



Options booklet

**September 2018 – July 2020
(For Year 9 students)**

Dear parents / carers,

Key stage four options subjects 2018 - 2020

The selection of optional subjects at key stage four is one of the most crucial moments in any student's secondary education. The information in this booklet will support your child through the options process and ensure that their informed choices lead to the maximisation of their potential.

It will be important that each student understands their own strengths and weaknesses so that they can optimise their chances of success. Equally, we recommend that each student will select courses in which they have a real interest.

Our aim is to offer a broad and balanced curriculum which enables accessibility for all, and one which is varied and meets the needs and aspirations of our students.

Please read and discuss the options subjects in this booklet together. Subject staff are available to speak to in the red and blue canteen areas after the presentation, they are there to help and guide the students in making the correct choices for them.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Samuel Fox
Assistant Principal

Contents

	Page
The option blocks	4
Core subjects	
English literature / language	5
mathematics	6
combined science	7
Option subjects	
French	8
history	9
geography	10
business studies	11
finance	12
computer science	13
iMedia	14
health and fitness	15
hospitality and catering	16
art	17
design and technology	18
performing arts	19
separate sciences	20
Useful websites	21

The option blocks

<p>Option 1 – One of the three subjects below must be chosen</p>	<p>Option 2 – An additional two options can be chosen from this block</p>	<p>Separate science – This can be chosen in addition to Option 1 and 2 and will take place during core science lessons</p>
<p>French history geography</p>	<p>French history geography business studies finance computer science iMedia health and fitness hospitality and catering art design and technology performing arts</p>	<p>separate science (biology, physics, chemistry)</p>

Core subjects

There are some subjects that you have to study; these are the compulsory 'Core' subjects:

- English language and literature;
- Mathematics;
- combined science.

Option subjects - English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is not a qualification in itself. It is a particular group of GCSE subjects looked on favourably by Universities. The Baccalaureate subjects are English, Maths, the Sciences (including Computer Science), History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language. You do not need to have studied all of these subjects to go to University but having your GCSE mix steered towards English Baccalaureate subjects will help to keep your options open.

English Language / Literature	
What does the course offer me and will it suit me?	Both English language and English literature have a 100% terminal exam at the end of year 11. All students are required to study these subjects.
What does the course involve?	<p>English Language Paper One - explorations in creative reading and writing. Paper Two – writers' viewpoints and perspectives.</p> <p>English Literature Paper One – Shakespeare and a nineteenth century novel. Paper Two – modern texts and poetry.</p>
What skills are involved?	<p>English language and English literature develop your ability to read, understand and analyse a variety of literature texts.</p> <p>You will also improve these skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creative writing; • comprehension; • transactional writing; • ability to use of a wide and varied vocabulary; • ability to spell and use grammar correctly.
What can the course lead onto after GCSE?	<p>English language and English literature are often asked for by colleges and sixth forms as the examinations show an ability to read, write and comprehend at various levels.</p> <p>Any job that requires written or spoken communication will usually ask for an English GCSE.</p>
Programme Lead	<p>Programme Leader: Harrison Ruffell Email: harrison.ruffell@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Mathematics

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>GCSE mathematics is a compulsory subject which all students are required to study.</p>
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<p>The course covers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number; • algebra; • ratio, proportion and rates of change; • geometry and measures; • probability; • statistics. <p>The mathematics qualification consists of three equally weighted examination papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1—non calculator; • Paper 2—calculator; • Paper 3—calculator. <p>Each written examination is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and has 80 marks.</p>
<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>Skills that are involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts; · acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems; · develop mathematical reasoning and draw conclusions; · comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>Students can progress to a variety of Level 3 qualifications and careers such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • architect; • scientist; • engineer; • teacher.
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: Samuel Fox Email: Samuel.fox@paradigmtrust.org</p>

