

Year 8/9 Options 2017



SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON
ACADEMY

Welcome

I hope that you will find the information in this booklet interesting and useful. Please read it carefully and make sure that you discuss your choice of subjects with your parents and your teachers.

You will see from the booklet that there are certain courses which you have to take and certain courses which you might choose to take. Think carefully about your choice of courses and try to keep your options open as far as possible. Opting for courses which you know you are good at, or that you particularly enjoy, is always a good starting point! If you enjoy a subject, you are more likely to be successful.

Some of you will have clear plans for what you want to achieve in the future and will know that you need to study particular courses to achieve your goals. We offer a range of GCSE courses and more vocational BTEC courses to suit the range of interests, abilities and aptitudes of all students.

I hope that during the next two/three years you will start to think seriously about opportunities to continue your education beyond Year 11. The courses that may be open to you will be influenced by how well you do from now on. You should work hard therefore, as now is the time to make sure that you achieve good results in the future.

Mark Guest
Headteacher



How to Use This Booklet

This booklet is for you

This booklet is intended to be the starting point for discussions with your parents, carers and teachers about the courses you will choose to follow for the next two/three years. The decisions you make now will help to shape your future. It is therefore very important that you look at all of the available courses on offer and that the choices you make are right for you!

For each course, you must find out from your teachers what sort of teaching and learning is involved and consider carefully the demands this will have on you. Be honest about the type of learner you are, your abilities and the sort of things you enjoy or are good at. The choices you make will give you access to future career opportunities and any future courses you may wish to follow beyond the age of 16. Try to find out more about the different progression routes once these courses are completed.

There is a network of support to help you make the right decision. You will already be receiving careers education at the Academy where you will learn about the range of opportunities that are open to you. You will receive advice on how to choose courses, work experience, futures day and how to achieve your goals.

Remember – if in doubt, ASK.

Additional Guidance

The Academy offers a full range of careers information, careers interviews and computer aided guidance packages that can be accessed from the Library.

Work Experience

Work experience, which will take place during the spring term of Year 10, is an important part of the work related learning programme. You will have the opportunity to work for one week with a business that interests you, but not necessarily one in which you plan to make a career.

This opportunity of being in a business environment provides a wealth of experience and insight into working life that will help to develop skills that are important elements of preparation for working life.

For further information see Mrs Morton.

Some useful websites are:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum – Core Subjects

Key Stage 4

During Key Stage 4 you will study towards your GCSE and other examinations. These will consist of CORE subjects and OPTION subjects.

The CORE subjects are those subjects that we believe **all** students in the Academy should study. These subjects are key to your progression into sixth form, colleges, university and employment. For example, if you wish to gain an engineering apprenticeship, most employers will insist on good qualifications in English, Mathematics and Science. If it is your aim to study Business at university, the essential qualifications are good A level grades in English and Mathematics. GCSE and A level Business Studies are usually seen as helpful but not essential.

The compulsory Core Subjects are:

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Modern Foreign Language** (*Green pathway*)
- **Geography or History**
- **ECDL** (*European Computer Driving Licence*)
- **Physical Education**
- **Personal & Social Education** (*delivered through Wow Days*)
- **Careers, Citizenship and RE** (*including GCSE Religious Studies*)

English

All students will take two GCSE qualifications: English Language and English Literature.

Maths

All students complete GCSE Mathematics and more able mathematicians are given the opportunity to study towards GCSE Further Mathematics.

Modern Foreign Languages

We strongly believe that studying a modern foreign language increases your potential to secure good offers at college, sixth form and higher education establishments. In today's global economy, a second language is a demonstrable skill that could enhance your employment prospects.

With this in mind, students who are currently in the top set for foreign languages will continue to study GCSE German or French.

For all other students, studying a modern foreign language is optional but we strongly recommend that this is given serious consideration.

GCSE Science

All students study towards GCSE Combined Science. This award is assessed at the end of Year 11 and counts towards their two science qualifications.

ICT

All students complete the Level 2 European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). The ECDL is equivalent to a good GCSE grade.

Religious Studies

All students complete the GCSE RS qualification at the end of in Year 10.

Curriculum Pathway

What is a 'Curriculum Pathway?'

A 'Curriculum Pathway' is a discrete programme of study recommended for targeted groups of learners based on their KS2 prior attainment.

Each pathway offers guidance on the mix of courses that best suit a set of learning styles and ability.

Choosing the right pathway will give you the best chance of achieving your maximum potential and attaining the highest possible grades in all subjects.

Please note: We believe all our students to be individual learners and the pathways are simply for guidance purposes. Many students will fit across two or more pathways and it is still possible to pick subjects from each.

You must talk to your parents, teachers and base tutors if you are uncertain which subjects you should be on.

There are three possible pathways on offer at Key Stage 4 which we have called Green, Blue and Red.

