



Part of the East Dacorum Co-operative Learning Trust

Key Stage 4 Options Guide

2021 – 2023



Aspiration • Determination • Integrity

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Welcome to the Options Guide 2021-2023



The Organisation of the Curriculum at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11)

We have always offered a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4 which, at the same time as conforming to the requirements of the National Curriculum, has provided all students with an opportunity to make choices. Our core values of Aspiration, Determination and Integrity underpin our curriculum.

The aim of our curriculum is to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of young people and prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

Recent curriculum developments

Over the last few years the curriculum has been subject to major changes, with even more developments scheduled for the technical subjects. GCSE courses have been given a high value profile and are now all linear; all examinations are taken at the end of the course and have marks awarded for the quality of the writing, including spelling and the correct use of grammar and punctuation.

The grading scale has changed from the A* to G system to a 9 to 1 system, where grade 9 is the top grade. Achieving at least grade C in particular GCSE qualifications has been the standard that employers and universities have looked for in their applicants. The table below helps illustrate the differences between the previous and current grading structures. Following the government's overhaul of vocational qualifications, all non-GCSE courses have specifications which require some element of external assessment. We pride ourselves on choosing relevant and interesting courses to offer that will meet both current and future needs. It is therefore important that all students think carefully about their aims for future education and employment before making any choices.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5 STRONG PASS	
4 STANDARD PASS	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Please Note:

All students must hand in their options form by Wednesday 24 March 2021.

The Structure of the Curriculum in Year 10 & 11



The curriculum is divided into two parts:

1. Core Subjects

These subjects can lead to the following GCSE examinations:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (two GCSEs)

	Year 10 Hours a fortnight	Year 11 Hours a fortnight
English	9	10
Mathematics	9	9
Science	9	10

2. Option Subjects

Students choose up to four option subjects. A variety of courses is available to ensure a broad and balanced offer to students.

Help with choosing these subjects is available from form tutors, subject teachers and Heads of Year. All students will be invited to an options interview before confirming their options.

Students will study each option subject for five hours a fortnight.

3. English Baccalaureate

For those who would like to achieve the English Baccalaureate, students need to obtain at least a level 5 in the following subjects:

- English and Mathematics
- Two Sciences:
Combined Sciences **or**
Two from Biology, Chemistry, Physics (but must sit exams in all three)
- Computer Science
- Geography or History
- Modern Foreign Language (including home languages such as Portuguese)

Core studies

In Year 10 and Year 11, all students will follow programmes of study in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE)
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)



We also have an obligation to provide education in relation to careers, citizenship and sex education.

Option subjects at Key Stage 4

The remainder of the lesson time in Year 10 and Year 11 will provide you with an opportunity to create your own personal learning programme, choosing from a wide range of subjects which reflect your personal interests and career aspirations.

All Year 9 students are provided with an options survey to help determine the structure of the option choices to best suit the needs of our students. The option blocks will therefore be designed to accommodate student preferences.

Option choices begin in Year 10. These subjects will be studied for two years.

All students must choose at least one of the following subjects: Geography, Spanish, Computer Science or History.

Students who wish to study the English Baccalaureate will also need to choose two of the following: Spanish, Geography or History.

Course descriptions for the following subjects are provided in this booklet in the options section:

Art & Design	History
Business BTEC	Hospitality & Catering WJEC
Computer Science	Music BTEC
Dance BTEC	PE
Design & Technology	Religious Studies
Design (Performing Arts) BTEC	Single Sciences (also known as Triple Science)
Drama BTEC	Spanish
Film Studies	Sport BTEC
Geography	

They are arranged alphabetically.

Subject staff can only provide you with the information that is currently available.

Suggested Subject Combinations for Degree Courses and Career Pathways

Requirements for specific subjects

The GCSE or other standard level entrance requirements for individual degree courses are varied. The summary below gives an idea of some of the GCSE requirements that you may come across for certain degree courses. Remember that these are only examples. It is important to check university websites for detailed requirements if you would like more information.

Subjects requirements

If you know what you wish to study at university, and want to know what subjects you will need to have studied in preparation, you will find detailed information on each university's entry requirements on the UCAS website: www.ucas.com. Some popular degrees will normally be open to you without any specific subject background.

Degree	<u>Essential</u> subjects at GCSE and A-level required	<u>Useful</u> subjects at GCSE, BTEC and A Level
Accountancy Banking / Finance /Insurance, Business	Usually none, although one or two universities require Mathematics	Mathematics, Business Studies, Economics
Actuarial Science/Studies	Mathematics	Further Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies
Aeronautical (Aerospace) Engineering	Mathematics and Physics	Further Mathematics, Design Technology Computing/Computer Science
Anthropology / Archaeology	None	Biology, Sociology, Geography, History, Science
Architecture	Arts/science mix. Some may require Art	Art, Mathematics, Design Technology, Physics. <i>A portfolio of drawings and ideas may be asked for</i>
Art and Design	Art or Design Technology	Design Technology Art & Design <i>Most entrants into Art and Design degrees will have completed a one-year Art Foundation Course after completing Year 13.</i>
Biomedical Sciences/ Biochemistry/ Zoology (including Medical Science)	Two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. Chemistry is essential for some courses.	Mathematics, Further Mathematics Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Business Studies	None	Mathematics, Business Studies, Economics, Languages
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics	Physics, Biology, Further Mathematics, Computer Science
Chemistry	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Biology	Mathematics, Further Mathematic, Physics, Biology, Computing/Computer Science
Childhood Studies	None	Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care
Civil Engineering	Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry	Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Design Technology, Geography, Business Studies
Computer Science	For some courses, Mathematics. For some courses Computing/Computer Science.	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, ICT, Computer Science

Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology for most courses, but some require Mathematics or Physics	Mathematics, Physics, Further Mathematics
Dietetics	Chemistry, Biology	Mathematics
Drama	English Literature, English	English Literature, English Literature and Language, Drama
Economics	Mathematics	Economics, ICT, History, Business Studies
Electrical/Electronic Engineering	Mathematics, usually Physics	Further Mathematics, ICT, Design Technology
Engineering (General)	Mathematics and Physics	Further Mathematics, Design Technology, ICT
English	English Literature or combined English Language & Literature	History, Religious Studies, Foreign Language
Environmental Science/Studies	Two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics or Geography	
Geography	Geography	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
History	History	Economics, English Literature, Sociology, RE

Law	Usually none but some may ask for English	History
Management Studies		Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies
Materials Science (including Biomedical Materials Science)	Two from Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, (also Design Technology for some universities)	Chemistry, Design and Technology, ICT, Further Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering	Mathematics, Physics	Further Mathematics, Design Technology
Media Studies (including Communication Studies)	English, Media Studies	English, Media Studies, Sociology, Psychology
Medicine	Chemistry and Biology (and one from either Mathematics or Physics will keep all medical schools open to you)	Further Mathematics or a contrasting (non-science) subject
Nursing and Midwifery	Biology or any other Science Health and Social Care	Biology, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Health and Social Care
Occupational Therapy	Some courses ask for Biology	Psychology, Physical Education, Sociology or a Science.
Pharmacy	Chemistry and one from Biology, Mathematics and Physics. Some courses like to see Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.	Mathematics, Physics
Philosophy	None	Mathematics / RE
Physics	Mathematics, Physics	Chemistry, Further Mathematics
Physiotherapy	Biology	Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology
Planning	Geography	Geography, Mathematics, Economics
Politics	None	Politics, History, Philosophy, Law, Sociology, Economics, English Literature, Religious Studies, Business Studies.
Psychology	None	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care

Religious Studies/Theology	None	Religious Studies Philosophy, English Literature, History
Sociology	None	Sociology, Psychology, Geography
Speech Therapy	None	Biology, Chemistry or Physics, Modern Foreign Language (English Language and Literature, Psychology)
Sports Science Physical Education	Biology/Chemistry/Mathematics, Physics (some courses will treat Physical Education as a science equivalent)	Physical Education, Psychology
Surveying	None	For some types of Surveying eg Building Surveying, Mathematics and Physics could be helpful. For Estate Management (General Practice Surveying) most A Level combinations will be considered.
Teacher Training (Primary and/or Secondary)	Primary teaching A Level in either Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Design and Technology, Drama, English, French, Geography, History, ICT, Maths, Music, Physics, PE, RE, Spanish	Any subjects
Veterinary Science	Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Physics	Further Maths

Core Subjects



Details of all the examinations related to the compulsory courses below are included within this section.

All students will study:

- **English Language and English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)**
- **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**
- **Physical Education**

All students are required to study at least one of following subjects when selecting their option choices:

- **Computer Science**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Spanish**

English Language & English Literature GCSE - AQA



There are two GCSEs in English: English Language and English Literature. All students will study both GCSE courses.

English Language

The GCSE in English Language ensures you can read fluently and write effectively. You will read a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries including literature, literary non-fiction and other writing such as reviews and journalism. You will be able to write effectively and coherently using Standard English. There are two sections:

1. Explorations in creative reading and writing for which you read one literature fiction text and write a descriptive or narrative piece
2. Writers' viewpoints and perspectives for which you read non-fiction texts and write to present personal viewpoints

Coursework

There are no coursework requirements for English Language.

Examination requirements

The GCSE is linear with two written papers at the end of Year 11. Each paper lasts one hour and 45 minutes. GCSE Grades go from 9 – 1. There are no separate tiers of entry.

English Literature

The new GCSE in English Literature will be studied at the same time as English Language. The course encourages you to read a wide range of classic literature, including: a 19th century novel; a Shakespeare play; a selection of poetry since 1789 including Romantic poetry; British fiction or drama from 1914 onwards. There are two sections:

1. Shakespeare and the 19th century novel for which you will study a whole Shakespeare play and a whole 19th century novel
2. Modern texts and poetry for which you will study modern prose or drama text and an anthology of poetry

Coursework

There are no coursework requirements for English Literature.

Examination requirements

The GCSE is linear with two written papers at the end of Year 11. One paper lasts two hours and 15 minutes and the other one hour and 45 minutes. GCSE Grades go from 9 – 1.

There are no separate tiers of entry.

Homework

A homework task is set every week. Typically, one homework is spelling and vocabulary focused and a second homework may be set to prepare or complete exam style questions when necessary.

