West Heath School

Core Subjects Booklet

Academic Year

2025-2026

West Heath School

Core Subjects

These subjects are not optional; they are subjects that all West Heath students will study.

English Language

There are **two** pathways that students could follow within **English**; this is dependent on the students' abilities, learning style and FE route that is to be pursued.

Each student will be assessed on a Literacy Assessment to determine which option is best suited to the student. It may be possible to undertake **both** qualifications in order to obtain more certificates.

Pathway 1 – GCSE English Language (9-1)

Students have the opportunity to further develop skills of analysis by exploring both fiction and non-fiction leading to their GCSE Language. Students will follow the AQA syllabus, which will require them to study a range of literary texts, both fiction and non-fiction, from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. They will develop analytical skills of texts using appropriate subject terminology, make comparisons between texts and explore how they have been written. Students will be taught how to demonstrate their ability to write in a range of styles and for different purposes.

There is a speaking and listening element to the examination, where students will need to talk on a topic in a clear, structured and interesting way. This will be graded separately with either a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade being awarded. At the end of Year 11, students will sit two exam papers.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
What's assessed **Section A: Reading** • one literature fiction text **Section B: Writing** • descriptive or narrative writing	**What's assessed** **Section A: Reading** • one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text **Section B: Writing** • writing to present a viewpoint	**What's assessed** (AO7 – AO9) • presenting • responding to questions and feedback • use of standard English
Assessed • written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 80 marks • 50 % of GCSE	**Assessed** • written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 80 marks • 50 % of GCSE	**Assessed** • teacher set throughout course • marked by teacher • separate endorsement (0 % weighting of GCSE)
Questions **Reading (40 marks) (25 %)** – one single text • 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) • 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks) • 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks) **Writing (40 marks) (25 %)** • 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)	**Questions** **Reading (40 marks) (25 %)** – two linked texts • 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) • 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks) • 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks) **Writing (40 marks) (25 %)** • 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)	

In GCSE classes we use the Cambridge GCSE English Language textbook books associated with each tier of exam, which has specifically been written for the AQA course. This resource is used in association with the assessment materials available with this scheme of work. Other materials and revision guides are also used to supplement the course.

Homework is an important part of the course and by using **BBC Skillswise**, and practising skills and techniques at home, higher grades can be achieved.

Pathway 2 – English Functional Skills

Functional Skills is an accredited English course that focuses on the fundamentals of English language used in further education, work and general life.

Functional Skills English is split into three key areas:

Reading	A written or online test of 45 - 60 minutes based on reading comprehension.
Writing	A written or online test of 45 - 60 minutes based on understanding and writing skills.
Speaking and Listening	An internally assessed (externally verified) series of speaking and listening scenarios based on real life topics.

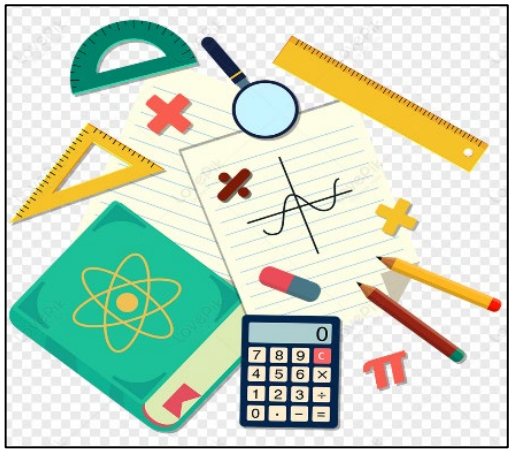
Tests can be taken at any time throughout the academic year; the tests are paper-based levels. Functional Skills is recognised by Further Education establishments and employers alike.

OR – Both!

It is possible for some students to complete a Functional Skills Level 1 and then progress to the GCSE English Language examination, giving an opportunity for learners to learn practical ***and*** creative English skills.

Students will be continually assessed, stretched and challenged by the department to maximise progression and achievement.