Green Pathway	Blue Pathway	Red Pathway
<p>Who is it for? Students who enjoy a full variety of teaching methods. Students who perform well in tests and exams. Students who achieve level 6/7 at Key Stage 3.</p>	<p>Who is it for? Students who prefer coursework or project work assessed in the classroom and are also able to perform in tests and exams. Students who achieve level 4/5 at Key Stage 3.</p>	<p>Who is it for? Students with a good commitment to learning who would benefit from extra numeracy and literacy lessons. Students who achieve level 3/4 at Key Stage 3.</p>
<p>What will I study? 100% GCSE courses. English Language and Literature, Maths, Double or three separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), ICT, up to two Foreign Languages, History or Geography, Plus two <u>GCSE</u> "Option" subjects.</p>	<p>What will I study? English Language/Literature, Maths, Double Science GCSE, History or Geography, ICT plus three GCSE/BTEC "Option" subjects.</p>	<p>What will I study? English Language/Literature, Maths, Double Science GCSE, and support in literacy and numeracy. Up to two other vocational or GCSE subjects chosen through options.</p>
<p>What qualifications <u>could</u> it lead to? Up to 11 GCSE grade A* - C including English Baccalaureate</p>	<p>What qualifications <u>could</u> it lead to? Up to 10 GCSE or <u>equivalent</u> A* - G including English Baccalaureate</p>	<p>What qualifications <u>could</u> it lead to? Up to 9 GCSE or <u>equivalent</u> grades A* to G.</p>
<p>Where will it lead? A level qualification study at sixth form or colleges. Future progression – University and degree level study.</p>	<p>Where will it lead? Level 3 Vocational study or A Level study at sixth form or colleges. Future progression – HND, HNC and Degree level study.</p>	<p>Where will it lead? Well-developed life skills and a range of experiences leading to improved employability. Alternative level 1 and level 2 courses at college.</p>

Qualifications

GCSE – Old & New

Government reforms of the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) are currently being introduced. The first GCSE courses to change were English Language, English Literature and Mathematics in September 2015 and from September 2017, you will be studying the brand new GCSE courses in all subjects.

One of the biggest changes to the new GCSE is that it will be graded from **9 to 1** where 9 is the highest grade.

New GCSEs

The new GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics will be assessed by:

- 100% terminal examination
- No controlled assessment
- No coursework

Comparing Number Grades to Letter Grades

Whilst Ofsted state that the new grading system should not be compared to the old one, they have given the following “anchor points” that link the two scales:

- Bottom of grade G – Bottom of grade 1
- Bottom of grade C – bottom of grade 4
- Bottom of grade A – bottom of grade 7

A	7
B	6
C	5
D	4
	3

Qualifications

GCSE Old & New

We believe that the GCSE is still the most suitable qualification for most of our students.

If you are considering studying pure A level courses at sixth form or college, then GCSEs offer the clearest progression route and will best prepare you for the rigours of GCE A Level courses.

English Baccaulaureate

The English Baccaulaureate is designed to recognise the achievement of any student who secures good GCSE passes in English, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject such as History or Geography. All students on the green pathway and most students on the blue pathway will study towards this award. It should be noted that in order to gain the English Baccaulaureate, students must achieve **all six** of the above mentioned subject qualifications at least GCSE grade 5.

BTEC First Awards

BTECs are vocational qualifications which are widely recognised by employers and colleges. They are usually 75% course work with one examined unit which can be re-taken if necessary. They assess your ability to perform certain tasks or demonstrate a certain skill and can be more suited to the learning styles of some of our students.

These are level 2 qualifications and are graded PASS, Merit and DISTINCTION. Most colleges offer BTECs from level 2 to level 3 and this could be a progression route that suits you if you are considering apprenticeships or specific career paths. The Academy Sixth Form currently offers a BTEC Sport level 3 course that can be taken as a standalone course equivalent to 3 A levels or alongside other A level subjects as a single qualification.



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The Core Subjects

Course Title: GCSE English Language & English Literature

About this course

Two GCSEs for the price of one! Students will study linguistic production and reception for English Language and traditional literary texts (poetry, prose & drama) for English Literature. It will extend students beyond the levels possible at Key Stage 3. These are now 100% 2-year terminal examination courses with no coursework.

Who would this course suit?

Students who enjoy reading and writing should enjoy this course. It will stretch and challenge the most able and will help develop the skills of those to whom English and literacy skills do not come as naturally. It is a demanding course and will require a good deal of independent learning. Assessment will be using the new system of 1 to 9.

How is this course taught and assessed?

English Language 100% examination

PAPER 1 (1h 45m): Section A – READING (based on extract from 20th / 21st century prose fiction); Section B – IMAGINATIVE WRITING (visual stimulus)

PAPER 2 (1h 45m): Section A – READING (19th century non-fiction); Section B – INFORMATIVE WRITING

English Literature 100% examination

PAPER 1 (1h 45m): Section A – Shakespeare (*Macbeth*); Section B – 19th century novel (*Dr Jeckyll & Mr Hyde*)

PAPER 2 (2h 15m): Section A – MODERN DRAMA (*DNA*); Section B – POEMS PAST & PRESENT (*Power & Conflict* cluster from AQA Anthology); Section C – UNSEEN POETRY

What can you do with this qualification?

A GCSE in English Language or Literature is an essential qualification in modern life and demonstrates to others a level of skill using language that will impress future employers or colleges and sixth forms. Many who do well in these subjects go on to study them at AS and A level, and beyond.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 2 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr P Fox Goddard

Course Title: GCSE Mathematics

About this course

All students are required to study Mathematics at Key Stage 4 as set out by the Department for Education. The course content has been organised into six broad topic areas and given a reference as follows:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio
- Geometry
- Probability
- Statistics

How is this course taught and assessed?

The courses should enable students to:

1. Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
2. Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
3. Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
4. Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades **1 – 5**) and a Higher tier (grades **4 – 9**). Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper 1: non-calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 3: calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)

All papers are taken at the end of the two year course and have an equal weighting towards the final GCSE grade.

Who would this course suit?

Maths is for everyone! It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. All employers and trainers value Maths as one of the most important functional skills required to increase our readiness for an ever changing global employment market.

What can you do with this qualification?

Mathematics GCSE is widely regarded as playing a pivotal role in any future endeavour. The grounding made in this topic will provide the skills required in our everyday lives, demonstrate to employers our ability to solve problems and provide those wishing to progress to higher education with the necessary entrance qualifications. We use Mathematics every day of our lives whether to simply manage our home finances, read a pay slip or a train timetable or within employment opportunities such as a retail assistant, world leader or space and aeronautical design.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr A Barnes

Course Title: GCSE Combined Science

About this course / Why choose this course?

