



OPTIONS

2021

Information for students, parents and carers

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Great Wyrley Academy

Headteacher: Mr I R Moreton

Dear Parent/Carer

In the first three years of secondary school, all students have followed the same programmes of study. Now the time has arrived for students to choose the subjects that they wish to pursue. This decision making process will involve the student, parents/carers and teaching staff (subject and Form Tutors).

To help you, this booklet:

- – gives you information about each subject.
- – tells you which subjects are CORE SUBJECTS (i.e. compulsory) and which subjects are OPTIONS (i.e. choice allowed).



In recent years, the Government has made a number of changes to the curriculum and the way some subjects will be assessed. In addition they have made it clear to schools and academies which subjects are considered to be essential without formally adding them to the core entitlement. At Great Wyrley we have always placed a priority on student choice and we have retained an open choice for three of the four subjects each student must choose.

To achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) students must achieve five GCSEs at grade 5 or above in the following subjects: English, Maths, 2 Sciences, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language. It is expected that in the future, colleges, universities and employers may use EBacc as a measure of a student's success at KS4. It may form part of the selection criteria for entry to further and higher education. You may wish to consider this when you discuss your child's options with them.

The choices made will give your child a curriculum they enjoy during Year 10 and Year 11. This should increase their confidence and motivation and, given hard work and commitment, should increase their chance of success.

We anticipate a swift return of option choices so that we can secure numbers and staffing for the following year. Thank you in advance for your support and co-operation.

Mr I R Moreton
Headteacher

A Note to Students

Dear Student

You will soon be entering Key Stage 4 at Great Wyrley Academy. This will be a demanding time during which you will study for external examination grades. In addition you have the opportunity to study vocational and applied courses. The types of courses available are explained in this booklet along with potential routes of progression so please read it carefully to ensure you choose the courses that are best for you.

Deciding on the most suitable programme of study is an important task and I strongly advise that you take time to gather all the relevant information, particularly as many of the courses offered have changed very recently.

In order to support you in making your choices we have specialist subject staff available in all subjects to explain the courses and answer any questions that you have along with specialist careers advice.

Furthermore, we have an extensive pastoral team including your Form Tutor, and Head of Year who are very experienced in supporting students through the Options process.



**Remember the date for completing the Options Form via Parentmail is
Friday 19th March 2020.**

Making the right decision is very important. We want you to enjoy your studies at Key Stage 4 and making the right choice will influence the rest of your education and possibly the rest of your life. Please use all the help and advice available to you.

Good luck with your option choices.

Mr J Studholme
Deputy Headteacher

Curriculum, Qualifications and Progression



There have been substantial changes to qualifications for 14-16 year olds. These are:

1. In light of the Wolf Report into vocational courses, all BTEC courses now have at least 20% of the course externally assessed.
2. Equivalency – BTEC courses will count as one equivalent.
3. All GCSEs and equivalents will be assessed at the end of the two year course, typically in the May/June of Year 11.
4. The reformed GCSEs in all subjects will be graded on a scale of 1 to 9 where 9 is the highest grade. Grade 5 is slightly above performance required for the previous grade C.
5. Routes to progression: We as a school provide both A Level as a route of progression for GCSE and BTEC Level 3 as progression from BTEC Level 2.

Types of Courses on Offer



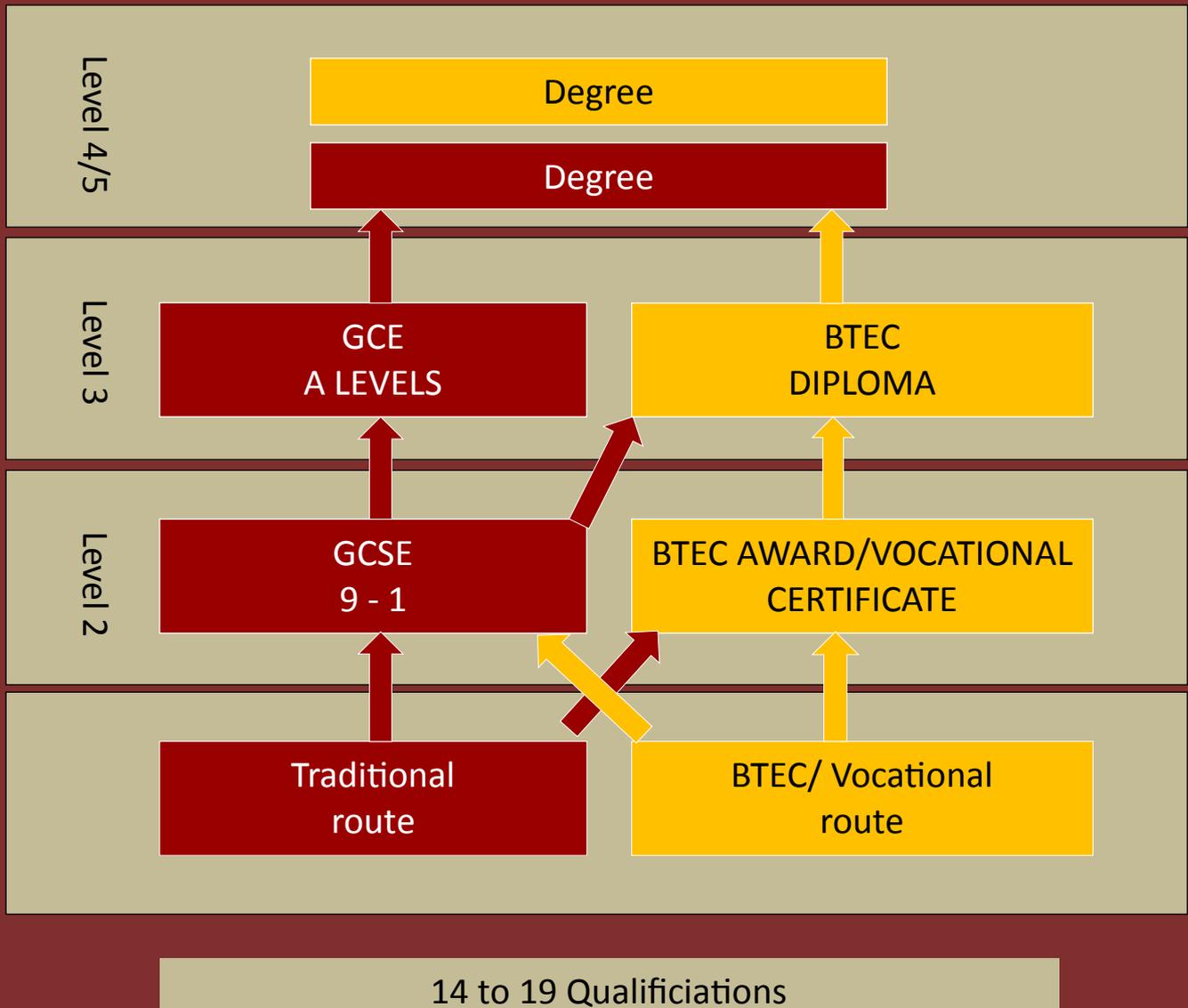
There are a variety of qualifications on offer intended to address initiatives on the education of 14 to 19 year olds. A brief summary of the types of courses on offer for this year is given below. Some of these are new and it may be that we have to make changes once the demand from students is known.

