

Year 9 Options Booklet

2023





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Introduction

This is a hugely important time for students in Year 9. The decisions that are about to be made will have a tremendous impact on what happens in the next five years and beyond.

These choices should not simply be seen as impacting upon learning in years 9,10 and 11. The raising of the participation age (RPA) means all students must stay in education until they are at least 18, so the choices made now are likely to influence learning from the ages of 14-19.

It is vitally important that these choices are made with a clear focus on the future, thinking about aspirations and potential career preferences, together with the subjects which are of interest.

Changes to examinations in recent years have placed a greater emphasis on the quality of written English (through marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and this must be considered when making choices.

It is important to keep as many opportunities available when making option choices and students will each receive a 1-2-1 meeting to discuss the possibilities and how these relate to future opportunities.

Guidance on Making Choices

Will I get my first choices?

Whilst we endeavour to provide all students with their first choices this is not always possible. This can be for a number of reasons:

- Insufficient students have opted for the course, so it is not able to run.
- Too many students have opted for the course and there are not sufficient places in the groups we are able to staff (in this case we look at the combination of courses we can offer individual students in deciding who is accepted on the course).
- Two subjects have been selected which will end up being taught at the same time.
- A course is not suitable for the student.

In order that we can provide the best selection of subjects for each student it is vital that careful consideration is given to the selection of the four first choice subjects and the four reserve choices and the order in which these are selected.

Some advice on making choices

- Find out about the courses by reading this booklet, attending Career Events and Parents Evening, and listening to the talks in assembly.
- Ask your present subject teacher, or the teacher responsible for the subject, if you would like more information on a particular course.
- Talk to students currently taking the course.
- Choose subjects you enjoy and are good at. Don't choose subjects simply because your friends have chosen them, or because you like the teacher. What is best for your friends may not be best for you, and you may have a different teacher next year.
- Discuss your choices with the people who know you well:
 - Parents – know you best as a person.
 - Tutor – knows your overall performance in school.
 - Subject teachers – know about your individual subject abilities.

Once the final choices have been made and students have been allocated to courses there is little opportunity for any changes to be made.

All forms must be returned by 3:00pm Friday 3rd March 2023 and handed in to Mr Moseley. (Pupil Reception)

Core Subjects

All students will study courses in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Ethics and Physical Education. In English, students will work towards completing GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. The GCSE courses lead to qualifications at grades 1 to 9 or BTEC level Pass, Merit or Distinction (*). Some of the courses will combine external examinations with controlled assessment.

Students will study Combined Science (called Trilogy and worth two GCSEs) and can choose to increase this to Triple Science (three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics). This decision will be made by the Science dept in consultation with the students.

Students will also choose to continue to study either Geography, History, Computer Science and either French or German in Year 10.

The importance of the core subjects for future progression into college, sixth form and employment are high, with many courses seeing it as a requirement to have achieved good grades in these subjects.

Option Subjects

In addition to the core subjects, students must make a selection from each of the option blocks below:

CORE (Mandatory)	Option Block 1 Select one and a reserve (R)	Option Block 2 Select (/) 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice and a reserve (R)
English Language English Literature Maths PE Science Social Ethics	Computer Science French Geography German History Triple Science	3D Design Art BTEC Performing Arts (Dance) Citizenship (new) Child Development Computer Science Creative iMedia Drama French Geography German History Hospitality and Catering Music Religious Education Statistics (new) Textile Design Triple Science

Mandatory Courses

English

What I will learn during the course:

You will take two GCSEs: **English Language** and **Literature**.

On the **English** course you will develop your reading skills in order to:

- Demonstrate understanding
- Retrieve information
- Support information with examples
- Infer meaning, for example the opinions of the writer
- Identify the writer's purpose and techniques.
- Summarise and make comparisons.

You will also develop your writing skills in order to:

- Communicate clearly and accurately using standard English
- Use an appropriate style for the task and purpose
- Organise your writing clearly
- Use a range of techniques to make your writing effective.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course:

For **English** you will practise the skills needed for success in the examination. You will read and respond to a range of texts including texts written by 19th century authors. In addition, you will write in a range of styles. You will be assessed using the exam board's criteria for levels 1-9.

In addition, you will complete Speaking and Listening tasks throughout the course. These include:

- Discussion
- Presenting
- Role play.

For your examination you will prepare a talk on a subject of your own choice, to be delivered to an audience of Year 10 students.

You will receive a separate note on your certificate for Speaking and Listening.

