Key Stage 4

Subject Selection 2019

Information Booklet

Achievement Care Excellence
CHECKLIST—THINK!

Choose subjects that you enjoy and you can be successful in. Don't follow friends.

Consider which courses you might like to follow in sixth form, and make sure that you take the necessary GCSEs.

Try to look ahead long term; what you choose should provide the balance of subjects for the career you'd like.

Choose because you like the subject, not just because you like the teacher.

Talk to your parents, your form tutor, and your teacher.
Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

**Year Courses and Options 2019—2022 (Level 2 qualifications)**

Throughout the first two years of their secondary education your son/daughter has received a broad and balanced curriculum following the national curriculum guidelines. It is now time to prepare for new courses in Years 9, 10 and 11 which will lead to level 2 qualifications and public examinations in GCSE and equivalent courses. All students will take a set of core subjects following national guidelines in English, Mathematics, Science, PE and RE. In addition, some students will also be expected to study a Modern Language and either History or Geography in order to qualify for the new English Baccalaureate.

This booklet provides details of the subjects available to our students in Years 9, 10 and 11 together with the subject selection process and timescale for choices to be made. We want each student to choose wisely, having considered his or her own aptitudes and abilities, and hope that parents/carers will be able to support their children in making these important educational decisions.

We recommend that families consider what lies beyond KS4 when making choices. Most of our students will progress to post-16 education and follow A level and equivalent subjects. Others will wish to move to work-based learning at 16 so it is important to plan ahead when making choices for Year 9. To help with this process we will guide students along one of three pathways, according to their current performance at school, and what they are capable of, to ensure they are stretched and challenged but also able to cope with the demands of Level 2 courses.

This booklet is one part of the process and we have arranged opportunities for students and parents to meet with individual teachers. Mr Johnston will oversee the overall process and help students arrive at the final option choices.

This is a crucial period for your child and I cannot stress too strongly the importance of the decisions being made. The subject choices form must be returned no later than 8th March and confirmation of choices will be made later in the term.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Ced de la Croix**
Headteacher
Dear Students,

Further on in this booklet, we have provided guidance to help you make your options by highlighting three types of pathways. These are here simply to guide you as to which types of Level 2 courses suit you best, depending on how you like to learn.

You will be aware of the recent changes to the GCSE exams including how these are graded (9-1 rather than A*-C). However, you are not alone in these changes; all students across the country are facing the same demands and you are very well placed to approach the GCSE years positively. With a strong attitude to learning, including independent study skills and an open mind, you can achieve more than you ever thought possible.

The option to achieve the English Baccalaureate is one you should consider, especially if you plan for a professional career or go on to University. To achieve this qualification you will need to achieve a Grade 9—5 in GCSE English Language and Maths, two Sciences, a language and either History or Geography. This demonstrates to future employers, apprenticeship providers, or colleges/ universities that you have the ability to study a strong academic curriculum.

It is important that you choose subjects which you will enjoy and which you will be successful in. You all have different strengths, interests and learning styles. I must also stress that we cannot guarantee your preferred choices as we can only run courses if there is sufficient interest and it is for this reason we have asked you to give very careful consideration to your reserve choices as well.

As ever, there is plenty of help on hand at school. Do discuss things with us and please let us know where you need help. It is so important that you make the right choices at this critical stage of your education.

Once you have made your selection, I will meet with you to finalise your courses for Year 9 this will also give you a final opportunity to talk through your subjects and how they will help you in the future!

Good luck with your decisions.

Yours sincerely

Mr Tom Johnston
Deputy Headteacher
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Are you prepared? : Diary Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Year 9 Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Key Stage 4 Pathways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>GCSE Reforms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>How Can Parents Help?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Core Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>GCSE English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>GCSE Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>GCSE Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>GCSE &amp; BTEC Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>GCSE Religious Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Extended Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>GCSE Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>GCSE History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>GCSE Modern Languages (French and Spanish)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Selected Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>GCSE Art and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>GCSE Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>GCSE Design and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>GCSE Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>GCSE Food Preparation &amp; Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>GCSE Media Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>GCSE Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>GCSE Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>GCSE Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autumn Term</td>
<td>Assemblies from Mr Johnston and subject leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th January</td>
<td>Options Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th January</td>
<td>First Thoughts about Options submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-8th February</td>
<td>Options Interviews with Mr Johnston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th March</td>
<td>Progress Reports released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>Parental Consultation Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th March</td>
<td><strong>Options Deadline</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th May</td>
<td>End of Year Exams start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of May/ early June</td>
<td>Final options confirmed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PATHWAY A: English Baccalaureate (EBACC)
You will be working towards the English Baccalaureate and will select a Modern Language and a Humanities subject (History or Geography) as one of your subject choices.

