



BROOKE HOUSE COLLEGE ENGLAND



2026 – 2027

SUBJECT INFORMATION BOOKLET



BROOKE HOUSE COLLEGE
ENGLAND

CONTENTS

01. WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL
02. KEY STAGE 3
03. GCSE
04. POST-16 PATHWAYS
05. A-LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES
06. UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION PROGRAMME (UFP)



01. WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our purpose at Brooke House College is to provide an education for life and cultivate the climate for high performance learning from the classroom to the boardroom. This information booklet will enable every student to make important decisions about subject choices in order that they can progress with confidence through each stage of their development on pathways to university and successful careers.

The subject choices made at the end of Year 8 form the foundation for future learning. A broad and balanced GCSE curriculum is important and all students select a range of subjects to include the core and options elements. Students and parents can read through the subject descriptions to understand how each is taught and why it is useful. A one-year GCSE programme is offered to students joining at Year 11.

Post GCSE, students are able to specialise by choosing three A-level subjects as they begin Year 12 on a two year programme leading to graduation. It is optimal to study a broad range of subjects that reflect an individual's passion and interest. In a relatively small number of university course and professional careers, certain subjects may be mandatory and students should discuss this with teachers and our Director of Studies.

Some things for students to consider:

What do I enjoy studying?

What are my strengths and learning preferences?

Am I choosing subjects that reflect my strengths in areas such as coursework, practical assessments, essays or written examinations?

If I choose a subject now, will it keep more options open or lead to opportunities in future study/training/employment?

Ian Smith MBA NPQH
Principal



02. KEY STAGE 3: YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8

We take students into Key Stage 3 for years 7 and 8 only and then they progress to a three year GCSE programme. In Key Stage 3 students will cover the following subjects:

- English
Students will study both language and literature and will develop their reading and writing skills.
- Maths
Students will continue their mathematics which will cover: numeracy; algebra; geometry; probability and statistics.
- Science
Our students cover topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics with subject specialist teachers in our purpose-built laboratories. The theory they are taught will be reinforced with regular practical activities and they will develop their scientific literacy skills which are essential for future success at GCSE.
- PE
Students will have one practical lesson a week and will also start to develop their understanding of the history of sport and physiology and anatomy in preparation for GCSE.
- Art
Students will explore artists from around the world through history and they develop their skills using a variety of 2- and 3-dimensional materials.
- Global Perspectives
This is project-based learning covering a wide range of topics that touch on History, Geography, Religion, Current Affairs, Enterprise etc and enables students to develop critical enquiry skills, research skills and presentation skills. Students are encouraged to work together on topics over approximately 6 week or half a term, culminating in a presentation of their work.

Students will also follow an age-appropriate PSHE/RSE curriculum and experience enrichment activities each day.



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ENGLAND



03. GCSE: YEARS 9 TO 11

Students are on a GCSE programme from year 9 which will lay the foundations for future learning although students may join the GCSE course in year 9, 10 or year 11. Students who join in year 11 will follow a programme of learning that depends upon their existing GCSE or iGCSE experience.

All our students in year 9 and 10 study:

- English
- Maths
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- PE
- Business Studies

They will have the opportunity to choose further option subjects; the number will depend upon whether they join the College in year 9, 10 or 11 and whether they have English as an additional language. We focus on the subjects that can lead on to “facilitating” subjects at A-level for university so that students do not specialise too soon whilst considering their needs as Elite Footballers. In addition, we will assist students in taking a GCSE in their native language.

Students will also follow an age-appropriate PSHE/RSE curriculum and experience enrichment activities each day.

We are here to provide you with support and guidance at this important time and we wish you every success with your GCSE choices.

Students new to GCSE in year 11 will follow a more limited syllabus over just one year focussing on providing them with the skills to transition onto Post-16 courses. They will study:

- English
- Maths
- Global Perspectives
- Business Studies



GCSE CORE SUBJECTS

English Language

Students will be allocated to an English Language course suited to their level of English. We offer AQA English Language GCSE for those who are fluent readers and speakers. The course examines the different writing styles and includes creative writing, speech/article writing and presentations. The examination consists of two written papers and has a speaking endorsement which involves a presentation and question and answer session in a small group. A grade 4 pass is sufficient to meet university English language requirements.