You will take an exam at the end of the course testing your reading and writing skills, worth 100% of your final grade.

For **Literature** you will study four set texts: A Shakespeare play, a modern text, a C19th novel and a selection of poetry. In addition, in the exam you will be asked to respond to an unseen poetry question. You will take two exam papers, worth 40% and 60% of your final grade.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities:

A qualification in English Language is currently part of the EBacc.

Many employers and college admissions tutors require a grade at 5 or above in English Language.

In addition, the course is the passport to A levels in Literature, Language, Creative writing and any subject in which communication is important.

A wide range of careers make use of skills developed on English courses: journalism, teaching and any career which involves dealing with the public.

Mathematics

What I will learn during the course.

Complete GCSE Mathematics curriculum consisting of:

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

Foundation Tier ranging from grade 1 to 5

Higher Tier ranging from grade 4 to 9

(Tier to be pursued will be determined by end of Year 9 and 10 assessment.)

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

A full GCSE curriculum will be taught with a range of teaching strategies.

The examination consists of three equally weighted written exam papers; there is no course work.

Paper 1 non-calculator paper (80 marks)

Paper 2 calculator paper (80 marks)

Paper 3 calculator paper (80 marks)

Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

Further Mathematics, A level can be pursued at sixth form, a two-year course. This can lead to University and study for a degree in Mathematics.

Mathematics qualification is a key criterion for many jobs.

Employers recognise the potential of employees who have an appropriate Mathematics qualification. The level of which is often specified in a job description, and scrutinised by employers on receipt of any CV.

Financial work, Engineering, Teaching, Statistical work, Computing, Management services, Scientific research, Design, Development, and Administration, are just a sample of careers that can be followed.

Combined Science

What I will learn during the course.

The course is designed to enhance and develop understanding of science topics building on from the basic content learnt in Years 7, 8 and 9. It is a double award which is the equivalent of two GCSEs.

Biology

- Cell biology / Organisation / Infection and response / Bioenergetics / Homeostasis and response / Inheritance, variation and evolution / Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table / Bonding, and structure and the properties of matter / Quantitative chemistry / Chemical changes / Energy changes / The rate and extent of chemical change / Organic chemistry / Chemical analysis / Chemistry of the atmosphere / Using resources

Physics

- Forces / Energy / Waves / Electricity / Magnetism and electromagnetism / Particle model of matter / Atomic structure

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

You will cover the course through a combination of theory and practical lessons.

You will be required to complete 8 specified practical experiments which you will be assessed on within the final examinations.

You will sit six externally assessed examinations with each paper assessing different topics. All papers are 1 hour 15 minutes. Each of these papers are equally weighted with each being worth 25% of the grade and has 100 marks. The questions will be a mix of multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

Completion of this course will result in you achieving a grade from a 17 point grading scale, from 9-9, 9-8 through to 2-1, 1-1.

Successful completion of this course will award you two GCSEs which will help towards entry into college and sixth form.

Physical Education

What I will learn during the course.

In core PE you will continue to build on developing your skills, techniques, fitness and tactical knowledge in a range of sports.

You will have the opportunity to take on leadership and coaching roles, working on employability skills such as communication and teamwork.

There will continue to be competitive opportunities both in lesson time and outside curriculum time.

PE lessons will give you the opportunity to think about your health and wellbeing and the benefits of staying active into adulthood.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

You will take part in a large range of both individual and team sports. There will also be lesson focused on fitness and students will be able to use our extensive fitness suite.

Students will be assessed by their PE teacher at regular intervals throughout the year.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

You may decide to become a fitness professional and become a qualified gym instructor or aerobics instructor. Many people go on to work in the sports industry as sports development officers, coaches, lifeguards and match officials. It may be that you want to go on to University and study a degree in sports science/coaching/physiotherapy/psychology or teaching. There are many options available. The London Olympics raised the power and profile of sport and it is an exciting time to be studying sport related courses. Physical education will teach you important life and team skills that colleges and employers are looking for.



Option Subjects

In addition to the core subjects all students will follow up to **FOUR** additional courses.

One of these subjects will be from Option Block 1 the other **THREE** from Option Block 2. Students should continue with the preferences made at the end of Year 8. If a student wishes to change their preference this must be done in consultation with Mr Moseley.

YOU CANNOT PICK THE SAME SUBJECT IN BOTH OPTION BLOCKS

Controlled Assessments are carried out during lessons but under strict examination conditions.

GCSE Courses

3D Design

What I will learn during the course.

