Year 9 Options
Subject Brochure for September 2020
Dear Parents and Carers,

Your son/daughter is entering an exciting time in their secondary education where they choose the subjects they will study for the next two years. We have tried to make the process as simple as possible but appreciate it can sometimes be challenging to navigate your way through the choices and pathways. I would encourage you to make full use of all the resources we provide: this booklet, the Options Evening itself and via meetings with subject leaders and senior staff at the school. Your child’s tutor, who in many cases will know them better than any other member of staff, may also provide some supportive insight. As Mr Scott will explain at the Options Evening, after this introduction there are many elements to consider in making the right GCSE choices and we have tried to provide a broad choice, in a structure whereby as many students as possible are able to study their first choice subjects.

In recent years the Department for Education introduced a pathway known as the English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc). The English Baccalaureate is designed to encourage students to choose (and schools to create pathways for) the six subjects within the E-Bacc. These are English, Maths, Science, Computer Science, a language (French or Spanish) and a humanities subject (History or Geography). To complete an E-Bacc pathway, students would select an E-Bacc subject in addition to their science curriculum alongside a language of their choice leaving one free option.

This pathway is available for all our students, although we do not enforce students to take a modern foreign language. As a school we seek to provide pathways which will enable all our students to succeed but also the opportunity to challenge themselves and achieve the highest standards of education but without limiting their choices. This topic will be expanded upon throughout our Options Evening and there will be an opportunity to ask questions that you may have. Occasionally, we are unable to fulfil all our students first choices, we therefore do also ask students to provide a reserve choice.

I hope that you find this booklet useful and I look forward to meeting you over the next few weeks as we move into the next exciting and challenging part of your son/daughter’s education at The Bishop Wand Church of England School.

God Bless.

D Aldridge
Headteacher
Something further to consider

Entry to university is based on both A levels and GCSEs, so before making your final choice it is worth checking if there are any special requirements for any A levels that you might be interested in.

Details of all the subjects and the levels at which you will be studying them are contained in this booklet. GCSEs will be a significant educational qualification for you that can help determine your future career pathway, so it is important that you know exactly what is involved and what you have to do to be successful. So make sure you find out as much as possible before finalising any choices.

- Read this booklet - details of all the subjects and the levels at which you will be studying them are contained in this booklet.
- Talk to your subject teachers.
- Attend the **Y9 Option Evening** on **Wednesday 22nd January 2020** at 6.00pm
- If anything is unclear, please ask your Tutor.
- Keep your parent/carer informed – they will need to sign your form.
- If you still have an issue with any part of the process come and see Mr Scott.

When you have made your final choice, your parents will complete an online form. This will be available **AFTER Y9 Parents Evening** on **Thursday 13th February** and no later than **Monday 23rd March, 2020**.

### A levels and BTECs currently on offer in our Sixth Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Level</th>
<th>BTEC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art A Level</td>
<td>Core Maths AS Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Studies A level</td>
<td>Media Studies A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science A Level</td>
<td>Performing Arts: Music/Dance Level 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computing Level 3 BTEC</td>
<td>Performing Arts: Drama and Theatre A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics A Level</td>
<td>Photography A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language and Literature A Level</td>
<td>Physical Education A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education Level 3 BTEC</td>
<td>Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature A Level</td>
<td>Psychology A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Project Qualification</td>
<td>Religious Studies A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography A Level</td>
<td>Science: Biology A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History A Level</td>
<td>Science: Chemistry A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages: French A Level</td>
<td>Science: Physics A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages: Spanish A Level</td>
<td>Sociology A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics A Level</td>
<td>Technology: Product Design A Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Maths A Level</td>
<td>Travel and Tourism</td>
</tr>
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</table>


GCSEs and 6th Form application

Entry requirements into the sixth form are currently the equivalent to 5 GCSE qualifications grade 9-4. Subject specific entry requirements can be found under the 6th Form section of the school website.

What GCSE subjects do I need for particular courses at university?

If you are thinking of applying to university you will need to have a **GCSE pass in English and Maths** (at grade 4 or higher).

Two websites that you may find useful when considering how GCSE subjects might affect future plans are:

- https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/
- https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/

**Miss Rook will be available at the Options Evening to discuss any concerns that you may have about how GCSE choices might impact on application to the 6th Form or indeed, application to universities. Miss Rook will be located in the front reception area.**
Year 10

Core Subjects

All students will study GCSE courses in the following core subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Religious Studies
- Science

All students will also follow a non-examination course in core P.E.
All students will be entered for two GCSEs in English: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature with AQA (www.aqa.org.uk).