GCSE courses are those where the syllabus, coursework and examinations are controlled by the various Examination Boards. The information given in the GCSE subject pages should enable you to get a good idea of what each course involves.

BTEC qualifications/ Vocational qualifications are nationally recognised qualifications valued by both further and higher education institutions and industry. They offer a different learning and assessment style to GCSE courses. Most skills are assessed by the teacher.

Equivalence and Progression Routes

For 14 to 19 Qualifications



Types of Assessment



When choosing subjects you should be aware of the type of assessment involved. Some GCSE courses have an element of controlled assessment.

If you choose a combination of courses with heavy controlled assessment components you may find the workload and deadlines difficult.

If you are well organised, able to work independently of the teacher and enjoy project type work you may be suitable for a course that includes an element of controlled assessment.

Continuous assessment

The coursework and controlled assessment content of the subjects should be noted as this aspect of a course places considerable responsibility on the student to meet deadlines.

In some cases your teacher marks this work and the marks are submitted to the exam board.

These marks can be up to 60% of your final grade so are a significant part of the course.

Controlled assessment

In other cases 'controlled assessment' means parts of the coursework have to be completed under exam conditions. This may be marked either by the teacher or sent to the exam board.

Non-examination assessment (NEA)

This is the new term for any aspect of a course which isn't done as a terminal exam.

Oral assessments are where you have speaking and listening tests assessed by your teacher with the marks submitted to the exam board to count towards your final grade.

Practical assessment is where you have to demonstrate your practical ability. Usually assessed by the subject teacher but sometimes by people from the exam board. These marks count towards the final grade.

Terminal exams

Usually these consist of one or more written papers taken at the end of the two year course. For most subjects this will be the most significant influence of your final grade.

Advice to Students



- READ** this booklet several times.
- ASK** subject teachers, your form tutor, Head of House or Mr Studholme if there is anything you are not sure about or would like more information about.
- THINK** about all the subjects open to you.
- THINK** carefully about your future and progression routes, as well as the possible impact of the English Baccalaureate.
- TALK** about your ideas and choices with parents or guardians.
- TALK** about subjects you are choosing with teachers of that subject and Year 10 students of that subject.
- DONT** choose a subject simply because your friends are choosing it. Their needs may be totally different from yours and you probably will not be in the same group anyway.
- DONT** choose a subject simply because you like the teacher as you may have a different teacher next year.
- DONT** choose a subject simply because it is new or because it sounds glamorous.
- DONT** be late with your Options.

Courses Offered

in Year 10 and 11

All Students will follow a core curriculum:

Core Subjects

- * English Language and English Literature
- * Mathematics
- * Science
- * PE (non exam)

