



**BLESSED
TRINITY
RC COLLEGE**

**YEAR 9
OPTIONS
2016-17**

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION FOR
PUPILS & PARENTS**

October 2016

Dear Parents,

Re: Year 9 Options

This letter contains important information about the Options process your son/daughter is about to go through. The key points of this process are as follows:

- ◆ Religious Education, English, Mathematics and Science are compulsory GCSE subjects in Years 10 & 11
- ◆ The Science Department will decide whether your son/daughter will take Triple Science or Combined Science at GCSE.
- ◆ Physical Education (non-examinable) is also a compulsory subject
- ◆ This year, most pupils will be able to choose three subjects they wish to study at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)
- ◆ Whilst we will strive to give everyone their three choices, this may not always be possible. For this reason, the Option form will ask pupils to select five subjects in rank order of preference
- ◆ Pupils will be given plenty of guidance about the most appropriate subjects for them to study (see time-line below)

The time-line for this process is as follows:

Friday 20th January	Year 9 Options Assembly (1)
Tuesday 28th February	Year 9 Options Taster Day
Friday 3rd March	Year 9 Options Assembly (2) in School
Wednesday 8th March	Year 9 Option's Evening
Friday 10th March	Deadline for Option choices

Teaching staff will also be talking to pupils in their lessons over the next month or so about the GCSE course offered in their subjects, and will be contactable if you have any queries about the suitability of a subject for your son/daughter.

Important Information

If your son/daughter is in Set 1 or 2 for English, they will be following the English Baccalaureate (EBAC) Compulsory Pathway. This decision has been based on the academic profile of pupils, and on the premise that any pupils wishing to study A-levels and attend University will be better equipped with the EBAC qualification. To achieve the EBAC qualification, pupils must study GCSEs in English, Maths, History or Geography and French or Spanish.

For this reason, your son/daughter will have to choose either History or Geography, and either French or Spanish as two of their Options. The other Option they choose can be *any* of the remaining listed subjects.

If your son/daughter is in Set 3 or 4 for English, they will follow the EBAC Light Pathway. This means that pupils will have to choose one of the EBAC subjects (History, Geography, French, Spanish or Computing) to study at GCSE. The other two Options they choose can be any of the remaining listed subjects.

If your son/daughter is in Set 5 they will be following the Open Pathway. This means that pupils have the choice of following the EBAC qualification route or a non-EBAC route. To achieve the EBAC qualification, pupils must study GCSEs including English, Maths, History or Geography and French or Spanish. This qualification is recommended for any pupils wishing to study academic A-levels and then wishing to attend University.

If your son/daughter does choose the EBAC route, he/she will have to choose either History or Geography, and either French or Spanish as two of their Options. The other Option they choose can be any of the remaining listed subjects.

If your son/daughter chooses not to follow the EBAC route, they can opt for *any three* subjects on the list.

There will also be a group of pupils who we recommend follow the **Foundation Pathway**. This Pathway will be a more vocationally-based curriculum, including college courses, Level 1 qualifications and work-based experience. Pupils identified for this Pathway will be spoken to – and parents contacted – in the near future.

I hope this letter has given you a good overview of the Option process. Please contact me here at school if you have any initial queries about the Options, or require clarification on any of the points in the letter.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs R. Stevens Mrs D. Montrose

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

WHAT ABOUT NEW SUBJECTS?

You will find that you have already studied many of the optional subjects during your first three years at school. There are, however, a number of new subjects available to you. Teachers of these new subjects will be speaking to you to help you decide.

WHICH SUBJECTS DO YOU LIKE?

You will probably try harder in - and enjoy - the subjects you like.

WHICH SUBJECTS ARE YOU BEST AT?

You may stand a better chance of achieving good results and examination successes in these subjects.

WHICH SUBJECTS DO YOU NEED?

Have you any idea of a possible career? If so, you may need certain subjects as qualifications. If you are not sure ask your teachers for help.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Different subjects help to develop different skills. That is why it is so important to do a mix of subjects. Employers and Colleges repeatedly ask for a wide skills base and many academic routes may soon require the 'English Baccalaureate', explained on the next page in more detail.