**GCSE English Language**
Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. This specification will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

Assessment by Terminal Examination:
Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
1 hour 45 minutes
Paper 2: Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives
1 hour 45 minutes

**GCSE English Literature**

Students will develop skills of literal and inferential comprehension, critical reading, evaluation of a writer’s choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features and text comparison. In their written responses, students will produce clear and coherent texts and write effectively about literature for a range of purposes. They will use Standard English, including accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Assessment by Terminal Examination:
Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
1 hour 45 minutes
Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry
2 hour 15 minutes

Please see Ms Dodd or Ms Ward for further information.
New GCSE Format

Mathematics was one of the first subjects to move to the new style GCSE with a greater emphasis on students applying the maths they learn. As well as this, students will be required to remember significant formulas compared to the previous GCSE format. In order to cover the specification we began teaching of the GCSE course at the start of year 9.

Assessment - Students are entered for assessment at one of two tiers: Foundation or Higher. The level available for each tier are as follows:

Grades Available
- Foundation Tier (Grades 1 to 5)
- Higher Tier (Grades 4 to 9)

For each tier, assessment consists of three written examination papers taken in June of Year 11. There is no coursework for GCSE Mathematics. Further details of the assessment for Higher & Foundation tiers are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Paper</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>Non-calculator</td>
<td>1 hr 30 mins</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>Calculator</td>
<td>1 hr 30 mins</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 3</td>
<td>Calculator</td>
<td>1 hr 30 mins</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Setting—Students will be put into sets at the beginning of the course dependent on assessment results and their teacher’s professional judgement. All students will have the opportunity to access content from the Higher GCSE. Typically, by the end of year 11, students from sets 1 and the majority of set 2 are entered for the Higher GCSE, whereas the remaining students will focus on achieving Grade 4/5 on the Foundation tier. The ability profile of the year group will dictate whether this is the case for a particular cohort. There are opportunities for students to move sets throughout the course, meaning that just because a student starts in a particular set, it doesn’t stop them from progressing to a higher set, or from moving down to a set that suits them better. As all students are taught content from the Higher GCSE, there are no barriers to changing sets.

Outline of the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Area</th>
<th>Foundation Tier (%)</th>
<th>Higher Tier (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ratio</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability &amp; Statistics</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
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</table>
What is involved in taking GCSE Religious Studies?

**Christianity and Judaism**
Students study the beliefs, teachings and practices of each religion and their basis in sources of wisdom and authority. They examine the influence of the beliefs, teachings and practices studied on individuals, communities and societies.

Key beliefs in Christianity include: The nature of God; beliefs about the afterlife and their importance; resurrection and life after death; judgement, heaven and hell. Students examine Jesus Christ and salvation, studying: the incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God, his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. Other units include worship and festivals and the role of the church in the local and worldwide community.

Key beliefs in Judaism include: God as Creator, Law-Giver and Judge; The importance of the sanctity of human life, including the concept of 'saving a life' and the nature and role of the Messiah. Students will examine the Promised Land and the Covenant with Abraham. Other unit include the role of Moses and the Ten Commandments; The synagogue, worship, family life and festivals.

**Thematic studies**
Students study religious teachings about the issues raised as well as different religious and Non-religious beliefs about, and attitudes to, those issues found in contemporary British society. This section of the specification is intended to provide an opportunity for the study of: Relationships and families; Religion and life; Religion, peace and conflict; Religion and belief in 21st century conflict; Religion, crime and punishment; Human rights; Wealth and poverty.

**How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?**
All students undertake the AQA GCSE in Religious Studies. The GCSE consists of two units: Christianity and Judaism Christian Thematic studies. These units are assessed by exams at the end of Year 11.

**What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?**
- Communication: Written and Oral;
- Good analysis skills
- Independent thought and a questioning mind Evaluation skills

**How will this help me prepare for my future?**
This unit will provide students with the opportunity to:
- develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of religion by exploring the significance and impact of beliefs, teachings, sources, practices, ways of life and forms of expressing meaning;
- express their personal responses and informed insights on fundamental questions and issues about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments.
What is involved in taking GCSE Science?

Students have already started their GCSE Science course at the beginning of Year 9. There are 2 pathways for studying Science. The majority of students will complete Year 11 and achieve 2 GCSEs in Combined Science. A small number of students will need be selected to sit an additional GCSE which will give them a Triple award.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?

The board we use is AQA and the examination part of each GCSE accounts for 100% of the total marks.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

Numeracy and ability to deal with statistics
Good control of language and spelling
Good command of scientific and technical vocabulary
A precise and informative writing style
Familiarity with SI units and use of scientific symbols
Ability to interpret and produce charts and graphs

How will this help me prepare for my future?

Science is a method, process, procedure, and system used to study the physical world. If you can see, feel, hear, taste, smell or measure something, science will investigate. Scientists ask questions about how the world works then gather data to answer the question. Studying Science develops young minds to make informed decisions in the real world.

Studying Science at further education opens a number of doors into modern careers in industry, education, medicine, research, military... The list is endless.
All students must choose at least one subject in line with the requirements for Progress 8 from the following subjects, but can choose more than one from this list.

