

Options



This is your guide to making the right choices for study at Key Stage Four. Make sure:

- You read all the information.
- You talk to someone at home.
- You talk to your teachers.
- You fill in the correct form in as much detail as you can.
- You hand your form in before or on the deadline.
- **Deadline: Wednesday 1st March**

To Students,

You are now about to enter a really exciting part of your educational journey, where you are able to choose some of the subjects you study for the next two years. The range of courses on offer is reviewed annually in order to reflect the changing nature of demand for different qualifications. This year, students will have a guided choice based on the data and the expectations of their individual profile, thus making their curriculum more personalised than it has ever been. We are really committed to ensuring that you get a programme that is broad and balanced and suited to your needs.

Now is the time that Year 9 students in all United Kingdom schools will be making similar decisions about the subjects that they would like to study. This booklet is designed to give you and your parents the information you need to make informed choices about the courses you will take in Years 10 and 11.

It is essential that both you and your parents take time to read this booklet carefully. You also need to talk to people who can give you sound advice on what subjects will be best for you. This will include your parents, form tutor, subject teachers, careers advisor and your Director of Learning.

Once you have read this booklet, discussed possible choices at our Options Guidance Evening, and spoken to other people, you will be ready to make your choice. You should do this on the appropriate Option Form, which you will find included in your pack (examples of the forms are also included at the back of this booklet). The completed form should then be returned to **main reception**, no later than **Wednesday 3rd March**.

There will be the opportunity for students to further explore options in school over the coming weeks. If there are any issues with the choices that have been made these will be discussed on an individual basis. Students will be informed of decisions about their Key Stage 4 courses by Friday 21st April.

We will give as much help and advice in these important decisions as you require.

Mr P Lambert

Deputy Headteacher

Introduction

At Key Stage Four your curriculum is made up of a mixture of compulsory subjects, known as 'core subjects' (those that you have to do) and 'optional subjects' (those that you have an element of choice in).

Core Subjects

Some GCSE subjects provide an essential foundation and are compulsory. They are:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science

In addition, all students will have lessons in the following statutory subjects:

- Physical Education
- Ethics (which will also include some aspects of PSHE, Citizenship and Careers Guidance)

Our expectations of you

The next two years will be the foundation for future careers, further education, higher education and training. We have great expectations of you during this important time, we want you to:

- Take more responsibility for developing your independent learning
- Treat home learning seriously – it is an important part of the education process and deserves close attention
- Successfully complete the controlled assessments which form part of the overall grade of some GCSE & BTEC courses
- Seek the support of your parents at home and the staff at NWHS school, to maintain a committed, diligent approach to your studies
- Maintain a good record of attendance
- Revise and prepare thoroughly for any tests and examinations

Optional Subjects

Ensuring a good choice

If you have some idea of what you want to do in the future you can select your subjects to suit this. However, if you are not sure about the future think about selecting a broad range of subjects that will help keep your options open when you leave school. When making your decision you must consider:

- your interests and abilities
- subjects you are good at
- types of assessment / examinations
- subjects that will help you in the future

So far you have been learning the basics in many subjects, but by making a careful selection you will be able to study some subjects in more depth. There is not enough time to study all of your subjects in depth so we ask you to make a choice in order to cut down on the number of subjects you study.

The decision you make now could have an effect on your future career moves when you leave school. It is, therefore, important that you discuss your choices before completing the Option Form.

The EBacc

What is the English Baccalaureate?

The English Baccalaureate was introduced by the government as a performance measure in the 2010 performance tables. It is not a qualification in itself. The measure recognises where pupils have secured a C grade or better across a core of academic subjects – English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a Language. This combination ensures that students study a broad core of academic subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed off to them in terms of future progression by any sixth form provider. It is also looked upon favourably by all Universities so we advise that all students contemplating university should take a Language and History or Geography as part of their options.

Sharing all your preferences

Sometimes a course may have too few or too many students opting for it. In these circumstances you may be required to take an alternative course (this is why we ask you to opt for more courses that you will follow). If your forms are late, or you have not selected a full range of options, you may find the subjects you prefer are no longer available.

GCSE Reform

The government is reforming GCSEs with the aim of better preparing pupils for further education and employment. All of the GCSEs that we offer are reformed GCSEs (these are followed by the numbers 9-1). The government wants to set expectations which match those of the highest performing countries, with rigorous assessment that provides a reliable measure of pupils' achievement. In short, the GCSE courses have got harder.