At the end of Year 11 you will have two GCSEs in Science.

Who would this course suit?

All students will study 'Combined Science' at GCSE unless the option to take 'Triple Science' is made. The decision on who is best suited to this course will be made by the Science department, with the aim of giving pupils the best chance of achieving their potential.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This course is taught from Year 9 through to Year 11. It is made up of modules in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which will help you to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed for adult life. It will also prepare you for further study in Science post 16. Assessment for this course is linear with written examinations being held in the summer term of Year 11. Two 1Hr 15 min papers will be sat for each of the three disciplines. Collectively, these makes up 100% of your final grade. You will also carry out a series of 'required' practical work throughout the course which is common to all specifications at GCSE. Although not individually assessed, questions relating to the practical work will contribute to 15% of the total marks in the written examinations. Additionally, at least 20% of the total marks will be based upon mathematical skills. There is no coursework.

What can you do with this qualification?

This 'Combined Science' route through Key Stage 4 Science could enable progression to AS and A level Science courses for suitable students.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 2 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr T Quinn

Course Title: GCSE Languages

About this course / Why choose this course?

The MFL GCSE courses aim to prepare students for the future, living and working within a global community. Students will gain an insight into the people and cultures of other countries, so that they are able to communicate in another language either for leisure or work.

Who would this course suit?

The course requires an interest in the language and the cultures where the target language is spoken. You will need enthusiasm and resilience to work out new language and communicate in the target language. Successful candidates support their learning in the classroom by revising vocabulary regularly in order to be competent in all four skill areas.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The course covers three themes, which are broken down further into topic areas. The themes are: Identity and Culture; Local, National, International and Global areas of Interest; Current and Future Study and Employment. Students build upon the grammatical awareness and language skills such as translation and transcription which they developed at Key Stage Three. They will broaden the breadth and depth of their knowledge to include the defined content contained within the topic areas.

MFL GCSEs are assessed at the end of Year 11 as follows:

- Listening (25%)
- Speaking (25%)
- Reading (25%)
- Writing (25%)

What can you do with this qualification?

Students who are successful on this course can continue their studies post 16 at AS and A2. This could also lead to a variety of degree courses with language units, including new languages, eg. Business with French, European Law with French/Spanish/Portuguese.

The ability to communicate in another language could lead to a career in: the Foreign Office, teaching, interpreting or even working overseas for multi-national corporations.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mrs Dover and Mrs Fellingner

Course Title: GCSE Geography

About this course / Why choose this course?

Have you ever watched the television and said “we’ve just done that in Geography!” Well, if you want to know how the earth works and how it changes peoples’ lives then GCSE Geography is for you.

The course follows on naturally from Key Stage 3. In fact pupils in lower school have already been studying GCSE material in a spiraled curriculum. The GCSE course involves the study of important current issues which appear in the news such as: earthquakes, hurricanes, climate change, immigration and how our lives are affected by changes in the world economy.

Who would this course suit?

Geography is suitable for all students who have an interest in the world around them. Students need to be able to look at features and situations and be able to ask who, what, where, how and why? To do this, students should be able to describe and interpret photographs, graphs and of course maps – Geography is about places! Students should also enjoy studying outside the classroom as fieldwork is an important element of GCSE Geography.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Major topics include: the destructive power of natural hazards including volcanoes and earthquakes; how rivers and the sea produce natural landforms and cause flooding; how the world’s business and trade affects the wealth of people and countries; where people live and why they move - including why people from other countries have been attracted to the UK; how urban areas grow and change in response to our needs. All topics will be examined at the end of Year 11 and account for 100% of the total mark. Within the exam papers will be sections on fieldwork which will be undertaken during Year 10 and Year 11. This is a change from the traditional format pupils would complete coursework in lesson time.

What can you do with this qualification?

GCSE Geographers can continue to study at 16+ by taking A level Geography and this course provides an excellent foundation for students who wish to do this. It can also open doors for careers in: Travel, Tourism, Leisure and Culture; Environment Studies and Development and Global Issues.

Famous Geographers include Prince William, Amy Macdonald, Michael Jordan and Olympic gold medalists Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell. GCSE Geography is also a good subject to give you balance with your other KS4 subjects.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA
Course code: AQA A
Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr M Phillips, Mr D Bensley and Mrs J Pearce

Course Title: GCSE History

About this course / Why choose this course?

This two/three year course offers a wide range of exciting topics and time periods. The course will see students whisked on a tour of world and European history as well as an in depth focus on elements of British history. There really is something for everyone – war, medicine, plague, dictatorship, key individuals, religion, monarchs, battles, weapons, science & technology If you like a challenge and want an opportunity to study a subject that will develop your knowledge AND equip you with a wide range of valuable skills, then History is for you!

Examples of skills and qualities you will learn and develop are:

Independence, communication, critical thinking, research, evaluation, using evidence, interpretation, analysis, objectivity, literacy, numeracy, thinking skills, working to deadlines, personal organization and revision skills, empathy and resilience.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The History GCSE course is divided into four units. Each unit covers a specific era of History, detailing key events and people that helped shape the world as it is today. Two GCSE examinations will assess your learning at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1

Section A is a period study, with a focus on two key developments in a country's history over at least a 50 year period: **Germany, 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship.**

Section B is a wider world depth study, focusing on international conflict and tension: **Conflict and Tension, 1894-1918.**

Paper 2

Section A is a thematic study which looks at key developments in Britain over a long period: **Britain, Health and the People, c1000 – the present day.**

Section B is a British depth study incorporating the study of a specific historic site: **Norman England, c1066-1100.**

Who would this course suit?