- Geography or History
- French or Spanish
- Computer Science

Students wishing to opt for the E-Bacc must select at least one language and one humanities subjects from this list below. Students must also secure a grade 5 in all of these subjects along with the core subjects to obtain the E-Bacc qualification.

- Geography or History
- French or Spanish
What is GCSE Art about?

The GCSE Art course allows you to work in a variety of areas such as drawing, painting, printing, collage, computer graphics, ceramics, sculpture and photography. We have a very well equipped department with kiln, darkroom facilities and also classroom computers with digital manipulation programmes. You will observe the work of other artists, study the reasoning behind their work and gain ideas to inspire your own work. There are also opportunities to visit galleries and exhibitions.

How is GCSE Art structured?

Coursework makes up 60% of the GCSE grade and the externally set assignment makes up 40% of the grade. Throughout the course you will complete a Portfolio Unit. The portfolio should be selected from work undertaken during the course of study. Coursework starts in Year 10 from day one and we expect students to complete all homework to ensure they stay on track. Students will also need their own basic art equipment of their own at home. The exam or externally set assignment is a practical test similar to a coursework project with allocated time for students to prepare after the paper has been given to them. The exam is 10 hours over two days and students are expected to produce a final piece in response to the brief set on the exam paper.

What skills do I need to be successful?

Throughout the course, students will develop their visual literacy skills with an understanding of form, shape, space and colour with particular emphasis on art, craft and design.

How does GCSE Art help me prepare for my future?

In today’s culture we are surrounded by art, from architecture to sculpture, from fashion to photography, from painting to advertising. The artist is a valuable person in our modern world. Art and Design is a large employment area in the UK and is growing due to the increase demand of digital arts.

Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills.

No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage. Furthermore a lot of the skills are transferable. There are more creative jobs than ever before. Gov.UK states that the creative industry was worth almost £10 million an hour to the economy.

Creativity is an essential skill that employers and universities look for.
This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

**Subject content**

1. Business in a real world
2. Influences on business
3. Business operations
4. Human resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance

**Assessments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity</th>
<th>Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What’s assessed?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Business in the real world</td>
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<td>• Human resources</td>
<td>• Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How it’s assessed?</strong></td>
<td><strong>How it’s assessed?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</td>
<td>• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 90 marks</td>
<td>• 90 marks</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 50% of GCSE</td>
<td>• 50% of GCSE</td>
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</table>
What is involved in taking Cambridge National in Creative iMedia?
ICT skills are vital for success in employment and higher education and are among the key transferable skills required by employers. This qualification helps students to gain knowledge in a number of key areas in the media field, from pre-production skills to digital animation, and offers a hands-on approach to learning. It aims to inspire them and develop useful transferable skills such as research, planning, and review skills that they will find useful in the future.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?
Three pieces of coursework and one examination (25% each). We will be using the OCR specification.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?
Knowledge of Microsoft packages and interest in multimedia software and graphics (e.g. sound, video, animation and images).

How will this help me prepare for my future?
Cambridge Nationals support students who want to develop practical skills and knowledge relating to a broad employment area. It involves doing practical activities, learning skills and developing transferable skills like problem solving which are important in employment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Duration / Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R081: Pre-production skills</td>
<td>This unit will enable learners to understand pre-production skills used in the creative and digital media sector. It will develop their understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process.</td>
<td>Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour 15 mins – 60 marks (60 UMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R082: Creating digital graphics</td>
<td>Digital graphics feature in many areas of our lives and play a very important part in today’s world. The digital media sector relies heavily on these visual stimulants within the products it produces, to communicate messages effectively. The aim of this unit is for learners to understand the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector.</td>
<td>Centre assessed task OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R086: Creating a digital animation</td>
<td>Digital animation is used in a wide range of applications in the creative and digital media sector. It can enhance applications, and be used to entertain and inform the viewer. This unit enables learners to understand the basics of digital animation for the creative and digital media sector.</td>
<td>Centre assessed task OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R087: Creating interactive multimedia products</td>
<td>Interactive multimedia products are used widely in everyday life and the creative and digital media sector. They are used in computer games, mobile phone applications, presentations and many other areas. This unit will enable learners to understand the basics of interactive multimedia products for the creative and digital media sector.</td>
<td>Centre assessed task OCR moderated Approx 10 hours – 60 marks (60 UMS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is involved in taking GCSE Citizenship Studies?

The subject content is split into four key sections:

Section 1: Rights, the law and the legal system in England and Wales.
Section 2: Democracy and government
Section 3: The UK and the wider world
Section 3: Citizenship Action

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?