For students who have English as an additional language or are from education systems that focus on reading and comprehension, students will follow the CIE English as an Additional Language course. This course is a more natural progression to IELTS in year 12. The focus of the course is on learning to write, speak and listen to basic English in order to attain proficiency in English for all subjects. The examination consists of one written paper, a listening examination and a formal speaking exam.

Mathematics

Students will continue to work on topics including algebra, graphs, trigonometry, number, geometry, statistics and probability and will work towards Edexcel Mathematics International GCSE at either Foundation or Higher tier. Students will be grouped according to their current attainment and understanding with a final decision as to which tier of entry will be taken in consultation with the student in January of year 11. The examination will consist of two calculator papers so all students should have a Casio fx scientific calculator.

Science

Students will follow the CIE Coordinated Science iGCSE course which is a double award. Some students who have English as an additional language or who have come from educational systems with less Science content may take CIE Combined Science iGCSE which is a single award however, this will be determined in January of year 11, giving all students the opportunity to develop their scientific knowledge. The course is taught by subject specialists in Biology, Chemistry and Physics giving students the knowledge necessary to progress to A-level sciences and on to university. The examination consists of three papers: theory, practical and multiple choice.

Physical Education

Many of our students are Elite Footballers and Physical Education GCSE enables them to further their study of sports and physiology and understanding of how to achieve peak performance from the human body. Students who are non-footballers will also enjoy the course which gives students access to other sports, for example, badminton, volley-ball, basketball, tennis and squash and encourages a healthy lifestyle.

Business Studies

Students will work towards Edexcel GCSE Business Studies gaining an insight into different forms of business organisations; the environments in which businesses operate and business functions. We believe that many of our students will experience a portfolio career in the future which may include entrepreneurship. Our Elite Footballers will find a myriad of careers in the football industry which will involve Business Studies.

GCSE OPTION SUBJECTS

Our option subjects depend upon demand from students and availability will change from year to year. These option subjects are always available:

Art

Students develop skills and work towards the AQA Fine Art GCSE which consists of a portfolio developed over at least two years and a 10 hour exam based upon a project set in January of year 11. Students will develop practical skills and develop their self-expression and creativity. They will study both global and local artists and designers, portraits, masks, tribal decorations, illustration, stencils and print making.

Global Perspectives

Global Perspectives encourages students to think about and explore solutions to significant global issues. They develop an ability to: consider topics from different perspectives; work collaboratively and individually; apply their knowledge in different contexts; develop transferable skills to complement learning in other subject areas; and critically assess evidence, arguments and perspectives. In a “fake news” world with AI and a wealth of competing information at their fingertips, students have never needed these skills more. Global Perspectives is not about learning and recalling facts but learning to research and analyse information and develop and justify a line of reasoning.

The following option subjects depend upon availability in any particular academic year.

English Literature

This is not taken as a separate course. Students will study different texts as part of the AQA English Language course and those who have an interest and desire to take English Literature will be supported during their English language lessons. They will be expected to undertake independent study and will sit the AQA English Literature GCSE.

Further Mathematics

This is an optional subject which is available if it can be fitted into student timetables for those who are achieving high grades at GCSE.

German or Spanish

Students will follow the AQA or CIE course which consists of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students should have studied the language in Key Stage 3 rather than being absolute beginners.

Computer Studies

Students will follow the CIE Computer Studies course. This is only currently only offered to students transferring into the College with at least one year of GCSE completed.

We recommend that any student with English as an additional language considers taking a GCSE in their native language if it can be facilitated.



04. POST-16 PATHWAYS

The College offers a choice of pathways in the Upper College when students can start to specialise; students can take A-levels or our University Foundation Programme.

A-levels are the preferred option for students joining us in year 12 with equivalent outcomes to GCSEs. Students will study three subjects over two years with public examinations in the summer of year 13. A-levels will provide access to universities, internationally.

The University Foundation Programme (UFP) is a one-year university access course designed to help international students to successfully enter UK universities to study for a first degree. The course is normally taken over one year but a two year course offers increased flexibility for students who need to retake GCSEs or who need to combine it with intensive English. The UFP is assessed or examined every 10 weeks with marks being “banked” and building towards a final grade. As a continually assessed course, it may be more suitable for some students than A-levels. The UFP is accepted by the majority of UK universities with students successfully accessing a wide range of courses including: Medicine, Law, Pharmacy, Sport, Engineering, Art and Design, Architecture, Business Studies.