You will be challenging yourself and you will need to be organised and work well independently at times during your GCSE courses.

This route is aimed at students who are aiming for Sixth Form and university or degree level apprenticeships aiming towards a professional career, although there is no reason why you can’t follow this pathway if you have different aspirations.

PATHWAY B: Progress
This pathway is very similar to Pathway A, the only difference being that we ask you to choose one subject from: French, Spanish, History or Geography. Your other two subjects are up to you so that you can choose the academic route OR choose to follow particular interests and talents. You will not receive the English Baccalaureate if you choose this pathway.

If you choose your subjects wisely, this pathway will prepare you for a variety of futures, including A Levels in Sixth Form and apprenticeships.

PATHWAY C: Personalised
A small number of students will need a slightly more personalised curriculum at KS4 in order for them to enjoy and achieve.

If this applies to you, we will let you know.

Just like Pathway B, this pathway prepares you for a wide range of routes beyond GCSE including Sixth Form, college and apprenticeships.
## KS4 Pathways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway A</th>
<th>Pathway B</th>
<th>Pathway C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What will I study?</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Personalised pathway.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths (1 GCSE)</td>
<td>Maths (1 GCSE)</td>
<td>We will recommend this pathways to you if we think this will help you to enjoy and achieve at KS4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (2 GCSEs)</td>
<td>English (2 GCSEs)</td>
<td>It will include the core subjects, English, Maths and Science.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (2 – 3 GCSEs)</td>
<td>Science (2—3 GCSEs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE (1 GCSE)</td>
<td>RE (1 GCSE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French or Spanish plus History or Geography</td>
<td>French, Spanish, Geography, OR History (1 GCSE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ONE other subject (which may include subjects not selected above)</strong></td>
<td><strong>TWO other subjects (which may include subjects not selected above)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9—10 GCSEs / BTECs</td>
<td>Up to 9 GCSEs / BTECs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post 16 Opportunities</strong></td>
<td>RBA Sixth Form (A Levels)</td>
<td>Sixth Form or College (A Levels / L3 BTECs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University (Russell Group) Degree Apprenticeships</td>
<td>University, Degree Apprenticeship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>University, HE College, Apprenticeships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership Opportunities</strong></td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Sports Leaders’ UK Award JLT Year 7 Mentoring Year 11 Prefect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The best way to predict your future, is to create it

*Abraham Lincoln*
GCSE Reforms

Year 9 Students will be amongst the first groups of students to study the new GCSE qualifications. You may be aware that there is a change in the grading of all GCSE subjects; the old A* – G grading system has been replaced with a new 9 point scale, 1 being the lowest and 9 being the highest. This means the grading has moved from an 8 point system to a 9 point system allowing greater stretch and challenge for gifted pupils. Below is an approximate conversion scale.

A grade 5 (a high C) will be considered to be a ‘good’ pass by colleges, sixth forms and many employers. Students who achieve a grade 4 or below in English or Maths will need to retake these at sixth form or college.

Grading the GCSEs - Progress
Students’ performance will be measured across eight subjects, including Maths and English and three ‘facilitating’ subjects (Sciences, Humanities, Languages and Computing).

As well as their individual grades, they will receive an average grade and a progress grade which will measure the progress they have made since primary school.

The New GCSEs
The new GCSEs will include more demanding content which has been developed by the government and exam boards. RBA students have risen to this challenge and we are confident that Year 9 next year will be no different!

Assessment will be mainly by exams taken at the end of two years; some practical subjects will also include other types of assessment to test practical skills.
What can I do to help as a parent?

SHARE AND DISCUSS

As much as the choices are for the student, it is essential that they discuss their decisions with you and as many other people as possible. It is important that students are encouraged to take subjects which they enjoy and which they will be successful in. Whilst it is good to consider choices in relation to future careers, it shouldn’t dictate every decision at this stage.

If students have a very firm idea of what they would like to do, it is worth them researching careers and university courses—sometimes what they think they need is not essential—for example, business studies will teach you a lot about the world and how businesses operate, but you don’t necessarily need the subject to run your own business or even study the subject at University.

Students will be given PLCs (Personal Learning Checklists) by their teachers, these will list the different topics, knowledge and skills needed to be successful. Talk about these at home, and check students are using them to revise for exams.

EQUIPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Apart from helping to guide your child to make the right choice, you can ensure that they have the necessary equipment for Years 10 and 11. This will include:

- A calculator
- Revision books to work from at home. Speak to the individual teachers to find out which ones you should purchase.
- Access to broadband and the internet at home—if this is not possible, students can use the facilities in the school library at lunch, break and in after school homework club.

Aside from providing the necessary equipment, ensuring that they have a suitable, quiet, learning environment at home, where they can study without disruptions, is vital.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.edexcel.org.uk (exam board)
www.aqa.org.uk (exam board)
www.ocr.org.uk (exam board)
www.wjec.co.uk (exam board)
www.channelmogo.org (Careers)
www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org (Careers)
www.ucas.com (University application site—gives you specific information about post 18 courses)
Subject
Information
What qualification will I gain in English?

English is compulsory for all students in Key Stage 4 and you will achieve up to two GCSEs. All students will take a GCSE in English Language and some will also take a GCSE in English Literature.

A 4-5 grade in English Language is an entry requirement for sixth form, most higher level courses and sought after by many employers. Both GCSEs are excellent preparation for A Level English Literature. The skills you learn in English will help you to be successful in all your GCSEs, A Levels and other qualifications.

We advise students to purchase their own copies of the texts studied.

What Will I Learn?

You will develop and build on the English skills you have learned in Key Stage 3. The GCSE course will be a combination of creative writing and work based on published texts—these will include prose, poetry and plays including Shakespeare.

How will I be assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What qualification will I gain in Maths?

Maths is compulsory for all students in Key Stage 4. All students study for and achieve a GCSE in Mathematics.

A 9-4 grade in Maths is an entry requirement for sixth form, most higher level courses and sought after by many employers. The GCSE is excellent preparation for Maths A Level courses. The skills you learn in maths will be used in many of your other subjects in particular Sciences, Business Studies and ICT.

What Will I Learn?

The course covers aspects of Using and Applying Mathematics, Number and Algebra, Shape, Space and Measures, and Handling Data. In the exam, you will be demonstrating your skills of mathematical reasoning and use of statistical methods, as well as communicating mathematically using algebra and numeracy skills.

How will I be assessed?

Maths is assessed entirely by examination. You will sit three exams—a non-calculator paper and two calculator papers.

We advise students to purchase a Revision Guide and Practice Book, as a home support resource, early on in the course.
What will I learn?
All science courses cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The exciting developments in these courses provide student-centred lessons with the emphasis on how Science affects us all.

Aspects of the courses will be developed through studies of Science in the media, medicine and in business as well as in everyday life.

Students will also complete a range of core practical experiments across all three sciences and produce laboratory reports on these. In addition students will also be expected to demonstrate and apply mathematical skills.

What qualification will I gain in Science?
Science is compulsory for all students in Key Stage 4 and you will achieve a combined grade for two GCSEs.

If you excel in Science, there will be the opportunity to take three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Science department will advise you on your suitability for this.

How will I be assessed?

Combined Science
Students will be assessed entirely through examination. They will sit 6, 1 hour 15 minute exams (2 for each of the different Sciences) where knowledge and application of processes and concepts will be assessed as well as mathematical and core practical skills.

Separate Science
Students will be assessed entirely through examination. They will sit 6, 1 hour 45 minute exams (2 for each of the different Sciences) where knowledge and application of processes and concepts will be assessed as well as mathematical and core practical skills.
What Qualification will I gain in PE?
PE is a compulsory subject in Key stage 4 and all students will work towards a BTEC First Award in Sport. A few students may follow an alternative course such as the Sports Leaders Award. The First Award in Sport is a nationally recognised qualifications and will support applications for college, university and employment. Your PE teacher will help you decide which of these courses will be most suitable for you. This process will take place towards the end of Year 9.

What Will I Learn?
BTEC Sport builds upon the knowledge, skills and understanding you have developed during Key Stage 3. It provides opportunities for you to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in later life. It will involve a mixture of practical work and theory covering different sports.

Among the topics you will study in both courses are: Exercise and how training can improve performance, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, sports psychology, leading sports activities.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>External Assessment</th>
<th>Coursework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BTEC Online Assessment: 25%</td>
<td>Coursework: 75%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Practical Sports Assessment (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Two specialist units (25% each)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What qualification will I gain in Religious Studies?
RE is compulsory for all students in Key Stage 4. Students begin their study in Year 9 and will complete the exam at the end of Year 10. Religious Studies is a two year GCSE course which is examined by AQA Specification A.