OCR Citizenship Studies (9 —1)
The qualification comprises three inter-related components.
- Citizenship in perspective. 50 minutes written paper, 25% of total GCSE
- Citizenship in action. 1hr 45min written paper, 50% of total GCSE
- Our rights, our society, our world. 1 hour written paper, 25% of total GCSE

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

Research – using a wide variety of sources to find out information on current affairs and wider political issues.

Advocacy & challenge – communicate well in written English as you need the ability to clearly explain your viewpoint, create sustained reasoned arguments and acknowledge and challenge opposing views in essay questions.

Participation – plan practical Citizenship Actions aimed at delivering a benefit or change for others in society. The ability to effectively work with others as part of a small team.

How will this help me prepare for my future?

GCSE Citizenship Studies helps students develop skills such as critical thinking, decision making and collaborative working. It puts students in touch with the world around them giving them the ability to think more widely than their own immediate circumstances.
Why choose Computer Science?
Computer Science looks at the importance of computation in the modern world today and how it will do so in the future. It is a qualification that enables students to apply themselves and give them the skills to succeed in their chosen pathway.

What is involved in taking GCSE?
The course is Computer Science GCSE (OCR examining board). It is preferred that you enjoy maths and our advice would be that you should have reached a grade 5 or above in maths to be able to access this course. This however can be looked at on an individual basis.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?
The exam board is OCR, and its structure is: 2 written papers (50% each).

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?
The skills necessary are that you are competent using computers, that you like to look at what is behind the programs and that you enjoy programming.

How will this help me prepare for my future?
Computer Science is a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life. Students will develop ‘underpinning’ concepts which are useful in many subjects, for example mathematics, science and engineering. The rigorous approach of the subject will facilitate a smooth transition to the next level of study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component 01</td>
<td>The first component is an exam focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory.</td>
<td>1 hour 30 minutes</td>
<td>50% of the total GCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 02</td>
<td>This component is focused on the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles.</td>
<td>1 hour 30 minutes</td>
<td>50% of the total GCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 03</td>
<td>This component is the non-exam assessment where candidates will be challenged by a range of exciting and engaging tasks to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned.</td>
<td>Formal requirement: Consolidates the learning across the specification through practical activity.</td>
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What is GCSE Dance about?
Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject. Students will study the anthology of professional dance works which will develop their ability to critically appraise dances of different styles and cultural influences. Students will also look at anatomy and physiology in connection to dance training. Candidates will also focus on performing and choreographing where they can choose any style to perform and choreograph in, providing it meets the assessment criteria. This is an inspiring course which will provide students with the opportunity to study a variety of roles within the performing arts industry. Students will actively participate in performance work and direct and produce their own work. This course provides a worthwhile introduction to a wide range of creative, personal, organisational and managerial skills which are valuable in the workplace. Students can use their strengths within the performing arts industry to gain a successful GCSE in a subject which they love and enjoy!

How is GCSE Dance structured?
We follow the AQA GCSE course. There are 2 Components within the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component 1</th>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance and Choreography</td>
<td><strong>Performance</strong>&lt;br&gt;Set phrases through a solo performance (approx. 1 minute)&lt;br&gt;Duet/trio performance (3 minutes)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Choreography</strong>&lt;br&gt;Solo or group choreography (a solo 2 minutes or a group dance for two to five dancers of 3 minutes)</td>
<td>Internally marked and externally moderated.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Performance</strong>&lt;br&gt;30% of GCSE 40 marks&lt;br&gt;(15 marks for set phrases and 25 marks for duet/trio performance)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Choreography</strong>&lt;br&gt;30% of GCSE 40 marks&lt;br&gt;Total component 60%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Component 2</th>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dance Appreciation</td>
<td>Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills&lt;br&gt;Critical appreciation of own work&lt;br&gt;Critical appreciation of professional works</td>
<td>40% of GCSE&lt;br&gt;Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes&lt;br&gt;80 marks&lt;br&gt;Total component 40%</td>
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</table>

Will I enjoy this course?
You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative or if you are interested in dance or production. You will have the opportunity to perform a group dance piece in the Performing Arts Festival and Evening of Dance as well as work in small groups on choreography. We will have dance and performing arts workshops on contact work, physical theatre and contemporary dance with Motionhouse Dance Company and Rambert. We will go to the theatre during the course and have most recently seen Matthew Bourne’s work, Richard Alston’s and a range of Musicals.

How does GCSE Dance help me prepare for my future?
GCSE Dance provides a range of skills that are popular with employers and colleges. It gives you the experience to develop personal, social and key life skills. Students will gain the confidence to present themselves at interview, demonstrate they can work within a production team and show they are creative problem solvers who can work in an imaginative way. Students who have taken this subject have continued to go onto study Performing Arts, teaching, physiotherapy, events management, costume design, diet and nutrition or arts and business administration. This course develops a range of transferable skills that students will be able to draw upon in most professions.