CAN I CHOOSE THE SAME SUBJECTS AS MY FRIENDS?

You can, but NOT because your friend is choosing the subject. Remember, you will be studying each subject for two years. It is also quite likely that you will *not* be in the same teaching groups. **Be especially careful to avoid choosing a subject just because your friends are opting for it.**

CLASSWORK AND HOMEWORK IN YEARS 10 AND 11

While a sound introduction to a subject can be given to a pupil who works well within the classroom, a deeper knowledge and understanding will only follow from homework completed regularly and carefully. We consider that success in public examinations will be highly unlikely unless classroom work has been strongly supported by homework. It is also a fact that teacher assessment based on Controlled Assessment and individual study is an established part of GCSE. Each year a number of pupils fail to achieve their full potential in some subjects because of the lack of effort in this aspect of their work. It is important that pupils co-operate with staff in this regard and that parents take a particular interest in their child's individual study, whether homework or classwork.

GETTING WHAT YOU WANT

Whilst we will strive to give everyone their four choices in the Option process, this may not always be possible. For this reason, the Option form will ask pupils to select six subjects in rank order of preference.

CORE SUBJECTS

SUBJECT

E-MAIL CONTACT

Religious Education	rkeighley@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
English Language	jhartley@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
English Literature	jhartley@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Mathematics	mgeoghegan@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Science	jtuohy@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Physical Education	nstubbs@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Religious Studies

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

All pupils will study for the EDUQAS Religious Studies GCSE (Route B) which aims to:

- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism
- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, practices, and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of Catholic Christianity and Judaism
- Develops pupils' ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject
- Provides opportunities for pupils to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life
- Challenges pupils to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contributes to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.

Following this specification will enable pupils to:

- Deepen their understanding of the relationship between people
- Become informed about common and divergent views within traditions in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fact that religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian
- Understand that religious traditions in Great Britain are diverse and include the following religions: Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, as well as non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism.

Assessment

All Pupils will study 3 Units:

Foundational Catholic Theology, topics include; Origins and Meanings and Good and Evil – This will be assessed with an external examination and will be worth 37.5% of the overall grade.

Applied Catholic Theology, topics include; “Life and Death” and “Sin and Forgiveness” - This will be assessed with an external examination and will be worth 37.5% of the overall grade.

A Study of Judaism, topics include; “Beliefs and Teachings” and “Practices” – This will be assessed with an external examination and will be worth 25% of the overall grade.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A/Degree Level Religious Studies, Priesthood, Religious Life, Police Force, Banking, Teaching, Social Services, Medicine, Caring Professions.

English Language and Literature

2 GCSEs

Subject Information

All pupils will follow two syllabi covering WJEC English Language and AQA English Literature, leading to the award of two GCSEs.

Pupils will study a wide range of materials including both non-fiction and fiction texts. Opportunities will be provided for pupils to respond creatively, as well as in response to information and ideas. Additionally, pupils will undertake a formal speech using spoken language.

The study of Literature will involve a wide range of texts covering a Shakespeare play, prose from the 19th Century, a modern text and poetry (seen and unseen).

WJEC English Language covers:

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 40% of qualification

Section A (20%) – Reading Understanding of one prose extract (about 60-100 lines) of literature from the 20th century assessed through a range of structured questions
Section B (20%) – Prose Writing One creative writing task selected from a choice of four titles.

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing

Written examination: 2 hours 60% of qualification

Section A (30%) – Reading Understanding of two extracts (about 900-1200 words in total) of high-quality non-fiction writing, one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st century, assessed through a range of structured questions

Section B (30%) – Writing Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks.

Component 3: Spoken Language Non-exam assessment Unweighted One presentation/speech, including responses to questions and feedback. Achievement in Spoken Language will be reported as part of the qualification, but it will not form part of the final mark and grade.

Mathematics

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

The Mathematics GCSE course aims to cover a broad, coherent and worthwhile course of study.