**Combined science
(biology, chemistry and physics)**

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>Combined science gives access to the study of science at a lower level than the separate sciences and is equivalent to two GCSE grades rather than the three in the case of the separate sciences. Combined science may be suitable for students who find science or mathematics difficult or for students who are very sure that they do not want to study science in as much depth as is found in separate science.</p>
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<p>Like the separate sciences, the Combined Science GCSE course includes many practical activities to support the learning of key concepts. The course is rigorous and thorough and in developing a sound knowledge and understanding of science, a great platform is established enabling you to comprehend the modern world in new and exciting ways.</p> <p>The final assessment process, however, reflects the fact that less detail is investigated in Combined Science as it involves completing two examinations in each of biology, chemistry and physics which are much shorter and which typically contain less demanding material than the separate science assessments.</p>
<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>The Combined Science includes a strong focus on mathematics for scientists. Students studying Combined Science will be required to learn, apply and select equations as well as revise significant content.</p> <p>Students will learn new vocabulary and have opportunities to develop their confidence in writing about scientific concepts. A strong emphasis will be placed on developing precise written explanations when analysing, evaluating data and drawing conclusions.</p>
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>Whether Combined Science or Separate Science GCSE's are chosen, performing well is extremely beneficial to the future career options of students. Many current and future employment roles will require significant Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) skills. We aim to provide every opportunity to enable our students to flourish. It is likely that as well as engineering, physical sciences, computing and medicine, a vast majority of future employment opportunities will require a significant proportion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) based skills and the associated subject knowledge.</p>
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: John Ling Email: john.ling@paradigmtrust.org</p>

French	
What does the course offer me and will it suit me?	This course is ideal for those who want to develop language skills and cultural awareness. It is also a great opportunity to develop transferrable skills such as communication which employers seek.
What does the course involve?	<p>The GCSE French course is divided into three themes.</p> <p>Theme 1 - Identity and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and friends • Hobbies • Festivals and events in French speaking world <p>Theme 2 - Local, national and global areas of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local area • Holidays • Social issues <p>Theme 3 - Current and future study and employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School in UK and France • World of work
What skills are involved?	<p>The key language skills are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listening; • speaking; • reading; • writing. <p>These skills are developed throughout the course and then examined at the end of year 11. Each skill makes up 25% of the final grade.</p>
What can the course lead onto after GCSE?	<p>Being able to speak a second or third language is well regarded by employers and will open many career opportunities. Some careers in which languages are particularly beneficial include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teaching; • tourism; • diplomatic services; • marketing; • medicine; • journalism.
Programme Lead	<p>Programme Leader: Naomi Shenton</p> <p>Email: naomi.shenton@paradigmtrust.org</p>

History

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>History teaches you how and why the world came to be as it is today. History deals with big issues like racism, power, war, politics and discrimination. You will develop transferable skills that employers seek.</p>
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<p>History has three examinations at the end of the course.</p> <p>Paper 1: thematic study and historic environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine in Britain, c1250-present; • The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches. <p>Paper 2: period study and British depth study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The American West, c1835–c1895; • Anglo-Saxon and Norman England. <p>Paper 3: modern depth study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39.
<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>Research skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to analyse and use data; • how to organise information; • excellent communication and writing skills; • how to construct an argument; • problem solving; • how to select evidence; • how to question how reliable information is.
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>Careers you might choose after studying history are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • journalist/reporter; • teacher; • lawyer/barrister; • archaeologist; • historian; • politician; • TV/media; • archivist;
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: Catherine Grover Email: Catherine.Grover@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Geogrphahy

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>Studying GCSE geography will allow you to travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs).</p> <p>Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use.</p>
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<p>GCSE geography has three examinations.</p> <p>Paper 1 (35% of the GCSE) covers the areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the challenge of natural hazards; • the living world; • physical landscapes in the UK; • geographical skills. <p>Paper 2 (35% of the GCSE) covers the areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • urban issues and challenges; • the changing economic world; • the challenge of resource management; • geographical skills. <p>Paper 3 (30% of the GCSE) covers the areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issue evaluation; • fieldwork; • geographical skills.
<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>The skills involved are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • select, measure and record data; appropriate to the chosen enquiry; • select the most appropriate way of processing the presentation data; • cartographic skills; • graphical skills; • numerical and statistical skills; • use of qualitative and quantitative data; • create and test theories; • develop an argument for and against;
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>As well as going onto study geography at a higher level there are several careers fields where the knowledge gained is useful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel and tourism; • logistics; • conservation science; • emergency services; • armed forces.
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: Zoë Sanderson Email: zoe.sanderson@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Business Studies	
What does the course offer me and will it suit me?	This course provides students with the opportunity to learn understand and experience the world of business.
What does the course involve?	<p>Unit 1: introduction to business and enterprise.</p> <p>Unit 2: markets and marketing.</p> <p>External examination.</p> <p>Unit 3: finance for business and enterprise.</p> <p>Unit 4: plan, develop and participate in a business or enterprise project.</p>
What skills are involved?	<p>You will develop the following skills during the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical skills—time management, personal organisation and action planning; • presentational skills—addressing audiences using a variety of media and forms; • personal skills—showing evidence of progression; • interpersonal skills—communication and group work; • cognitive skills—reflection and review of own and others' performances.
What can the course lead onto after GCSE?	<p>Following business studies will be beneficial whatever you go on to do in the future. It will demonstrate valuable skills to your employer.</p> <p>This course can lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS/A2 level in business studies and economics; • vocational business courses; • setting up your own business.
Programme Lead	<p>Programme Leader: Mal Akhlak Email: mal.akhlak@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Finance