- Studying and researching artists and designers
- Use of hand and machine tools
- CAD/CAM
- Design and creative drawing techniques
- Designing and creating your own items using a range of
- Materials – woods, metals and plastics
- Problem solving

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

Initially you will undertake a range of smaller projects designed to increase your knowledge and skills via a range of designing and making tasks, including artist and designer research, processes or manufacture, joining, adhesives, finishes, use of hand and machine tools, CAD/CAM using computer design software, laser cutter, design, traditional drawing, sketching and creative drawing techniques,

The current Three Dimensional Design GCSE is assessed by an artistic **portfolio of research (60%)** made up of sketching, drawing, designing and research. This includes products that you have made.

Final Exam (40%) A second portfolio completed independently that includes research, sketching, designing and making of a final product.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

You could choose to go on to **college** and study **Design** at A level.

There are also more **vocational** routes which you could consider such as carpentry, joinery, welding, car repairs, furniture making and general / multi-skilled building both in further education or apprenticeships.

You could also look at higher education in engineering and design subjects.

There are a wide range of careers within the **Design Industry**, as well as in **Engineering** and **Manufacturing**.

Art (GCSE)

What I will learn during the course?

During your Art GCSE you will learn how to sketch, draw, paint and print. You will use pencils, pens, charcoal, chalks, pastels, inks, watercolour and acrylic paints. You will use firsthand observational material to set projects. You will also discover many different drawing, printing and mixed media techniques. You will work independently, make artistic choices and make sure all coursework and homework is completed on time. The Art course requires two projects for coursework and one project for exam. One hour of homework is set each week for Art and is a necessary requirement for the course.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

You will learn how to research artists, develop art techniques, discover new art disciplines and become an independent learner.

To be successful in GCSE Art you will need to be interested in the subject, have good organisational skills and complete all tasks on time.

Your work will be marked on a two weekly basis and the department offers an afterschool club for students to develop their work.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

You could go to college and study photography, printmaking, textiles, graphics, illustration, sculpture, drawing and painting.

What are the progression into post 16 education and potential careers?

BTEC level 1, 2, 3 or A level at either Suffolk New College or Suffolk One or another sixth form provider.

Child Development (BTEC)

What I will learn during the course.

The aim of the course is to provide students with an introduction to the many career opportunities in the Health, Social Care or Early year's sector.

It is designed to help learners to progress ultimately into employment.

Students are given the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the sector e.g. the underpinning care values and an understanding of the different life stages that individuals go through.

You will also look at how individuals develop through their life stages from Infancy to later adulthood alongside a range of life events, both expected and unexpected.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

You will work your way through two coursework units and take an external exam towards the end of the course.

1. Children's Growth and Development
2. Learning Through Play
3. Supporting children to play, learn and develop

The course offers both qualification at level 1 and level 2.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

The qualification is designed to give learners the potential opportunity to progress as follows:

Enter employment within a range of junior job roles across the health and social care sector.

Undertake level 2/3 vocational qualifications.

Support progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational eg BTEC National in Children's Play, Learning and Development or academic qualifications, such as GCE in Design and Technology: Food Technology or an apprenticeship.

Citizenship (GCSE)

What I will learn during the course.

This course introduces students to key citizenship issues and helps them develop a practical understanding of what it means to be a citizen today. Pupils acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to think critically and play a positive role in public life. The Citizenship Studies course enables learners to understand and appreciate key citizenship issues at home, in school and as young citizens in their wider community. The GCSE course in Citizenship studies will develop essential and transferable skills as it will enable pupils to think critically, evaluate evidence, debate ideas, make persuasive arguments and justify their conclusions. The course aims to allow pupils to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills to take responsible citizenship actions, play a positive role in public and democratic life as informed and active citizens, and build the foundations for further learning and study.

OCR GCSE Citizenship is divided into four sections:

1. **Rights, the law and the legal system in England and Wales**
 - a. Rights and responsibilities
 - b. The law
 - c. The legal system
2. **Democracy and government**
 - a. Democracy, elections and voting in the UK
 - b. National, local, regional and devolved government
 - c. The British constitution
 - d. The economy, finance and money
 - e. The role of the media and free press
 - f. Citizen participation in the UK and taking citizenship action
 - g. Politics beyond the UK
3. **The UK and the wider world**
 - a. Identities and diversity in UK society
 - b. The UK and its relations with the wider world
4. **Citizenship Action**

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

Citizenship in Perspective – 50 min exam focusing on sections 1-3 of the course. This is worth 25% of your overall grade.

