsements) below:</p> <p>Photography (lens-based and light-based media), applied art, fine art and three-dimensional design.</p>
Assessment	<p>Unit 1: Portfolio of work, controlled assessment – Set by the centre 60% of total mark. Unit 2: Externally set task – set by examination board - 40% of total mark. 10 hours of sustained focused study.</p> <p>Overall grading: GCSE A - G</p>
Career Pathways	<p>A range of career opportunities are available to graduate artists – for example in the fields of: photography, animation & illustration, arts heritage: conservation & restoration, book arts: production & papermaking, design:</p> <p>Architecture/crafts/fashion/product/landscape/interiors, fine art, graphic design (print and web) as well as in teaching and consultancy.</p>

GCSE Subject:	Music
Subject Leader:	Head of Subject: Assistant Principal (Arts) Mr Nash
Senior Line Manager:	Senior Leader (Deputy Principal): Mrs Morris
Basic Information:	<p>GCSE music provides students with a greater understanding of music theory and music from different genres. You will also perform and compose music in various styles</p> <p>What you will study</p> <p>Practical activities: Composing (2 pieces) Performing (1 solo and 1 ensemble)</p>
*Assessment	<p>Practice compositions and performances assessed internally and then final compositions and performances assessed by an external moderator.</p> <p>The theory content is assessed by one written paper in May at the end of Year 11</p>
Career Pathways	In addition to GCSE music providing a strong and appropriate foundation for further progression to music and music technology courses, including A-level music/music technology; beyond this it can contribute to career aspirations in the media and performing arts industries as well as teaching.

GCSE Subject:	Physical Education
Subject Leader:	Head of PE: Mr. Hindes
Senior Line Manager:	Senior Leader : Assistant Principal (Director of Personalisation & Vitality): Mrs Richardson

Basic Information:	<p>The GCSE PE option enables students to develop their personal practical ability, their knowledge and understanding of tactics, strategies and rules and to study the theoretical side of the subject.</p> <p>Year 10 – An Introduction to Physical Education Year 11 – Developing Knowledge in Physical Education</p> <p>Topics such as skills, techniques, applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, Physical training, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being and use of data will be explored over the two years.</p> <p>Underpinning the syllabus is the importance of a healthy, balanced, active lifestyle.</p>
Assessment	<p>There is a combination of practical performance and exam: Practical assessment - 40%: Continual assessment of three practical activities Examination 60%: Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport Paper 2: Socio-cultural and well-being in physical activity and sport Final grading: GCSE A- G Examination: For example: two 1 hour and 15 minute papers to be taken at the end of Year 11 - each paper consists of both multiple choice and extended answer questions.</p>
Career Pathways	<p>A GCSE in Physical Education can lead to AS Physical Education or BTEC in Sport. It is an excellent foundation for careers in areas such as sports development, sports science, physiotherapy, teaching, sport journalism and sports coaching.</p>

GCSE Subject:	Citizenship – AQA
Subject Leader:	Head of Citizenship and Life Skills – Ms Martini
Senior Line Manager:	Assistant Principal (Director of Personalisation & Vitality): Mrs Richardson
Basic Information:	<p>Citizenship is the fastest growing GCSE subject in Britain.</p> <p>Students who like to engage with current political and social issues in an active, philosophically evaluative and analytical manner will find this course very appealing.</p> <p>Citizenship requires and enhances the skills of public speaking, advocacy, critical thinking and responsible participation.</p> <p>There are five units of study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Citizenship skills, processes and methods 2. Life in modern Britain 3. Rights and responsibilities 4. Politics and participation 5. Active citizenship

*Examination and Grading:	<p>There are two assessments:</p> <p>Paper 1 Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE</p> <p>Paper 2 Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE</p> <p>Overall grading: GCSE 1-9 grades pto...</p>
Career Pathways	Any humanities qualifications at GCSE provide a good basis for study post-16 and onto careers in people-orientated career pathways – e.g. administration, journalism, marketing, consultation, law, communications, social service, public service, teaching alongside archaeology, NGOs, government and politics.

GCSE Subject:	Drama
Subject Leader	Lead Teacher i/c Drama: Ms. Grant
Senior Line Manager:	Assistant Principal (Director of Artistry) Mr Nash
Basic Information:	<p>A GCSE in Drama encourages students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a personal interest in why drama matters and be inspired, moved and changed by studying a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study • work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas • consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities • reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others • develop and demonstrate competence in a range of practical, creative and performance skills • develop a basis for their future role as active citizens in employment and society in general, as well as for the possible further study of drama actively engage in the process of dramatic study in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Pto...
* Assessment	<p>There are three units in GCSE drama</p> <p>Component 1: Devising(internally assessed and externally moderated) – 40%; This unit requires students to create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus</p> <p>Component 2: Performance from Text (Externally assessed) – 20%, This unit introduces students to the perform or design two key extracts</p> <p>Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (externally assessed) – 40%</p> <p>Written Examination</p> <p>This unit provides students with the opportunity to: a) demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of practical drama skills through their application to a live performance and b) The study of performance text</p> <p>Final grading: GCSE 1-9</p>
Career Pathways	In addition to GCSE Drama providing a strong and appropriate foundation for further progression to drama courses, including A-level Drama and Theatre Studies, beyond this it can contribute to career aspirations in the media and performing arts industries as well as teaching.