This should help to:

- develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics.
- to appreciate the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society.
- to improve their capability in the management of money.
- make informed decisions about the use of technology in mathematics
- prepare for further learning opportunities and career choices.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to work independently and in groups throughout the course. Emphasis will be given to their ability to communicate ideas and decisions clearly and concisely. Pupils will learn how to apply their mathematics to solve problems which may be unfamiliar or set in real world contexts.

GCSE Syllabus Content

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 follow the Edexcel Specification in Mathematics. The full course consists of 5 strands:

Number

Geometry & Measures

Algebra

Statistics & Probability

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change

Assessment

Our Edexcel GCSE in Mathematics (9-1) will be assessed through three equally weighted written exam papers across two tiers.

FOUNDATION tier Grades 1-5

HIGHER tier Grades 4-9

Paper 1 :

Written paper (Non-calculator) 33.3% of total assessment - 1 hour 30 paper 80marks

Paper 2 :

Written paper (Calculator) 33.3% of total assessment - 1hour 30 paper 80 marks

Paper 3 :

Written paper (Calculator) 33.3% of total assessment - 1hour 30 80 marks

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A Mathematics GCSE is vital to all careers

Higher level grades give a foundation to study AS/A Level Mathematics

Science

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy – 2 GCSEs

OR

GCSE Triple Award –Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSE's)

Subject Information

Most pupils undertake AQA Combined Science Trilogy . The course consists of 6 teaching units, Biology unit 1 & 2, Chemistry unit 1 & 2 and Physics unit 1 & 2. These teaching units are then assessed at the end of year 11 and account for 100% of the overall GCSE Science grade. Pupils must also complete 16 required practicals which are assessed as part of the final exam. Grade A* - G are available to pupils. Pupils will be set according to ability using test data and SATs results.

Pupils in sets 1 & 2 may follow the Triple Science pathway. Pupils study three units of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and can attain a GCSE in each Science. Pupils must also complete 27 required practicals which are assessed as part of the final exams.

Assessment

See above

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level - Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Psychology, Geology
Vocational Courses - Hairdressing, Laboratory Technician, Engineering etc

Physical Education KS4

Physical Education is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum throughout Key Stage 4.

In core PE pupils will learn about:

- The importance of leading an active and healthy lifestyle whilst gaining the confidence and independence to manage and organise their own activities.
- Skills, tactics and officiating in games, athletics, fitness and gymnastic activities.
- How to improve personal fitness.
- How to improve communication, organisational, problem solving and evaluating skills

In core PE pupils will learn by:

- Practically participating in a variety of individual and team activities.
- Increasingly becoming more independent and planning and organising competitions and tournaments
- Taking on different roles such as officials, organisers and coaches

In core PE there is no external assessment.

Core PE will provide pupils with the experience, confidence and understanding to become a life-long participant in physical activity.

It will provide pupils with the knowledge and understanding of how to access and become involved in a number of different activities.

OPTION SUBJECTS

SUBJECT

E-MAIL CONTACT

BTEC Performing Arts	rwright@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Business Studies	awoodmiller@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Computing	cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Dance	rwright@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Design, Engineer & Construct	erobinson@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Design and Technology	erobinson@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Drama	
Fine Art	sfox-kirk@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
French	kmercer@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Geography	amawson@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Health & Social Care	rparveen@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
History	cvose@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Hospitality & Catering	kbuchanan@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
ICT	cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Leadership Enrichment	lplace@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Music	elanney@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Music Technology	elanney@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Physical Education	nstubbs@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Sport BTEC	nstubbs@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Sociology	dmontrose@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Spanish	kmercer@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

BTEC Performing Arts

Level 2 First Award in Music—Pearson Specification

Subject Information

BTEC Performing Arts is an exciting course which allows students who enjoy Performing Arts and its production to learn more about the industry. Through class work and coursework you will develop key Performance skills, independent thinking and group-work skills, be able to manage time more effectively and get experience in planning and performing in real live performances, in addition to researching future work in the industry.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Award in Performing Arts is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH). It has core and optional units. Pupils will be able to either specialise in Acting, Dance, Musical Theatre or a range of all. The units will be decided by the teacher in charge of the group after looking at pupils' strengths in a range of Performing Arts disciplines.