What about my results? You can achieve grades 9—1 in GCSE Dance.
**Is this the right subject for me?**

If you enjoy:
- problem solving
- making models
- testing your ideas

Then our GCSE in Design and Technology is an ideal subject for you.

**What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

The new GCSE is a single qualification which focuses on developing practical skills within a particular material area, allowing students to manufacture high quality outcomes. They’ll learn about commercial processes and careers in related industries, as well as developing core transferable skills, such as collaboration and communication.

**What will I learn?**

GCSE Design and Technology covers a wide range of core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

**How will I be assessed?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1</th>
<th>Unit 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge and understanding of core technical and specialist design principles</td>
<td>Creative Design and Make Activity in your choice of specialism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Exam—100 marks (50%)</td>
<td>Coursework—100 marks (50%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The examination will be based on a structured exam paper which your teacher will be able to guide you through. Everything that you need to learn for this unit is set out in the specification so your teacher will know exactly how to prepare you for the exam. The new specification is designed to be completed in class with a focus on practical elements like developing and manufacturing your final product. Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence. Homework tasks will involve important research tasks.
This is an exciting course that will offer you the chance to explore the art of drama, theatre and acting, while developing crucial personal, social and life skills you will need in the future. You will explore theatre and stagecraft in a practical way from the point of view of a performer, director, writer and audience, and have the opportunity to devise your own work as well as look at plays written for the theatre. You will look at how playwrights express their ideas about a theme or topic and explore ways of making their plays work on stage and you will be able to specialise in acting or a design.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?
We follow the Edexcel GCSE course. You can achieve grades 9 to 1 in GCSE Drama. Drama traditionally does well at GCSE with 87% A* to C last year.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?
To succeed in this course you need to be a good team worker, enjoy performing, able to work with self discipline and motivation and have some organisation skills. You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative or if you are interested in drama and enjoy performing. You will develop your acting skills, particularly improvisation, characterisation and script, and have a chance to experiment with different performance techniques and acting styles. You will have the opportunity to perform an ensemble piece in the Performing Arts Festival and work in small groups on a comedy script for the performance in the GCSE Showcase in Year 10.

We go to the theatre at least twice during the course. Over the last few years we have been to see shows such as War Horse, A Woman In Black, The Curious Incident, Blood Brothers, Boeing Boeing and Billy Elliot.

How will this help me prepare for my future?
GCSE Drama is popular with employers and colleges because it helps you develop the important personal, social and life skills they are looking for. Self-expression, confidence and courage, self-discipline, initiative, communication and group work skills are all developed in drama as well as an ability to respond to, develop and present ideas etc. in a visually creative and imaginative way. This subject is a good choice if you are considering any career path where teamwork, creativity or communication are key aspects, such as the police, teaching, armed forces, design, retail, travel and tourism etc. and of course any performing arts. Drama is all about helping you develop transferable skills which you can take into most careers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Devising Drama</th>
<th>Presenting and Performing texts</th>
<th>Drama: Performance and response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>You will research and explore a stimulus, and then work collaboratively in a groups of 2-6 to create your own devised drama. You will also complete a log book which will record, evaluate and analyse your process. You will create a performance of minimum 5 and maximum 10 mins.</td>
<td>You develop and apply theatrical skills in acting presenting a showcase of two extracts from one play. You may work individually, pairs or groups. (Monologue, duologue or group). All students must complete 2 performances, of which only 1 may be a monologue.</td>
<td>A written exam with 2 Sections: A series of short questions on a set play to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of drama. A short review of a live theatre performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>40% 60 Marks Teacher assessed</td>
<td>20% 60 Marks Marked by a visiting examiner</td>
<td>40% 80 Marks Marked by an external examiner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Geography

What is involved in taking GCSE Geography?

Geography is the most popular option subject at GCSE; with currently 7 groups across Years 10 and 11. The GCSE covers a wide range of Physical and Human topics as well as giving students numerous geography skills that transfer well to many other GCSE subjects.

Pupils will study the following human and physical topics during the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAPER 1: Living with the Physical Environment</th>
<th>PAPER 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section A – Natural Hazards</strong></td>
<td><strong>Section A – Urban issues and challenges</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tectonics</td>
<td>Population issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme weather in the UK</td>
<td>Urbanisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical storms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section B – Physical landscapes in the UK</th>
<th>Section B – The changing economic world</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coasts</td>
<td>Development issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers OR Glaciation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section C – The Living World</th>
<th>Section C – The challenge of resource management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystems</td>
<td>Depleting resources: Food, water and energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Rainforests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deserts OR Cold Environments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Along with locally based fieldwork as part of paper 3, there is also the possible option of attending the overseas fieldtrip to help pupils consolidate and extend knowledge from the classroom and experience a range of geographical features in real life. Previous trips have taken pupils to Iceland, Sicily and Naples.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?
The Department teaches the new AQA specification which combines three examination papers.