The new approach will mean:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve an A and above
- for each examination, the top 20 per cent of those who achieve grade 7 or above will get a grade 9 – the very highest performers
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G
- grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current grade C and bottom third of the marks for a current Grade B. This will mean it will be of greater demand than the present grade C, and broadly in line with what the best available evidence tells us is the average PISA performance in countries such as Finland, Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland

Vocational and Academic Courses

Academic qualifications are the easiest to understand. They are sometimes referred to as general qualifications and are associated with the traditional education system, which includes GCSEs, AS & A Levels and a degree from a University. The main focus of academic courses is the retention of knowledge and the demonstration of understanding. Therefore you will find that **the assessment of academic courses is almost exclusively through exams at the end of the course.**

Vocational qualifications are much more focused on skills and therefore not so much on what you know but on what you can do. Rather than covering a general subject, they are relevant to a specific job sector and focus on the practical abilities you need to get a job in that sector.

To give you an example - while a Mathematics GCSE teaches you a broad range of mathematical principles to develop your overall understanding of maths, a vocational qualification such as a Diploma in Accounting teaches you the maths skills you need as an accountant (alongside the other work related skills you need in such a role). Therefore you will find that **the assessment of vocational courses is primarily through coursework and assignments** that you complete as you go through the course (although there will be at least one exam). Commitment to and completion of these pieces of work is vital because **if you fail to complete one part of the course you will fail the whole qualification.**

You shouldn't take these distinctions too literally. It is a matter of emphasis and focus. Vocational courses do (of course) include knowledge and some academic courses have a vocational flavour. We think it is best that you follow a mix of vocational and academic courses in order to balance the burden of coursework and exams.

Your Curriculum for Years 10 and 11

The core curriculum for all students entering Year 10 in 2017 will consist of:

- Mathematics
- English Language and Literature
- Science
- Physical Education (core)
- Ethics

In addition to these you must make one choice from each Option box below. A range of subjects are included here. Look at these and choose a combination that suits your ambitions and abilities. BTEC and Technical Award courses are designed to be more vocational (work related) than traditional GCSEs and are assessed differently. See subject information sheets for more details.

In order to personalise your curriculum you have been placed in one of two groups: Red or Blue. You have been placed in your group based on the data we have about you. We have considered your prior attainment, progress across Key Stage Three and your current performance. Each group has a slightly different option 'pathway'.

Group	Language Option	Humanity Option	Free Option (you will study two of these)
Red	French ¹ German ¹ Both French and German*	History Geography Both History and Geography*	Food and Nutrition Art Photography Health and Social Care Textiles Sport Drama Music Business Studies Resistant Materials iMedia

Group	Humanity Option	Free Option (you will study up to three of these)
White	History Geography Both History and Geography*	Food and Nutrition Art Photography Health and Social Care French Textiles Sport Drama Music Business Studies Resistant Materials iMedia

Group	Humanity Option	Free Option (you will study at least two of these)	You will also be given the opportunity of following a course of additional support in English and Maths
Blue	History Geography Both History and Geography*	Food and Nutrition Art Photography Health and Social Care French Textiles Sport Drama Music Business Studies Resistant Materials iMedia	

Further guidance:

You may not choose the same subject twice.

Where we offer academic **and** vocational routes of study we will select the appropriate course based on our knowledge of you and our understanding of the different course requirements

*If you opt for 'both' Languages or Humanities this will mean you only study one free option. If you opt to do both Languages **and** Humanities you will not study any other options.

¹In order to study French or German at GCSE it is essential that you have previously studied it at Key Stage 3.

Core Subjects

Key:

(9-1) A reformed GCSE

(N) A course that is not examined

English Language and Literature (9-1)

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding body: AQA

Each student will have the opportunity to take two GCSEs in English; one in Literature and one in Language. These will be exam only GCSEs with all exams taken at the end of Year 11. As part of these courses they will be given the opportunity to:

- Take part in a range of speaking activities
- Read a variety of poetry and prose
- Learn how to write for different purposes and audiences
- Study how English is used and has developed.

The programme of study for each GCSE is below:

GCSE English Literature

Students will study a 19th and a 20th Century text; a collection of poetry and a whole Shakespeare play. They will have two exams in this subject.

GCSE English Language

Students will study a variety of fiction and non-fiction ranging from the 19th Century to today. They will sit two exams in the subject, one entitled "Explorations in creative reading and writing" and another called "Writers' viewpoints and perspectives". They will be expected to write creatively and analyse, evaluate and compare the writing of others.

Certificate of Speaking and Listening:

All students should also receive a separate certificate for their competency in Speaking and Listening.

GCSE Mathematics (9-1)

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding body: AQA

The students have already started the GCSE syllabus since the beginning of Year 9.

Students are expected to develop skills and concepts in five key areas:

1. Number and Calculation
2. Geometry and Measures
3. Algebra
4. Statistics and Probability
5. Problem Solving

Students will be assessed regularly throughout the three years by their teacher including intensive preparation for GCSE Exam papers.