The course has 2 core areas that all pupils study:

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Performing Arts

Unit	Core units	Assessment method	GLH
1	Individual Showcase	External	30
2	Preparation, Performance and Production	Internal	30

Pupils will also choose one optional unit:

3	Acting Skills	Internal	60
4	Dance Skills	Internal	60
5	Musical Theatre Skills	Internal	60
6	Music Performance Skills	Internal	60
7	Production Skills for Performance	Internal	60

Pupils will be able to either specialise in Acting, Dance, Musical Theatre or a range of all.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level equivalent courses are available in Dance, Drama or continue to a higher level BTEC. These can lead onto a wide variety of degree courses. Employment opportunities are extensive within creative and performance industries.

Business Studies

Single Award - 1 GCSE (Edexcel)

Subject Information

Taking this course can lead me to which career path?

It provides an insight into the type of work involved in law, marketing/advertising, accountancy, personnel and management. This course provides an excellent foundation for those pupils considering studying subjects at Advanced level such as Law, Economics, Business Studies, Psychology and Accounting.

What is this course about?

This is an exciting new course aimed at those who are interested in learning about businesses and the environment they operate in. It should inspire those who may wish to try something new and/or want to find out what is involved in running your own business. The Government recognises the need for an enterprise culture in the UK and is keen to get young people involved in setting up their own businesses and contributing to economic growth by providing employment and new products. This course will assist young people to develop key skills needed throughout their careers.

Will I enjoy this course?

You will enjoy this course if you think you have good ideas that you could develop in the context of a business or a product. You will discover what a manager does and the role of an entrepreneur. If you are an initiative taker you may enjoy thinking of a product idea or a new advertising campaign. You may be a critical thinker who can see where there is a gap in the market for a new business. eg. what sorts of businesses are needed in Burnley? or nationally? You can learn how to put ideas into practice by studying this course.

Course structure:

	Titles	Structure	Assessment
Unit 1 25%	Introduction to Small Business	Key issues and skills involved in enterprise.	Exam 45 mins
Unit 2 25%	Investigating Small Business	To select a small business, carry out research, analyse and evaluate based on enterprise issues.	Controlled Assessment Coursework
Unit 4 50%	Business Communications	How and why businesses communicate using different methods and tools.	Exam 1hr 30 mins

Computing

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Computers are everywhere and programming is at the heart of all computer based technology, this course offers pupils the opportunity to study how computer systems work, how networks communicate and understand what happens 'behind the scenes' with computer programming. It gives pupils the skills to be able to solve problems using a computer which many students find absorbing and engaging. It is an Ebac subject and highly valued in the work place leading to many highly paid careers with skills in high demand globally.

It is the best option for students wanted to go into Engineering, Software, Games development, system analyst, system administration, network engineer, telecoms engineering, cyber security, and many more.

Topics of study include:

Theory (40%) - Exam

- ◇ Fundamentals of a computer
- ◇ Computing Hardware
- ◇ Software
- ◇ Representation of data in computer systems
- ◇ Databases
- ◇ Communications and networking
- ◇ Programming

Computational Thinking (40%) - Exam

- ◇ Pupils are given real world problems to solve and have to use logic and computational algorithms to solve them
- ◇ Flowcharts and pseudocode are used
- ◇ Highly valued software engineering discipline

Programming Project (20%) - Coursework

- ◇ Pupils must solve a given problem by using computing programming solutions.
- ◇ They will use python software to solve an exam board given problem
- ◇ This will be coursework done in class

Assessment

Course work – 60% (30% practical investigation, 30% programming project)
Examination - 40%

Post 16 opportunities

A-Level Computing Level 3 programming courses

Gaming industry, computer programmer, cyber security, software developer, systems engineer.

Dance

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

Why choose GCSE Dance?