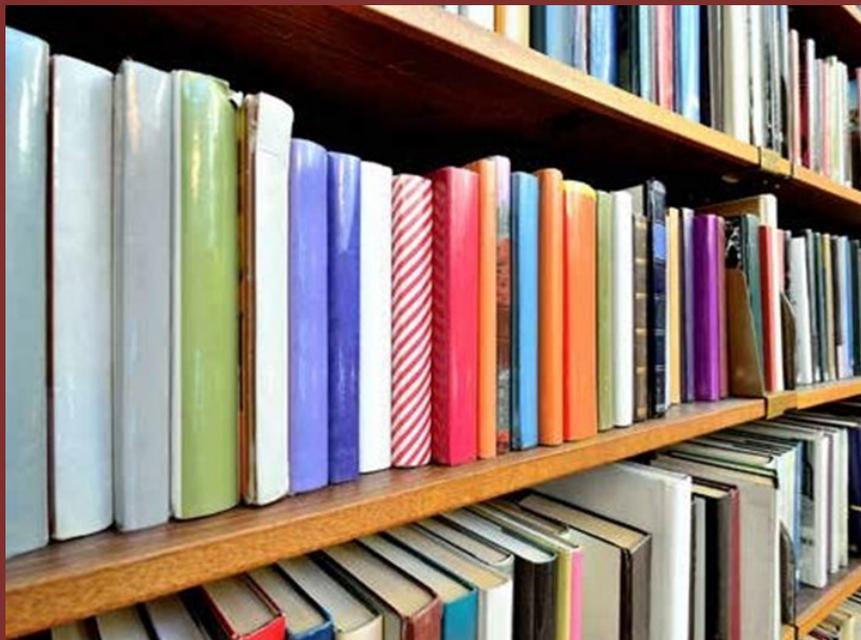
Options Subjects

	Art, Craft and Design	GCSE
	Child Development	CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL L2
	Dance	BTEC
	Digital Information Technology	BTEC
	Drama	GCSE
	Engineering	BTEC
	(Business) Enterprise	BTEC
	Food and Nutrition	GCSE
*	French	GCSE
*	Geography	GCSE
*	History	GCSE
	Music	GCSE
	Religious Education	GCSE
	Sport Studies	CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL L2

* included as part of the English Baccalaureate.

GCSE English Language

CORE



Key Skills

- Reading and writing
- Speaking and listening
- Critical thinking and analysis.

Course description

This course provides one GCSE qualification in English Language although there is a clear crossover in skills between this and the GCSE English course that students will also be completing.

During this course students will encounter a variety of writers through their study of both non-fiction and fiction texts. Opportunities for writing for different audiences, purposes and genres are present throughout the course and are examined at the end of Year 11 through GCSE. This will include writing both creatively in regards to descriptive writing, and persuasively in regards to arguing a point of view. Candidates will also be assessed on their ability to speak and listen appropriately in a range of different situations to develop confidence and skills vital for later life.

There is extensive support for students with a range of web-based support and new, high quality endorsed publications. A variety of booster and revision sessions are also available to students throughout their study to ensure they reach their true potential.

Assessment

Two examinations, each worth 50% of the course, to be sat at the end of the course.

Where can it take me?

This specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for students, whether they wish to pursue the study of English Language beyond GCSE or whether GCSE will be their last experience of studying the subjects. The qualification provides a route to the study of English Language at A Level.

Further information

Please contact: Miss J Alton

Useful Website

www.aqa.org.uk

GCSE English Literature

CORE



Key Skills

- Reading and writing
- Speaking and listening
- Critical thinking and analysis.

Course description

This course provides one GCSE qualification in English Literature and is designed to complement the GCSE English Language course.

Students will encounter a variety of different writers through their exploration of a 19th century novel such as Robert Stevenson's *A Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, Modern Drama such as J. B Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* and a collection of poems centered around the theme of Power and Conflict or Love and Relationships. All candidates will also study a play by Shakespeare such as *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* or *The Merchant of Venice*.

There is extensive support for students with a range of web-based support and new, high quality endorsed publications. A variety of booster and revision sessions are also available to students throughout their study to ensure they reach their true potential.

Assessment

Two examinations, both to be sat at the end of the course:
Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel -
40% Modern Texts and Poetry - 60%

Where can it take me?

This specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for students, whether they wish to pursue the study of English Literature beyond GCSE or whether GCSE will be their last experience of studying the subject. The qualification provides a route to the study of English Literature at A Level.

Further information

Please contact: Miss J Alton

Useful Website

www.aqa.org.uk

GCSE Mathematics

CORE



Key Skills

- Sound understanding of concepts
- Fluency in procedural skill
- Competency to apply mathematical skills in a range of contexts
- Confidence in mathematical problem solving.

Course description

GCSE Mathematics is a qualification that is required by most employers and is required for entry to further or higher education and so it is an important subject to study. The syllabus and assessment consists of maths fit for the modern world and presented in authentic contexts. It allows students to develop mathematical independence built on a sound base of conceptual learning and understanding.

You will study:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics.

Assessment

There is a choice between two levels of entry: Foundation for grades 5 to 1 and higher for grades 9 to 4. Your teacher will help you to decide which level you should enter during year 11.

Examination

The course is entirely assessed by exams. These will be at the end of the course, where you will take three written papers, two with a calculator and one non-calculator.

Where can it take me?

GCSE Mathematics is an important foundation for many courses which may be taken in employment or further education.

This qualification provides a route to the study of A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Maths.

Further information

Please contact: Mrs S Ravenscroft

Useful Website

www.edexcel.com

www.mathswatch.com

GCSE Combined Science

CORE



Key Skills

- Communication
- Application of number
- Information and communication technology
- Working with others
- Improving own learning and performance
- Problem solving.

Course description

All students will study GCSE Science in Year 10 and 11. Students will be guided onto the course most suitable for them.

If students are guided onto the GCSE Combined Science route they will study a range of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics over the two year period. They will obtain two GCSE grades at the end of the course from 9-9, 9-8 though to 2-1, 1-1. This course is suitable preparation for A Level Sciences.