**PAPER 1 – Living with the Physical Environment** (1.5 hour paper worth 35% of the total GCSE)

**PAPER 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment** (1.5 hour paper worth 35% of the total GCSE)

**PAPER 3 – Geographical applications** – (1 hour paper worth 30% of the total GCSE) this includes an issue evaluation, fieldwork experiences and geographical techniques. This replaces the old controlled assessment.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?
In order to be successful – like in any GCSE – you need to be interested in the subject in order to do well. So if you are interested in the world around you and why things happen or how people are affected, then GCSE Geography is a good course for you.
What is involved in taking GCSE History?

Students have already started their journey towards GCSE History by developing the skills needed to be successful through KS3.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?

It is split into two examinations, each exam has two sections:

**Paper 1 Part A:** Russia, 1894-1945: Tsardom and Communism

**Paper 1 Part B:** Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945-1972

**Paper 2 Part A:** Power and the People

**Paper 2 Part A:** Elizabethan England, 1568-1603

The board we use is AQA and the examination part of each GCSE accounts for 100% of the total marks.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

In History you will need to interpret, analyse and use thinking skills. You will need show the use of independent thought, evaluation skills and the ability to use pictorial and written sourced material.

How will this help me prepare for my future?

History will give you a broad range of knowledge and understanding, including a sense of development over time, and an appreciation of the culture and attitudes of societies other than our own.

The top 20 universities list History as the most important subject students can study due to transferable skills students gain while completing the GCSE.

Good Historians can answer questions on how the world has worked in the past and make informed decisions about how it will work in the future. History develops young minds to make reasoned decisions in the real world.

Studying History at further education opens a number of doors into modern careers in law, education, research, politics and even finance.
Hospitality and Catering Level 2 Award

Aim of the Course
EDUQAS WJEC LEVEL 2 HOSPITALITY & CATERING is a creative and innovative course which focuses on nurturing the students’ understanding of research and the development of food skills; the application of the principles of food science and nutrition and the understanding of local and global hospitality and catering industry. In addition, the qualification supports students to develop the essential employability skills that are valued by employers, further and higher education.

Subject links and opportunities
Science, Geography, MFL, Media, Photography and PE &/ Sports. Opportunities during the course are experimental and practical work, presentations, competitions, taster sessions, visits & visiting members from the Hospitality & Catering, Travel & Tourism industries and the department of Food Science.

The Future
This course supports a range of courses at University such as Clinical Dietetics, Food and Nutrition Management, Public Health Nutrition, Education and Research, Consultant/ Private Practice, Related Health Professionals (e.g. M.D., PA), Risk Assessment Management, Business and Industry, Human Resource Manager and Media and Food Journalism. The course is also beneficial for vocational pathways and is transferable for apprenticeships/ in-house training in the Hospitality & Catering Industry, Food Service Management, Travel and Tourism. As a life skill, the course prepares students to develop both spatial and cognitive thinking and independent skills for lifelong learning.

For further information, refer to: http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/hospitality-and-catering/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1</th>
<th>Unit 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food, Nutrition and Hospitality and Catering Industry.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hospitality and Catering in Action</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Examination—40% 1 hour 30 minutes</td>
<td>Practical Examination—60% 1 hour for the Time plan and 3 hours for the Practical session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externally assessed on line/ written examination, set by the WJEC Exam board.</td>
<td>Internally assessed controlled assessment under examination conditions, set by the WJEC Exam board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grading:</strong> Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction</td>
<td><strong>Grading:</strong> Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**What is involved in taking GCSE Media Studies?**

**Media Studies** looks at:
- How the media works;
- how the media is created;
- Who creates the media;
- The reasons the media tells you some things and not the whole truth;
- Why the media shapes your decisions on everything that affects you.

**How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?**

We use the AQA exam board.
- There are two 1½ hour exams at the end of year 11. They make up 35% of the final mark each. They will focus on key concepts and a media product that will have been researched in depth over the previous year.
- There is also a practical assignment that makes up 30% of the final mark. A choice of topics will be available based on a theme. This will be assessed in school and moderated by AQA.

**What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?**

An interest in the media and the world around you is essential. You do need to be quite creative, as you will be developing ideas for TV programmes, films and websites. A good level of English is also required as essay work will take spelling and grammar into account.