This course would suit students that are interested in unravelling the mysteries of history around us; as well as those interested in what drives change. This course will cover: key issues such as conflict; key triggers of change and how the past influences the present.

This course will suit you:

- a) If you are interested in events of the past, and how they have shaped the world we live in.
- b) If you genuinely wish to engage intellectually with some of the most extraordinary, notorious, brilliant and original people in the history of our planet.
- c) If you wish to study a subject that will open many doors for you and provide you with a lifelong thirst for knowledge.

What can you do with this qualification?

History provides young people with a wealth of skills that support many other subjects in the curriculum, but also valuable skills that will increase their employability, whatever their chosen career. The transferrable skills, abilities and attitudes developed through the study of history make young people highly attractive to employers. History is valued in most fields, especially occupations such as law, accountancy, public relations, marketing, research, journalism, education, business and government. History is a fantastic “all round” subject that keeps your future options open!

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA GCSE History 8145

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to: Miss Edwards, Mr Hollingworth or Mrs Rawding

Course Title: GCSE Religious Studies

About this course

Religious Studies is a compulsory core subject, all pupils in Year 10 complete the course. The course has been hugely successful, in 2016 15% of pupils gained an A*/A and almost 70% of pupils gained an A*- C grade.

The GCSE Religious Studies syllabus is wide and varied. Students study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Buddhists and Christians alongside ethical topics such as relationships/families and peace/conflict.

Who would this course suit?

This course is suitable for all students. The skills Religious Studies develop will lead to an understanding of students own sense of self and also of others - developing empathy and the ability to relate. Such skills will not just be of value to students now, but are relevant and applicable as members of a diverse Britain and a global community. Within the lessons, group work is of importance but so is personal reflection.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The course commences in Year 9 and continues into Year 10. The course is 100% examination based and this is taken in the summer term of Year 10. In Year 9 pupils will study aspects of Christianity such as Jesus and salvation, worship and festivals and the role of the church. Pupils will also study aspects of Buddhism such as the life of the Buddha, Buddhist ethics and festivals such as Wesak. In Year 10 pupils will study topics such as religious teachings about the roles of men and women, the origins of the universe and religious teachings about peace and justice.

What can you do with this qualification?

The course will help pupils to understand our society. Religious Studies will make students ask questions. It will make the familiar strange and the strange familiar, yet it will enable and develop students. This will allow them to prosper in both the school community and wider society, where awareness and understanding of beliefs makes for successful, confident and responsible citizens. Pupils who are successful on this course can further their study at 16+ by studying Religious Studies or Philosophy at AS and A level.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Miss E Harcourt

About this course

In Year 9/10, you may decide to take Physical Education as a GCSE or BTEC option. Irrespective of the route you choose, you will all take part in Year 9, 10 and 11.

During Year 7 & 8 your activities were selected by the PE department to ensure you developed basic techniques to become more confident across a broad range of physical activities. The PE Department created a curriculum plan based on aspects of GCSE PE or strands of leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication. In Year 9/10 you will tackle complex and more demanding activities. The main aim is for you to further develop your LORIC skills and personal fitness to ensure you have an active healthy lifestyle. You will devise tactics and strategies to overcome opponents, develop techniques in competitive sports and undertake an outdoor and adventurous activity. Within these boundaries we will also give you the option to select your activity group so that you have a strong focus on either competitive games, recreational activities or health and wellbeing. In all these activities pupils will engage in physical activity to ensure their resilience to fatigue increases.

For further information speak to:
Mr K Symmons, Mrs K Davison, Mr D Costello,
Mrs Mower or Mr D Quincey

Course Title: European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)

About this course

This is a Level 2 qualification equivalent to 1 good pass at GCSE (A*-C). The ECDL is evidence of your digital literacy skill; that are increasingly key to success in our technology-dependent society. Learners with improved computer skills enjoy an enriched educational experience and are better prepared for life, work and further learning.

Students study the 4 units listed below:

1. Word Processing
2. Presentations
3. Spreadsheets
4. Improving Productivity

Who would this course suit?

This course suits all students and opportunities to gain the ECDL qualification will be made available across Years 10 and 11. Many private companies and public service organisations use this qualification to up-skill their own employees.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Each unit is assessed separately via an online test. The course will be taught across discreet learning days where students will study for each unit be entered for the examination when deemed ready.

ECDL is awarded according to a four-tier grading structure, ranging from pass to distinction-star. This ensures learners receive the right level of recognition for their efforts. ECDL attracts performance points as shown below:

Distinction*	58 points
Distinction	52 points
Merit	46 points
Pass	40 points

What can you do with this qualification?

Upon completion of this qualification, you could progress onto the Level 3 BTEC National Diploma/Certificate for IT or other non-computing oriented National Diplomas.

Course Details:

Exam board: BCS
Value: Level 2 (equivalent to 1 x GCSE Grade C and above)

For further information speak to:

Mr A Barnes



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The Option Subjects

Course Title: GCSE Art, Craft & Design

About this course / Why choose this course?

Art is a comprehensive area of visual, emotional, expressive and tactile concepts. It will encourage you to explore your imagination, to express and communicate thoughts and feelings. Art develops your capacity for creative and independent thought and the ability to make critical judgements and appreciate art. You will have the opportunity to visit important galleries. This subject encourages many of the key skills that are important in many areas of work, not just in the creative sector. Students will have the opportunity to use a broad range of media depending on their skills, aptitude and areas of interest. For example, techniques and approaches will include: drawing, painting, printing, collage, mixed media, textiles and 3D work (wire, clay, plaster, card etc.)

How is this course taught and assessed?