Independent study

Students will be trained in how to reflect on their learning and build upon identified areas of weakness. To consolidate the students understanding the Maths Faculty sets homework regularly and it is a requirement for students to produce good quality and thoughtful pieces of work by specified deadlines.

Revision Support

To aid students in their studies, the Faculty recommends revision resources that can be purchased through the school. In addition to this students have access to a weekly revision/homework club with a specialist Maths teacher on a Thursday evening (this facility is available throughout the course).

Equipment

It is expected that students take responsibility to ensure that they are prepared for learning, by observing the basic equipment list written in their planners. For Maths it is important that students have access to pens, pencils, a protractor, a pair of compasses, a ruler and a scientific calculator.

Attitude to learning

Maths is a core subject. It is important to further education providers, employers and it provides essential skills for students as they progress through life. It is imperative that students do not fall behind in their studies and that they take advantage of available support if difficulties emerge.

Science (9-1)

Students will follow one of two Science courses. Most of our students will follow a double award GCSE in 'Combined Science' (this will count as two GCSEs). Our most able scientists will follow a 'Triple Science' option, which consists of three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All of our Science qualifications are permissible in the EBacc.

Combined Science: Trilogy

Qualification: GCSE (Double Award)

Awarding body: AQA

Subject content

Biology:

	Content	Assessment
Unit 1	Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response & Bioenergetics	1 hr 15 min Exam (16.7%)
Unit 2	Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution & Ecology	1 hr 15 min Exam (16.7%)

Chemistry:

Unit	Content	Assessment
Unit 1	Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes & Energy changes.	1 hr 15 min Exam (16.7%)
Unit 2	The rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere & Using resources.	1 hr 15 min Exam (16.7%)

Physics:

Unit	Content	Assessment
Unit 1	Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter & Atomic structure	1 hr 15 min Exam (16.7%)
Unit 2	Forces, Waves & Magnetism and electromagnetism	1 hr 15 min Exam (16.7%)

Below are recommended support packages students could use:

Revision guides are available at cost price from the Science Faculty

BBC bitesize website for GCSE Sciences can be found at: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

AQA exam board website for downloading practice exam papers and mark schemes can be found at: www.AQA.org.uk

Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Qualification: GCSE (3 individual awards)

Awarding body: AQA

Biology:

	Content	Assessment
Unit 1	Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response & Bioenergetics	1 hr 45 min Exam (50%)
Unit 2	Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution & Ecology	1 hr 45 min Exam (50%)

Chemistry:

Unit	Content	Assessment
Chemistry 1	Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes & Energy changes.	1 hr 45 min Exam (50%)
Chemistry 2	The rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere & Using resources.	1 hr 45 min Exam (50%)

Physics:

Unit	Content	Assessment
Unit 1	Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter & Atomic structure	1 hr 45 min Exam (50%)
Unit 2	Forces, Waves, Magnetism and electromagnetism & Space physics	1 hr 45 min Exam (50%)

Below are recommended support packages students could use:

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Ethics (N)

This topic examines beliefs and teachings about life, society and political issues. Students are encouraged to develop an understanding of current affairs and formulate considered responses to controversial subjects affecting our lives. Aspects of Citizenship are included in the programme of study.

Physical Education (core) (N)

All students continue to study Physical Education at Key Stage Four as we believe that regular physical activity is an important part of staying healthy, after all a healthy mind is a healthy body. Students are given a choice from a range of sports/activities to produce an individual programme for the year, these include:

- Football
- Rugby
- Basketball
- Hockey
- Netball
- Cross Country
- Trampolining
- Aerobics
- Badminton
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Rounders
- Athletics
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Rock-it-ball
- Dodgeball
- Fitness Training in many different forms

As the focus is on physical activity students will be able to make use of the PE facilities for their chosen practical areas, encouraged to analyse their performance and the performance of others participating in sport, study the human body with practical movement and have the opportunity to lead others in practical activities.

Optional Subjects

Key:

(9-1) A reformed GCSE

(V) A vocational course

Useful webpages

To help you make the right choices the following websites may be useful:

www.aqa.org.uk

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

www.wjec.co.uk or <http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/>

<http://northwalshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/MASTER-Choices-at-13-14-2014-15-1.pdf>



Modern Foreign Languages: French or German (9-1)

Study of a foreign language to GCSE level forms part of a balanced curriculum and is viewed positively for entry to university and by employers in the world of work, as well as being a vital element of the EBacc.

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding body: Edexcel

The ability to speak another language is a very important skill both for life in a European society and for the global job market. Indeed:

- **13 36% of employers actively recruit people with languages**
- **95% of London employers think that language skills are important for the London economy**
- **employers pay on average 8% more for staff with language skills**

“It is arrogant to assume that we can get by in English or that everyone else will speak our language. Learning a foreign language is polite, demonstrates commitment— and in today’s world is absolutely necessary.” Sir Trevor McDonald

What is it?