**How will this help me prepare for my future?**

As well as giving you a better understanding of how TV, film and newspapers work, it will give you skills to present your ideas to a group, research a topic and organise your ideas. It will not teach you how to be a TV presenter but it might teach you how to deal with the press if you become famous. Media would suit students interested in Journalism, TV and Film, Advertising and goes well with subjects like History, Art and Photography.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media 1</th>
<th>Media 2</th>
<th>Non-exam assessment: Creating a media product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>How it's assessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>How it's assessed</strong></td>
<td><strong>How it's assessed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes</td>
<td>• Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes</td>
<td>• Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 84 marks</td>
<td>• 84 marks</td>
<td>• 84 marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 35% of GCSE</td>
<td>• 35% of GCSE</td>
<td>• 35% of GCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Questions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Questions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tasks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A range of questions relating to one unseen source and Close Study Products.</td>
<td>• Short, medium and extended response questions assessing depth of knowledge and understanding of the course.</td>
<td>Students produce:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• An extended response question (20 marks).</td>
<td></td>
<td>• a statement of intent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• a media product for an intended audience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is involved in taking GCSE French & Spanish?

Course Structure

You are assessed in four different skill areas each is worth 25% (listening, reading, speaking and writing). All are assessed by exam at the end of year 11.

There is a foundation tier (grades 1-5) and a higher tier (grades 4-9).

Exam Board: AQA. The Course

Theme 1 – Identity and culture: family, friends, technology, free time, countries and festivals in French or Spanish-speaking countries

Theme 2 – Local, national, international and global areas of interest: travel and tourism, home, town and neighbourhood, local, social and global issues

Theme 3 – Current and future study and employment: my studies and life and school, education post-16 choices, careers

Throughout the course we will cover a variety of grammar topics and revise those you have already seen at Key Stage 3. The courses for both languages are very similar. Dual linguists could consider taking both French and Spanish.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

To be good linguist you need to be: hard-working, up for a challenge, confident, an independent learner, proactive, and interested in other countries and cultures. You should have good literacy skills and a good work ethic.

How will this help me prepare for my future?

Future career - Having a language GCSE might help you to find a better job in the future, even if it’s not a job that is specifically related to languages. On average, people who have a language at GCSE earn £3,000 per year more than those who don’t. Languages can be useful for all sorts of jobs.

Preparation for university application - some universities (The Russell Group in particular) look favourably on a GCSE in a foreign language as the course will help you develop a broad range of skills.

Travel – Learning about other countries and cultures and being able to communicate when you go abroad. The opportunity to study abroad as part of a degree course.

These articles may be of interest: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/languages-international-education/study/modules/courses-and-applying/ucl-modern-foreign-language-requirement

https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/which-foreign-languages-will-be-most-important-uk-post-brexit
What is involved in taking GCSE Music?
This is an exciting course that will offer you the chance to explore the art of musical performance, composition and a range of musical styles while developing crucial personal, social and life skills you will need in the future. You will explore musical performance in a practical way through solo and ensemble work. You will have the opportunity to create your own music in a variety of styles.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?
We follow the OCR course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT CONTENT</th>
<th>MARKS</th>
<th>% OF GCSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Unit 1 | 1 x Solo Performance on learners chosen instrument  
1 x Free choice composition | Coursework  
60 Marks | 30% |
| Unit 2 | 1 x Ensemble Performance on learners chosen instrument  
1 x Composition to an OCR set brief | Coursework  
60 Marks | 30% |
| Unit 3 | Listening and Appraising Exam  
(Summer term of Year 11)  
A written paper with a CD  
Aural recognition and context of music from the following four Areas of Study: The Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Music for Film and Popular Music. | Exam Paper  
80 Marks | 40% |

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?
GCSE Music requires students to use listening, performance and composing skills. You will be expected to listen and experience music from all over the world and throughout history to more recent music. Students who are enthusiastic, have good listening and performance skills would be well suited to this course.

How will this help me prepare for my future?
GCSE Music is popular with employers and colleges because it helps you develop the important personal, social and life skills they are looking for. Self-expression, confidence and courage, self-discipline, initiative, communication and group work skills are all developed in Music as well as an ability to respond to, develop and present ideas in a creative way. This subject is a good choice if you are considering any career path where teamwork, creativity or communication are key aspects, such as the police, teaching, armed forces, design, retail, travel and tourism etc and of course any performing arts. Music is all about helping you develop transferable skills which you can take into most careers.
What is involved in taking GCSE PE?

During the two years you will be assessed in a number of different sports including swimming, athletics, fitness training, net sports and a variety of team sports. Although you may be assessed in 8 to 10 different sports, only your best three assessments will count in your final assessment. You will also have one or two theory lessons per week. During this classroom based lesson you will learn about the human body, diet and designing an exercise program. You will also learn about what might prevent people taking part in sport and you will study topics such as ‘sponsorship in sport’ and ‘technology in sport’. You will also do an in depth study of one sport. In this study you will have to analyze your own performance and suggest ways that you could improve your performance.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?

Over a fortnight you will typically have six lessons (three practical and three theory) The practical element of the course accounts for 40% of the mark. The theory element of the course accounts for 60% of the mark. The exam board is AQA.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

A good practical ability in a range of sports will obviously help you gain a good practical grade. A willingness to learn new sports and a willingness to develop your skills outside of School is essential to achieve a good grade. Participation in school teams or local community clubs would be an indication of this extra commitment to sport.