Assessment

The course is assessed at the end of year 11 and consists of two Biology, Two Chemistry and two Physics papers, each assessing different topics, including practical skills. All the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes in length and can be taken at Foundation and Higher tier. The papers are equally weighed, each being worth 16.7% of the grade and containing multiple choice, structured, closed short and open response questions.

Where can it take me?

With GCSE Combined Science students can progress to traditional A Levels in all Science subjects or to a Level 3 BTEC Science course.

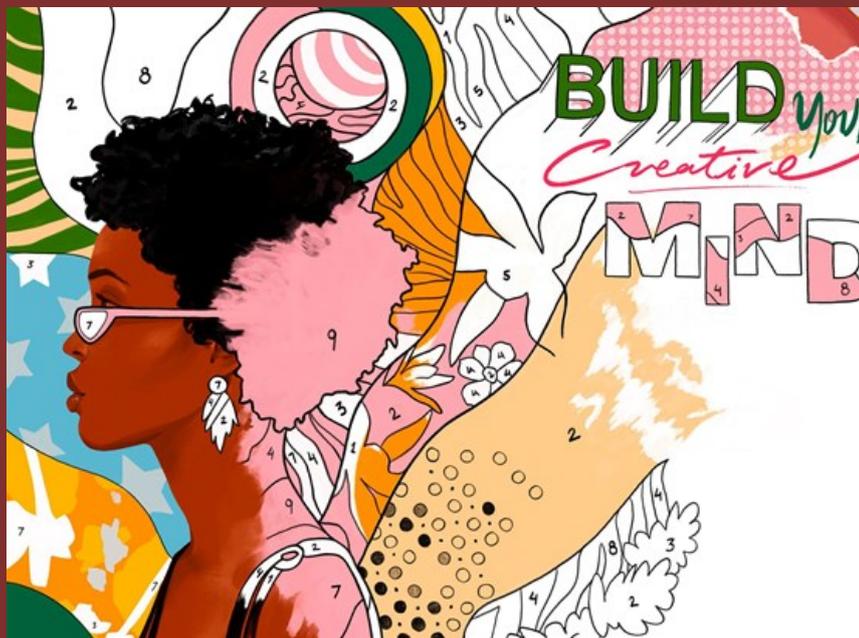
Higher Education in Science can for example lead to careers in: medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy engineering and technology.

Further information

Please contact: Mr P Tindall

GCSE Art, Craft and Design

OPTION



Course description

If you want to expand your creativity and imagination and develop skills that can be transferred into the creative industries, then you will love the new GCSE course: **Art, Craft and Design**.

In this course you will explore a wider range of media, techniques and processes than ever before. The possibilities for personal expression alongside professional briefs will prepare you for a real world creative career pathway.

During each project you will work through the creative cycle of planning, experimenting and recording your ideas before concluding your journey into wonderful final outcomes that you will be proud of.

The course is fully practical and starts the moment you step foot in the art room, so be prepared to work hard and enjoy the rewards that come from that. Continuing your projects out of lesson is vital, at least one hour a week, but we do support this by offering after school clubs.

Assessment

Portfolio

Worth 60% of the qualification. You will submit two projects, project one will focus on Painting and Ceramic skills, project two will focus on Photography and Graphical Communication skills.

AQA Set Task

Worth 40% of the qualification. The exam board sets 7 themes for you to choose from and you can develop the project in any media or techniques that you are most skillful with. You will complete a twelve-week preparatory stage where you can research, experiment and record your ideas before completing a ten-hour exam to produce a final outcome (spread over two days).

Key Skills

You will develop the following skills:

- Communication
- Application of number
- Use of art specific digital technology
- Creative collaboration
- Resilience in refining skills
- Problem solving
- Independence

Where can it take me?

As the creative industries is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK, studying art has never been more lucrative as a career pathway. The following jobs are the tip of the iceberg: Animator, architect, art therapist, costume designer, florist, fashion designer, graphical communicator, jeweller, landscape gardener, set designer, web and game designer, textile artist, photographer, ceramicist, make-up artist

Further information

Please contact: Mrs V Smith or Mrs H Down

Useful Website

www.aqa.org.uk

Child Development

OPTION



Course description

This subject is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in child development

This course seeks to encourage an understanding of the overall needs of young children and the social and environmental influences that affect their development. It consists of three units covering the topics outlined below:

- Preparation for pregnancy and birth
- Nutrition and Health
- Family and Parenting
- Intellectual, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Community Support

Students will learn how to think and work logically and independently, alone or as part of a team. As part of their assessment students use their skills to complete tasks related to the topics.

Students have to produce a comprehensive Child Study Task that develops their independent learning skills. This involves planning the child study and researching the relevant area of development. Students must then regularly observe their chosen child in relevant settings and record and evaluate their findings. Students then have a written theory examination.

Key Skills

You will develop the following skills:

- Written and verbal communications
- ICT Skills
- Problem solving and working with others
- How to work independently
- Confidence and self-awareness
- Improving own learning
- Understanding of the Health and Social Care Industry.

Where can it take me?

This course provides an ideal foundation for Health and Social Care to be studied at Level 3.

About 3 million people work in health or social care. Health care roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and health care assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors, teachers and administrative roles. Together they account for nearly one in ten of all paid jobs in the UK. Demand for both health and social care is likely to rise so they will continue to play a key role in UK society, and the demand for people to fill these vital jobs will increase.