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>An introduction to, and preparation for, further study through developing an understanding of the economy, financial management skills, employability and enterprise.</p> <p>The content covered, and skills developed, within the qualification ensure that it is a valuable part of a broad programme of study at Key Stage 4, particularly complementing GCSEs in Mathematics, Citizenship, and Business Studies.</p>
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<p>Public finance and the economy, including how these relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social, political and cultural factors; • political institutions and processes; • impacts on individuals, businesses and society. <p>Financial management, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal financial planning; • budgeting and financial management tools for managing money; • spending and borrowing. <p>Employability, enterprise and business, including how these relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • business financial management; • o benefits to, and consequences for, businesses, individuals and society.
<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>The qualification will enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an understanding of the key content areas and how they relate to each other; • identify, understand and use information from a range of sources; • use appropriate tools to manage a personal budget and apply these concepts to business enterprise; • apply the concept of financial planning and make informed financial decisions to enhance financial literacy; • demonstrate numeracy skills, including the ability to manipulate financial and other numerical data (such as calculating the costs of borrowing and spending) to reflect the conceptual activity of financial maths; • communicate ideas and arguments clearly both verbally though classroom discussion and in writing.
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>Foundation for continued study within accountancy, finance and business-related qualifications at Level 3.</p> <p>This qualification develops initial knowledge, skills and understanding of financial management and enterprise, which are valued in most organisations, particularly the financial services sector.</p>
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: Jennifer Jacobs Email: jennifer.jacobs@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Computer science

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>Computer Science is a very practical subject – students will be able to use the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom on real-world problems. It's also a highly creative subject that calls on learners to be inventive.</p> <p>You will need to solve technical and logical problems. Good numeracy is required.</p>
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<p>There are two exam papers at the end of the syllabus. Each paper lasts 1.5 hours and is worth 50% of the total GCSE.</p> <p>Over the course you will cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computational thinking: this is the process of thinking through a complex problem. These are then presented in a way that a computer, a human, or both, can understand. • Theoretical content: here you will understand the fundamentals of data representation and computer networks. You will learn about the computer systems that you will create and use and also delve in to the world cyber security and ethical legal and environmental impacts of digital technology. • Aspects of software development: understand how to implement and test a design to make sure it works effectively. Learn how to complete an overall evaluation to help refine the end product.
<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>Alongside the practical expertise you'll develop in your studies, you'll also gain transferable skills which are valued in both higher education and the world of work. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • problem-solving • analysis • working independently • writing code • logical thought • research methods.
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>Employment opportunities include: this list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer programmer • Games developer • Software developer • Geographical information systems officer • Secondary school teacher • Music data analyst • MI5 MI6 and GCHQ.
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: Jennifer Jacobs Email: jennifer.jacobs@paradigmtrust.org</p>

iMedia

What does the course offer me and will it suit me?	It lets students gain knowledge in a number of key areas in the media field, from pre-production skills to digital animation, and offers a hands-on approach to learning.
What does the course involve?	<p>Most of the qualification is tested by coursework that's set and marked by the teacher. This will be done throughout the two-year course. You will complete project work, research, completing practical tasks and meeting deadlines.</p> <p>One of the units that all students must take – on preproduction skills – involves a written exam that lasts one hour and 15 minutes and is set and marked by the exam board.</p> <p>The 3 other coursework titles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Creating Digital Graphics · Interactive Multimedia Products · Game Concepts
What skills are involved?	The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia will also provide opportunities to develop useful transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.
What can the course lead onto after GCSE?	<p>Cambridge National in Creative iMedia is effective preparation for a range of qualifications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · IT Level 3 · Digital Media Level 3 · AS or A Level Computer Science. <p>There are many different careers that this qualification could help you move towards, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Games developer · Graphic designer · Retail · Business · Website design · Multimedia production · Film · Media
Programme Lead	<p>Programme Leader: Jennifer Jacobs</p> <p>Email: jennifer.jacobs@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Health and Fitness