How will this help me prepare for my future?

A good grade at GCSE will allow you to study Physical Education further at either A Level or Btec Level 3. Although not essential, studying Physical Education has links to many areas of employment, such as: Armed Forces, Chiropractors, Dance Instructors, Sports Journalism, Sports Marketing, Fitness Instructors, Lifeguarding, Sports Coaching, Youth Work, Sports Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Teaching, Health Education, Emergency Services, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.
What is involved in taking GCSE Photography?

The GCSE Photography course allows you to work in a variety of areas such as Photomontage, Darkroom Techniques, Digital Manipulation (Photoshop) and Animation. We have a very well equipped department with professional studio lighting, darkroom facilities and classroom computers with access to Photoshop.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?

COURSEWORK – 60%
Portfolio: This is an edited selection of all the best pieces of work that you complete over two years
Sustained Project: This year our extended project was based on the theme 'Architecture and Surrealism' however, the theme can change. The project will be a collection of sketchbooks and final outcomes.

EXTERNALLY SET ASSIGNMENT– 40%
You will be given a 12 week preparatory period where you will research and develop ideas for a final piece. The 10 hour exam will be used to create final responses to your project. The final piece is completed in exam conditions.

What skills do I need to be successful?

Throughout the course, students will develop their visual literacy skills with an understanding of composition, lighting, form, shape, space and colour with particular emphasis on digital media and photo shop techniques.

We have a growing requirement for digital and lens based imagery due to the increased demand of digital arts for use in web design, advertising, animation, photography, film and gaming industries....

A lot of the skills gained are transferable such as analytical, problem solving, team work, communication, researching and entrepreneurial skills.

There are more creative jobs than ever before. Gov.UK states that the creative industry was worth almost £10 million an hour to the economy.

Creativity is an essential skill that employers and universities look for.
What is involved in taking BTEC Travel and Tourism?
The qualification provides an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of travel and tourism giving you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will explore some of the key areas within the sector, including accommodation, tourism development and promotion, transport and visitor attractions. You will investigate the importance of the travel and tourism sector to the UK, and investigate different types of customer and UK destinations. You will also have the opportunity to study international travel and tourism. You will develop key skills, such as research, report drafting and writing skills and project management. You will study the following units over the two year course:

▪ UK travel and tourism sector
▪ UK travel and tourism destinations
▪ the travel and tourism customer experience
▪ international travel and tourism destinations

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?
The skills which you gain are applicable to jobs in many different industries. Studying Travel and Tourism can include working in Sports Centres, restaurants, theatres, cinemas, museums, theme parks, hotels, airports, travel agents and many other places. Other offices and businesses outside of travel and tourism industries also appreciate the skills that you will learn on this course.

What other subjects go well with travel and tourism?
This qualification is designed to be taken as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4. It can be complementary learning for a wide range of subjects such as GCSE Geography, putting into context much of the knowledge and skills developed in the study of that subject, and there are strong links with GCSE Business too.

How will this help me prepare for my future?
If you are interested in working in the Leisure or Tourism industry, this could be the course for you. It is designed to be a practical foundation for training for a job in these areas or to lead on to study the subject at a higher level in Further or Higher Education.
The options process.

This year parents will be able to complete the options process online. The arrangements for this are as follows:

1. Mr Griffiths will send out a Parent Mail with the log on details and instructions how to log on. This Parent Mail will follow the Year 9 Parents Evening on the 13th February.

2. The following day, the online options process will go live allowing you to complete the process over the half term. If you have problems accessing the online form, please contact Mr Scott and I will send out a hard copy. (alternatively you can print the last page of this document)

3. The deadline for online returns is Monday 23rd March. Priority will be given to students who meet this deadline.

4. If you change your mind between 14th February and the 23rd March, you will be able to make the changes online. After the 23rd march, you would need to request changes via Mr Scott by email.

When will I get confirmation of my child’s options?

Following the options process we will then put together next year’s
YEAR 9 Options 2019-20

NAME: _____________________________________        Form: 9____

In Years 10 and 11 all students take the following GCSEs English, Maths, Double Science and RS. You will also be expected to take Core PE.

In addition to these courses you will be expected to select three options from the subjects below:

Please be aware that you must select 1 green subject as a minimum and then two additional choices from the blue or green subjects. You are allowed to choose all three subjects from the green subjects.

Please indicate the subjects you may wish to study for your GCSEs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computer Science</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Geography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Design Technology</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality and Catering level 2 Award</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Travel and Tourism level 2 BTEC</td>
<td>Cambridge National BTEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Media Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choice 1
Must be a subject from the green row

Choice 2

Choice 3

Reserve Choice

Parent’s signature………………………………………………………………………………… Date………………………………………………

Deadline for return—Monday 25th February