What Will I Learn?
You will develop skills in logical thinking, critical evaluation, literacy, negotiating, organising, planning, problem solving, research and understanding of key concepts and issues. These skills are fundamental for our modern multicultural society and the exam helps students apply this knowledge to a variety of interesting ethical situations, such as marriage and the death penalty.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Paper 1</th>
<th>Paper 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written paper—50% of GCSE</td>
<td>Written paper—50% of GCSE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 hour 45 minutes</td>
<td>1 hour 45 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christianity &amp; Buddhism</td>
<td>Themes— Study of religious ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students study in depth beliefs, teachings and practises of 2 faiths. Pupils will be expected to show understanding of and evaluate different religious perspectives.</td>
<td>• Religion &amp; Families</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Relationships &amp; Life</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Crime &amp; Punishment</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Religion, Human Rights &amp; Social Justice</td>
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</table>
Why Choose This Subject?
Geography has always been a popular option and many students go on to study the subject at A Level and University. For all students it provides the opportunity to study a fascinating, widely varied subject:

- Geography will help develop and improve your understanding of the world around you.
- Geography allows you to find out about different people and cultures around the world.
- You will develop a range of key skills needed in the workplace.
- You will understand how the world’s natural forces work, and their impact
- Geography is the second most employable subject after Maths.

*Geography is going places!*

What Will I Learn?
The course consists of six major themes and covers both human and physical geography.

During your three years, you will learn about; River, Coasts, Hazards, Climate Change, Ecosystems including rainforests and deserts, urbanisation, development and resources, which includes energy.

These are covered by a looking at a variety of case studies and examples, from all over the world.

How Will I Learn?
The GCSE course builds on, and extends, lower school Geography. It develops ideas and skills from Key Stage 3 and opens up new areas of geographical investigation.

There are 2 day trips during the course and in year 10, you will have the opportunity to take part in an overseas trip.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1</th>
<th>35% of GCSE Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section A</td>
<td>Challenge of Natural Hazards</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 2</th>
<th>35% of GCSE Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section A</td>
<td>Urban Issues and Challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section B</td>
<td>The Changing Economic World</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 3</th>
<th>30% of GCSE Written examination 1 hour 15 minutes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section A</td>
<td>Pre-release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section B</td>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Section C | The Challenges of Resource Management |
| Physical Landscapes (Coasts and Rivers) | |

| Section C | The Challenges of Resource Management |
| Physical Landscapes (Coasts and Rivers) | |
Why Choose This Subject?
History develops your skills in thinking, reasoning and analysis. You will gain an understanding of significant historical events that have helped shape our lives and the world around us. The skills you are taught, such as debating, assessing reliability, making judgements and being able to explain yourself clearly can lead to A-Level History and can complement other subjects. Universities, higher education establishments and employers all recognise the value of a History qualification.

What Will I Learn?
You will develop your skills and knowledge by studying two British and two non-British topics:

Unit 1: Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and dictatorship
- How strong was democracy in Germany before 1933?
- Why did 6 million Germans vote for Hitler?
- Who were the winners and losers in Nazi Germany?

Unit 2: Conflict and tension, 1918-39
- Was the Treaty of Versailles fair?
- Why couldn’t the League of Nations keep international peace?
- Who or what was most responsible for the outbreak of WWII?

Unit 3: Britain: Health and the people, c.1000 to today
- Why didn’t medicine improve during the Middle Ages?
- Who made the greatest contribution to medicine since 1500?
- Why did life expectancy leap from 40 to 80 in the 20th century?

Unit 4: Norman England, c. 1066 - c. 1100
- How did William of Normandy conquer England 1066-70?
- In what ways did life change under Norman rule?
- Why was the church so important to the Normans?

How Will I Learn?
History is not just about writing! In your lessons, you will get the chance to discuss and debate key people, events and changes that happened in the past. You will also assess the reliability and usefulness of sources as well as analysing what historic buildings tell us about the people who built them.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1</th>
<th>50% of GCSE Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section A</td>
<td>Period Study Unit 1 – 25% Germany, 1890-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section B</td>
<td>World Depth Study Unit 2 – 25% Conflict and tension, 1918-39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 2</th>
<th>50% of GCSE Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section A</td>
<td>Thematic Study Unit 3 – 25% Britain: Health and the people, c. 1000 to today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section B</td>
<td>British Depth Study Unit 4 – 25% Norman England, c.1066-1100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Choose This Subject?

- Learn a different language to the one you use every day.
- Learn about a culture that is different to your own.
- Travel to France and Spain and use your language first hand.
- Experience the challenge of working with and understanding language.
- Learn about the music, films and literature of another country.
- Build on the knowledge you already have.
- Learn a skill that will be in high demand in years to come.