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>This course is an ideal choice for those who have a real passion for sport and are interested in fitness and health. It is designed to provide pupils with the skills, knowledge and understanding of the applied study of good health and fitness practices and an understanding in the sector.</p>
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<p>Health and fitness will be based around theory and practical. Out of five lessons, four will be theory and one will be practical.</p> <p>40% of the final grade will be based around a theory paper which consists of short and long answer questions, for which a range of topics will be explored and understood.</p> <p>The exam paper is based around the introduction to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • body systems; • principles of training in health and fitness. <p>60% of the final grade will be based around the completion of coursework based units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for health and fitness; • Planning for health and fitness. <p>The coursework is divided up into smaller tasks. This will also incorporate practical sessions. This may require the filming of students completing various practical tasks, as the coursework is externally moderated. To gauge progress, actual predicted grades will be based on the quality of work during theory lessons.</p>
<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>The subject is mainly theory but has a practical element to it. You will need to display the ability to perform sports at a good standard, as well as be able to apply knowledge and understanding within theory sessions.</p>
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>Employment opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Level PE; • level 3 sports qualifications; • teaching; • fitness training, nutrition; • sports coaching; • physiotherapy; • sports management; • nursing.
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: Edward Phillips Email: edward.phillips@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Hospitality & Catering

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>This course allows any student that enjoys learning about food and nutrition to learn more about the catering industry whilst experiencing it first-hand.</p> <p>The course also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality links / industry • Catering industry • Guests chefs • Event planning and real hands on experiences through running of events and trips • A look into the nutritional breakdown our bodies require • An environment to build up your confidence and skills by supporting each learner individually
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<p>This course involves two sections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1—External online exam • Unit 2—Online portfolio, including meal preparation and presentation <p>During this course you will sit your written exam at the end of year ten. Then complete your unit 2 portfolio in year eleven. At the end of year eleven there will be a second and final opportunity to resit the written examination, if required.</p> <p>This delivery has been designed to reduce pressure and any potential stress on the learner, allowing for more educational experiences and focus.</p>
<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>You will develop the following skills during the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical skills — time management, cooking knowledge, event planning and organisation; • presentation skills — Hospitality and Catering requirements for dress code and hygiene. • personal skills — showing evidence of progression, improved confidence and enjoyment; • interpersonal skills — communication and group work.
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>A few areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • college courses in catering and/or hospitality; • an apprenticeship; • setting up or running an establishment; • nutritionist or dietician; • and many more.
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: Chris Platt Email: chris.platt@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Art	
What does the course offer me and will it suit me?	<p>GCSE art and design is the right subject for you if you enjoy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing your visual skills and engaging with the creative process of art, craft and design; • developing and refining ideas; • experimenting and taking risks with your work, and learning from your experiences.
What does the course involve?	<p>Personal Portfolio</p> <p>You will need to create a personal portfolio of work in response to themes set. Your work must comprise of supporting studies and personal responses.</p> <p>Externally Set Exam</p> <p>You will need to present a personal response to an externally set task.</p> <p>All work is internally marked and externally moderated.</p>
What skills are involved?	<p>Drawing</p> <p>Drawing is at the heart of art and design and forms a core element of the practice of artists, craftspeople and designers.</p> <p>Written annotation</p> <p>You will be expected to demonstrate the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements visually and through informative written annotation, using suitable specialist vocabulary. <p>The purpose of written annotation is to encourage you to analyse critically, evaluate and reflect on your own work and that of other artists.</p>
What can the course lead onto after GCSE?	<p>GCSE art leads directly into careers in the creative industries such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • graphic design; • illustration; • architecture; • animation. <p>You will also develop transferable skills, such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking skills, which will prepare you for further study or the world of work.</p>
Programme Lead	<p>Programme Leader: Amy Cook</p> <p>Email: amy.cook@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Design and Technology