Citizenship in Action – 1 hr 45 min exam focussing on sections 1, 2 & 4 of the course. This is worth 50% of your overall grade.

Our rights, our society, our world – 1 hr exam focussing on sections 1 & 3 of the course. This is worth 25% of your overall grade.

Citizenship Action – All students will take part in a form of citizenship action as a class as part of the course. This could involve lobbying their local MP on a range of issues that impact them such as voting age, local crime rate, education. This will take part in lesson time.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

Citizenship is a fantastic course for anyone interested in law, politics, campaigning or just being an active member in society. The course helps students to understand the world they live in and how to navigate the changing political landscape of Britain and the world. Citizenship teachers students to be critical, analytical, and forward thinkers.

Related occupations:

Law, Government, Politics, Teaching, Media, Civil Service, Emergency Services and many more.

Drama (GCSE)

What I will learn during the course.

You will explore a variety of theatre genres and practitioners such as Brecht, Stanislavski, Frantic Assembly and Artaud. You will use these practitioners to support and structure your own devised pieces. You will learn how to devise theatre from a stimulus and perform to an audience.

You will have the opportunity to work with professional performers and theatre groups.

You will study a number of play texts and be given the opportunity to perform to small and larger audiences. You will also learn how a production works and the steps that are taken before it reaches the stage.

There will be lots of opportunities to see live performance both locally and in the West End and we will encourage you to see as much live theatre as you can during the course.

You will also learn valuable life, leadership and employability skills that you can take into the next stage of education or employment.

You will also have the opportunity to complete the silver and or Gold arts award which can be used as UCAS points when applying for university.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

You will work as part of a group throughout the course, improving your teamwork skills as well as your performance skills. You will be required to perform to each other throughout the course and to different audiences on a very regular basis.

UNIT 1 - Devising – 40%

Students will devise a piece of theatre from a stimulus chosen by the teacher. Students will workshop ideas and styles of drama to support their devising skills. The end result will be performed in front of a live audience and recorded to be externally assessed. This will also be supported by a self-reflection log book.

UNIT 2 – Performance from Text – 40%

Externally assessed by visiting examiner

Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text of teachers choosing

UNIT 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice (written exam) – 20%

(1hour 30minutes)

Section A: Bringing Texts to Life

This section consists of one question broken into six parts (short and extended responses) based on an unseen extract from the chosen performance text.

Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation

This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen. Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

From completing your Drama GCSE many people go on to study the subject at A Level or as part of a BTEC in Performing Arts and then perhaps on to degree level. It can also help if you decide to continue into working in technical theatre, design or dance and music.

Even if you decide you don't want to continue studying the subject, this GCSE will help build your confidence and ensure that your skills in teamwork are well developed. This could help in careers such as law or government.

Geography (GCSE)

What I will learn during the course.

Geography education encourages learners to develop a sense of wonder about the world. This qualification will excite and engage learners with contemporary topics covering the breadth of this dynamic subject. It will help create a lifelong love of geography by providing learners with an interest in different places, people and environments, whilst ensuring an appreciation of the geography of the UK in the 21st Century.

AQA GCSE (9–1) in Geography is divided into 3 components:

Component 1 – Living with the physical environment

- Natural Hazards
- Living World
- Physical landscapes in the UK

Component 2 – Challenges in Human Environment

- Urban Issues
- Changing economic world
- Resource management

Skills and fieldwork will be delivered throughout these components.

Component 3 Geographical Skills

This paper focuses on skills and decision making using a contemporary issue. Learners are encouraged to make decisions based on information provided to demonstrate their geographical understanding.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

One distinctive feature of the course is the opportunity for students to develop and refine their problem solving and decision-making skills, skills that are assessed through external assessment. Enquiry based learning is central to classroom activities and a variety of geographical skills will be developed such as fieldwork data collection, secondary research, map work, report writing, application of ICT/GIS and role play/discussion. Undoubtedly the ability to write clearly and concisely is a skill that features throughout the course and in particular during the assessment as set out below.

ASSESSMENT

Component 1 - (1 hour 30 min exam worth 35%)

Component 2 - (1 hour 30 min exam worth 35%)

Component 3 - (1 hour 15 min exam worth 30%)

Exam entry is single tier Grades 1-9

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

The skills and knowledge gained during the course are applicable to a wide range of higher education courses and careers. Geography is widely recognised as a subject that relates well to Science and Arts subjects, as well as other Humanities specialisms.

Related occupations include:

Environmental management, travel and tourism, transport and logistics, urban planning, research and design work, surveying, construction and journalism.