The GCSE course develops to a higher level the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students work to develop both their fluency and their knowledge of vocabulary and language structure. They deal with up-to-date spoken and written materials, using video and the internet. The following topic areas are likely to be covered:

<p style="text-align: center;">Lifestyle Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Healthy and unhealthy lifestyles and their consequences Relationships and Choices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Relationships with family and friends ♣ Future plans regarding: marriage/partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Social issues and equality 	<p style="text-align: center;">Leisure Free Time and the Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Free time activities ♣ Shopping, money, fashion and trends ♣ Advantages and disadvantages of new technology Holidays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Plans, preferences, experiences ♣ What to see and getting around
<p>Home and Environment Home and Local Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Special occasions celebrated in the home ♣ Home, town, neighbourhood and region, where it is and what it is like Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Current problems facing the planet ♣ Being environmentally friendly within the home and local area 	<p>Work and Education School/College and Future Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ What school/college is like ♣ Pressures and problems Current and Future Jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Looking for and getting a job ♣ Advantages and disadvantages of different jobs

Assessment - You will be assessed at the end of the course in the following 4 skills:

Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. They are all equally weighed (25%), final exams and will be externally marked by the board (speaking tests to be conducted by the teacher and sent off to be marked) **There will be no controlled assessment.** Please note that these are the most recent guidelines provided by the exam board and they are subject to change. Further details will be available in the Spring/Summer and we will not choose an exam board until we have inspected all of

the specifications. The new exam will be more demanding and will draw on prior knowledge of grammatical structures and vocabulary and there will be a greater expectation of spontaneous speaking.

Who is it for?

Languages are a demanding but highly enjoyable option which broaden students' range of knowledge and ultimately teach many transferable skills which are highly prized by employers. Languages keep your options open! It is for students who have good key stage 3 knowledge and skills and are prepared to work hard.

What does it lead to?

People with language skills and knowledge are highly thought of in the modern world. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE French or German means you will:

- be able to study AS and A2 French or German courses
- add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad

History (9-1)

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding body: Edexcel

What is it?

You will study for aspect of history:

	Title	%
Unit 1	Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches	30%
Unit 2	Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88	20%
Unit 3	British America, 1713–83: empire and revolution	20%
Unit 4	The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad.	30%

Who is it for?

GCSE History is a traditional academic subject therefore you need to be able to read well and write extended answers.

If you enjoy or are interested in:

- studying history through the eyes of people who lived through the period
- finding out about how people's lives have changed and how people in the past may have thought differently from us
- debating and understanding why there are sometimes different, but equally valid, points of view on the same subject

What does it lead to?

GCSE History is a solid basis for many A level subjects including Politics, Law, Economics, Sociology English and Languages. As for employment, many people working in law and accountancy have studied history because of the skills that can be developed in reasoning and arguing your point. There are also many areas more directly related to history, such as travel and tourism, museums, the media industry, libraries, government research, academic research and, of course, history teaching.

Geography (9-1)

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding body: Eduqas

What is it?

Geography is a flexible subject about the real world outside the classroom. It is a living subject happening everywhere – it investigates the past, present and the future. It is arguably the most diverse subject on the curriculum. The course we offer adopts an enquiry approach to the study of geographical information (GIS), issues and concepts. This encourages students to become both critical and reflective thinkers.

The units for the new linear specification are as follows:

Component 1 – Changing Physical and Human Landscapes (35% - 90 minute examination)

- Section A has two themes – ‘landscapes and physical processes’ and ‘rural-urban links’
- Section B considers one of two additional themes – ‘tectonic landscapes and hazards’ or ‘coastal hazards and their management’.

Component 2 – Environmental and Development Issues (35% - 90 minute examination)

- Section A has two structured data response activities based on two topics – ‘weather, climate and ecosystems’ and ‘development and resource issues’.
- Section B has just one structured question assessing either ‘social development issues’ or ‘environmental challenges’.

Component 3 – Applied Fieldwork Enquiry (30% - 90 minute examination)

- Part A will assess approaches to fieldwork methods, representation of data and analysis.
- Part B considers how fieldwork enquiry may be used to investigate geography.
- Part C will assess the application of geographical concepts to a wider UK context as well as the ability to both make and justify a decision.

Who is it for?

GCSE Geography is suited to anyone with an interest in the world around them and the desire to learn more about how this beautiful planet of ours works. The course allows ‘science’ specialists to develop important literacy skills and ‘art’ specialists to develop important numeracy and graphical skills. The career paths which utilise Geography are wide and varied as it integrates many other subjects such as English, Economics, Mathematics, Sociology, Biology, History, Physics, Politics, Chemistry, Environmental Sciences as well as Information Technology.