In the course you will learn to perform, choreograph and analyse dance. As a performer, you will develop confidence and self-esteem, as well as sensitivity to others and team working skills. As a choreographer, you will use the skills of creativity and problem solving to come up with some imaginative ideas for dances. As a critic, you will be able to make informed decisions about the dances you see.

By opting for GCSE Dance, you will be taking part in a physical activity that promotes fitness and well being. You will find that by studying dance you will improve your creative skills as well as physical skills - that is what makes dance unique!

Course content

1. Performance
2. Choreography
3. Dance appreciation

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Performance- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration).

Duet/trio performance (three and a half minutes in duration)

Choreography-Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes)

Component 2: Dance Analysis

Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills

Critical appreciation of own work

Critical appreciation of professional works

Assessment

Component 1-Performance 30% Choreography 30% internally marked and externally moderated

Component 2-Written exam 1hour 30 minutes 40%

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level Dance, AS/A Level Performing Arts, BTEC National Certificate/Diploma in Performing Arts, Creative and Media Diplomas

Design Engineer Construct

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

The Design Engineer Construct!® accredited curriculum is aimed at a generation of tech savvy young learners, who need support to grasp the application of pure subjects and how they relate to solving some of the world's greatest challenges in sustainable living. We want to encourage a home-grown bank of bright young achievers who recognise and aspire to be part of it.

Design Engineer Construct!® delivers an inspiring programme that is up to date and in demand by the very people who will employ our children.

Design...Engineer...Construct!® is a qualification that offers teachers and learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and knowledge fundamental to successful engagement in the professional aspects of the Construction and Built Environment sector of industry.

Historically professions within the sector have not had any dedicated pathways that encourage young people to explore them as careers. Opportunities for young people to engage with these professions during their secondary education, for example as work experience, are very rare.

There is very little understanding of these professions and so very few of our young people aspire to a career in this extremely important sector of the British economy and indeed of the global economy.

DEC! inspires students providing them with valuable opportunities throughout their education to gain the knowledge and practical skills they'll need to embark on an exciting career in the construction industry.

For more information please visit www.designengineerconstruct.com or contact Mr Robinson.

Assessment

Level 1 and 2 Qualifications in Designing, Engineering and Constructing a Sustainable Built Environment, better known as 'Design Engineer Construct!', count in headline league table points and are based on coursework with a multiple choice test at Level 1, and grading exams for Level 2 and 3.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

Level 3 Diploma for Designing, Engineering and Constructing a Sustainable Built Environment

Design and Technology

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Paper 1

What's assessed

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
 - 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

Pupils can complete A Levels in all specialist areas of Design and Technology or alternatively opt for one of the Technical awards.

Drama

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

Drama GCSE is for those pupils who want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. Candidates must be committed, enthusiastic and enjoy working as part of a team, as Drama involves a lot of group work. Pupils will have many opportunities to develop their confidence and presentation skills and will experience live theatre as part of this programme. The programme will develop acting techniques, whilst learning about aspects of technical theatre.

Course content

Component 1: Understanding drama

Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
Study of one set play from a choice of six
Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)

Process of creating devised drama
Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
Analysis and evaluation of own work

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)

Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)

Assessment

Component 1: Understanding drama- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes 40% of GCSE

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)- Devising log (60 marks), Devised performance (20 marks) 40% of GCSE. This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)- Performance of Extract 1 (25 marks) and Extract 2 (25 marks) 20% of GCSE. This component is marked by AQA.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies, BTEC National Cert/Diploma in Performing Arts. Careers in the theatre, jobs e.g. retail, travel and tourism, sales/marketing.

Fine Art

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

The course will include a range of areas and approaches in Painting and Drawing. For example; oil pastel, chalk, ink, charcoal and modroc. It is important that the student enjoys experimenting and is keen to use a wide range of media.

Students will study the work of artists and designers from various periods and cultures and will demonstrate how their work has been influenced or inspired by such studies. The students will write essays about artists including their thoughts and feelings about the art work. In addition, they will analyse and evaluate their projects.

Observational drawing is of paramount importance as it is the building block of all project work. Students should be prepared to spend long periods of time working on detailed observational drawings. In addition, the students will research topics and themes in order to plan and develop projects.