The coursework portfolio is a set of work which is developed during the course by the student, from a starting point given by the teacher. It will include lots of preparation work - such as drawing and other studies, looking at the work of artists and developing ideas through practice and experimentation - and a final piece. The portfolio work is both creative and challenging and the development of your ideas into a successful outcome is very rewarding. The terminal task, set by the exam board, is conducted in a similar way to a coursework project, although the final piece is completed under exam conditions. Students have a number of starting points to choose from, which they then develop according to their interests and creative strengths.

Art is assessed:

60% coursework

40% terminal examination

Who would this course suit?

It is vital to have an interest in art, craft & design. Although an ability to draw is important, you will have plenty of opportunity to improve and develop your observational skills. Given that you will have the chance to use a wide variety of materials it is good for students to have an open mind and to explore ideas in a number of ways. As coursework is worth 60% of the total grade, it is important that students have a mature attitude and are willing to work hard. There is an element of critical analysis worth 25% of the marks, so a good understanding of English language would be of benefit to students.

What can you do with this qualification?

Students who are successful on this course can further their study at 16+ by studying Art at AS and A level, or vocational qualifications at college. The range of careers available in the creative sector is vast, one of the largest nationally. The skills gained are transferrable and the ability to think divergently, independently and creatively is a skill valued by employers, colleges and universities, irrespective of the area of further study undertaken.

Course Details:

Exam board: OCR

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mrs J Lawson or Mrs F Norman

Course Title: GCSE Business Studies

About this course / Why choose this course?

Business Studies is concerned with the business aspects of organisations within their economic, political and social contexts. It involves investigating how enterprise adds value by organising the production of goods and services. Using case studies, students have experience of the real world of business. The use of case study also requires students to use a variety of methods to analyse and evaluate evidence and to make reasoned judgements in the context of real scenarios.

Who would this course suit?

Suitable for those who wish to gain further knowledge in this subject. There is a lot of independent coursework involved so this means you need to have a mature attitude towards your work, demonstrating an ability to plan and meet deadlines.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This course is studied three periods a week. The areas that you will be studying are:

- Marketing and promotion
- Investigating different businesses
- Investigating different business sectors
- Aims and objectives of different businesses
- Functional areas of businesses
- Understanding business
- Team leadership

The course is assessed by two examinations and one piece of coursework.

What can you do with this qualification?

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to enter the workplace or progress to A level Business Studies.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr A Barnes

Course Title: GCSE Drama

About this course / Why choose this course?

The aim of the course is to introduce you to the basics of theatre craft and performance. You will gain an understanding of what is dramatically effective and how to convey meaning on stage.

If you are interested in Drama and performance, or if you are looking to gain in confidence and communication skills, then this is an option for you. From the start of the course you are challenged in all areas of performance and are expected to be able to discuss ideas and interpret what you see on stage. You will be taken to see professional pieces of theatre which will improve your understanding of the subject at work and provide you with ideas for your own drama. It is a very exciting course, full of opportunities to explore complex ideas and to learn how to communicate meaning through drama.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Component 1: Devising

Coursework 40% – 60 marks

- Student will create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus
- Performance of this devised piece.
- Portfolio – Students will analyse and evaluate the devising process & performance.

Component 2: Performance from Text

Coursework 20% – 48 marks

- Students will either perform two key extracts from a performance text. (Monologue/Duologue and a Group piece)

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Written examination: 40% – 60 marks 1 hour 30 minutes

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.
- Live theatre evaluation.

Who would this course suit?

- You will need to have focus and concentration.
- You will need to perform in front of audiences.
- You will need good speaking and listening skills.
- You will need to be imaginative.
- You will need to be willing to take risks.
- You will need the ability to laugh at yourself.

What can you do with this qualification?

Students can further their study Post 16 by studying Drama and Theatre at A level, or through vocational qualifications at college. The skills gained are transferrable and the ability to think independently and creatively is a skill appreciated by employers and universities, irrespective of the area of further study undertaken.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel
Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Miss Burrough

Course Title: Level 2 Award in Child Development and Care

About this course / Why choose this course?

This qualification provides the opportunity to gain a vocational qualification that gives a basic introduction to the Child Care sector. It has been designed to meet the needs of learners from the age of 14 years. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. It is aimed at a range of learners who wish to be introduced to childcare and development for children aged 0-5 years. It also gives learners an insight into their preferred learning styles and assists in developing their ability to study.

We study units such as: health and hygiene in children, food and diet, growth and development of children, first aid, study skills, child care settings and working with children age 0-5.

Who would this course suit?

Anyone who wishes to pursue a career in Child Care or a student on the Red Pathway.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This qualification consists of three units: two graded A*- D assessed by a graded Assessment Task; and a Synoptic Assessment unit which is assessed via a Multiple Choice Paper. The Award is graded from A* to D.

Learners must achieve three units:

Units 1 and 2

Guided Learning Hours: 120

Unit 3

Multiple Choice Question Paper.

Guided Learning Hours: 5

What can you do with this qualification?

Pursue a career in Child Care or continue studies in Child Care.

Course Details:

Exam board: NCFE CACHE

For further information speak to:
Mrs Davies and Miss Franklin

Course Title: BTEC Music

About this course / Why choose this course?

The BTEC Music qualification is designed to inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in the music industry, rather than to participate in music only recreationally; give learners the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the music industry, e.g. the live sound industry, solo or group professional performance, or music promotion and publishing; support progression to a more specialised Level 3 vocational or academic music course or an apprenticeship; give learners the potential opportunity to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the music industry.

Who would this course suit?

Students who:

- Enjoy music
- Can play a musical instrument to a grade3 level (see Mr Willson about this if you are unsure)
- Are creative
- Are interested in the music industry and how music is created

How is this course taught and assessed?