PATHWAY	COMPULSORY SUBJECTS	COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS
Art	Art	Business, Maths, Physics
Business	Business and/or Economics	Maths, Law, Psychology, Sociology
Engineering	Maths, Physics or Chemistry	
Medicine	Biology, Chemistry	Maths, Physics, PE, Psychology
Sport	PE	Business, Law, Biology, Psychology

We would recommend that before finalising their A-level choices, students explore potential future university choices and check the entry requirements for some degrees; there can be some surprises. You should discuss your choices with your teachers or our Director of Studies.

All students will also follow a course of Academic Writing and age appropriate PSHE/RSE. There is also opportunity for students to undertake IELTS (if they do not have a suitable GCSE equivalent in English Language) as well as retake their English GCSE or Maths GCSE. Students will also be offered other enrichment opportunities.

In addition, we would encourage students for whom English is an additional language to consider sitting an A level in their native language as a self-study option. Languages that have been accommodated in the past include: Chinese, Russian, Italian, Spanish, German and Arabic. Students should discuss with the Director of Studies who will identify whether the A level examination can be supported at the College.

05. A-LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

Art

Students should have an existing portfolio from GCSE or equivalent before embarking on an Art A-level. They will follow the AQA Fine Art syllabus and will explore printmaking, drawing, painting and sculpture through the research of artists and designers across time and place through a number of projects in year 12. They will develop an independent study project which you will continue to explore in year 13 for your assessed portfolio. There will then be an exam component that you will develop over 4 months culminating in a 15-hour examination.

Biology

Students should have covered the GCSE double award content or equivalent before starting Biology A level. Students will cover the CIE Biology syllabus which includes developing laboratory skills and planning and carrying out experiments as students look at patterns between all living processes. The course consists of four examinations including a practical exam at the end of the course in year 13. You should be considering Biology if you wish to take Bio-Medical sciences at university.

Business Studies

Students will be following the AQA syllabus which is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society including digital technology, business ethics and globalisation. Although a GCSE in Business is useful it is not a requirement for this course. Many of our students will go on to have portfolio careers which will require an appreciation of the way businesses work and there are many careers that link to this field of study.

Chemistry

Students should have covered the GCSE double award content or equivalent before starting Chemistry A level. Students will follow the CIE Chemistry syllabus which includes developing laboratory skills and planning and carrying out experiments as students learn about matter, elements, mixtures and compounds and how they interact with each other and how their structure and bonding decides their properties. The course consists of four examinations including a practical exam at the end of the course in year 13. Chemistry is a popular option for students considering Bio-Medical sciences or engineering at university.

Economics

Students will follow the Edexcel Economics A-level syllabus which is structured into four themes with three examination papers taken in year 13. Students build knowledge and understanding of core economic models and concepts around markets and market failure and the UK economy, performance and policies. They will build on this and apply their knowledge to business behaviour and the labour market in both a local and global context. Students will need to demonstrate an awareness of current economic events and policies. The course includes data analysis, evaluation and response.

Students who wish to study Economics at university are encouraged to take A level Mathematics.

Global Perspectives & Research

CIE Global Perspectives and Research A level develops students' thinking skills, analysis, evaluation and synthesis, through considering a range of global topics. This is a skills-based subject and the topics studied will vary often looking at current issues and is not about the learning and recall of facts. Students are encouraged to work both individually and collaboratively and to research and explore different perspectives and communicate personal reflections. The course is assessed through a single written examination in which candidates analyse and evaluate arguments, interrogate evidence and compare perspectives. Alongside this there is a team project consisting of a presentation and personal reflection; an independent essay and a research report which are all produced over the two year course.

This course prepares students well for university because they've learnt to go into a subject in considerable depth and is excellent preparation for what they are going to face at university.

Law

Students will follow the WJEC syllabus which covers the key areas of law and society, law and morality and law and justice and culminates in three examinations in year 13. Students will analyse current and relevant issues confronting the legal system and the relevant case studies that underpin the legal system in England and Wales. Students will develop debating and analytical skills which are useful in future university courses.