They are expected to work independently and they should aim to produce original and personal outcomes.

Homework allows for the practice of skills and development of original ideas. This should be an enjoyable part of the course. A minimum of two hours Art homework per week is essential in order to complete all course work and gain access to the higher grades.

Why study Art and Design?

- Art and Design enables the students to use their imagination and express their feelings and ideas in a dynamic manner.
- The student can use a wide range of media.
- The satisfaction of developing observational drawing skills.
- To be able to develop personal projects.
- To learn about artists and to be inspired by them.
- To prepare for a career in Art and Design.

Assessment

The scheme of assessment will comprise of:-

- a) Component 1 - Portfolio of work (course work) 60%
- b) Component 2 - Externally set assignment
(preparatory work and a 10 hour piece) 40%

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level and equivalent courses are available which can lead to Degrees in Fine Art, Art and Design, The History of Art, Architecture etc. Employment opportunities are varied.

French

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

All language courses require a disciplined approach and consistent hard work if success is to be achieved. A willingness to participate in oral work and a good memory are very important. GCSE French assesses four main skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The emphasis is on developing communication skills and understanding other cultures.

What sort of activities will I be doing in class?

Lessons will be similar to those in Years 7, 8 and 9 with listening, speaking, reading and writing tasks, pair work or group work. The work will be divided into topic areas— Identity and Culture, Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest, Current and Future Study and Employment.

What will the final examination be like?

There are final examinations in each of the skills, weighted as follows:

Listening	-	25%	Speaking	-	25%
Reading	-	25%	Writing	-	25%

For the **Speaking Exam**, there will be a final speaking exam involving role play and general conversation. The test will last up to 12 minutes.

For the **Writing Exam**, there will be a final written exam lasting up to 1 hour 15 minutes. You will be required to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

For the **Listening Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 45 minutes. You will be required to understand and respond to different types of spoken language

For the **Reading Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 60 minutes. You will be required to respond in French and English, to different types of written language,.

Look to the future!

Studying Languages enables you to enjoy the advantages of gaining qualifications in subjects respected by all educational institutions, and also to become proficient in a very practical skill. Having a qualification in a foreign language (or even two!) is very impressive when filling in application forms.

A GCSE Language is an essential component of the English Baccalaureate. Languages are becoming more and more important and not just in careers such as teaching or translating. They can be used in many different jobs such as work in Travel & Tourism, Journalism, Football, Police, Hairdressing, Law, Medicine, Sales and so on. The list is endless. And what's more - research has discovered that employees who can speak another language at work earn between 8 –10% more than their colleagues. Research has also found that people who can speak a foreign language use more of their brain than those who don't!

To find out more about how languages can work for you, talk to your French teacher or visit: www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk

Assessment

GCSE (AQA) See above

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A GCSE in MFL is an advantage when applying for numerous degree courses including: Law, Medicine, Engineering, Politics and of course European Studies. It is also an essential qualification for the English Baccalaureate.

Geography

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

Geography is a popular and relevant subject which studies the physical environment in which we live and the varied human interactions with this environment. Such a people-environment theme has been adopted throughout the geography specification to highlight the importance of this interaction in our ever changing and developing world.

The course delivers a sound understanding to the pupils of geographical themes, issues and skills. Case studies and examples are studied throughout the course at a variety of scales and in differing environments in order to make the themes studied more meaningful and relevant.

What you will study:

Unit 1 Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazard

Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK

Section C: The living world

Unit 2 Challenges in the human environment

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

Unit 3 Geographical applications

Section A: Issue evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork

Geographical skills

3.4 Geographical skills

Assessment

Three written exams :

- ◇ 1.30 minutes Unit 1
- ◇ 1.30 minutes Unit 2
- ◇ 1 hour Unit 3

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A2 Level Geography, vocational/pre-vocation (i.e. Travel and Tourism) at post 16+, leading to higher education.

Careers in teaching, climatology, travel agent, town planning, research opportunities, the Environment Agency, and many, many more.

Health & Social Care

Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care.

Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care.