History (GCSE)

<p>What I will learn during the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GCSE builds on skills and knowledge acquired in Years 7-9 Students will study a range of Historical topics, from local History to internationally important events. The course develops the skills of analysis, empathy and independent learning. <p>The course contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> British History (Components A and B) World Study (Components C and D) History Around Us (Component E) 	
<p>Component A - The People's Health c.1250-present (20%)</p> <p>This unit covers public health in Britain from c.1250 to the present. The study should reveal wider changes in aspects of society over the centuries, allowing learners to understand the most significant characteristics of different ages and to make comparisons between different periods of history. Three issues will be addressed consistently throughout the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of living conditions on people's health The response to epidemics Attempts to improve public health 	 <p><i>The eyes of the world are turning to Great Britain. We now have the moral leadership of the world"</i> Nye Bevan (1948)</p>
<p>Component B - The Elizabethans 1580-1603 (20%)</p> <p>This depth study explores late-Elizabethan society and the interplay of political, religious, economic, social and cultural forces within it. Learners should develop an understanding of the diverse lives and experiences of the Elizabethans at a time when political, economic and religious tensions tested the stability of the kingdom.</p>	<p><i>"I would not open windows into men's souls."</i> (Elizabeth I)</p> 
<p>Component C - The Making of America 1789-1900 (20%)</p> <p>This period study follows the unfolding narrative of the making of America from the inauguration of the first president in 1789 to the end of the nineteenth century when the USA was set to become the world's dominant power. Learners will consider why American territory expanded during these years and the tensions that this caused between different ethnic groups.</p>	<p><i>"The only good Indian is a dead Indian"</i> General Sheridan (1869)</p> 
<p>Component D - Living under Nazi Rule 1933-1945 (20%)</p> <p>This world depth study looks at the impact of the Nazi dictatorship on people's lives both within Germany and across occupied Europe. It explores the interplay of political, economic, social, racial and cultural forces at work in these societies.</p>	<p><i>"If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed"</i> (Adolf Hitler)</p> 
<p>Component E - History Around Us (20%)</p> <p>The exam requires learners to use the physical remains of the site, supporting sources and contextual knowledge to answer two questions from a choice of three. The questions will be based on the aspects listed in the criteria for the selection of the site and the additional historical sources.</p>	<p><i>"And they filled the whole land with these castles and filled them with wicked men"</i> (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle – 11th Century)</p> 
<p>What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> British History - 1 hr 45 min exam based on 2 topics you have studied. This is worth 40% of your total mark. There is equal weighting on both topics. World History - 1 hr 45 min exam based on 2 topics you have studied. This is worth 40% of your total mark. There is equal weighting on both topics. History Around Us (Framlingham Castle) 1 hour exam based on the topics you'll have studied in your local study. This is worth 20% of your total mark. 	
<p>Where I could go next and the career opportunities.</p> <p>A study of History teaches the following skills, which will be useful in most careers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to interpret and evaluate pieces of information. How to communicate and apply knowledge. How to describe and analyse the key features of the period studied. Critical thinking and problem solving. <p>Law, Teaching, Social Work, Media, Politics, Civil Service, Policing, Research and many more.</p>	

Hospitality and Catering (GCSE)

What I will learn during the course.

Hospitality and Catering will suit any student who has an interest in food, cooking and who are willing to learn new and varied skills. It can offer the opportunity for you to work with local chefs and business owners along the way. Topics may include:

How food products are designed, analysed and evaluated / Modifying, planning and making different sweet and savoury products / Nutrients / Diet and healthy eating / Special diets and how to cater for them / Functions of ingredients / Using different tools and equipment including those common in the catering industry / Sustainability e.g. recycling and reusing of food products / New processes and skills / How food products are made in industry to cater for consumer's needs.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

Involves the preparation, cooking and investigation of all food groups.

This is a Level 1/2 Vocational course and is assessed through;

60% Controlled assessment which is linked to topics set by the exam board. This will split equally in theory/written and practical tasks.

40% Written exam that includes all areas of theory knowledge.

Year 10

All of Year 10 will be spent building on your current food preparation and cooking skills and will build in new skills and techniques including knife skills, presentation skills. You will complete a 'mock' controlled assessment task and prepare for the final task. We will also continue to build the knowledge you will need for exams.