Mathematics

Students will follow the Edexcel A-level Mathematics syllabus which develops abstract thinking skills and problem solving. Students should have studied Higher GCSE Mathematics and ideally achieved at least a grade 6. Mathematics is a "facilitating" subject at university which means that it can be combined with many subjects and enable access to most university courses. If you are intending to study any of the following at university, you are advised to take Mathematics: Physics, Engineering, Actuarial Science, Economics, Mathematics. It may also be required for: Science, Economics, IT or Business and Finance.

Further Mathematics

This option is not always available and you will need to discuss with the Director of Studies. You have to take this subject alongside A-level Mathematics following the Edexcel specification. You will cover Further Mechanics or Statistics and Decision Mathematics alongside Core Pure Mathematics.

Physical Education

Students will follow the AQA syllabus and consists of two examinations as well as being assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity with a written/verbal analysis of performance at the end of year 13. Students taking this course will have to have a significant commitment to a sport. They will learn about anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport in society, exercise physiology and biomechanics, sport psychology and technology in sport.

Physics

Students will follow the CIE A-level syllabus culminating in four examinations at the end of year 13 including a practical exam. Physics explains the world around us, looking at how electrical and mechanical systems work as well as the study of particles in order to explore the very origins and nature of matter. Students will need Physics to access university courses in Engineering and Science. Students taking Physics A-level are advised to also take Mathematics A-level.

Psychology

Students will follow the AQA syllabus and explore the topics of social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathologies as well as core topics that include biopsychology. The course looks at how to research key issues with comparison to research from the past. There are also three optional topics studied from: relationships, gender, cognition and development, schizophrenia, eating behaviour, stress, aggression. Students develop research skills which are useful on future university courses.

Sociology

Sociology provides students with an understanding of the world around them and an opportunity to reflect on social issues that are often relevant to their own experiences. Students will follow the Cambridge OCR course which has three examinations at the end of year 13. Students will explore themes in: socialisation and identity; researching and understanding social inequalities; global society, globalisation and the digital social world. Students will study either families and relationships, or youth subcultures or media as well as either crime and deviance, or education or religion, belief and faith. Sociology A-level is good preparation for degrees in Politics, Philosophy, Social Work and Criminology.

Spanish

This option is not always available and students will need to discuss with the Director of Studies. Students should have a GCSE in Spanish before considering this course.



06. UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION PROGRAMME SUBJECT CHOICES

Students will study 2 compulsory subjects across three semesters (approximately 10 weeks in length) and will then choose 3 major subjects which will each consist of 3 units, one per semester.

Each semester, every 10 weeks, there are formal assessments for the three major units that have been studied and the two compulsory subjects: examinations, coursework or presentations or a combination. This is good preparation for university study. Each unit is marked out of 100 marks across all assessments for the unit.

The final UFP grade is based upon the two compulsory subjects and the best eight out of nine of the major units giving a possible total of 1000 marks. The UFP is graded Pass (40%), Merit (60%) or Distinction (70%).

This pathway requires students to be regularly preparing for examinations or presenting assessment materials which, with retake opportunities, gives students control and more certainty over their final grade.

UFP COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

Communication Skills

Students will be looking at different communication methods and the way they can be applied in university, work and life applications. Each semester there are two coursework tasks to be completed that will each contribute 16.6% towards the overall grade. All coursework tasks must be submitted or the course will not be complete and the UFP will not be awarded.

Core Mathematics

Students will study percentages, algebra and statistics to ensure that students have the basic numeracy and mathematical skills for their next stage of life and education. Each semester there is a short examination which contributes 33.3% towards the overall grade. All examinations must be sat or the course will not be complete and the UFP will not be awarded. Students will need a Casio fx scientific calculator for this course.



UFP OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Art

This course will give students the opportunity to develop new skills and methods in Art, researching different artists, designers and cultures connected to a theme. Students will experiment with different resources, media, techniques and processes and develop and refine their own pieces. Each semester there is an assessed project and an examination. The final work depends upon both the examination work and the work produced and evidenced in the portfolio and sketchbook.

Students who take Art and are intending to continue with Art and Design based courses at university are encouraged to take an additional UFP Art course to enable production of a suitable portfolio. We offer:

- UFP Art and Architecture
- UFP Art and Fashion
- UFP Art and Graphics

Each of these courses is only available alongside UFP Art, they explore themes appropriate to the course and will have an assessment each term consisting of an assessed project, examination and the work evidenced in the portfolio and sketchbook.