Opportunities for further study

If you achieve grades 7 – 9, you may have the opportunity to study English Literature at A Level in the Sixth Form.

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Mathematics GCSE - Edexcel



Reasons for studying the subject

All students follow a Mathematics course in Years 10 and 11. This will generally lead to a GCSE Mathematics qualification. We all use Mathematics everyday: to predict weather; tell time; handle money. It is therefore important to study the subject. Mathematics is more than just formulae and equations; it will prepare you to be logical and rational and use your mind efficiently and effectively to solve problems in a whole range of different scenarios.

What the course entails

The GCSE in Mathematics develops fluent knowledge, skills and understanding as well as applying mathematical techniques to solve problems, interpret information and reason mathematically. It has a focus on you being able to solve problems by extracting the right information from tables, charts, etc and choosing the correct calculation dependent on the context.

The course builds on skills from Key Stage 3. Familiar topics such as algebra, angles, graphs, statistics and probability are all developed to a higher level. You need to be able to work both with and without a calculator. Some sections are studied more formally with examples and written exercises; others are practical or investigative, requiring more independence.

Coursework requirements

There are no coursework elements for Mathematics.

Examination requirements

Our scheme is linear with written papers sat at the end of Year 11. The course is offered at two tiers. The tier of entry is decided on an individual basis to maximise success. The range of grades is as follows:

Tier	Grades available
Foundation	5 - 1
Higher	9 - 3

Homework requirements

One homework task is set every week. Each task should take approximately one hour. Sometimes homework is a selection of exercises or past exam questions. We also use the PiXL Maths App and the Mathswatch VLE to set on-line homework. These websites are useful for catching up on any missing work if you are away. We welcome parental support and interest in all areas of the course.

Opportunities for further study

If you achieve grades 9, 8 or 7 you may have the opportunity to study Mathematics at A level in our Sixth Form.

Miss S Fernando
Acting Subject Leader: Mathematics

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Combined Science GCSE – AQA Trilogy



Reasons for studying the subject

If you enjoy learning about scientific issues in depth, debating current scientific practices and doing practical work, then this course will give you more of these experiences. Several key careers require the study of Science. If you want to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A-level, this course is essential. For these reasons, the study towards two Science qualifications is compulsory.

What the course entails

There are three units; one in Biology, one in Chemistry, and one in Physics. Each unit is assessed through two papers worth 70 marks, lasting one hour and 15 minutes per paper and accounting for 16.7% of the qualification. Practical skills are taught throughout the course and assessed through the written examination papers.

Units

Biology Paper 1	Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; Bioenergetics.
Biology Paper 2	Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation & evolution; Ecology.
Chemistry Paper 1	Atomic structure & the periodic table; Bonding, structure and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; Energy changes
Chemistry Paper 2	The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.
Physics Paper 1	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure
Physics Paper 2	Forces; Waves, Magnetism and electromagnetism

NB: all papers consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

Coursework requirements

There is no coursework for Science. Practical skills are assessed through written examination papers.

Examination requirements

All units are externally examined. Foundation and higher tier papers are available for all qualifications, but you must take the same tier for all papers. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

Homework

Homework will be set on a weekly basis and will relate to work carried out during the course.

Opportunities for further study

This course is an essential basis for further study in subjects such as hairdressing, plumbing and animal husbandry as well as a required pre-qualification for A-levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

Miss L White
Subject Leader: Science

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Option Subjects



All students must select four options to study in Year 10 and Year 11. The option blocks will be designed according to student preference from the Year 9 options survey.

The options survey does not guarantee that students will study those courses. However, the survey will allow us to tailor the curriculum as far as we can to the talents and aspirations of the cohort.

Remember that GCSE courses are now awarded grades from 9 to 1.

Other courses are generally graded D* / D (Distinction), M (Merit) and P (Pass) at Level 2 and D, M and P at Level 1.

- **All students must choose at least one of the following subjects:**

Computer Science
Geography
History
Spanish

- **Students will not be able to study more than two BTEC courses**
- **Students can only select one choice in each option block**

You and your parents/carers will be invited to an interview at which your future career plans will be discussed, preferences examined and option choices made.

The option subjects on offer are:

- Art & Design
- Business BTEC
- Computer Science
- Dance BTEC
- Design & Technology
- Design (Performing Arts) BTEC
- Drama BTEC
- Film Studies
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality & Catering WJEC
- Music BTEC
- Physical Education (PE)
- Religious Studies
- Single Sciences (also known as Triple Science)
- Spanish
- Sport BTEC

Art, Craft & Design GCSE - Edexcel



Reasons for studying the subject

You may wish to study Art because you enjoy drawing, making things, and playing with ideas and materials to create imaginative art objects. The practical and creative skills you develop in this course could lead to a future career in areas such as fine art, architecture, graphic design and illustration, fashion and textile design, games design, film production and more. Whichever you choose, it has immense value as a GCSE subject where you develop transferable skills that you can take into any career or job.