GCSE Subject:	Business Studies
Subject Leader:	Director of Heritage: Mrs J Quelch
Senior Line Manager:	Principal: Mr Mark Bennison
Basic Information:	<p>Unit 1 – introduction to small business</p> <p>1.1 Spotting a business opportunity 1.2 Showing enterprise 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice 1.4 Making the start-up effective</p>

	<p>1.5 Understanding the economic context</p> <p><u>Unit 2 Controlled Assessment</u></p> <p>Students research a small business on themes from unit 1.</p> <p><u>Building a Business</u></p> <p>3.1 Marketing 3.2 Meeting customer needs 3.3 Effective financial management 3.4 Effective people management 3.5 The wider world affecting business</p>
Assessment	<p>Unit 1 - 25% externally assessed examination paper. Unit 2 – 25% Controlled assessment. Unit 3 – 50% externally assessed examination paper.</p>
Career Pathways	<p>Many business studies students go into management and administration jobs in commercial businesses, and a business studies qualification can also be helpful to get into finance, banking or insurance. But skills in management and marketing are also required in other areas such as charity, social work and local government, while a knowledge of business is also important for consultancy, certain teaching jobs and for financial journalists.</p>

GCSE Subject:	DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (Food Preparation and Nutrition)
Subject Leader:	Head of Design & Technology: Mr V Patel (VPA)
Senior Line Manager:	Director of Futures: Mr V P Patel (VPT)
Basic Information:	<p>Food preparation skills – these are intended to be integrated into the five sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food, nutrition and health 2. Food science 3. Food safety 4. Food choice 5. Food provenance
Assessment	<p>Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks which account for 50% of GCSE. The paper consists of Multiple choice questions (20 marks) and Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks).</p> <p>The other 50% is as follows:</p> <p>Task 1: Food investigation Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.</p> <p>Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.</p> <p>Task 2: Food preparation assessment</p>

	<p>Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.</p> <p>Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.</p> <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation. • Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.
	Final grading: GCSE 1-9
Career Pathways	Working within the wider catering industry from food manufacture to restaurants not to mention the benefits of knowing how to cook at home.

What follows are two imaginative examples of students – one who has thought carefully and made some sensible choices and the other who has limited his choices and restricted himself when it comes to further study and career options.

Finally, there is the option form that you must complete and hand in.

Examples of Good and Bad Choices

The student below, Sangita, has made GOOD choices. She is thinking about engineering so has chosen physics to go with her chemistry. She is an able linguist (5a in Spanish) so she has opted to do the English Baccalaureate™ by choosing a modern foreign language.

Sangita also enjoys sport, so she has chosen GCSE PE. She was torn between this and dance but was happy that she continues to do dance outside of school anyway. She prefers history to geography too and had an additional choice so went with art and design for her creativity.

Overall Sangita has chosen the following curriculum:

<p>Core compulsory</p> <p>GCSE English and English literature GCSE mathematics GCSE RE PE (compulsory non-exam) GCSE chemistry</p> <p>Choices</p> <p>GCSE history GCSE physics GCSE Spanish GCSE PE GCSE art and design</p>

Reserves were GCSE drama and GCSE media

Niraj (below) on the other hand **DID NOT choose well**. He is a very able student, so should have thought more carefully about the English Baccalaureate TM and therefore choosing a modern foreign language. He has also chosen far too many practical/creative subjects – even for his reserves.

Niraj would like to become a lawyer – he definitely needs a little extra help to look again at these choices so that he is able to do what he wants to do when he leaves school.