What does it lead to?

Students who successfully complete this GCSE in Geography can progress to a number of different qualifications at level 3 or A-Level, including GCE in Geography, Geology, Environmental Sciences, Travel and Tourism and Leisure and Recreation. Geography has one of the best graduate employment records in the country. Compared to other subjects, Geography graduates are among the most employable - they possess a number of the many skills that employers are seeking.

Geographers ARE: good communicators, spatially aware, problem solvers, computer literate, good team players, socially, economically & environmentally aware and well rounded, flexible thinkers.

Geographers CAN: make a concise report, handle data, ask questions and find answers, make decisions about an issue, analyse material, organise themselves well and think creatively as well as independently.

Performing Arts (V)/Drama (9-1)*

Qualification: BTEC First Award in Performing Arts

Awarding Body: Edexcel

You will be assessed by:

- 2 audition pieces either acting or musical
- A 2 hour controlled assessment, writing a letter on a computer, in which you explain your strengths and experience, with a view to obtaining a job in the Performing Arts.
- You have to take a full and active part in two separate Drama productions.
- You will develop rehearsal, production and performance skills such as learning lines and working with other people.
- You will be expected to attend after school rehearsals at times, and take part in evening performances.
- You will have to keep a working notebook of your activities and be prepared to perform in front of an audience.

This is an excellent course for those who like to perform. You work with a team on a project with a definite outcome – a final performance. You will develop skills in self-discipline and improve your confidence. It will also give you an understanding of the Performing Arts industry.

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding Body: WJEC

GCSE Drama is assessed through:

- 20% Performance exam
- 40% Written exam on a set text and a review of a theatre performance
- 40% Devised performance, assessed by teacher

You will explore:

- different genres and performance styles;
- the ways in which meaning is communicated through drama;
- a range of staging and performance conventions;
- drama terminology and how to use it appropriately;
- how plays are constructed and realised through the study of at least one substantial published play;
- how to create, interpret and communicate a role or character;

In Drama many transferrable skills are gained such as self-confidence and empathy which are essential to everyone's success in the wide world not just Drama. It is essential to enjoy exploring the 'human condition' through reading, poetry, plays and music as Drama pieces will be created via these mediums. It is essential that you enjoy performing to others.

*The course followed will be decided after option choices have been made.

Art and Design (9-1)/Photography (9-1)

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding body: AQA

What is GCSE Art and Design or GCSE Photography?

GCSE Art and Design (Unendorsed and Photography) is a split of 60% Portfolio (what we call coursework) and 40% Externally Set Assignment (ESA, what we call the exam project). IN the 60% coursework, students engage in a range of project themes and create research to develop their own ideas and interpretations of a given starting point. Through this investigation they will use a variety of materials, processes and techniques to explore these challenges and push their own ideas and skills independently. Thoughts and ideas are also recorded in pieces of writing called annotations where students label parts of their work to describe what they were thinking at the time and what the results were like. Students are then expected to formulate their researched ideas towards an informed idea for a final piece to the project which is both personal and meaningful.

Am I suited to GCSE?

Generally speaking, the GCSE course is fit for anyone with a passion and commitment to making visual imagery in the form of drawing, painting or photography. Strong drawing skills are key to success on the course and it works well as part of Photography too. Good candidates for GCSE Art or Photography are inspired by art and artists and enjoy solving problems in many creative and inventive ways. Ideally, students who's targets and MLGs are of level 6 or above are ideally placed to begin GCSE and typically are those that do very well, but there are no specific entry requirements. We are looking for students who are willing to go the extra mile, work on their art studies at home independently as well as in lessons and look forward to the prospect of being challenged by things outside their comfort zone.

What can I do after GCSE?

Either Art or Photography at GCSE can lead to A-level Art courses that give students the opportunity to specialise in Fine Art, Photography, 3D Design, Graphic Communication or Textiles. A-Levels are a traditionally academic route and students would usually take 3 or 4 subjects at A-level alongside Art. However, there is also the opportunity to continue Art and Design study through a BTEC course. A BTEC Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE level and colleges usually accept committed and passionate art students likely to achieve lower end grades (1 to 4 at GCSE). A BTEC Level 3 is equivalent to A-level and colleges will usually accept students who are likely to achieve the higher end grades (5 to 9 at GCSE). BTECs are vocational courses that not only help develop skills and ideas, but also how to work in the creative arts industry through job-based projects. Through BTEC there is opportunity to study in specific areas like film production, media and computer and games art that are becoming popular career options. Other areas of employment in the creative sector may be freelance as a fine artist or illustrator working on commercial briefs for newspapers, magazines and advertising, careers in museums or galleries or working in TV or film, theatres or making special effects.