Further information

Please contact:

Mrs H Cornwall

BTEC Dance

OPTION



Course description

This course allows you to study dance giving you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will examine the roles and responsibilities of different performance artists and practitioners as well as the different approaches and styles used.

You will also develop key skills, such as being able to respond to and interpret different ideas given to you; and you will be experiencing first-hand the ways in which performance artists work through the development of ideas, rehearsal and then performance. It is a practical introduction to life and work in the performing arts industry, which will give you the opportunity to develop performing arts skills and techniques, and to analyse and evaluate your skills both independently and within a group.

How will I be assessed? You will carry out tasks or mini-projects throughout the course. Your teacher will mark these, which will give you an idea of how you are getting on. Towards the end of the course you will do one larger project, where you use the knowledge, skills and techniques you have learned to devise and deliver a workshop performance to a specific audience from a brief that will be given to you. All the work you do through the course prepares you for this larger project, which is sent away to be marked.

Key Skills

You will develop the following skills:

- Reflective learning
- Teamwork
- Self-managing
- Creative thinking
- Effective participation
- Independent enquiry
- ICT and presentation skills
- Leadership skills.

Where can it take me?

BTEC Dance Level 3

(3 courses available, including Extended Certificate, Diploma and Extended Diploma) or A Level Dance

You will benefit from studying Dance if you are interested in the following:

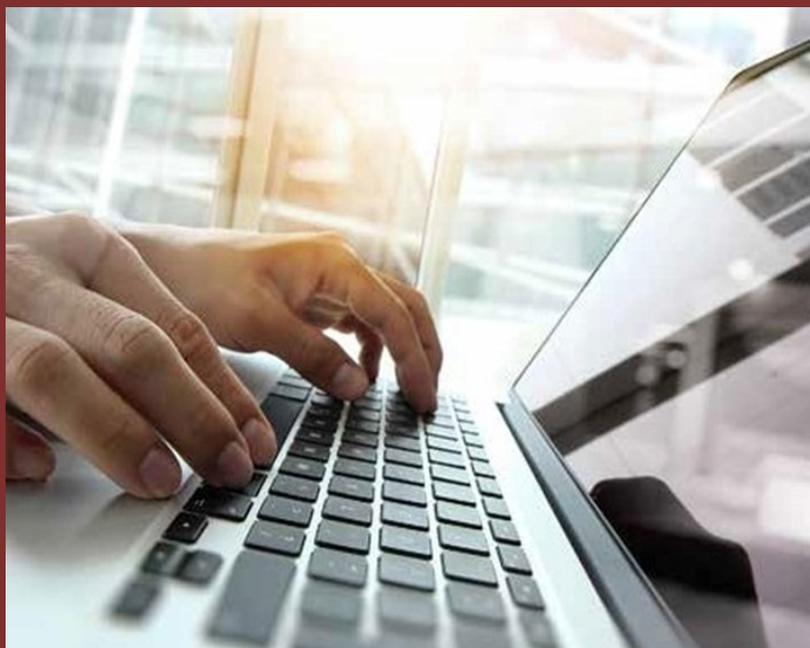
Choreography, gymnast, dancer, fitness coach, personal trainer, PE teacher

Further information

Please contact: Mr V Smith

BTEC Digital Information Technology

OPTION



Course description

The Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for learners who want to gain technical skills and knowledge through studying topics including data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- development of key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data;
- process that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct;
- attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication;
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

The course is made up of 3 components: two that are internally assessed and one that is externally assessed;

Component 1: Explore, Component 2: Develop, Component 3: Apply

Key Skills

You will develop creative skills that will enable you to create digital content including: video, animation, web design, images and sound. You will learn how to plan, edit, review and improve your work and present this to a specified audience.

Where can it take me?

Students who generally achieve at Level 2 across in their learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects;
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships.

Further information

Please contact:

Mr M Ryder

Useful Website

www.edexcel.com

GCSE Drama

OPTION



Course description

You will have the opportunity to develop and perform your own original devised work, as well as the writing of published playwrights. Set texts and written responses will require you to articulate how you would perform in certain roles, and design for certain scenes, putting practical work at the heart of this course.

Component 1 : Understanding Drama- This is an entirely written exam taken at the end of Year 11.

Section A: Four multiple choice questions based on staging and theatre roles

Section B: Questions are on a set play: we study Blood Brothers

Section C: One, 32 mark question based on a live theatre

Component 2 : Devising Drama

In small groups you will create and develop an original performance piece. There are two parts to the assessment: 1) a written document that is worth 30% 2) a devised performance worth 10% of entire GCSE grade

Component 3: Texts in Practice

Purely practical unit

You learn and perform x2 extracts from a play, as a monologue or in a group

Worth 20% of overall GCSE grade

***Note – it is expected that students choosing this option will take part in school productions and other performance related extra-curricular activities.**

Key Skills

- Communication
- Confidence
- Performance
- Problem-solving
- Working with others
- Improving own learning and performance

Where can it take me?