What the course entails

You will carry out projects with broad themes that allow you to develop your own interests and artistic strengths. Using a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials, techniques and processes, you will learn to apply a creative approach to problem solving. You will investigate how artists and designers from different times, cultures and societies have communicated meanings in their work. You will use this knowledge to develop your own ideas, learning to express individual thoughts and choices confidently. You will be encouraged to embrace different ways of working, learning to take risks, experiment and learn from mistakes. Drawing is at the heart of art, craft and design and, therefore, is a core element of the course. All project work will lead to final pieces that may take the form of painting, printed works, digital media or sculpture.

Coursework requirements

The course consists of two components: the Personal Portfolio (component 1), worth 60%, and an Externally Set Assignment (component 2), worth 40%.

The Personal Portfolio is the body of work you produce in Year 10 and in a mock exam project in year 11. This will show the results of activities designed to encourage you to:

- generate and develop ideas informed by primary and contextual sources
- refine your ideas through experimenting with media, developing and applying skills
- research, record, analyse and review your own and others' work
- select, create, realise and present personally developed final pieces

Examination requirements

The Externally Set Assignment is undertaken in January during Year 11. You will be required to develop your own project in response to a broad theme. For example, 'Fragments' or 'Event', which will be set by the exam board. You will be provided with suggestions for possible starting points to help you develop your response and ideas for research. You will have approximately eight weeks to explore the theme, develop your practical work and plan a final piece. You will be expected to work more independently under the guidance of your teacher. At the end of this period, you will sit a ten hour timed examination, during which you will produce the final piece(s) of work.

Homework requirements

Homework is timetabled once every two weeks. You will be expected to spend a minimum of one hour completing homework. Typical tasks include observational drawing, research, developing ideas or experimenting with different techniques.

Opportunities for further study

There are many things you can go on to do with a GCSE in Art and Design. At The Astley Cooper School, we offer courses in A Level Art & Design.

Miss R Padam
Subject Leader: Art

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Business (Enterprise) – BTEC Tech Award



Reasons for studying the subject

This qualification is for those who want to learn about the world of business. This qualification teaches students how to research, plan and pitch a business idea and then review the process. The course looks at what makes a successful entrepreneur and students will explore the different businesses that entrepreneurs have set up. Students will then create an idea for a business and then plan and pitch this idea for their business.

Examination Requirements

The course is split into three units. Two of these are coursework based and one unit is an externally marked exam.

Unit 1: Exploring Enterprises (30%)

In this unit, students will:

- Examine the characteristics of enterprises
- Explore how market research helps enterprises to meet customer needs and understand competitor behaviour
- Investigate the factors that contribute to the success of an enterprise

This unit is coursework assessed.

Unit 2: Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise (30%)

In this unit, students will:

- Explore ideas and plan for a micro-enterprise activity
- Pitch a micro-enterprise activity
- Review own pitch for a micro-enterprise activity

This unit is coursework assessed.

Unit 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (40%)

In this unit, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of promotion and financial records
- Interpret and use promotional and financial information in relation to a given enterprise
- Make connections between different factors influencing a given enterprise
- Be able to advise and provide recommendations to a given enterprise on ways to improve its performance

Unit 3 is a two hour external assessment under supervised conditions.

Homework requirements

Homework will be set throughout the course, usually between one to two hours per two-week cycle.

Opportunities for further study

The BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise is the ideal foundation for the BTEC Level 3 in Business, which the school also runs.

Ms L Nowak
Business Studies Teacher

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Computer Science GCSE - OCR



Reasons for studying the subject

The qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science elements of the Key Stage 3 programme of study. The content has been designed not only to allow for a solid basis of understanding, but to engage learners and get them thinking about real world application. Students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science will find it provides a superb stepping stone.

Examination Requirements

Two written papers (50% each of the overall course):

J277/01: Computer systems

This is assessed by a one hour and 30 minutes written paper, which has a mixture of short and long answer questions. This component covers:

Systems Architecture; Memory; Storage; Wired and wireless networks; Network topologies, protocols and layers; System security; System software; Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

This is assessed by a one hour and 30 minutes written paper, which has a mixture of short and long answer questions, some of which require students to write program code. This component covers:

Algorithms; Programming Fundamentals; Producing Robust Programs; Boolean Logic; Programming Languages and Integrated Development Environments

Homework requirements

Throughout the course, homework will be set between one to two hours per two-week cycle.

Opportunities for further study

The OCR GCSE Computing qualification is the ideal foundation for the AS and A Level Computer Science courses that the school also runs.

Dr M Ryde

Associate Assistant Headteacher/Computer Science Teacher

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Dance - BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Performing Arts - Edexcel



Reasons for studying the subject

This subject is ideal for those of you who have some background or interest in dance. It is designed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction into the world of performing arts. The course is mainly practical and covers a range of dance styles. We use class assessment as well as assessment in performances and written coursework. The course will build up your confidence as a dancer and as a performer, as well as developing your knowledge of dance within the industry.

What the course entails

This is a three component qualification:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

You will look at the industry and explore professional dance repertoire, styles, roles and how practitioners create their own work. You will create a blog, journal, written or PowerPoint presentation on your research findings. (30%).

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

You will study a range of styles such as Contemporary, Jazz and Street Dance, review your development, and showcase a performance piece in the Dance Show (30%).

The above components will be studied and assessed internally (60%).

Component 3: Performing to a Brief

You will work as part of a group to create a dance performance in response to a brief and stimulus, which is externally assessed (40%).