Music (V)

Qualification: BTEC First Award in Music

Awarding body: EDEXCEL

What is involved?

Students will learn how to create and edit music on a computer (25% coursework) and improve their music performance skills (25% coursework). They will also learn about the Music Industry (25% external exam) and how to manage a music product (25% coursework). Whilst the BTEC is a vocational course written work is still required to accompany all practical elements. Students will be expected to play an instrument and perform to others. If students are unable to play an instrument upon starting the course they will need to learn in their own time in order to pass. These students will need to start having one-to-one lessons, which can take place in school.

Who is it for?

The BTEC music course is suitable for students that enjoy being immersed in musical activity whether it is listening to, composing or performing music. Students will need to be committed and determined with good independent learning skills. Students should, at the very least be interested in music and understand that they will be required to perform in front of others.

What does it lead to?

BTEC Music will provide an excellent foundation for:

- Any music-related BTEC level 3 vocational qualification (such as: Music Business, Music Production, Music Theatre, Performance, Performing Arts and Sound Engineering)
- Related academic qualifications
- Access to Music Courses
- Employment within the music industry (such as Audio Engineer, Composer, DJ, Music Journalist, Music Producer, Music Therapist, Performer and many more...)

Business Studies (V)

Qualification: BTEC First Award in Business

Awarding body: Edexcel

The course provides a good introduction to the world of business. The core units cover the essential knowledge and skills required in the business sector. The optional specialist units, cover branding and promotion, customer service, sales, retail business, recruitment and career development, and business support with the opportunity to develop assignments to meet the local employment sector.

The award has been developed in the business sector to:

- Encourage personal development of knowledge and skills relevant to the business world through practical participation in a range of vocational business activities
- Give learners a wider understanding and appreciation of the broad range of business specialisms through the selection of optional specialist units
- Encourages learners to develop their people, communication, planning and team working skills by having the opportunity to select from optional units available in the qualification structure
- Give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes for successful performance in working life.

In the two core units, learners will have the opportunity to develop the key enterprise and financial skills and knowledge necessary to enable them to understand how businesses recognise opportunities, and build on them to succeed. Learners will understand how a business makes and manages its money, and plans for the future.

Learners must complete the two core units – Enterprise in the Business World and Finance for Business and two of the following optional units:

- Promoting a brand
- Principles of Customer Service
- Sales and Personal Selling
- Introducing Retail Business
- Providing Business Support
- Recruitment, Selection and Employment

The qualification can provide a starting point of a route into employment in many diverse areas of business, including roles in specialist areas such as marketing, finance, customer service or human resources in large businesses or a more specific role in a small local business.

Learners will be expected to take responsibility for their own learning and achievement, taking account of industry standards for behaviour and performance.

Progression

Successful candidates may progress to a competency based qualification, such as Business Administration, Team leading or management, or to entry level jobs within the sector.

Creative iMedia (V)

Qualification: Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia

Awarding body: OCR

What is it?

This vocationally-related qualification takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. It will equip learners with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. The 'hands-on-approach' has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

Students studying this specification will cover **4** units from the following list (some are mandatory and others are optional):

- **Pre-Production Skills (Mandatory)**
- **Creating Digital Graphics (Mandatory)**
- Creating 2D & 3D digital characters (Optional)
- Storytelling with a comic strip (Optional)
- Creating a multipage website (Optional)
- Creating a digital animation (Optional)
- Creating interactive multimedia products (Optional)
- Creating a digital sound sequence (Optional)
- Creating a digital video sequence (Optional)
- Digital Photography (Optional)
- Designing a game concept (Optional)
- Developing digital games (Optional)

*The 2 optional units are selected by the subject teacher.

Who is it for?

You need to have a passion and enjoy working with computers for extended periods of time. You must have a desire to learn about how different pieces of software work and be a creative person whilst using a computer. The course combines ICT skills with media skills so you will develop your knowledge in both of these areas whilst studying the course. You need to be able to work independently but there will be times when you will need to work as part of a team.

What does it lead to?

It will provide excellent progression to 'A' level Media and/or ICT, vocational courses and on to degree level courses in the areas of Media and ICT.

Food Preparation and Nutrition (9-1)

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding Body: AQA

Written Exam: 50%

Practical: Food Preparation Assessment 50%

Written Report 1,500-2,000 words

Practical menu of three dishes

You will learn about:

- Nutrition
- Food Provenance
- Food Choice
- The Science Underlying the Preparation and Cooking of Food
- Cooking Techniques

In studying Food Preparation & Nutrition, students must:

- Demonstrate effective & safe cooking skills
- Develop knowledge & understanding of functional properties & chemical processes as well as nutritional content of food & drinks
- Understand the relationships between diet, nutrition & health
- Understand social, moral & environmental influences on food production
- Understand & explore a range of ingredients & processes from a range of culinary traditions

Resistant Materials (9-1) / Materials Technology (V)

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding body: AQA

GCSE Resistant Materials is a two year course aimed at students who would like to develop their design and making skills. The course is particularly suited to those students who enjoy workshop based projects constructed from plastics, metal or wood.