Career opportunities include:

Arts & theatre administration, arts journalism, director, actor, designer, playwright, stage management, theatre management

Further information

Please contact: Mr V Smith

Useful Website

www.edexcel.com

BTEC Engineering

OPTION



Course description

You will develop and awareness of having the ability to explore, develop and apply, problem solving and manufacturing techniques in the following areas:

- Exploring Engineering sectors and design applications
- Investigating an Engineering product
- Responding to an Engineering brief

This qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE and is aimed at everyone who would like to find out more about engineering by undertaking their own projects. On this course, you will:

- learn about the key engineering sectors – mechanics, electrical/ electronic and engineering design and how they contribute to industry
- develop key engineering practical and technical skills, such as research, observation, measurement, planning, making, using CAD and dis-assembly
- develop key skills for employment in engineering sectors, such as problem solving, design, creativity, communication and collaboration.

The course is made up of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that is externally assessed.

The assessment structure is also designed so that students can build on what they learn, and develop their skills, as they move through the course.

Exploring Engineering Sectors and Design Applications

Internally assessed assignments • 30% of the total course

Investigating an Engineering Product

Internally assessed assignments • 30% of the total course

Responding to a Brief Externally assessed task • 40% of the total course

Key Skills

You will develop the following skills:

- Written and verbal communication
- Application of current design and manufacturing techniques
- Core ICT and industrial design specific skills
- Team work and task delegation
- Free hand and CAD designing skills
- Problem solving and planning
- Health and Safety in the workshop
- Industrial evaluation techniques.

Where can it take me?

When you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of engineering skills. Because you will be acquiring knowledge and building useful skills, which are not generally covered in GCSE courses, you will have a better idea of whether the engineering sector is for you and which part of it you might want to study further.

After you have finished the course, you may want to go on to further study such as A Levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. You will find that many of the ideas covered here are further developed in qualifications such as BTEC Nationals in Engineering and Information Technology.

Alternatively, you might want to find work in the engineering sector as an apprentice or a trainee. The best option for you will depend on both the grades you achieve in this qualification and in any other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and the advice you can access about further learning and training opportunities available in your area.

Further Information

Please contact: Mrs V Smith

Useful Website

www.edexcel.com

BTEC (Business) Enterprise

OPTION



Course description

The nature of the course is very 'hands on'. We will be involving local businesses in the delivery of the course. There is an emphasis on written work, research skills, working in groups and presenting findings to a target audience. Throughout the 2 years there will be an opportunity to test out your enterprise skills, looking at the marketing mix and preparing and presenting your sales pitches. If you have ever considered becoming the next Lord Alan Sugar or fulfilling your dreams through starting your own business, then this is the course for you!

Units

Component 1:

Exploring Enterprises (course work/internally assessed)

Component 2:

Planning for and pitching an Enterprise activity (course work/internally assessed)

Component 3 :

Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (Exam)

Key Skills

There is an emphasis on 'learning by doing'. Students will learn to work using their own initiative.

You will also be able to demonstrate self-motivation through meeting regular deadlines, along with research skills.

Communication

and interpersonal skills will develop through regular presentations and discussions.

Where can it take me?

Perfect route to take BTEC Business Studies Level 3 or A Level Business Studies

Also a great introduction to starting your own business or gaining insight into many types of businesses and your future career.

Further information

Please contact:

Mrs J Griffiths

Useful Website

www.edexcel.com

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

OPTION



Key Skills

You will develop the following skills:

- Safe and hygienic cooking
- Application of current healthy eating guidelines
- Team work
- Verbal and written skills
- Problem solving
- Time management.

Course description

This course provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile programme of study for learners who have a desire to develop their skills and knowledge in food preparation and the principles behind healthy eating.

The qualification in food preparation and nutrition enables you to make connections between theory and practice so that you are able to apply your understanding of food science and nutrition to practical cooking.

The course content

- Food commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation

Assessment

• 15% - Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment

A scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

• 35% - Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

• 50% - Examination: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

This component will consist of two sections both containing compulsory questions and will assess the six areas of content as listed in the course content above.

Where can it take me?

Food skills will help you throughout life. They would be an advantage in careers in catering, restaurant management, chef, food product designer, food critic/writer, supermarket manager, nutritionist, teacher and food technologist.

GCSE French

OPTION



Key Skills

You will develop the following skills:

- Communication and self confidence
- Reading and listening
- Sharing information and discussion
- Working with others
- Improving own learning and performance
- Problem solving.

Course description

The course is broken down into four units which cover the four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. You will develop and polish the skills and language you have been learning since Year 7 as well as deepen your knowledge of the countries where the language of your choice is spoken.

You will cover topics such as: identity; school; future plans and aspirations; travel and tourism; global and international issues; culture and celebrations.

Assessment

Unit 1: Speaking (25% of GCSE)

Unit 2 Listening (25% of GCSE)

Unit 3 Reading (25% of GCSE)

Unit 4 Writing (25% of GCSE)

Where can it take me?

Languages lend themselves well to many sectors such as IT, engineering, law, pharmaceutical industry, journalism, customer relations, travel and tourism, hospitality, sales and the car industry.

In an increasing competitive job market, it is clear that foreign language proficiency adds significant value to a candidate's portfolio of skills, and can give them the real competitive edge when applying for jobs.

GCSE Geography

OPTION



Course description

The GCSE Geography course is a two year course that covers both human and physical geography alongside geographical skills. Within physical geography, you will study issues around natural hazards, physical landscapes of the UK including coasts and rivers alongside ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments. Your study of human geography will include urban issues and challenges, economics and resource management with a focus on food and water. Throughout each unit, you will learn and develop a wide range of geographical skills including map skills, graph skills and statistical skills.