Mathematics



There are **two** pathways that students could follow within **Mathematics**; this is dependent on the students' abilities, learning style and further education route that is to be pursued.

Each student will be assessed using a past examination paper to determine which option is best suited to the student. It is possible to undertake **both** qualifications in order to obtain more certificates.

Students in Maths at West Heath School are tracked using the National Programme of Study. This monitors progress across the key stages. This will map students onto a Functional Skills or GCSE pathway for Key stage 4.

Pathway 1 – GCSE Mathematics (9-1)

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Students are entered for either Edexcel Foundation or Higher GCSE. Students are awarded a grade from 1 up to 9.

Tier	**Grades available**
Foundation	1 to 5
Higher	3 to 9

The exam tests the six mathematics attainment targets:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

Summary of table of assessment

Paper 1	***Paper code: 1MA1/1F or 1MA1/1H**
• Externally assessed • Availability: May/June and November** • First assessment: May/June 2017	**33.33% of the total GCSE**
Overview of content 1. Number 2. Algebra 3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change 4. Geometry and measures 5. Probability 6. Statistics	
Overview of assessment • Written examination papers with a range of question types • No calculator is allowed • 1 hour and 30 minutes (both Foundation and Higher tier papers) • 80 marks available	

Paper 2	***Paper code: 1MA1/2F or 1MA1/2H**
• Externally assessed • Availability: May/June and November** • First assessment: May/June 2017	**33.33% of the total GCSE**
Overview of content 1. Number 2. Algebra 3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change 4. Geometry and measures 5. Probability 6. Statistics	
Overview of assessment • Written examination papers with a range of question types • Calculator allowed • 1 hour and 30 minutes (both Foundation and Higher tier papers) • 80 marks available	

Paper 3	*Paper code: 1MA1/3F or 1MA1/3H
• Externally assessed • Availability: May/June and November** • First assessment: May/June 2017	**33.33% of the total GCSE**
Overview of content 1. Number 2. Algebra 3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change 4. Geometry and measures 5. Probability 6. Statistics	
Overview of assessment • Written examination papers with a range of question types • Calculator allowed • 1 hour and 30 minutes (both Foundation and Higher tier papers) • 80 marks available	

In GCSE classes we use the Pearsons (9-1) textbooks associated with each tier of the exam. These textbooks have been specifically written for the Edexcel course. This resource is used in association with the assessment materials available with this scheme of work. Other materials and revision guides are also used to supplement the course.

Homework is an important part of the course and by using **MyMaths**, and practising skills and techniques at home, higher grades can be achieved.

Pathway 2 – Mathematics Functional Skills

Functional Skills is an accredited Mathematics course that is designed to give students the skills to operate confidently, effectively and independently in education, work and everyday life.

Students have to:

- Use and apply maths in practical tasks, real life problems and within mathematics itself.
- Use a range of methods of calculation and apply these to problems.
- Explore shape and space through drawing and practical work using a range of materials.
- Use calculators and computers.
- Collect, record and represent data.

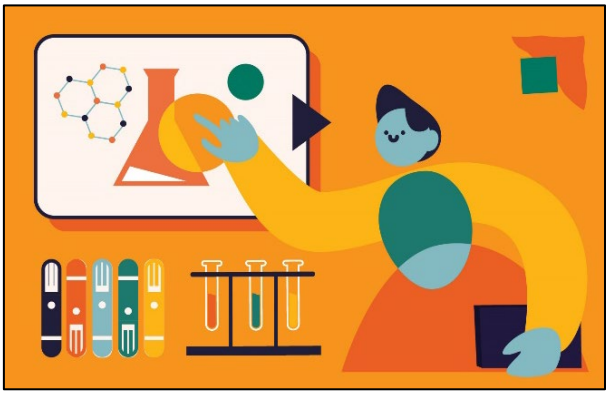
Tests can be taken at any time throughout the academic year; the tests are paper-based levels and are assessed by teachers. Functional Skills is recognised by Further Education establishments and employers alike.