In year 10 students complete a number of projects. Incorporated into these projects are many skill-based exercises, designed to improve and develop students' technical capabilities, and equip them with a suitable range of skills to embark on the Major Project and exam in Year 11.

In Year 11, students work solely on their controlled assessment project. This is a set 'themed' project which allows students freedom to choose from a wide range of products. Students will finish the project by manufacturing a working design prototype which is suitable for batch production. The coursework is presented in an A3 folder demonstrating progression of the project and containing evidence of ICT.

Throughout both years, the use of ICT is encouraged and developed especially computer aided design and manufacture.

Assessment

Coursework: 60% of the total final qualification

Exam: 40% - one 2 hour exam taken in the summer of Year 11

Qualification: Level 1/2 Technical Award

Awarding body: AQA

Unit 1: Skills demonstration (**internally assessed - 30% of final grade**)

Students will carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate their competence in 12 core skills. This will include the transferable skill of teamwork. Students will produce a series of small made outcomes and record their work in a portfolio of no more than 12 pages.

Unit 2: Extended making project (**internally - 30% of final grade**)

Students will undertake an extended project that showcases the skills they have developed in Unit 1 and knowledge they have developed through Unit 3. The project will be in response to a brief and students will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing, evaluation and communication.

Unit 3: Fundamentals of Materials Technology (**externally assessed exam - 40% of final grade**)

Students will study materials and their working properties and learn about processes and manufacture. They will gain knowledge of the applications and characteristics of a wide range of woods, metals and polymers and also learn about possible careers within industry.

What do they lead to?

Academic Applied Employment (examples)	Applied	Employment sectors (examples)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A level Resistant Materials• A level Graphic Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apprenticeship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction• Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design• Maintenance

Textiles (9-1) / Fashion and Textiles (V)

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding Body: AQA

What is it?

GCSE Design and Technology: Textiles Technology helps students develop their creativity. This two-unit specification requires students to develop their ability to make textile products, a vital feature of candidates' experience of taking this specification. This course has 60 per cent controlled assessment as a reflection of the importance of practical work within the subject.

Over the two years of the course you will develop a whole range of creative designing and making skills, technical knowledge and understanding relating to textiles products and invaluable transferable skills such as problem solving and time management.

Who is it for?

If you particularly enjoy the creative side of design and technology then you now have the opportunity to follow our two-year GCSE course to specialise in Textiles Technology.

What does it lead to?

Many of the students who enjoyed studying GCSE Textiles Technology have gone on to study A Level Product Design: Textiles. You can also study any Design and Technology related course post-16.

Qualification: Level 1/2 Technical Award

Awarding body: AQA

Unit 1: Skills demonstration (**internally assessed - 30% of final grade**)

Students will carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate their competence in 12 core skills. Students will produce a series of small made outcomes and record their work in a portfolio of no more than 15 pages.

Unit 2: Extended making project (**internally - 30% of final grade**)

Students will undertake an extended project that showcases the skills they have developed in Unit 1 and knowledge they have developed through Unit 3. The project will be in response to a brief and students will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing, evaluation and communication.

Unit 3: Fundamentals of fashion and textiles (**externally assessed exam - 40% of final grade**)

Students will study the fundamentals of the fashion and textiles industry and the industrial and commercial processes that exist within it. They will learn about materials and their properties and also about possible careers within the industry.

Sport (V) / Physical Education (9-1)

Qualification: BTEC First Award in Sport

Awarding Body: Edexcel

What is it?

The BTEC First Award consists of four units:

- Fitness for sport and exercise
- Practical Sports performance
- Training for Personal Fitness
- Leading Sports Activities

Who is it for?

The BTEC First is aimed at students who are genuinely interested in sport and want to understand more about fitness, sports performance and coaching.

What does it lead to?

Further study of the BTEC National award in Sport or to a range of careers in sport, for example, a coach or fitness instructor.

Qualification: GCSE

Awarding Body: tbc

What is it?

The GCSE in Physical Education is made up of four units:

- Fitness and Body Systems (written exam) 36% of final mark (includes applied anatomy and physiology, physical training, movement analysis and use of data).
- Health and Performance (written exam) 24% of final mark (includes sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and wellbeing and use of data).
- Practical Performance (practical assessment) 30% of final mark (includes three practical activities – one team, one individual and one other).
- Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) 10% of final mark (plan, carry out and evaluate a 6-8 week PEP).