- Allows the opportunity for personalised and independent learning

- Provides candidates, for whom GCSE will be the end of their formal study of geography, a clear overall view of the world in the first part of the 21st century
- Provides a sound foundation for those candidates who intend to continue to study the subject to a higher level
- Allows the development of 'awe and wonder' which will allow candidates to fully appreciate and learn from the world around them

Assessment

You will sit 3 external examinations at the end of Year 11. There is no controlled assessment. Paper 1 and Paper 2 examine your physical and human geography knowledge respectively. Paper 3 assess your ability to apply your geographical knowledge to current issues and fieldwork situations.

Key Skills

- Communication skills
- Graphical and cartographical skills
- Technological skills, including ICT T
- Interpersonal skills through debate and discussion
- Literacy and numeracy
- Problem solving skills
- Map reading
- Investigation and independent study
- You will need to show a knowledge and understanding of geographical process around the world and apply them to your own experiences.

Where can it take me?

GCSE Geography is an excellent foundation for further studies

Whether it is A Level Geography or other Level 3 courses, a GCSE in Geography is a relevant platform for continued learning.

Many different and varied careers beyond school also still respect the qualification and view it as being very useful.

You will have the opportunity to go on field study visits during the course.

Further information

Please contact:
Mrs H Cornwall

Useful Website

web.aqa.org.uk

GCSE History

OPTION



Course description

You will study

The subject content for GCSE History states that the scope of study should include history from three eras:

- Medieval (500–1500)
- Early Modern (1450–1750)
- Modern (1700–present day)

on three timescales:

- short (depth study)
- medium (period study)
- long (thematic study)

and on three geographical contexts:

- a locality (the historic environment)
- British
- European and/or wider world settings.

Assessment

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world- 50%

Paper 2: Shaping the nation – 50%

Key Skills

You will develop the following skills:

- How to interpret and evaluate sources
- How to communicate and apply your knowledge
- How to describe and analyse the periods studied
- Critical thinking and problem solving.

Where can it take me?

GCSE History is a good route into studying A Level history

Many careers value the skills developed during this course, some of the employers who actively seek historians include: newspapers, law firms, the police force and any management posts.

Further information

Please contact:

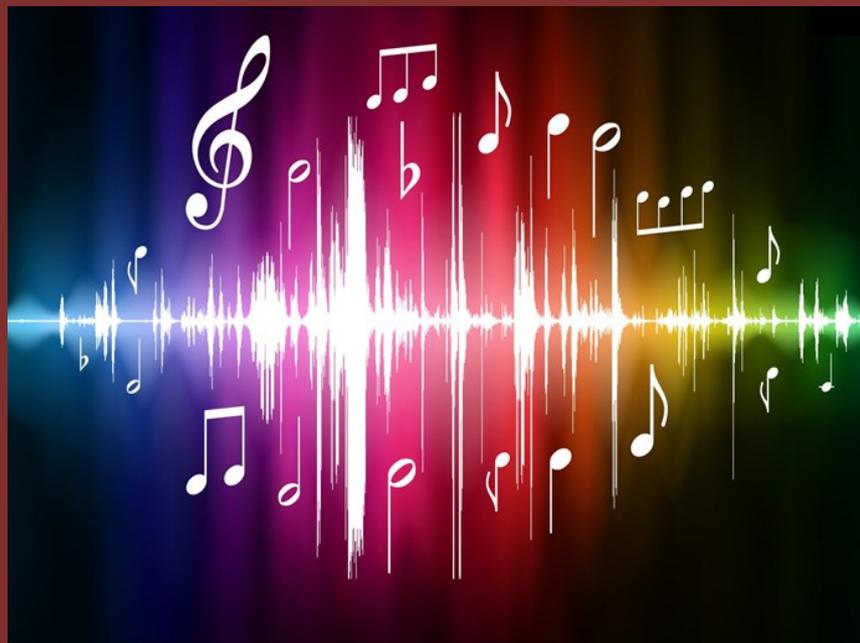
Mrs H Cornwall

Useful Website

www.aqa.org.uk

GCSE Music

OPTION



Course description

My Music' - you can perform and compose in any style of music, on any instrument. Your choice.

'The Concerto through Time'

You will study how the music work 'The Concepts' has developed from the Baroque era, through to later classical and romantic eras.

'Rhythms of the World'

You will study a mixture of different world music styles including 'Indian, Punjab, Bhangra, Traditional Eastern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern music plus African drumming and Central/South American style of calypso and samba.

'Film Music'

You will study a range of different types of 'Film Music' plus video game music.

'Conceptions of Pop'

A history and development of pop music styles from the 1950's to the present day will be studied. Students will perform on a range of instruments in a variety of different 'pop' styles.

The Concerts through Time

You will study a range of music from Baroque through to later classical and romantic eras with a focus on 'the concerts' themselves.

Assessment

All coursework will be internally assessed by your music teachers as part of a controlled assessment. Your performances and compositions will be recorded, which will finally be moderated by OCR.

The listening exam is externally assessed by the examiners.

Coursework – 60%
(no lengthy written work) Listening exam
40%

Key Skills

You will develop the following skills:

- Communication and performance
- Understanding of music
- Problem-solving
- Working with others
- Improving own learning and performance
- Composing, appraising and listening
- Analyse music from around the world
- Learn to use Music Technology software

Where can it take me?

