



## Key Stage: 4

### Subject: Environmental and Land Based Science GCSE

**Aims of the subject:** The course is a mixture of theory and practical, comprising of two main modules. We teach the following modules:

**Management of the Natural Environment.** Topics such as soil, habitats and ecosystems, conservation, intensive/extensive farming methods. This is a compulsory module.

**One of two option modules:** (which are determined by uptake)

1. **Commercial Horticulture, Agriculture and Livestock Husbandry.** This unit focuses on the production, growth and care of plants and farm animals.
2. **Plant Cultivation and Small Animal Care.** This unit focuses on plant biology through the growing of plants and the care of non agricultural small animals.

### GCSE Examination Board: OCR

**Assessment Overview:** Both modules will be assessed at the end of Year 11. The course is examined at both Foundation and Higher tier, with pupils entered for the most appropriate paper. Each module is worth 20% of the GCSE.

Coursework consists of **two** pieces of written work and practical skills.

Investigative Project worth 24%, conducted within school.

Work Related Report worth 24%, based on a land based enterprise.

Practical Skills worth 12%, conducted within school.

**Pupils are examined by:** 40% examination

60% coursework

<b>Year</b>	<b>What will I learn?</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Year 9	<p>Term 1 Sustainable Food Production. World population growth and the challenges facing agriculture and the environment of feeding 9 billion people by 2050.</p> <p>Term 2 Soil Science. Investigating sheep breeding using the school flock of sheep.</p> <p>Term 3 The use of amenity planting in the school grounds and potato production.</p>	<p>Write an article explaining the scientific challenges of sustainable food production.</p> <p>Earthworm population scientific investigation. Sheep breeding scientific investigation GCSE controlled assessment. Describe the choice and use of trees, plants and shrubs in the school grounds and successfully grow early potatoes in the school garden.</p>
Year 10	<p>Term 1: Management of the natural environment. How the countryside is managed to provide food, fuel and a diverse habitat for plants and animals.</p> <p>Term 2: Food chains, habitats and countryside environmental management.</p> <p>Term 3: Growing plants for amenity horticulture and vegetables for food use.</p>	<p>Farm diversification work related report for GCSE controlled assessment.</p> <p>Soil survey GCSE controlled assessment practical skill. Marshland survey GCSE controlled assessment practical skill. Growing plants from seed GCSE controlled assessment practical skill</p>
Year 11	<p>Term 1: Livestock husbandry/small animal care. The feeding and health management of farm livestock and small animals.</p> <p>Term 2: The breeding of farm livestock and small animals.</p> <p>Term 3: Exam preparation, revision and use of resources to ensure GCSE success.</p>	<p>Handling and monitoring the growth of a small or large animal GCSE controlled assessment practical skill.</p>

### **Extra-curricular opportunities**

**During the three years of study the students will have the opportunity to visit a local dairy farm, a land based college and the Great Yorkshire show.**

### **How you can support your child's progress**

**Please encourage your child to read and watch articles in the news and TV programmes to increase awareness of animal welfare, agriculture and environmental issues.**