OR – Both!

It is possible for some students to complete a Functional Skills Level 1 and then progress to the GCSE Mathematical giving an opportunity for learners to learn practical ***and*** theoretical Maths skills.

Students will be continually assessed, stretched and challenged by the department to maximise progression and achievement.

Science



Science is all about finding out and discovery. You will be learning about the rich variety of life on our planet and how living things develop, thrive and reproduce. More importantly you will be finding out how the human body works and about ways in which you can keep yourselves fit and healthy. You will be observing the differing ways in which humans are an influence on the Earth. We will discuss and develop opinions on many environmental issues affecting the modern world. Students wishing to study Biology, Chemistry, Geology or Physics at A Level will be able to do so if they achieve a high level at GCSE (for example, a level 6/7 or above). This provides a clear route to further studies at Universities and Colleges in a variety of science-based courses leading to a wide range of professional careers.

The course is suitable for pupils wishing to follow careers in animal care (veterinary nursing), car mechanics, nursing, hairdressing and beauty therapy, engineering apprenticeships, farming and catering etc.

Pathway 1 – GCSE Combined Science Qualification

(9-1)

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We have two primary routes for the Science Curriculum at West Heath. Our GCSE option is Combined Science by Edexcel. On completion of this course you are rewarded two GCSEs.

This GCSE has two levels, Foundation or Higher.

Areas that would be studied include:

- Cells
- Photosynthesis
- Forces
- Electricity
- Reactions
- Bonding
- Atmosphere

Paper 1: Biology 1 (*Paper code: 1SC0/1BF, 1SC0/1BH)
Written examination: 1 hour and 10 minutes ***16.67% of the qualification*** ***60 marks***
Content overview Topic 1 – Key concepts in biology, Topic 2 – Cells and control, Topic 3 – Genetics, Topic 4 – Natural selection and genetic modification, Topic 5 – Health, disease and the development of medicines
Assessment overview A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. Calculators may be used in the examination. Information on the use of calculators during the examinations for this qualification can be found in *Appendix 11: Calculators*.

Paper 2: Biology 2 (Paper code: 1SC0/2BF, 1SC0/2BH)
Written examination: 1 hour and 10 minutes ***16.67% of the qualification*** ***60 marks***
Content overview Topic 1 – Key concepts in biology, Topic 6 – Plant structures and their functions, Topic 7 – Animal coordination, control and homeostasis, Topic 8 – Exchange and transport in animals, Topic 9 – Ecosystems and material cycles
Assessment overview A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. Calculators may be used in the examination. Information on the use of calculators during the examinations for this qualification can be found in *Appendix 11: Calculators*.

Paper 3: Chemistry 1 (Paper code: 1SC0/1CF, 1SC0/1CH)
Written examination: 1 hour and 10 minutes ***16.67% of the qualification*** ***60 marks***
Content overview Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry, Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures, Topic 3 – Chemical changes, Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria
Assessment overview A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. Calculators may be used in the examination. Information on the use of calculators during the examinations for this qualification can be found in *Appendix 11: Calculators*.

Paper 4: Chemistry 2 (Paper code: 1SC0/2CF, 1SC0/2CH)
Written examination: 1 hour and 10 minutes ***16.67% of the qualification*** ***60 marks***
Content overview Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry, Topic 6 – Groups in the periodic table, Topic 7 – Rates of reaction and energy changes, Topic 8 – Fuels and Earth science
Assessment overview A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. Calculators may be used in the examination. Information on the use of calculators during the examinations for this qualification can be found in *Appendix 11: Calculators*.

Paper 5: Physics 1 (Paper code: 1SC0/1PF, 1SC0/1PH)
Written examination: 1 hour and 10 minutes ***16.67% of the qualification*** ***60 marks***
Content overview Topic 1 – Key concepts of physics, Topic 2 – Motion and forces, Topic 3 – Conservation of energy, Topic 4 – Waves, Topic 5 – Light and the electromagnetic spectrum, Topic 6 – Radioactivity
Assessment overview A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. Calculators may be used in the examination. Information on the use of calculators during the examinations for this qualification can be found in *Appendix 11: Calculators*.