Musical skills and knowledge would be an advantage in careers in Retailing, Leisure, Tourism, Media and the Theatre.

GCSE Music is a good path towards BTEC Nationals in Music, A Level Music, Music Technology and Performing Arts courses.

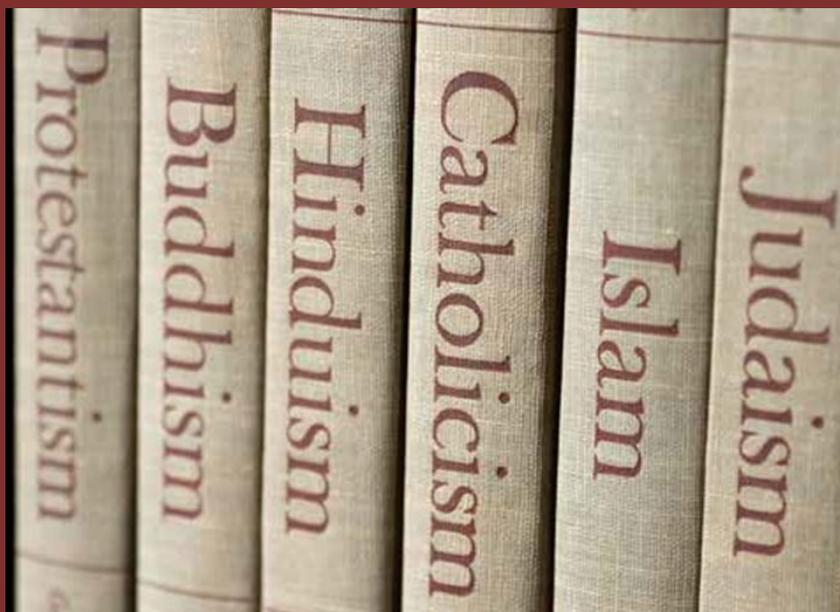
Further information

Please contact:

Mr V Smith

GCSE Religious Education

OPTION



Key Skills

You will develop the following skills:

- Listening carefully to others
- Thinking about the needs of others
- Caring for the rights of individuals
- Analysing how to help people
- Responding in a positive way
- Writing reports, case studies, letters.

Course description

The course is divided into 2

1] The study of 2 religions: beliefs, teachings and practices.

A. Christianity

Beliefs: about God, Creation, Life after Death.

Jesus Christ: Incarnation, Son of God and salvation.

Practices: Worship, prayer and sacraments, baptism, communion, pilgrimage. Christmas and Easter. Church in the community, mission, evangelism. Aid and Justice campaigns.

B. Islam

Beliefs: about God, Oneness, goodness; Angels, Destiny and Life after Death.

Authority of Prophets, Qur'an, Sunni and Shia imam.

Practices: worship, five pillars: shahadah, salah, zakah, sawm, hajj. Jihad. Festivals and Ashura.

2] The study of 4 ethical and philosophical themes

- Relationships and families - sex, marriage and divorce
- Religion and war, peace, terrorism.
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Religion, human rights, wealth and social justice.

Assessment

100% exams

2 written exam papers of 1 hour, 45 minutes each.

GCSE Religious Studies is a good route into studying A-Level Religious Studies, Philosophy or Law.

Where can it take me?

Studying Religious Studies allows you to explore how religious beliefs and practices shape and influence the world we live in. The knowledge and skills learned in completing this study are especially useful for careers where you will work with others. This includes (but is by no means limited to) counselling, social services, marketing, medicine and politics.

Further information

Please contact:

Mrs H Comwall

Website

www.aqa.org.uk

Sport Studies

OPTION



Key Skills

Cambridge Nationals in Sport offer students the solid foundation required for further study or progression into industry. Students will develop a wide range of highly desirable, transferable skills such as communication, problem solving, team working and performing under pressure.

Course description

There are 4 units to the course. One unit is an external written one hour exam focusing on contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. Students develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and how this shapes the sports industry.

Three units are based on internal assessment through completing coursework throughout the two year course.

One unit is a practical sport unit where pupils undertake one individual and one team sport from an approved list in both skill practices and in competition. They will show their officiating skills and also reflect upon how they can improve their own performance.

A third unit is sport and the media. Sport uses the range of media to promote itself and in turn the media uses sport to expand and maintain uptake of its products. In this unit learners look at the differences in sports coverage across a range of media outlets; the impacts the media has on sport and how this has changed over the years.

Currently the final unit is sports leadership. Whether voluntary or professional, the role of the sport leader is imperative in any sport. Adopting the role of coach, manager, teacher or team captain, sport leaders can shape the development of sport by influencing and inspiring those around them to participate and perform in sporting activities. In this unit, students learn more about different leadership roles and styles. They will then go on to plan and deliver effective and safe sessions and evaluate their own performance.

Grading is at Level 1 and level 2 - with pass, merit, distinction and distinction*.

Where can it take me?

On completion of the course it can lead to studying BTEC Sport Level 3

The course has career links into jobs such as Sports Coaching, Sports Development, Fitness Instruction and Teaching.

Further information

Please contact: Mr V Smith

Useful Website

www.ocr.org.uk

Notes



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Relentlessly Pursuing Excellence

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