Coursework requirements

Each unit consists of practical work which is supported by written assignments. Practical work is assessed internally through either class assessment or performance based assessment. Assessment is individual but candidates will be assessed performing in groups. 40% of the course is externally assessed and this consists of a group choreography lasting 7-10 minutes, and a choreographic log book. Written work and performances will be completed in controlled conditions before being externally assessed.

Examination requirements

There is no final exam. One controlled assessment is externally assessed.

Homework requirements

Homework will consist of completing written assignments for the logbooks and rehearsing practical work. Students will be expected to catch up on work that has been missed due to absences. As this course relies heavily on coursework it is vital that you have excellent attendance to lessons and hand in work on time.

Opportunities for further study

This course prepares you for further education in the subject either with BTEC level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts or with A level study in our Sixth Form. It can also provide a basic knowledge before commencing in vocational training at Performing Arts College.

Mrs H Harley
Dance Teacher

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GCSE Design and Technology - AQA



Reasons for studying this subject

GCSE Design and Technology is a perfect starting block for those who enjoy design and make activities. During the course you will gain the knowledge and understanding of problem solving, developing ideas and producing solutions. The course will give you many experiences in using modern day methods of production as well as building general workshop skills. These skills not only form the foundations for progressing on to higher education and careers in designing, but can be used to build on general life skills.

What the course entails

The course consists of two main assessment areas:

- A design folder - During Years 9 and 10, you will learn how to record and present research material, design ideas, development solutions, technical drawing techniques and evaluations of your work. This will be through mini projects with set outcomes and time scales to prepare you for your final major project.
- A 3D outcome - Alongside the design folder you will learn about a variety of machinery and practices used within a workshop environment. Again, this is to embed the skills and knowledge to produce a quality item made from your chosen materials.

Coursework requirements

The folder needs to be approximately 20 pages of A3. This will involve research, designing, testing and evaluation. The 3D outcome will be made from wood, metal, plastic or a combination of materials. It is worth 50% of your final grade.

You will require a plastic wallet to keep your work in (available from the D&T department for £3.50) and a contribution towards the cost of materials (amount dependent on your project size).

Examination requirements

There will be a two hour written exam in the summer of Year 11. This exam counts for 50% of your overall grade.

Homework requirements

You will be expected to do about one hour of homework per week. This is focused on increasing drawing, rendering and research techniques.

Opportunities for further study

Success in this course enables progression to many of the higher level design courses including BTEC Nationals, A Level, etc.

Mr S Elliott
Subject Leader: Design & Technology

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Drama - BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Performing Arts - Edexcel



Reasons for studying the subject

You will enjoy this course if you are interested in Drama as it is designed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction into the world of performing arts. You will gather the subject knowledge to know how the magic of theatre is created and gain the opportunity to utilise the school's specialist professional equipment as a major part of your units of work. You will gain an understanding of different career paths and roles within the Performing Arts industry. The course is highly practical and offers you the opportunity to regularly demonstrate your skills in live situations.

What the course entails

This is a three component qualification:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

You will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

You will develop your performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting discipline.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief

You will work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a brief and stimulus.

Coursework requirements

For each component you will have to submit some written work in relation to the skills you develop. For component 1, the brief and stimulus is set and assessed by the exam board. For the other two components, a portfolio of work must be completed.

Assessment also relies on the practical roles you have performed and therefore you must be prepared to support rehearsals and performances of productions in the evenings.

Examination requirements

There is no final exam.

Homework requirements

Homework will be mainly based around the development of practical skills and knowledge such as logging new information learned and having evidence of practical work for tasks you have completed. Each unit will require project based work such as research, design, planning and technical performance evaluations.

Opportunities for further study

This course is excellent preparation for BTEC Performing Arts Level 3 or A Level Drama/Theatre Studies which are offered in our Sixth Form or a career in the theatre or television industry. It can also provide basic knowledge before commencing vocational training.

Mrs C Keane
Subject Leader: Drama

Miss J Dowell
Drama Teacher

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Film Studies - GCSE



Reasons for studying the subject

Students will develop their knowledge of mainstream films by studying one film from the 1950s and one film from the 1970s and 1980s, thus looking at two stages in Hollywood's development. In addition, they will be studying more recent films: a US independent film as well as films from South Africa, Australia and Europe, including the UK.

Students will also have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed by learning filmmaking and screenwriting.

The course is split into three units. Two of these are a written exam and one unit is coursework.

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film (35%)

In this unit, students will study:

- a pair of mainstream genre films (from a choice of five pairs). Each pair of films includes one film produced between 1930 and 1960 and one film produced between 1961 and 1990
- one independently produced film, from a choice of five recent films

Component 1 is a one and a half hour written exam.

Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style (35%)

In this unit, students will study:

- one global English language film, from a choice of three, produced outside the US
- one global non-English language film, from a choice of three
- one UK film, from a choice of three, produced since 2010

Component 2 is a one and a half hour written exam.

Component 3: Production (30%)

In this unit, students will produce either:

- a filmed extract from a genre film (two to two and a half minutes)
- an extract from a screenplay for a genre film (800 to 1000 words)

Students will then have to provide an evaluative analysis of the production (750 to 850 words).