Paper 6: Physics 2 (Paper code: 1SC0/2PF, 1SC0/2PH)
Written examination: 1 hour 10 minutes ***16.67% of the qualification*** ***60 marks***
Content overview Topic 1 – Key concepts of physics, Topic 8 – Energy - Forces doing work, Topic 9 – Forces and their effects, Topic 10 – Electricity and circuits, Topic 12 – Magnetism and the motor effect, Topic 13 – Electromagnetic induction, Topic 14 – Particle model, Topic 15 – Forces and matter
Assessment overview A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. Calculators may be used in the examination. Information on the use of calculators during the examinations for this qualification can be found in *Appendix 11: Calculators*.

Pathway 2 – Entry Level Science

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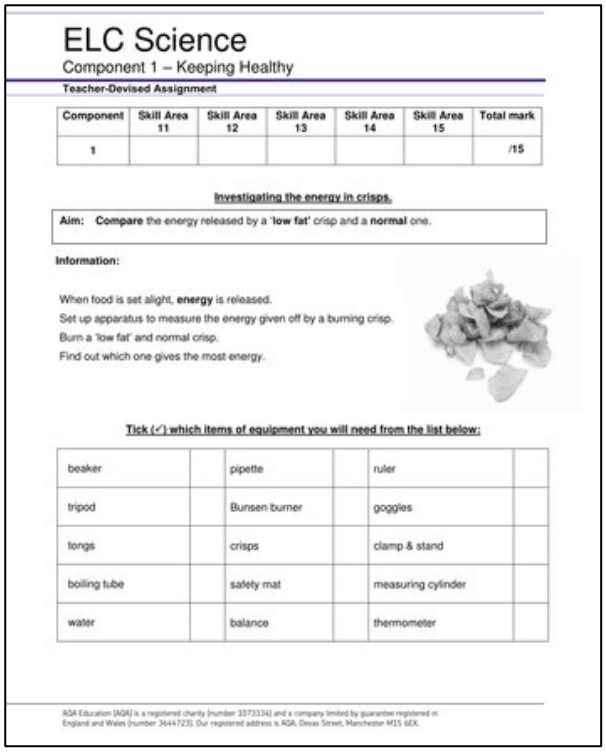
This course is designed to provide students with achievable targets, encouraging them to develop scientific skills and knowledge, supporting our students when they move to the next stage of their education.

Edexcel Entry Level Science is designed to encourage students who might find Science a challenging subject.



ELC Science

Component 1 – Keeping Healthy

Teacher-Devised Assignment

Component	Skill Area 11	Skill Area 12	Skill Area 13	Skill Area 14	Skill Area 15	Total mark
1						/15

Investigating the energy in crisps.

Aim: **Compare** the energy released by a '**low fat**' crisp and a **normal** one.

Information:

When food is set alight, **energy** is released.
Set up apparatus to measure the energy given off by a burning crisp.
Burn a 'low fat' and normal crisp.
Find out which one gives the most energy.

Tick (✓) which items of equipment you will need from the list below:

beaker		pipette		ruler	
tripod		Bunsen burner		goggles	
tongs		crisps		clamp & stand	
boiling tube		safety mat		measuring cylinder	
water		balance		thermometer	

They will study areas such as:

- Cells, genetics, inheritance and modification.
- Health, disease and the development of medicines.
- Forces, movement and energy.
- Waves and radiation.
- Separating mixtures, breaking down substances, acids and metals.
- Atoms, compounds and states of matter.

A key feature of the course is the regular assessment of a student's knowledge, understanding and practical ability using short written tests and classroom activities. This assessment is carried out by the teacher at regular intervals, allowing frequent and rapid student feedback. Experience shows that this approach allows plenty of opportunities for teachers to recognise their students' achievements and this in turn encourages student interest and develops students' confidence in the subject.