A GCSE in modern languages is excellent preparation for
- A Level language courses
- A variety of careers including tourism, banking, business, law

What Will I Learn?

You will learn how to communicate in French or Spanish, specifically focusing on the following topics:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national and international areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

How Will I Learn?

A GCSE in modern language combines the four elements of Listening, Speaking, Reading and writing.

During your lessons, you will develop your understanding of the language through each of these four disciplines including role play, presentations and written tasks. You will build up your vocabulary over the two years to develop your confidence when communicating in another language.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Listening 25%</th>
<th>Speaking 25%</th>
<th>Reading 25%</th>
<th>Writing 25%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Examination at the end of year 11</td>
<td>Controlled Assessment</td>
<td>Written Examination at the end of year 11</td>
<td>Written Examination at the end of year 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You must take either French or Spanish or Both to achieve the English Baccalaureate
**Why Choose This Subject?**

**GCSE Fine Art**: The exam board we use is AQA.

GCSE Art is a good basis for those students who wish to go on to study A Level Fine Art, A Level Photography or any art and design based qualifications.

All our students are encouraged to become independent learners; these skills are transferrable to other subjects and promote confidence in whatever career students choose to follow. There are numerous courses linked to the design world including graphic design, photography, printmaking, animation, film making, media, textiles, fashion design, architecture and, of course, fine art.

**What Will I Learn?**

**Art and Design – Fine Art**

Candidates should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more area(s) including drawing and painting, mixed media, sculpture, land art, installation, printmaking, lens-based and/or light-based media: film, television, animation, video and photography.

**How Will I Learn?**

You will learn to develop your creativity by exploring and experimenting with a range of 2D and 3D materials, techniques and processes. There will be a mixture of practical and theory based learning. You will create ideas throughout the three years, developing your own portfolio.

All Art students must be aware of the commitment needed to succeed in the course. You should be prepared to work in the after-school sessions in order to build your sketchbooks and portfolios. There is a public exhibition of the work created each summer for parents and students to attend.

**How Will I Be Assessed?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1—Coursework 60%</th>
<th>Unit 2—Exam 40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1: Portfolio of Work</td>
<td>Unit 2: Externally Set Task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled Assessment – set and marked by centre and moderated by AQA. 80 marks – 60%</td>
<td>Question papers issued from 1 January. Marked by centre and moderated by AQA. 80 marks – 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate portfolio selected from work undertaken during course of study and must include more than one project.</td>
<td>Unlimited preparation time. 10 hours of sustained focused study. Candidates respond to their chosen starting point.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You cannot study GCSE Art AND GCSE Photography
Why Choose This Subject?
GCSE Dance provides a route to further study in schools, further and higher education in Dance, Performing Arts or PE as well as vocational or professional training and community activities. This course provides excellent grounding for A Level Dance.

GCSE Dance helps to build students’ confidence and self-esteem. It increases the student’s creative skills and knowledge of Dance choreography.

What Will I Learn?
The new GCSE Dance specification offers 4 units; it allows students to actively and physically demonstrate their abilities through the controlled assessment which is worth 60% of the qualification.

The practical exam is worth 60%, and the written exam worth 40%. This course provides a solid foundation for a career in dance or performing arts and/or further studies in dance or performing arts, including A-level Dance.

How Will I Learn?
GCSE Dance is about developing skills, knowledge and understanding of dance and learning to become a choreographer, performer, and a critic.

You will be expected to perform, choreograph and appreciate dance in its wider spectrum. The course will enable you to use movement to express and communicate ideas and conceptions physically which makes it similar to and different from other art forms and physical activities.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component 1</th>
<th>Component 1</th>
<th>Component 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>Choreography</td>
<td>Dance Appreciation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Performance 30%
- Set phrases through a solo (1 minute) performance
- Duet/trio performance (3-5 minutes)
  - 40 marks

Choreography 30%
- Solo or group choreography
  - Solo—2-2½ minutes
  - Group -3-3½ minutes
  - 40 marks

Written exam 40%
- 1 hour 30 minutes
- Critical appreciation of own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works
- 80 marks
Why Choose This Subject?
Product Design is everywhere; everything you interact with that is made and sold is designed and created using technology, you can be part of that industry.

This GCSE will enable you to discover at much greater depth than ever before, what it is to be a Product Designer. Better yet, if play your cards right you may go on to be a designer like James Dyson, who is now worth £4.2 billion pounds, or Jonathan Ive who’s father was a D&T teacher, he is the Chief Designer at Apple.