Unit 1: The Music Industry – which provides an overview of the industry, particularly focusing on the shape of the modern industry and covering the emergence of the role of the self-employed producer, performer and promoter. (externally assessed exam – 25%)

Unit 2: Managing a Music Product – This unit looks at creating a music product. This could be the creation of a concert, album or anything music related! Then students actually create it! As well as providing a vehicle for demonstrating skills and learning, it also introduces the role of planning and promotion in the management of a music product. (internally assessed – 25%)

The teacher then chooses two units from the list below. Internally assessed, each 25%.

Exploring Live Sound / Music Performance / Music Composition / Music Recording / Music Sequencing.

What can you do with this qualification?

This qualification, like GCSE music can progress to studying A level music/ music technology, a college BTEC Level 3 and then on to a university degree in music/music technology.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

Value: Equivalent to one GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr M Willson

Course Title: BTEC in Travel and Tourism

About this course / Why choose this course?

Do you want to know how to organise a holiday or a trip to somewhere you have always wanted to visit. The BTEC Travel and Tourism course will teach you many life skills for using your leisure time when you leave school. It has many overlaps with Business Studies and Geography. Tourism is a fast growing, worldwide industry with many career and job opportunities, as well as serving people when they travel either on business or for pleasure. If you are interested in a career in the travel and tourism industry, this would be an extremely good qualification to hold.

You will learn vital skills for life such as calculating how much a holiday will cost, how to travel to destinations both in the UK and abroad and which services to use when searching for a holiday.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The units we study are: The UK Travel and Tourism Sector, UK Travel and Tourism destinations, Factors affecting World Travel and Tourism, International Travel and Tourism Destinations.

Assessment is via one exam for the UK Travel and Tourism sector unit and coursework assignments for the remaining three units. Coursework is continuous throughout the course, you will have to work hard and keep to deadlines.

Who would this course suit?

As the course is 75% continuous assessment you must have very good attendance. The decision on who is suited to this course will be made by using the option interview process and discussions with the Humanities staff with the aim of giving pupils the best chance of achieving their potential. There is a large emphasis on the use of ICT with internet research and presenting information using Powerpoint and Publisher.

The BTEC Level 1-2 First Certificate in Travel and Tourism is a SINGLE OPTION course that is equivalent to ONE GCSE at Grades C.

This course will teach you skills in business, reading and presenting information in many forms (graphs, tables, maps, diagrams, ICT and photos).

What can you do with this qualification?

Successful completion of BTEC First Certificate in Travel and Tourism will allow you to progress onto the Diploma course at a 16-19 Further Education College. This qualification provides a route to employment as an Outdoor Pursuits Instructor, Fitness Instructor, Events Organiser, Travel Consultant, Air Cabin Crew, Tour Operator, Resort Representative, Leisure Centre Assistant, Hotel Manager.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

Value: First Certificate equivalent to 1x GCSE Grade C

For further information speak to:

Mr M Phillips

Course Title: GCSE Media Studies

About this course / Why choose this course?

This GCSE offers students the chance to develop the skills necessary to analyse media texts, understand who produces them and how, explore issues of media ownership and appreciate how new technologies are changing the way in which we watch and receive the media.

During the two year course you will experience a range of media concepts and study aspects of television sitcoms, magazines, news broadcasts (in newspapers, on television, radio, and the Internet) and advertising on television, in the cinema and in print.

The core concepts taught are:

1. Media language
2. Media representations
3. Media industries
4. Media audiences

How is this course taught and assessed?

70% examination: 2 x 1 hour 30 minute examinations

30% Non-Exam Assessment: students have a choice of topics related to the over-arching (annually changing) theme. Students will produce a statement of intent and a media product for an intended audience.

Who would this course suit?

This is quite an intensive course with several aspects to it. Pupils will need to have a strong grasp of English as a large part of the subject involves analysing and evaluating pieces of media text. There is also a creative element where pupils will plan and design their work and then create what they have studied on a computer. This means that they will need to have an understanding of ICT, especially of Publisher and PowerPoint.

What can you do with this qualification?

The media is an important part of our everyday lives and in order to use and access it fully we need to be media literate. Pupils who want to work in any part of the media industry will find this GCSE invaluable.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr P Fox Goddard

Course Title: GCSE Triple Award Science

About this course / Why choose this course?

This route through Key Stage 4 Science leads to three separate awards in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It offers greater breadth and depth of study for those aspiring to follow a career in Medicine/Dentistry or related disciplines.

Who would this course suit?

This course is aimed at students who are currently working at Grade 6 and above, and who show the potential to achieve the higher grades (7 - 9) at GCSE. The final decision on who is best suited to this course will be made by the Science department, with the aim of giving students the best chance of achieving their potential.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Each of the three subjects is taught by a subject specialist, which means that you will have three Science teachers throughout the two-year course - one each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Each subject is assessed by two 1 hour 45 minute written papers, containing multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. This assessment is linear and is carried out at the end of the two years so in total you will have 6 x 1 hour 45 minute examinations for your three science disciplines as part of your Year 11 examinations. For each of the Sciences the two papers account for 100% of your final grade. You will also carry out a series of 'required' practical sessions throughout each GCSE which is common to all specifications at GCSE. Although not individually assessed, this essential component sits right at the heart of Science and is aimed at developing practical scientists of the future. Questions can however, relate to the practical work in the written examination. There is no coursework.

Although not individually assessed, questions relating to the practical work will contribute to 15% of the total marks in the written examinations. Additionally, at least 20% of the total marks will be based upon mathematical skills. There is no coursework.

What can you do with this qualification?