Unit 3 is coursework based and is a non-exam assessment.

Opportunities for further study

Students can use this qualification to study Media or Film Studies at Sixth Form.

Miss M Roberts

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Geography GCSE – Edexcel A



Reasons for studying the subject

Geography excites and stimulates by enabling you to understand the world we live in, and investigate the issues facing human beings at a local, national and global level. In studying Geography, you also acquire skills essential for the workplace such as:

- the ability to analyse different sources of information (e.g. graphs, maps and satellite imagery)
- investigative and reporting skills through fieldwork on a topical, local issue using independent research, ICT skills and statistical analysis
- the development of both literacy and numeracy skills

What this course entails

	Unit Title	Unit Content
1	The Physical Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 1: The changing landscapes of the UK (geology, coastal and river processes)• Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change• Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management
2	The Human Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 4: Changing cities• Topic 5: Global development• Topic 6: Resource management
3	Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 7: Geographical investigations – fieldwork• Topic 8: Geographical investigations – UK challenges

Examination requirements

Each unit is assessed with a written examination of one and a half hours.
Units 1 and 2 are each worth 37.5% of the GCSE and unit 3 the remaining 25%

Homework requirements

Homework is an integral part of the course and is set at least once a week. Homework aims to encourage you to be an independent learner and to make use of the wealth of information available to you via libraries, local and national organisations and the internet. Practice exam questions and revision are also given as homework to help you develop your examination skills.

Opportunities for further study

You can continue from GCSE to the successful A level Geography course in our Sixth Form.

Mrs R Waters
Subject Leader: Humanities

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Mr C Hardy
Geography Teacher

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History GCSE – Edexcel

Reasons to study the subject

- **History is a qualification which is highly valued by employers and universities.** Skills of analysis are invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to analyse and then prioritise information is vital to decision making
- **It helps you to develop your own opinions**, and helps you to respect others and keep an open mind
- **It helps you to make sense of current affairs** and why the world is the way it is today
- **It is an investment in your future** – research shows that those who study History tend to have higher job prospects than those who don't
- **It encourages you to be independent**, to think critically, to develop and express your opinions and develop skills in argument and debate
- **It helps you to develop cultural awareness** by enabling you to understand different cultures and societies and why people act in the way they do
- Most importantly, **it enables you to recognise, challenge and stand up against things which aren't right in today's society, such as discrimination, hatred and oppression and prejudice.** George Santayana famously said: 'Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.' Sadly, this is still true in today's world. Studying History is the best antidote to eliminating hatred, fear and intolerance and provides hope for a better future.

What the course entails

- This is an exciting and interesting course which will help you develop and extend your knowledge of different events, periods and societies
- The course will help you to develop as an independent learner and as a critical and reflective thinker
- It will enable you to develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context
- Skills will be developed in historical interpretations, significance and reaching supported judgements

The GCSE consists of three units:

Unit	Focus	Unit Content	Examinations
1	Thematic study and historic environment	<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.	One hour 30 mins (30% of course)
2	Period Study and British Depth Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88• Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91	One hour 45 mins (40% of course)
3	Modern Depth Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39	One hour 20 mins (30% of course)

Homework Requirements

History is a literacy-based subject, so homework focuses mainly on written work including essays, research and the completion of practice exam questions. In addition, you will need to develop your source skills and an emphasis is placed upon this in homework.

Opportunities for further Study

Studying GCSE History leads on to the A level History course, which you can study in our Sixth Form

Mrs R Waters
Subject Leader: Humanities

Mr J Bowsher
History Teacher

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Hospitality and Catering Vocational Award



Reasons for studying this subject

You will use a variety of practical cooking techniques to prepare and cook food healthily, while gaining an understanding of the hospitality and catering industry. The course allows you to release your creative flair by modification of recipes to improve their nutritional profile and sensory properties. It also allows you to develop vital life skills that enable you to feed yourself and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life. It promotes independent thinking, forward planning and organisational skills.

Catering students will be expected to bring their own ingredients and products for practical based lessons, usually weekly and therefore must be well organised.

What the course entails

A great deal of the course will be taught through practical sessions (approximately four out of every five hours) to ensure a greater understanding of the working characteristics of food materials. You will develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drink. Using current media information and various media techniques, you will investigate and debate the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health. You will enjoy exploring food through its sensory qualities whilst at the same time using food safety and hygiene considerations to manage your environment.

The course embraces and emphasises understanding of, and enjoyment of, British and international cuisines. You will be given the opportunity to apply this knowledge both in your cooking and in debating sessions. You will investigate the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, and diet and health choices.

Assessment requirements

The course is examined as follows:

- One on-screen examination – 40% of final grade
- One controlled assessment task – 60% of final grade

The grades available in this course are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction *

Opportunities for further study

Students taking Hospitality and Catering are able to develop their skills further in the Sixth Form environment. The course provides an ideal foundation if you wish to study Food Science and Nutrition at Level 3. It also prepares you for study towards degrees with a focus on Food and Nutrition Science, Food Manufacturing, Food Biotechnology and links in well with Sports Science degrees. Of course, this Vocational Award also prepares you if you are looking for apprenticeships in the catering industry and qualifies you for a range of catering courses very well, due to its practical nature.