Before taking this advice, Niraj, first chose to do the following

Core compulsory

GCSE English and English literature
 GCSE mathematics
 GCSE RE
 PE (compulsory non-exam)
 GCSE chemistry

Choices

GCSE art and design
 GCSE dance
 GCSE drama
 GCSE music
 GCSE design technology

Reserves were GCSE IT (computing) and GCSE catering

TIMELINE

Date	Activity	Contact
December 2015	Student completed a straw poll of options to get a sense of the kinds of choices they might like to make	Mr Bennison
15 th January	With the PR2 Reports already issued to parents, the draft Option Booklet is published online	Mr Bennison / Ms Martini
19 th January	Choices Mentors list published and Careers Service Appointed	Ms Martini / Mrs Quelch
21 st January	Options Booklet Printed and Issued	Ms Gupta
10 th February	Year 9 Parents’ Evening – Options Only (Letter by end Jan)	Ms Richardson
22 th Feb – 4 th March	Options Assemblies (Tutor Time) – Music Room	Ms Martini, Ms Richardson, Ms Quelch
19 th Jan – 4 th March	Choices Mentor Meetings	Ms Martini/Head of Year 9
7th March	Final Deadline for Option Choices Forms to be handed in	Ms Gupta
7 th March – 1 st June	Finalising Options/Timetable Construction	Mr Bennison Mr Patel (SET) Ms Zeller

Year 9 – Final Option Choices

ALL Avanti House students in year 10 will study the following subjects, which are therefore **compulsory**. All of them (except PE non exam) will give you ONE GCSE:

GCSE English Language (and for most, English Literature)

GCSE Mathematics

PE (Non-exam)

GCSE Religious Studies (PRE)

GCSE Chemistry

– you will also the **option** to study either **history** or **geography** and either **biology** or **physics** PLUS up to **three further options** from, a list of subjects

If at PR2 you are forecast (FOG) a level 5a or higher by the end of Year 9, you will be **RECOMMENDED** to choose a modern foreign language; this is so that you can be awarded the English Baccalaureate.

NAME: _____ TUTOR GROUP: _____

From this first table, decide whether you would want to study history or geography or both by ticking the box(es). You MUST study EITHER history OR Geography (or both). So you must put at least ONE TICK in the next table.

GCSE Subject	Very Brief description (In your Option Booklet in February you will get far more information)	Tick if you want to study
History	You study sources and learn about interpretations of events of the past	
Geography	Physical and human geography; natural disasters, the environment	

You MUST also study either biology OR physics (or both). So you must put at least ONE TICK in the next table.

GCSE Subject	Very Brief description (In your Option Booklet in February you will get far more information)	Tick if you want to study
Biology	The science of living things – e.g. humans, animals, plants, environments	
Physics	The science of forces and energy; gravity, heat, light, electricity, space etc.	

If you are already at OR are likely to achieve a level 5a or higher in French or Spanish by the end of year 9, you SHOULD CHOOSE to study at least one modern foreign language at GCSE. If you are in this category, you should tick your language of choice in the next table.

GCSE Subject	Very Brief description (In your Option Booklet in February you will get far more information)	Tick if you want to study
French	French to GCSE level	
Spanish	Spanish to GCSE level	

Now COUNT UP the number of boxes you have ticked in the three tables above.

If you have ticked 5 boxes already, then you have **NO** further options. If you have ticked only 4 boxes you can tick **ONE** box in the table below. If you have ticked 3 boxes above, you can tick **TWO** boxes below.

If you have only ticked 2 boxes above, you can tick **THREE** boxes below

IN ALL THE TABLES – ABOVE AND BELOW – YOUR TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKS MUST ADD UP TO FIVE

GCSE Subject	Very Brief description	Tick if you want to study
PE	Fitness, healthy lifestyle, sport performance – choice of sporting activities	
Art & Design	Creative skills and art study/understanding. A range of different media including photography.	
Design Technology	Graphic and product design, computer aided design, resistant materials manufacture	
Sanskrit	Sanskrit to GCSE level	
IT (Computing)	Computer systems and computer programming	
Dance	Dance to GCSE level	
Drama	Drama/theatre studies to GCSE level	
Music	Music history/types, composition, performance	
Business Studies	Enterprise, different business sectors, marketing, people, finance,	
Media Studies	Media studies, media in print, media in video, technology	
Food Studies	Cooking, healthy eating, catering and hospitality	
Citizenship	Rights, responsibilities, democracy, law and justice,	

FINALLY, PUT THE LETTER R IN TWO ADDITIONAL BOXES (IN ANY OF THE ABOVE FOUR TABLES). THESE ARE YOUR RESERVE CHOICES IN CASE ALL OF YOUR ACTUAL CHOICES ARE NOT ABLE TO BE GIVEN TO YOU.

Personalised Curriculum

Whilst the subjects and the courses on offer will suit the overwhelming majority of students, there will be some more personalized work on choices carried out with some learners, by our SENCo (Ms. Richardson) and her Inclusion Team. This is to ensure that the courses of study guarantee the best possible chances of success for all. Those students will be approached directly by Mrs Richardson.

If you have any further questions regarding the Options Process, please talk to your form tutor, your head of year, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Quelch or Mr. Bennison.