This 'Triple Science' route through Key Stage 4 Science allows you to study each of the three Sciences in detail, and will enable you to progress to AS and A level courses in any or all three of the Science subjects.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 3 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr T Quinn

Course Title: GCSE Physical Education

About this course / Why choose this course?

The GCSE PE qualification is a linear qualification meaning you will sit all your exams and submit all your practical assessment at the end of the course. GCSE PE has become more academic and much of the new material has been taken from the first year of the old A Level PE course. Units covered include: 1. Applied anatomy and physiology, 2. Movement analysis, 3. Physical training, 4. Use of data, 5. Sports psychology, 6. Socio-cultural influences, 7. Health, fitness and well-being. Within the new GCSE PE 60% of the marks are now based on theory whilst 40% will be based on your competence in performing at three different sports.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The theory aspect of the course will be assessed by two written examinations at the end of Year 11 each lasting 1 ¼ hours. Within these two examinations there will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended answer questions. During the course you will have four lessons of PE per week. Two of these will be theory and two of these will focus on practical.

An analysis of performance module will also count towards your final practical grade. The anatomy and physiology unit will be taught within a practical setting where students will be given opportunities to work independently and apply knowledge to sporting situations. The practical activity list on the new GCSE PE is limited and pupils will be assessed in individual sports like athletics, trampolining and table tennis as well as team sports like lacrosse, handball and football.

Who would this course suit?

This course is aimed at students who have a strong academic ability purely because aspects of A Level PE have been put into the course and the theory weighting of the course now overshadows the practical. On top of this you would be required to show competence as a performer in three sporting activities. All students who have selected the GCSE PE and BTEC Sport/Leadership option will undertake some academic and practical assessment and the PE Department will decide which option you will be best suited to.

What can you do with this qualification?

Some of the career opportunities this award could lead to are: the Armed Forces, Sports Assistant, Pool Lifeguard or Gym/Fitness Assistant. The course also leads on to AS/A Level PE, the BTEC Level 3 National Certificate and National Diploma delivered at SWRA.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr K Symmons, Mr D Quincey or Mrs K Davison

Course Title: BTEC Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport or BTEC Level 1 / 2 (Sports Leadership)

About this course / Why choose this course?

BTEC Sport is undergoing some changes in units which can be studied. Currently students take the BTEC First Award in Sport however there is the possibility that students will undertake the BTEC Level 1 / 2 course in Sports Leadership. Both courses will prepare students for a career in a sporting environment. All units must be covered in order to obtain the full award, which is the equivalent to a GCSE.

BTEC Sport is 75% course work with one unit, fitness for sport and exercise, being assessed through an online exam. The other core unit covered is practical sports performance and the two specialist units, which make up the other 50% of the course, are training for personal fitness and leading sports activities.

BTEC Sports Leadership has four areas of equal importance: development of the skills required to lead sports activities; processes that underpin effective ways of working in sports leadership such as planning and leading an individual or team sporting activity session; attitudes that are considered most important in sports leadership, including personal management, communication and problem-solving skills; knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in sports leadership such as roles, responsibilities and leadership styles.

How is this course taught and assessed?

These courses will be taught, using a variety of methods including: classroom based study, practical work, oral presentations and project work. Depending on the BTEC course undertaken, units are usually assessed through coursework, practical assessments and an online examination.

Who would this course suit?

These vocational sports courses are aimed at all students who are interested in a career in the sporting industry. You will need to be able to work independently on written assignments and possess the ability to work with others as well as part of a team. You will need to keep up to date with all assessments and be prepared to give presentations to the group. Both courses will have an externally assessed unit, BTEC Sport an online examination whilst BTEC Leadership has a practically lead leadership activity.

The decision on who is best suited to this course will be made by the PE department, with the aim of giving students the best chance of achieving their potential grades.

What can you do with this qualification?

Some of the career opportunities this award could lead to are: the Armed Forces, Sports Assistant, Pool Lifeguard or Gym/Fitness Assistant. The course also leads on to AS/A Level PE, the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate and Extended Diploma delivered at SWRA.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

For further information speak to:

Mr D Costello or Mrs K Davison

Course Title: Level 1/2 Technical Award – Materials Technology (replacing GCSE Resistant Materials)

About this course / Why choose this course?

Level 1/2 Technical Awards are ideally suited to students with a preference for practical, rather than theoretical learning. It is tailored towards specific career areas and has a focus on creativity. This vocational qualification fulfils entry requirements for academic and vocational study post-16, and will count as equivalent to one GCSE in the Key Stage 4 performance tables.

14-16 year olds who want to study materials in a practical way and understand the working properties of woods, metals and polymers will really enjoy this course. It will enable students to work in a hands-on way to develop the core skills to make high-quality products using woods, metals and polymers. Students will have the opportunity to use traditional skills and also modern technologies. This Technical Award in Materials Technology will help students develop the knowledge, skills and experience and could potentially open the door to a career in related industries.

Who would this course suit?

This Level 1/2 Technical Award in Materials Technology gives students a whole host of easily transferable skills. They include: Developing a wide range of practical making skills including using hand tools for cutting or shaping, casting or moulding, and using joining and finishing techniques in a range of materials.

Students will also develop an understanding of commercial processes and an in-depth knowledge of materials and their properties. Additionally students will gain transferable skills such as communication and teamwork that will benefit them in the workplace.

Please note:

This qualification is currently awaiting accreditation by the Department for Education (DfE). Should it not be accredited in time for first teaching in September 2017, students will follow the alternative Edexcel GCSE Design & Technology course, with particular focus on Resistant Materials.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Students complete three mandatory units across 120 guided learning hours.