The Food Industry and the area of Health and Nutrition are at the forefront of our society today. Opportunities in this field are continually growing, as is the need to address the issue of obesity and other diet related medical issues. Career opportunities can include: Dietician, Midwife, General Practice Nurse, Nutritionist, and Pediatrician.

In addition, should creativity be your strength, your career path may include Food Journalism and Photography; Food Demonstration; Retail Sales and Marketing or a rewarding career in Food Product Development (Food Technologist). Other possibilities include Social work, Teaching or Environmental Health Officer. You could also combine catering with science, media or psychology for some interesting career paths.

Miss G Hodges

Subject Leader: Food Studies

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Music BTEC



Reasons for studying this subject

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by exploring and developing their musical skills and techniques, and by responding to a music industry brief as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden the learner's experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

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

- development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in music such as responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques
- processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music industry, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal and performance to respond to a music industry brief
- attitudes that are considered most important in the music industry, including personal management and communication
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as musical skills and styles.

This Award complements the learning in GCSE programmes, by broadening experience and skills participation in different types of musical techniques for different musical styles. The Award gives learners the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills in a practical way through exploration and development of techniques and styles.

Internal Assessment

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. Internal assessment for these components has been designed to relate to achievement of application of the conceptual underpinning for the sector through realistic tasks and activities. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice.

External Assessment

Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation. Component 3 requires learners to apply musical skills and techniques in response to a brief to produce a music product.

Homework requirements

Continuous practice of your voice or instrument is expected. Research tasks will be set regularly, relating to genres/styles and performing skills. Instrumental lessons are available. Please ask Mr. O'Grady for more information.

Opportunities for further study

Success on this course is an ideal basis for A level or BTEC Music at Key Stage 5, which we offer in our Sixth Form.

Mr. A O'Grady
Music Teacher

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Physical Education GCSE



Reasons for studying the subject

This course is designed for students who have a passion for Physical Education and are considering continuing it during further education or as a career.

- You will understand the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle
- You will learn how the body works and responds to exercise
- You will learn how to analyse and evaluate performance
- You will develop your practical sports ability

What the course entails

Year One

- Develop your skills across a range of practical team and individual sports
- Social – cultural influence
- Health, fitness and well being
- Introduction to anatomy and physiology

Year Two

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical Training
- Analysis of performance (10% of GCSE)
- Practical moderation: students to be assessed on three sports worth 30% of the GCSE

Examination requirements

Paper 1 - Applied Anatomy & Physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data – one hour and 15 minutes (30% of GCSE)

Paper 2 - Sports Psychology, socio cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being, use of data – one hour and 15 minutes (30% of GCSE)

Opportunities for further study

This course would enable you to go on and study any of the following:

- A Level Physical Education
- BTEC National Certificate in Sport
- Various National Governing Body Coaching Awards

We currently offer BTEC Sport in our Sixth Form, studied as either a double (two A level) or triple award (three A level equivalent).

Mr M Gatenby
Subject Leader: PE

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Production Arts - BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Performing Arts - Edexcel



Reasons for studying the subject

You will enjoy this course if you are interested in the technical aspect of performances, as it is designed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction into the world of performing arts backstage. You will gather the subject knowledge to know how the magic of theatre is created and gain the opportunity to utilise the school's specialist professional equipment as a major part of your units of work. You will gain an understanding of different career paths and roles within the Performing Arts industry. The course is highly practical and offers you the opportunity to regularly demonstrate your skills in live situations.

What the course entails

This is a three component qualification:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

You will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining designers across a range of performances and performance styles.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

You will develop your design skills and techniques through the reproduction of a design role.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief

You will work as part of a group to create a design for a workshop performance in response to a brief and stimulus.

Coursework requirements

For each component, you will have to submit some written work in relation to the design skills you develop. For component 3, the brief & stimulus is set by the exam board and they assess a presentation of design ideas externally. For the other two components, a portfolio of work must be completed and this is assessed internally.

Assessment also relies on the practical roles you have worked on and therefore you must be prepared to support rehearsals and performances of productions in the evenings.

Examination requirements

There is no final exam.

Homework requirements

Homework will be mainly based around the development of practical skills and knowledge such as logging new information learned and having evidence of practical work for tasks you have completed. Each component will require project based work such as research, design, planning and technical performance evaluations.

Opportunities for further study

This course is excellent preparation for BTEC Performing Arts Level 3 Production Arts, which is offered in our Sixth Form or a career in the theatre or television industry. It can also provide basic knowledge before commencing vocational training.

Mrs C Keane
Subject Leader: Drama

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Religious Studies GCSE – AQA



Reasons for studying the subject

The GCSE Religious Studies specification offers a range of faith-specific options and a variety of relevant and contemporary themes, ensuring you have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore and discuss. You will learn how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture, and develop valuable skills that will help prepare you for further study. Included in this specification are familiar topics that you will have engaged with at KS3 as well as inspiring new ones, meaning that the subject is enjoyable to teach and engaging for students of all abilities.

What the course entails

- This is an exciting and interesting course which will help you develop and extend your knowledge of different world faiths and ethical issues which have an impact on society
- The course will help you to develop as an independent learner and as a critical and reflective thinker
- It will enable you to develop the ability to ask relevant questions about society, to investigate issues critically and to give developed opinions on ethical and religious issues.