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>GCSE Design and Technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.</p> <p>This GCSE will allow you to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.</p>								
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Paper 1</th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;">Non- Exam Assessment (NEA)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Written exam- 2 hours</td> <td>30-35 hours of work</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100 marks</td> <td>100 marks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50% of the GCSE</td> <td>50% of the GCSE</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Paper 1	Non- Exam Assessment (NEA)	Written exam- 2 hours	30-35 hours of work	100 marks	100 marks	50% of the GCSE	50% of the GCSE
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Written exam- 2 hours	30-35 hours of work								
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<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>Specialist technical principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • selection of materials or components • forces and stresses • ecological and social footprint • sources and origins • specialist techniques and processes • surface treatments and finishes. <p>Core technical principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • materials and their working properties • new and emerging technologies • energy generation and storage • developments in new materials • systems approach to designing • mechanical devices <p>Designing and making principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigation, primary and secondary data • environmental, social and economic challenge • the work of others • design strategies • prototype development • material management • specialist tools and equipment • specialist techniques and processes 								
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>GCSE Design and Technology leads directly into careers in the creative industries such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • graphic design; • illustration; • architecture; 								
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: Amy Cook</p> <p>Email: amy.cook@paradigmtrust.org</p>								

Performing Arts	
What does the course offer me and will it suit me?	<p>Performing Arts is the right subject for you if you enjoy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creative subjects such as dance, drama and musical theatre • developing and refining ideas; • experimenting and taking risks with your work, and learning from your experiences. • performing to an audience
What does the course involve?	<p>The Award gives you the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on these four areas :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire or responding to a stimulus • the process that underpins effective ways of working in the performing arts such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance • the attitudes that are considered most important in the performing arts, including personal management and communication • the knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.
What skills are involved?	<p>Component 1- Exploring the performing arts:</p> <p>You will be developing understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.</p> <p>Component 2- Developing skills and techniques in the performing arts:</p> <p>You will develop performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting, dance and/or musical theatre repertoire.</p> <p>Component 3- Performing to a brief:</p> <p>You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus.</p>
What can the course lead onto after GCSE?	<p>Study of the performing arts sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study by providing opportunities for practical exploration and application alongside conceptual study, leading to strong opportunities post-16 such as A Levels and BTEC National courses.</p>
Programme Lead	<p>Programme Leader: Amy Cook</p> <p>Email: amy.cook@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

<p>What does the course offer me and will it suit me?</p>	<p>Separate GCSE's in biology, chemistry and physics provide a good preparation for A-levels or other higher level technical courses.</p>
<p>What does the course involve?</p>	<p>The GCSE courses include many practical activities to support the learning of key concepts. The course is rigorous and thorough and in developing a sound knowledge and understanding of science, a great platform is established enabling you to comprehend the modern world in new and exciting ways.</p> <p>The final assessment process involves completing two examinations in each subject that are 1 hr and 45 minutes in length.</p>
<p>What skills are involved?</p>	<p>The GCSE's include a strong focus on mathematics for scientists. Students studying separate sciences will be academically stretched and need to be ready to accept this challenge.</p> <p>Students will learn new vocabulary and have opportunities to develop their confidence in writing about scientific concepts. A strong emphasis will be placed on developing precise written explanations when analysing, evaluating data and drawing conclusions.</p>
<p>What can the course lead onto after GCSE?</p>	<p>Studying biology, chemistry and physics provides access to very many career paths. Performing well in physics, chemistry, biology is also often regarded as evidence of a broad skill competence. With high levels of attainment in GCSE science subjects, students may continue to A-level and beyond. Employment opportunities are numerous and include some career paths that might be thought of as more traditionally arts based, like law.</p> <p>It is likely that as well as engineering, physical sciences, computing and medicine, a vast majority of future employment opportunities will require a significant proportion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) based skills and the associated subject knowledge.</p>
<p>Programme Lead</p>	<p>Programme Leader: John Ling Email: john.ling@paradigmtrust.org</p>

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

This is the national careers service website. It has information on planning for your career and includes lots of useful information on different jobs - have a look at the Job Profiles.

<http://www.futuremorph.org>

Future Morph website is designed to show 14-18 year olds career routes that studying science, technology, engineering and maths can lead to.

<http://careersbox.co.uk>

Careersbox is a free online library of careers related film, news and information.

<http://www.plotr.co.uk>

A careers website which can help you find out about a range of different careers. This section on "Choosing Your Career" is a good starting point.

<https://www.ucasprogress.com/>

Search for courses through this UCAS website for both Pre-16 courses and Post-16 courses.