Year 11

Year 11 will be spent completing final controlled assessment tasks and also taking your final exam in the summer.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

It can be closely linked to a variety of careers and further education and very importantly a life skill that will stay with you beyond your years in education. Chefs, restaurant managers, food hygienists, environmental health officers, bakers, fishmongers, butchers, farmers, event planners and all recommend a GCSE in food.

Courses on offer local include professional cookery, confectionary and patisserie, home cooking skills, cake decorating, event management along with a host of employers offering apprenticeship opportunities.

Information Technology - iMedia (Cambridge National)

What I will learn during the course.

iMedia allows students to focus on the creative side of ICT. Students will work on a whole host of software including Photoshop, games authoring and comic book creation. Each unit allows students to research existing media products followed by planning, creating and evaluating their own product for a given brief. Further to this, students will work on the examined unit pre-production skills. This unit will develop their knowledge on how a range of productions are planned using pre-production documents and associated skills.

Students in recent years have also had a host of opportunities to visit local and national media companies as part of their course. This has included: The Guardian Newspaper, Warner Bros Studios, Vodafone, Cambridge Centre for Computing History, Sky Television Studios and ITV Anglia News.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

You will study 4 Units that will include many aspects of IT and Creative Media including:

- Games Design (25% Controlled assessment marked internally)
- Comic Books (25% Controlled assessment marked internally)
- Photoshop (25% Controlled assessment marked internally)
- Pre production skills (25% Exam assessment marked externally)

Each internally assessed unit is made up of writing a substantial portfolio of evidence that includes research into existing products, planning a media product, creating a media product and evaluating a media product.

The externally assessed unit asks students to look at a client brief and create pre-production documents including mood boards, visualisation diagrams, scripts, storyboards, and mind-maps. Students will need to know the purpose and features of each document as well as how to create them and evaluate a completed document.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

Students are well placed in the creative side of ICT. They could undertake further programs of study at post 16 in video games development, web development or a related field in media and ICT. There are also apprenticeships available with various local media organisations from games development studios to graphic designers.

Modern Foreign Languages: French or German (GCSE)

What I will learn during the course.

Lessons will cover these topic areas across the 2 year course:

Identity and culture: Friends, family, role models and relationships / When I was younger / Interests and socialising / Every day life and customs, / Food, drink, shopping / Social media and technology / Celebrations, festivals, media / Sport, reading, music.

Local area, holiday and travel: Visitor information, dealing with problems / Basic weather, things to do, destinations / Local amenities, shopping, eating out / Accommodation / Public transport, directions.

School: School types, school day, subjects, rules and pressures / Trips, events, exchanges / Celebrating success.

Future plans, education and work: Using languages beyond the classroom / Relationships, travel, employment, careers, professions / Further study, volunteering, training.

International and Global dimensions: Bringing the world together with... / Sports events, music, campaigns and good causes / Environmental issues, access to natural resources.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

Throughout the course you will have the opportunities to sit mock examinations in all the four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing covering the themes above. The papers will be tiered, higher and foundation, and all skills are equally weighted 25%. At the end of the course will be formal examinations.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

A-levels are the logical next step for those who are thinking of going to university. If you study a language at university, you will have the opportunity to live abroad for a year.

NVQs - Maybe A-levels aren't for you but this qualification might just be. This is a perfect qualification if you want to use a foreign language in your daily work. Maybe your job will take you abroad or perhaps it will bring you closer to different languages and nationalities right here in the UK. A language NVQ is perfect if you fancy working in hotels, catering, travel and tourism, airline cabin crew, the list goes on. In all these jobs you will need to know a foreign language.

Using a language at work could raise your salary from 8-20% - you are not simply restricted to translating! Languages mean business - being able to speak a language will make you really stand out. Your perfect job may be in St. Tropez or Paris!

Volunteering abroad - There are plenty of great volunteering opportunities. You can be with people who are in similar situations where you can share ideas and get inspiration from them on what to do next. Volunteering abroad is not only perfect for boosting your CV but you can go to so many different countries all over the world and put your language skills to very good use.

Music (GCSE)

What I will learn during the course.