The GCSE consists of two units:

Unit	Focus	Unit Content
1	Beliefs, teachings and practices of two world religions	Buddhism and Christianity
2	Four ethical studies themes	Theme A: Relationships and families. Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict. Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment. Theme F: Religion and life

Assessment requirements

There are two written examinations, one on each unit. Each examination is one hour and 45 minutes long and is worth 50% of your GCSE.

There is no coursework to complete.

Opportunities for further Study

This GCSE provides the knowledge base to move on to an A level in Philosophy and Ethics, a course you can study in our Sixth Form.

Mrs R Waters
Subject Leader: Humanities

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Mr A Burnaby
Religious Studies Teacher

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Single Sciences GCSE - AQA



Reasons for studying the subject

If you enjoy learning about scientific issues in depth and investigating theories through practical work, then this course will give you a rich and satisfying experience. The Single Science courses allow you to explore key scientific concepts in more detail than the Combined Science route, developing the skills required to succeed later at A-level. If you are seeking to further your study of Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A-level, this option is recommended.

What the course entails

There are three GCSEs; one in Biology, one in Chemistry, and one in Physics. Each GCSE is assessed through two papers worth 100 marks, lasting one hour and 45 minutes per paper and accounting for 50% of each qualification. Although the topics are the same as in the compulsory combined science course, they are studied in more depth here. Practical skills are taught throughout the course and assessed through the written examination papers.

Units

Biology Paper 1	Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and Response; Bioenergetics.
Biology Paper 2	Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, Variation & Evolution; Ecology.
Chemistry Paper 1	Atomic structure & the periodic table; Bonding, structure and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; Energy changes
Chemistry Paper 2	The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; Using resources
Physics Paper 1	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure
Physics Paper 2	Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism, Space

NB: all papers consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

Coursework requirements

There is no coursework for Science. Practical skills are assessed through written examination papers.

Examination requirements

All units are externally examined. Foundation and higher tier papers are available for all qualifications but students must take the same tier for all papers of a qualification. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

Homework

Homework will be set on a weekly basis and will relate to work carried out during the course.

Opportunities for further study

This course is an essential basis for further study in subjects such as hairdressing, plumbing and animal husbandry as well as a recommended pre-qualification for A-levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

Miss L White
Subject Leader: Science

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Spanish GCSE - AQA



Reasons for studying the subject

It is a compulsory course for the English Baccalaureate. In addition, you may wish to work in a sector where languages are useful e.g. the travel industry, in law or business or working in an international company. Alternatively, you may wish to use your linguistic skills whilst on holiday, not only in Spain, but also in Central and South America.

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world after Mandarin and before English.

What the course entails

There are four disciplines: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. They are taught through three areas of study. These are:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Examination requirements

This course is linear and culminates in a terminal examination assessing all four skill areas: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing at either Foundation tier (grades 5 - 1) or Higher tier (grades 9 - 4). All skills will be equally weighted at 25%. Students must take all four question papers at the same tier and in the same year.

Homework requirements

Homework will be set at least once a week. It may be to learn vocabulary and grammar, complete a comprehension exercise, compose a descriptive writing piece or prepare and practise a speaking task.

Opportunities for further study

You can continue to study Spanish at A level in Sixth Form.

Miss T Babouri
MFL Teacher

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BTEC LEVEL 1 / LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD IN SPORT



Reasons for studying the subject

This course is designed for students who have a passion for Physical Education and are considering continuing it during further education or as a career.

- You will understand the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle
- You will learn how the body works and responds to exercise
- You will learn how to analyse and evaluate performance
- You will develop your practical sports ability

What the course entails

The BTEC Sport course consists of four units over a two year period. The units you will take are as follows:

Year 1

Unit 1 - Fitness for Sport & Exercise - Knowledge that underpins learning in other units in the qualification. Students will learn the components of fitness and the principles of training, explore different fitness training methods and investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels. **(Assessed by a one hour online exam)**

Unit 2 - Practical Performance In Sport - Students will understand the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports, practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports and be able to review sports performance. **(Assessed by coursework)**

Year 2

Unit 3 - Applying the Principles of Personal Training – Students will design a personal fitness training programme, know about the musculoskeletal system and cardiorespiratory system and the effects on the body during fitness training. They will implement a self-designed personal fitness training programme to achieve their own goals and objectives and review a personal fitness training programme. **(Assessed by coursework)**

Unit 6 - Leading Sports Activities – Students will learn the attributes associated with successful sports leadership, undertake the planning and leading of sports activities and review the planning and leading of sports activities. **(Assessed by coursework)**

BTEC Sport is a vocational course. It gives learners opportunities to link education and the world of work in engaging, relevant and practical ways. This will include planning and leading Sports Events for Primary School students and planning fitness sessions for other students and themselves.

The grades range from Level 2 P to Level 2 D*. Learners who do not achieve at Level 2 may be graded at Level 1. It is equivalent to one GCSE.

We currently offer BTEC Sport in our Sixth Form, studied as either a double (two A level) or triple award (three A level equivalent)

Mr M Gatenby
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