Personal Development Subjects

(compulsory subject x4 lessons per week)

Self-Science/ Preparation for Adulthood/ Votes for Schools/ PSCHE

Developing the 'whole' child at West Heath is at the centre of what we try to do. Much of this happens through the relationships build with staff and the numerous opportunities that are part and parcel of life at West Heath school from a varied curriculum to day trips, residential stays and a multitude of off-site provision via out Education Off Site provision. However, our personal development suite of timetabled subjects, also ensures that we are supporting all students to thrive and be ready for their next steps towards adulthood and independence, within their timetabled lessons. The aim of our Personal Development curriculum is that all students are HEADS:

Healthy
Engaged
Aspirational
Diplomatic
Safe

This framework is part of how work is assessed in each subject and formulates part of the intent of all learning across the School. The below bespoke Personal Development lessons make up five timetabled slots across every week and are therefore seen in line with the importance we place on core academic studies.

PSCHE – Our statutory component where students study a spiral curriculum under the topics:

Being me in my World
Celebrating Difference
Dreams and Goals
Healthy Me
Relationships
Changing me

Learners look, in an age relevant way, at topics from managing transitions, drugs education, sex and relationship education amongst many others and signposting for where to seek help. In addition to the weekly lessons, each term there is a whole school activity day built around the theme and all staff, no matter what lesson they teach will be attempting to link thematically at times to the overarching theme.

Votes for Schools- Votes for Schools is a national initiative that West Heath participate in. Each week, students discuss relevant news stories that are crafted into PowerPoint-based lessons asking searching, open questions. Both sides of the debate are presented, and students are then invited to vote based on their opinion. This introduces them beautifully to the British value of democracy and helps students develop their oracy skills. Students see that their vote has meaning as the following week a soundbite of video clip is shared from a relevant person e.g. a Politician or charity worker etc. responding to how the nation of students voted.

Preparation For Adulthood- West Heath has the facility of a fully equipped Preparation for Adulthood house for students to practise life skills that they will need to live independently. Each week students from Year 7-11 are taught highly practical and often game-based lessons, to track all their skills from tying a shoelace, understanding road signs, operating white goods. Students will also learn how to fill in an application forms, practice interview skills, meet with a career advisor and think about budgets and bank accounts. This is a unique provision and one that the School is very proud to offer to our students.

Self-Science – This bespoke subject is written by professionals within West Heath school and adapts to the needs of the cohort being taught. Self-Science attempts to talk explicitly about the human brain, emotions, communication, neurodiversity, sleep and nutrition and child development. It is highly relevant to our students as it seeks to help them explain and understand feelings of anxiety and panic, improve their own understanding of the neurodiversity that impact our community. At the heart of Self-Science is the insight and hope that a brain is not 'fixed' in one state unable to change, but that we can all grow in a way that helps us achieve our goals. This encourages students to foster a culture of understanding and empathy across the school.

Physical Education

(Compulsory subject x3 lessons per week)

In line with the National Curriculum, KS4 students have a range of activities offered across the school week. The activities will change on a 3-weekly basis. Physical education lessons will have an academic approach working towards National Curriculum levels, sport lessons have more of a holistic approach, teaching students how to play fairly, score games, use fitness equipment and improve their social skills. We would expect that each student follows and develops an interest in a minimum of two sports.

In KS4 the pupils have the opportunity to experience and participate in a wide range of sporting activities. We offer a wide variety of sports separated into 5 categories:

Invasion Games	Net Wall Games	Creative	Striking and Fielding	Additional Activities
• Basketball	• Tennis	• Gymnastics	• Cricket	• Swimming
• Football	• Table Tennis	• Dance	• Baseball	• Athletics
• Tag Rugby	• Badminton	• Trampolining	• Rounders	• Cycling
• Netball	• Volleyball		• Softball	• Patonk
• Hockey				• Bowls
• Handball				• Golf
• Bench ball				• Fitness
• Capture the Flag				• Boxing