What Will I Learn?
The NEW Design and Technology GCSE focuses on product design; the design process, technical knowledge of materials, systems and manufacturing methods. You will learn how to communicate ideas, how to model ideas, and how create innovative prototype products using many practical methods.

You will also learn how to use a range of tools and equipment, computer aided design and computer aided manufacture. Including our 3D printer and laser cutter, and you will study what makes various designers great at what they do and about many ways you can run a design business.

Finally you will learn how to problem solve, a desirable skill for employers no matter what career you peruse.

How Will I Learn?
During the course you will complete a number of projects designed to develop your skills in design and manufacture. Alongside these projects will be lessons to improve your knowledge of technology, design methods and manufacturing processes.

The projects that you do are more open than they used to be, that is to say that you have a lot more freedom to design and create whatever you want within a context.

Homework will also be set that enables you to develop your knowledge further and this is essential in preparing you for the exam at the end of Y11.

It is expected that you will work hard to ensure all your theory, practical and course-

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam — 50% of your GCSE</th>
<th>Coursework — 50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 hour written examination taken at the end of Year 11. You will need to revise for this exam and do all the homework to prepare for it.</td>
<td>Coursework project completed over 35 hours starting in June of Year 10. There is a lot of coursework but it can be done if you stick to the deadlines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Choose This Subject?

The aim of GCSE Drama is to simultaneously develop performance and social skills. This course provides an excellent grounding for AS Level Theatre Studies.

What Will I Learn?

**Comp. 1: Devising Drama**—You will explore the key principles and concepts of devising a piece of drama from stimulus material.

**Comp. 2: Presenting and Performing Texts**—You will explore texts and perform two sections to an examiner.

**Comp. 3: Performance and Response**—You will explore the roles of deviser, designer, director and performer for a set text within an exam.

How Will I Learn?

You will work with other students and develop an awareness of yourself and the world around you. Units of work are designed to give you opportunities to consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities.

You will learn how to display a range of movement and language skills in a performance context. You will study various play texts, use stimuli to devise drama and analyse live theatre performances in the form of critiques.

In addition, you will learn the knowledge and understanding of Drama Skills, Techniques and Explorative Strategies needed to produce high quality practical and written coursework.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comp 1—30%</th>
<th>Comp 2—30%</th>
<th>Comp 3—40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Devising Drama</td>
<td>Presenting and Performing Texts</td>
<td>Performance and Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filmed Performance with Portfolio Coursework</td>
<td>Practical assessment with Visiting Examiner, filmed.</td>
<td>Exam based on Set text and Live Theatre review.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Choose This Subject?

This is a new two year course. It is designed to extend and apply your skills and knowledge of the food industry and nutrition. You will gain experience through using a range of materials, processes, tools and equipment, practicing communication techniques, together with making and experimenting with different foods and equipment.

You will also have the chance to pass the C.I.E.H. Basic Food Hygiene Certificate.

What Will I Learn?

During the course you will undertake a wide range of practical skills, an understanding of nutrition, where food comes from, the science of food, food spoilage and food commodities.

As well as developing practical food skills, The theory will prepare you for your two assessments in year 11.

In assessment one you will investigate a food science experiment. In assessment two you will prepare, cook and present a menu (typically a three course meal with side dishes) in three hours. Whilst commenting on conflicting demands of moral, cultural, economic and related issues.

How Will I Learn?

Lessons will build on your current understanding of food technology and will be a mixture of practical and theory work. You will produce a written folder of coursework, participate in practical sessions and undertake experimental and research work.

You will work both in school and at home on controlled assessment work but the practical element must take place in school. You may have to purchase some ingredients in order to complete the work.

Throughout the course you will be encouraged to use computers, to enhance your work.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT 1 — 50%</th>
<th>Unit 2 — 50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Examination</td>
<td>Non-Examination Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hr 45 min written examination taken at the end of Year 11</td>
<td>Assessment 1 : 8 hours (15%)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Assessment 2 : 12 hours (including 3-hour practical) (35%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23
Why Choose This Subject?

Media Studies is a popular and successful subject. Media itself has many links to other GCSE subjects, yet it has its own unique character and its own way of doing things. Media studies is a very modern, relevant course with skills and learning that will benefit you in the future regardless of what direction you may want to take.

What Will I Learn?

The media is a very powerful and persuasive influence in every aspect of our lives. In Media Studies, we look at how and why texts are constructed and the effect they have on us. We provide you with everything you will need and teach you how to use it, so being very technical before the course is not necessary.

You will learn how to understand the media and how it works and how to analyse the way it is made. The main areas you will study on this course will be: advertising, magazines, film and television and how all of these areas are impacted upon by cross-media areas such as music, gaming and the web.