Music offers you the chance to learn about various musical styles, develop valuable skills and techniques in music performance, composition, listening and exploring potential careers in the industry. **STUDENTS MUST PLAY AN INSTRUMENT AND/OR SING FOR GCSE MUSIC. LESSONS ARE AVAILABLE FREE IN SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS TAKING GCSE MUSIC.**

Music is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, students can explore the sector while:

- developing skills, including teamwork, leadership and communication
- performing as a solo artist and as part of a group
- compose music in a chosen style whilst analysing and appraising different styles of music

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

There are 4 Areas of Study in GCSE Music:

- Musical Forms & Devices (Baroque, Classical & Romantic Music)
- Music for Ensemble (Chamber Music, Musical Theatre & Jazz/Blues)
- Film Music
- Popular Music (Pop, Rock and Pop, Bhangra & Fusions)

Candidates submit a solo & ensemble performance (30%)

They compose two pieces of music – one in their chosen style and one to a brief set by the exam board (30%)

There is a 1 hour 15min listening exam containing music from each of the Areas of Study plus two set works – Badinerie by J.S.Bach & Africa by Toto

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

A-level music and/or Level 3 BTEC Music / Music Technology

Performing arts, music performance, musical theatre and straight music at post 16.

To an employer and potential college placement you are showing that you are a confident and dedicated person.

You can demonstrate the ability to work independently as well as having the ability to work collaboratively. It also demonstrates creativity and develops numeracy skills.

Performing Arts- Musical Theatre (BTEC)

What I will learn during the course.

The aim of this course is for you to experience different performance styles, to try out new ideas and gain an understanding of the performing arts industry.

Projects are assessed regularly throughout the course, based largely on practical assignments, portfolios and performances.

You will study a variety of acting and movement skills to help you devise and produce your own pieces of theatre.

You will participate in professional workshops with external guests and review live theatre performances in a variety of genres.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

You will be assessed regularly throughout the course.

You will be assessed in lessons through teacher observation and self-evaluation.
You will complete 3 Components;

Component 1- Exploring the Performing Arts – 30% (controlled assessment marked internally)

Component 2 – Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts – 30% (controlled assessment marked internally)

Component 3 – Responding to a brief – 40% (external Assessment)

Component 1 and 2 are made up of practical video evidence, teacher observations and portfolio coursework.

The External component will be completed within a controlled environment. You will complete practical devising lessons to create a workshop performance piece and 3 written logs to support this.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

Students will examine the many different aspects of performance and will be encouraged to think about their progression into further training and employment. You may be able to progress to the Pearson Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts or Dance or Production.

This course could be your first step to television, film or theatre work, be it either performance related or technical. Employment within the industry not only depends on talent, but also a sense of determination to succeed. As competition for acting jobs can be extremely fierce you might consider working voluntarily for a local theatre, for example, in order to gain some valuable experience and make important contacts.

Religious Education – Philosophy (GCSE)

What I will learn during the course.

Philosophy GCSE enables you to build upon what you have learnt in lower school. You will be taught how to forward your ideas in a convincing way through debates and discussions. You will learn how to examine both sides of an argument; how to spot the flaws in the arguments of others. You will gain an increasing understanding of why people hold the views they do as well as develop you own views on big issues.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

Crime and Punishment: Who should go to prison? How should we treat criminals? Can we forgive those who commit terrible crimes?

Human Rights: What are your rights? Why should we help others? Can the rich spend their money in any way they want?

Peace and Conflict: Can there be a just war? If Britain is at war should you ever refuse to fight? Is terrorism ever justified?

The Existence of God: Is there a God? Can we prove His existence?

Other Issues:-

What happens when we die? What is right and wrong? Is mercy killing acceptable? Is abortion ever acceptable? How did the Universe get here?

As well as defending your own views you will study Christian and Muslim views on these issues.

How is this assessed?

At the end of Year 11 you will sit two exams. Both are 1 hour and 45 minutes. There is no coursework or controlled assessments.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

A study of Philosophy teaches the following skills, which will be useful in most careers:

- How to communicate and apply knowledge.
- How to analyse information.

- How to demonstrate knowledge, understanding.
- How to construct a persuasive argument.

Some potential career opportunities include: Law, Teaching, Social Work, Media, Politics, Civil Service, Policing and Research. There are, of course, many more possibilities.

Science – Triple

What I will learn during the course.

The course is designed to enhance and develop understanding of science topics building on from KS3.

Triple science consists of three separate GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

GCSE Biology Topics include:

- Cell biology / Organisation / Infection and response / Bioenergetics / Homeostasis and response / Inheritance, variation and evolution / Ecology

GCSE Chemistry Topics Include:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table / Bonding, and structure and the properties of matter / Quantitative chemistry / Chemical changes / Energy changes / The rate and extent of chemical change / Organic chemistry / Chemical analysis / Chemistry of the atmosphere / Using resources

GCSE Physics Topics Include

- Forces / Energy / Waves / Electricity / Magnetism and electromagnetism / Particle model of matter / Atomic structure / Space

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

You will cover each discipline through a combination of theory and practical lessons.