Who is it for?

GCSE is aimed at students with a genuine interest in physical education. They should play sport outside of school and (already be/are prepared to) represent the school in sporting extra-curricular activities. It suits students who have a desire to do well in all aspects of PE: theoretical, performing and fitness work should all be approached with enthusiasm.

What does it lead to?

These courses lead directly to 'A' Level Physical Education or BTEC National in Sport. It can also contribute to a range of careers in sport, for example, officiating, coaching, professional sportsman/woman or fitness professional.

Health & Social Care (V)

Qualification: BTEC First Award in Health and Social Care

Awarding body: Edexcel

What is GCSE Health and Social Care?

If you're interested in working with people, or want to care for and help others this may be the course for you. The GCSE course gives you the background knowledge and skills needed by anyone considering working with people.

You will:

- learn through investigation
- develop knowledge and understanding about health, social care and early years
- complete practical work
- learn about and understand the world you live in
- be able to design a health plan
- research occupations you may want to work in.

What is the Level 2 BTEC First Certificate in Health and Social Care?

The qualification will give you the knowledge, understanding and competency needed when considering entering employment in the health and social care sector. You will gain grounding in the essential skills and broad fundamentals crucial to this area of study, giving you the opportunity to build on these afterwards by undertaking another Level 2 qualification, or to progress to a qualification at Level 3, or to enter into your first job within this sector. The course is designed to enable you to study other subjects alongside your BTEC First Certificate.

- The qualification consists of three units totalling 120 guided learning hours.
- The structure of the course allows you to develop your interests and gain a broad foundation and introduces you to areas such as individual rights and needs in health and social care or vocational experience in health and social care
- The BTEC has coursework units and one exam unit –each worth 25% of total assessment.

Who is it for?

You need to be interested in how different groups of people are cared for in our society. You will expect to take part in group discussions about topics and make good notes which you can use for your controlled assessments. You need to be interested in other people and be prepared to research social issues.

What does it lead to?

This gives you a good understanding of the job roles available in the caring industry. Both courses will help you move on to a Level 3 courses, including apprenticeships within the industry

Deadline: Wednesday 1st March
Hand in to Reception

Red Option Form

Please mark on the form below the choice of options you wish to make. Mark your Language and Humanity choices with a cross. For your free option you must choose four subjects. Write a number 1 next to your first choice and a number 2 next to your second choice and so on.

Student Name: _____ Form: _____

Language Option	
Subject	Preference

Mark with a cross

French	
German*	
Both	

*Only opt for German if you have studied it before.

Humanity Option	
Subject	Preference

Mark with a cross

History	
Geography	
Both	

Free Option	
Subject	Preference

Mark with a number

Food and Nutrition	
Art	
Photography	
Health and Social Care	
Sport	
Drama	
Music	
Business Studies	
Resistant Materials	
Textiles	
iMedia	

Select four subjects and rank the subjects in order: 1 is your first choice, 2 is your second choice and so on.

Remember! You will study a total of four options. This will be made up of at least one language and at least one humanity and two other subjects.

Signature of student: _____

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____

Deadline: Wednesday 1st March
Hand in to Reception

White Option Form

Please mark on the form below the choice of options you wish to make. Mark your Humanity choice with a cross. For your free option you must choose five subjects. Write a number 1 next to your first choice and a number 2 next to your second choice and so on.

Student Name: _____ Form: _____

Humanity Option	
Subject	Preference

Mark with a cross

History	
Geography	
Both	

Free Option	
Subject	Preference

Mark with a number

Food and Nutrition	
Art	
Photography	
Health and Social Care	
Sport	
Drama	
Music	
Business Studies	
Resistant Materials	
French	
Textiles	
iMedia	

Remember! You will study up to four options. This will be made up of at least one humanity and your other subjects.

Select five subjects and rank the subjects in order: 1 is your first choice, 2 is your second choice and so on.

Signature of student: _____

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____

Deadline: Wednesday 1st March
Hand in to Reception

Blue Option Form

Please mark on the form below the choice of options you wish to make. Mark your Humanity choice with a cross. For your free option you must choose five subjects. Write a number 1 next to your first choice and a number 2 next to your second choice and so on.

Student Name: _____ Form: _____

Humanity Option	
Subject	Preference

Mark with a cross

History	
Geography	
Both	

Free Option	
Subject	Preference

Mark with a number

Food and Nutrition	
Art	
Photography	
Health and Social Care	
Sport	
Drama	
Music	
Business Studies	
Resistant Materials	
French	
Textiles	
iMedia	

Remember! You will study up to four options. This will be made up of at least one humanity and your other subjects.

Select five subjects and rank the subjects in order: 1 is your first choice, 2 is your second choice and so on.

Signature of student: _____

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____