How Will I Learn?

We will provide you with a wide variety of practical learning opportunities which are essential in developing your skills in Media. Lessons are a combination of theory and practice with a strong emphasis on professional-type skills and qualities.

This course has a significant practical project element that will require you to engage in research, filming and editing using creative software programs such as Final Cut, Photoshop and ‘In Design’, on our iMAC computers.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework 60%</th>
<th>Examination 40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two individual projects on advertising, one on film promotion and one group project, where you can come up with a new TV show and shoot and edit a TV trailer to advertise the show or produce a music video</td>
<td>Pre-release case study, centred around a contemporary topic, such as Television Crime Drama, The Music Industry or Action Adventure films. The exam includes both written and creative challenges and you are given several weeks to prepare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Choose This Subject?
If you enjoy listening to, creating and performing music then this is the course for you. GCSE Music is also excellent preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for courses at 6th form level as well as other courses in the performing arts. It is also useful for careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching. Both academic universities and employers rate Music as it involves outstanding communication and expressive skills.

What Will I Learn?
You will learn about a wide variety of musical styles including: classical music, popular music, film music, musical theatre and musical fusion which combines influences from around the world. You will also study two set works in depth.

As well as covering Music at GCSE level, the course will enable you to develop wider skills such as ICT, group work, creative thinking as well as becoming more independent with your learning. All of these will be useful to you in whatever you do afterwards. In particular, GCSE Music offers opportunities to be involved in the wider aspects of the school life with access to performance and instrumental development opportunities throughout the course.

How Will I Learn?
GCSE Music is about the three main areas of music: theory, composition and performance. While the theory of music will be assessed in a set way at the end of the course, the way that you approach composition and performance will be generally led by you.

You will be encouraged to work to your strengths in both these areas with opportunities to use music technology, such as sequencers and recording software including GarageBand. It is expected that you will also have lessons on an instrument to develop your performance skills and take part in whole school performances throughout the course.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performing : 30%</th>
<th>Composition : 30%</th>
<th>Listening : 40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You will perform (play or sing) a minimum of two pieces which will be finalised in Spring of year 11. At least one of these must be in a group, but you do not have to perform as a soloist.</td>
<td>You will create two pieces of music, one of which will reflect your influences and another will be set by the exam board.</td>
<td>There is one written examination in the summer of Year 11 which will be prepared for throughout the course. You will listen to multiple pieces of music answering questions on each. They could be in any style but two will have been studied in detail prior to the exam.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Choose This Subject?
Are you creative and imaginative? Do you enjoy exploring ideas and looking at things in different ways? If so, you should consider GCSE Photography.

You will be encouraged to become an independent learner, looking, learning, thinking and communication your own ideas. These skills are transferrable to other subjects and will enhance your other subjects. There are numerous degree courses and careers linked to Photography including commercial, fashion and fine art photography, photojournalism, filmmaking, picture editing, researching, medical and forensic photography and many more.

What Will I Learn?
You will be introduced to the basics of camera use and digital photography. We learn how to control the various functions of a camera, such as focus, aperture and depth of field. We learn how to manipulate our photographs and alter them digitally, using Photoshop in our dedicated iMac suite.

You will study the work of artists and photographers such as David Hockney, Arnold Newman and Jane Bown. You will also study formal elements such as landscape, portraiture and macro-photography.

How Will I Learn?
You will build a portfolio of colour and black and white photographic work. You will be encouraged to visit local and national art collections for inspiration, and to support this, in year 10 you will visit the Royal Academy in Piccadilly to view the annual Summer Show and the displays of contemporary photography and art.

There is a lot of coursework involved in Photography, and you will need to show commitment to the subject in order to succeed. We will provide you with after-school sessions in order to support you to develop an outstanding sketchbook. In the summer there is a celebratory public exhibition of the work for parents and students.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1—Coursework 60%</th>
<th>Unit 2—Exam 40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A portfolio built up over the course comprising three units.</td>
<td>You will be given a choice of seven questions set by the exam board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your portfolio will include research and experiments with ideas and techniques, your final photos and written commentary.</td>
<td>Your exam will be a 10-hour timed session held under exam conditions—you will be able to use all of the skills that you have developed during the course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why choose this subject?
Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour of humans and animals. This GCSE Psychology course enables students to learn a range of complex psychological theories and research. Studying for this course gives students the foundation to work in counselling and mental health roles. The qualification can also be used to move on to further study at A Level. Areas we look at such as social influence help with understanding why people act the way they do in other subject areas too; History, Biology, Media, Drama and English. If you are the type of individual that questions why people behave badly when told to by an authority figure, or why some children cry when their parents are absent then Psychology is for you!