Unit 1: Skills demonstration (Course work: internally assessed) 30%

Students will carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate their competence in the 12 core skills. This will include the transferable skill of teamwork. They 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 (Course work: internally assessed) 30%

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

Unit 3: Fundamentals of Materials Technology (Exam: externally assessed) 40%

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 can you do with this qualification?

Upon completion, students can progress to Technical Certificates and other Level 3 vocational qualifications such as NVQ Carpentry or Manufacturing and Production and A-level Design and Technology: Product Design.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA Value: This qualification fulfils entry requirements for academic and vocational study post-16, and will count as **equivalent to one GCSE** in the Key Stage 4 performance tables.

For further information speak to:

Mrs V L Elwell

Course Title: Level 1/2 Technical Award – Visual Communication (replacing GCSE Graphics)

About this course / Why choose this course?

The AQA Level 1/2 Technical Award in Visual Communication is purposeful, as well as being fun and exciting! The qualification is designed for students who want to study the subject in a hands-on, practical way that helps you develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required to use a variety of materials in an imaginative way, in the context of marketing and promotion. The course will enable you to demonstrate your practical skills and experience in a similar way to those developing promotional materials in industry. You will develop a wide range of making skills incorporating drawing and sketching in 2D and 3D, using digital software, image capture and manipulation. You will produce a variety of products, prototypes and samples using traditional skills and modern technologies, applying technical and practical expertise to ensure they are fit for purpose. You will develop an understanding of commercial processes and an in-depth knowledge of graphic based materials and their properties. You will have the opportunity to advance decision-making skills through both independent learning and teamwork, and will expand your understanding of the visual communication sectors and possible careers within the industry. Students on this course will enjoy, and benefit hugely, from extra-curricular visits and educational workshops. These opportunities will play a significant role in furthering your knowledge of the Visual Communication; they will encourage you to build a broad foundation in the principles of the subject through understanding, and enable you to begin to fully understand products within authentic real-world contexts.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This qualification is modular and is split into three units. One is an externally assessed exam and the other two are internally assessed.

Unit 1: Skills demonstration

72 marks – 30% of overall qualification – Internally assessed

Unit 2: Extended making project

72 marks – 30% of overall qualification – Internally assessed

Unit 3: Fundamentals of visual communication

96 marks – 40% of overall qualification – Externally assessed

Written exam 1hour 30 minutes

Section A – 20 multiple choice questions – 20 marks

Section B – Mixture of short/extended response questions – 76 marks

Who would this course suit?

The course is ideally suited to learners with a preference for practical, rather than theoretical learning, and a desire for greater focus on creativity.

Alongside a passion for the subject, you will need a good imagination, an eye for colour and the ability to present ideas clearly. Your drawing, ICT and written skills will need to be of a good standard in order to design and make quality products for this course. A strong sense of curiosity, logic, self-motivation, inventiveness, enthusiasm and a capacity for hard work are also traits of a successful designer.

Please note:

This qualification is currently awaiting accreditation by the Department for Education (DfE). Should it not be accredited in time for first teaching in September 2017, students will follow the alternative Edexcel GCSE Design & Technology course, with particular focus on Graphics.

What can you do with this qualification?

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Visual Communication gives you a whole host of easily transferrable skills, and opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other fields. Whatever career you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn will be extremely valuable. You will develop skills in communication, teamwork and time management, all of which are highly prized by employers. This course complements a variety of GCSE and vocational qualifications, and provides a sound foundation for progression to A Level Design and Technology: Product Design.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

For further information speak to:

Mrs C Davie

Course Title: GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

About this course / Why choose this course?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will benefit anyone with an interest in food preparation, cooking, nutrition, processes and techniques. It is ideal as a base for further study in this area or for those who may wish to go directly into employment. This is a new course which replaces the old courses of Home Economics: Food and Nutrition, Food Technology and Catering.

Who would this course suit?

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Course is suitable for any pupil who has a genuine interest in food and cooking. You will need a mature attitude and a commitment to providing ingredients for the practical lessons. The course requires pupils to prepare, cook and present food showing skill and accuracy. It would, therefore, benefit pupils to have already demonstrated some of these skills during KS3.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This two year course is taught over three periods during Year 10 and two periods during Year 11.

The areas you will be studying are:

- Nutrition
- Food provenance and food choice
- Cooking and food preparation
- Preparation and cooking techniques

The course comprises of three units and is assessed as follows:

Task 1: Food Investigation worth 15% (approximately 10 hours)

Task 2: Food Preparation Task worth 35% (approximately 20 hours)

Examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes worth 50%

What can you do with this qualification?

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition qualification is suitable for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress on to further education. It will offer valuable preparation for those entering the world of work. Possible areas of employment include: Chef, Food Technologist, Nutritionist, Product Development, Hotel work and the Hospitality Industry.

Course Details:

Exam board: OCR

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mrs T Tyrrell

Course Title: GCSE Computing

About this course / Why choose this course?

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself (and as an 'underpinning' subject across Science and Engineering) is growing rapidly.

Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Students studying this course will:

- develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work, applying this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts;
- acquire and apply knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming;
- use their knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become independent and discerning users of ICT;
- develop computer programs to solve problems;

40% Computer Systems

40% Computational thinking and programming

20% Programming Project

Who would this course suit?

The course is suitable for any student who is interested in Computer Technology and programming, or thinking about a career in the computer industry. The course has a great deal of academic rigour particularly in the study of algorithms and binary coding. A sound grasp of Mathematics is required.

What can you do with this qualification?

Successful completion of this course can lead to Level 3 courses in ICT at colleges. Alternatively, it can lead to A level Computer Science courses at sixth form.

Course Details:

Exam board: OCR

Value: 1 x GCSE (Grade 1 to 9)

For further information speak to:

Mr A Barnes





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