Biology

UFP Biology covers the various aspects that help the student to link Biology to their sports or more scientifically minded goals. Students will study human biology and its relationship to PE, medicine, physiotherapy and biomedical sciences. Students will build laboratory skills which will form part of the assessment for each unit along with their management of their notebook. To be successful at UFP Biology, students are expected to work independently with their materials, to have previous experience of science in high school or secondary level and to be able to work in a lab-based environment.

Biology and Environmental Science are offered in alternate years/according to demand.

Business Studies

Business is the study of commerce. Students will study the legal set up of businesses and how and why they make money. Students are assessed by examination at the end of each semester alongside a coursework. They are assessed on: knowledge of business; the application of the knowledge to business scenarios through case studies; and the analysis and evaluation of business scenarios.

Chemistry

Students will study atomic structure, chemical bonding, physical chemistry and organic chemistry. There are mathematical calculations throughout the course so students should have a good level of numeracy. The course encourages learning through practical work, making observations, accurately calculating results and drawing valid conclusions. The course is assessed through written examination and continuous assessment of practical work. Students will need a Casio fx scientific calculator for this course.

Chemistry and Forensic Science are offered in alternate years/according to demand.

Environmental Science

Students will study the foundations of environment science: ecological principles, biodiversity and energy in ecosystems; resources and the environment and the influence of people on the environment. Each unit consists of a core assessment which may include extended written responses, presentation, or viva interview, and a practical assessment which consists of a planned, executed experiment or field-based task, with suitable report.

Biology and Environmental Science are offered in alternate years/according to demand.

Forensic Science

The course is designed to provide students with foundational knowledge and skills in forensic science, preparing them for future study at university level. It combines theoretical learning with practical applications in crime scene management, forensic biology, chemistry and other key areas. It is assessed through: Unit 1, practical simulation of crime scene investigation; Unit 2, mock trial presentation; Unit 3 presentation and report on assigned case study.

Chemistry and Forensic Science are offered in alternate years/according to demand.

Law

Students will study aspects of the English legal system, criminal liability and contract law. Throughout each module students will discover, interpret and apply legal rules providing an insight into key aspects of professional practice and law in the workplace and society. Students will discuss modern and relevant case studies, analyse current and relevant issues confronting the legal system. Each unit is assessed through an examination at the end of each semester.

Mathematics

Students wishing to take Mathematics as a major optional subject will study Core Maths in term 1 and then work on topics in Trigonometry, Differentiation, Integration and Algebra, alongside Statistics and Mechanics. Students cannot study unit 3 without having studied unit 2. The course is assessed through examination with students using a formula book.

Physical Education

Over the three units students will gain knowledge of body systems, applied physiology, fitness training and testing. They will develop a personal exercise programme tailored to their own goals. They will be assessed by examination for unit 1, but unit 2 and unit 3 will be a mix of coursework, presentations and practical.

Physics

Physics explains the world around us. Students will study DC Electricity, Mechanics and Thermal Physics over the three units. Students will need to plan and implement experiments whilst developing laboratory practice and use of data. All units will be assessed through examination, controlled assessment practical and write up and a coursework. There are mathematical calculations throughout this course so students will need a Casio fx scientific calculator.

For those students who are keen to study Physics as university there are two further optional units, Waves/Fields and Quantum Physics. Students will need to discuss with the Director of Studies to see if this can be timetabled for them.

Psychology

Psychology is the study of how people behave. In this course there are three units covering social psychology, psychopathology and cognitive psychology and the media. Students will be introduced to key terms, influential studies and current thinking enabling students to apply their learning to current or recent events. They will gain a deeper understanding of academic research skills and ethics and develop skills in evaluation, analysis and decision making.

Sociology

Sociology UFP gives students to opportunity to gain a deeper understand of the world and reflect on social issues that are often relevant to their own social experiences. Students will study: socialisation, culture and identify including Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism and Post-modernism; Research methods and family relationships; Religion, belief and faith. Students will be able to explain social changes using theories from famous sociologies and develop skills in debating, communication, research and evaluation and sociological theory application.