How will I be assessed?
Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour
1. Memory
2. Perception
3. Development
4. Research methods

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour
1. Social influence
2. Language, thought and communication
3. Brain and neuropsychology
4. Psychological problems

2 x Written exams: Both 1 hour 45 minutes
Both 50% of GCSE -100 marks in each
Mixture multiple choice, short answer and extended writing ques-

What Will I Learn?
The AQA specification encourages students to engage with psychological research and the process of enquiry.

- use specialist vocabulary, psychological concepts, terminology
- acquire knowledge and understanding of psychology, developing an understanding of self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena
- understand how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis
- present information, develop arguments and draw conclusions through a critical approach to psychological evidence, developing as reflective thinkers
- develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology
- develop an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society.
Why Choose This Subject?
BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise is a vocational qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The qualification enables learners to develop their technical and practical skills. They will acquire knowledge, understanding and skills to underpin their practical activities in assessment. The qualification will broaden their experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them. Three themes are covered: Exploring enterprises, Planning and pitching an enterprise activity, Promotion and finance enterprise.

What Will I Learn?
Exploring Enterprise: You will learn about different business ownerships and what makes them successful by exploring factors both inside and outside the control of the enterprise.

Planning and pitching an enterprise activity: In this component, you will use the research knowledge gained from Component 1 to consider a number of ideas before developing a plan for a realistic micro-enterprise activity. You will have the opportunity to plan how best to set up the chosen enterprise and how to fund it. You will need to take responsibility for creating and then delivering a pitch for your developed idea to an audience using your knowledge of business, and demonstrating entrepreneurial characteristics, qualities and skills.

Promotion and Finance for Enterprise: You will investigate cash flow forecasts and statements, exploring the effects that positive and negative cash flow can have on an enterprise, and suggesting ways to improve them.

How Will I Learn?
You will work on coursework throughout the two years learning the skills and theory necessary to complete the assignments and succeed in your exam.

We will expect you to work hard and aim high. We will teach you the skills you need and expect you to be able to work independently at school and at home to develop them. You will receive regular personalised feedback to support you in achieving the highest possible grades.

How Will I Be Assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam (40%)</th>
<th>Coursework (2 x 30%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You will sit a 1.5 hour exam: <strong>Promotion and Finance for Enterprise</strong>:</td>
<td>You will complete 2 units of coursework:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Component 1: Exploring Enterprises</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Component 2: Planning and pitching an enterprise activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The qualification is equivalent to a GCSE grades 8 - 4
Why Choose This Subject?

Digital Information Technology is a vocational qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The everyday use of ICT, from PCs to smartphones, now impacts all of our lives. This new qualification in ICT reflects this and will provide you with a solid understanding of the subject which can used in the modern world. Three themes are covered: business information systems, creative and technical uses of ICT.

What Will I Learn?

Exploring User Interface Design Principles: You will be able to develop your creative flair in this unit by using multimedia to create an interactive product, website interface or presentation.

Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting information: This unit will enable you to develop ICT skills which will equip you to work effectively in a business organisation. You will work with office software to create specified business outcomes.

Effective Working Digital Practice: Learners should learn about how current and modern technologies are used by and have an impact on organisations and their stakeholders.

How Will I Learn?

You will work on coursework throughout the two years learning the skills and theory necessary to complete the assignments and succeed in your exam.

We will expect you to work hard and aim high. We will teach you the skills you need and expect you to be able to work independently at school and at home to develop them. You will receive regular personalised feedback to support you in achieving the highest possible grades.

How Will I Be Assessed?

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<tr>
<th>Exam (40%)</th>
<th>Coursework (2 x 30%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You will sit a 1.5 hour exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Component 3: Effective Working Digital Practice.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You will complete 2 units of coursework:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You’re off and away!

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
You're on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care.
About some you will say, "I don't choose to go there."
With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet,
you're too smart to go down any not-so-good street.

OH! THE PLACES YOU’LL GO!

You'll be on your way up!
You'll be seeing great sights!
You'll join the high fliers
who soar to high heights.

You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed.
You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead.
Wherever you fly, you'll be the best of the best.
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.

And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
(98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.)

KID, YOU’LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!

So...
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O’Shea,
you're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So...get on your way!

From "Oh, The Places You’ll Go" by Dr Seuss
Life is not about finding yourself, it's about creating yourself

George Bernard Shaw