You will be required to complete 8 specified practical experiments (8 for each discipline) which you will be assessed on within the final examinations.

For each GCSE you will sit two externally assessed examinations with each paper assessing different topics. All papers are 1 hour 45 minutes. Each of these papers are equally weighted with each being worth 33% of the grade and has 100 marks.

The questions will be a mix of multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

The triple GCSEs are designed to allow students to gain separate GCSEs for the three science disciplines. The content is more closely related to the AS level courses and therefore acts as a good foundation for those definitely wishing to continue with scientific studies into further and higher education.

Sport (BTEC)

What I will learn during the course.

You will learn how to prepare participants to take part in sport and physical activity. You will look at the components of fitness alongside learning how to improve other participants sporting performance. You will need to work hard to complete the controlled assessments as much of this work will be completed in theory classroom lessons. You will learn how to lead warm up and will need to work hard to develop your own and others' fitness.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

You will be assessed both via internal coursework under controlled assessment conditions and an external assessment. Assessment begins early in year 10.

Component 1- Preparing participants to take part in the sport and Physical Activity.
Internal- controlled assessment (moderated by exam board)

Component 2 Taking Part and improving other participants Sporting Performance
Internal- controlled assessment (moderated by exam board)

Component 3 Developing Fitness to improve other participants in Sport and physical activity. External exam set and marked by exam board.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

You may decide to do the level 3 BTEC Sport course at college. You may decide to take an A level in Physical Education which will have more examination type assessment.

You may decide to become a fitness professional and become a qualified gym instructor or aerobics instructor.

Many people go on to work in the sports industry as sports development officers, coaches, lifeguards, and match officials.

It may be that you want to go on to university and study a degree in sports science/coaching/physiotherapy/psychology or teaching, there are many options available and the BTEC First Award in Sport is a great place to start.

This course will also teach you important life skills that will cross over in many careers.

Statistics

What I will learn during the course.

GCSE Statistics has become very popular in recent years. An understanding of data in the real world and how it can be used or misused is very powerful.

You will acquire transferable skills that will help you in progressing beyond GCSE in a range of subjects. It gives you the opportunity to gain a mathematically based qualification at GCSE level, which can be seen as useful by employers or for further study.

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

Assessment is based on two written papers of equal size and weighting; both papers cover all assessment objectives and are calculator papers.

To prepare you for that you will attend lesson lead by a teacher as well as use your Statistics workbook and revision guide to support your learning.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

Sports statisticians collect and analyse information based on sports performances and use mathematics to create formulas and computer programs that turn sports statistics into new data.

Pharmaceutical statisticians in the pharmaceutical industry are key players in all areas of drug research and development, from the initial identification of a chemical right through to the manufacturing and commercialisation of pharmaceutical products.

Data Scientist- data science is a progressive and relatively undersubscribed career pathway. With the arrival of 'big data' there is a growing need for data scientists. You can work across multiple sectors from finance and e-commerce to retail, medicine or transport.

Market research statisticians gather, record, and analyse information relating to the transfer and sale of goods and services so providers of goods and services are in touch with the needs and wants of buyers.

Textiles

What I will learn during the course.

Completing a textiles GCSE will allow you to know how to analyse a product, redesign the product and make it by learning about:

- How products are manufactured
- Having a knowledge of materials and components e.g. different manmade and natural fabric types and fastenings applied to textiles products
- How fabrics are made e.g. weaving and knitting
- Techniques used on textile products e.g. printing, dyeing, weaving, embroidery and quilting
- Using different tools and pieces of equipment – using a sewing machine, over locker, sublimation printer and hand tools
- New technologies – smart materials, wearable technology and designs

What I will do and how I will be assessed during the course.

Initially small design and make tasks with different fashion and interior focuses will be completed to build students knowledge and confidence in using different techniques and pieces of equipment.

The current Textiles GCSE is assessed by an artistic **portfolio of research (60%)** made up of sketching, drawing, designing and research. This includes products that you have made.

Final Exam (40%) A second portfolio completed independently that includes research, sketching, designing and making of a final product.

Where I could go next and the career opportunities.

Further Education:

- Textiles and other Art and Design A levels, Diplomas and BTEC.
- Fashion, textiles and other design-based degrees.

Careers:

- Textile, fashion, pattern, interior designer
- Merchandiser, buyer or product analyst
- Fashion stylist
- Jewellery or accessory designer and manufacturer
- Print, weave or knit specialist.