This course will provide pupils with essential Knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve their learning in other subjects with the aim of enhancing their employability when they leave school.

Mandatory units include;

- Essential Values of Care for use with individuals in care Settings.
- Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings.

Followed by two optional units from;

- Understanding body systems and disorders.
- Pathways for providing care in health and social care and early years setting.
- Understanding life stages.
- Planning for employment in health, social care and children and young people's workforce.
- Creative activities to support individuals in health, social care and early years setting.
- Understanding the nutrients needed for good health.
- Using basic first aid procedures.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

Applicable for those interested in AS/A Level Health and Social Care qualifications, nursing, police force, paramedic, teaching and 'people' related careers.

History

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

Why study History?

- Learn about people.
- Find out about major events that have shaped your life.
- Train your mind for a wide variety of careers.
- Develop insights into understanding people, and the world in which you live.

What do you do?

In Years 10 and 11 the periods you will study are wide and varied. Some of these areas could include:

- American history, boom, bust and the modern revolution
- The First World War
- An overview of changes to a particular theme, for example, medicine through time, changes in power and the way the country is run
- Elizabethan England, the power, the people, the plots and the scandals.

How do you do History?

You will be encouraged to form your own opinions, based on facts, and put them forward in a convincing way.

You will be expected to write in various ways – from short answers and paragraphs to extended essays – about the topics you have studied. A number of the topics will be related to source material and will require you to make deductions from the evidence given and not just from memorised notes.

If you do all this, then History at GCSE develops a wealth of transferable skills which will be useful outside school and at work..

Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes containing a depth study (40 marks) and a period study (40 marks). This equates to 50% of the GCSE

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes containing a thematic (broad look at a long period) study (40 marks) and a British depth study (40 marks). This equates to 50% of the **GCSE**.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level History leading to a BA Degree. Careers in law, journalism, the civil service, teaching, the armed forces, banking and many more.

Level 1 / Level 2 Hospitality & Catering

Subject Information

Hospitality and Catering Level 1 / 2 Award has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this industry, develop their specialist skills and establish a career working in hospitality and catering.

The opportunities in the catering industries range from waiting staff, catering assistants, chefs, reception staff, hotel and bar managers to food technologists working for supermarket chains.

Pupils will develop a range of skills both practical and academic, through applied learning that will be useful in the workplace and for future study

This subject will help pupils to gain a solid understanding of the hospitality and catering industries which will help learners to progress and achieve their goals.

This qualification has purposeful tasks set in real-world contexts to help pupils to develop their skills ready for the workplace

The specification offers a unique opportunity for pupils to develop their knowledge and extend their skills within hospitality and catering in a vocational context.

It is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress to further education. It will also offer valuable preparation for those entering the world of work.

Assessment

Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry - External moderation

Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action - Internal moderation

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A wide range of courses and careers in catering and associated industries.

ICT

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

Subject Information

This is a vocationally-related 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.

The course has one compulsory strand for ICT involving one exam (understanding computer systems) and a coursework module (Using ICT to create business solutions). This is then followed up by a second coursework unit where pupils will create digital media. This will involve web design, interactive media, animation, graphic design, multimedia and digital art.

It is a great option for students who want to pursue a career in digital media and design and leads to many well paid and in high demand careers.

Assessment

25% Exam

75% Coursework

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

OCR nationals Level 3, A-Level ICT, A-Level Computing.

Gaming industry, office work, graphic designer, web design, animation industry, computer programmer, data manager, IT technician, marketing

Leadership & Enrichment

Subject Information

It is our main aim to help pupils to gain opportunities and experiences through leadership and enrichment opportunities. Enrichment broadens horizons, develops new skills and contributes to pupils personal and social development. By taking part in different types of activities, pupils cultivate and develop new important skills such as commitment, citizenship, initiative, leadership and team spirit, all of interest to employers and further education.

This subject would suit pupils who have an interest in sporting activities.

What will I be doing?

- Leadership and Volunteering Opportunities
- Various Junior Leadership Awards e.g. Football Leaders, Rugby Leaders
- Business and Enterprise Work
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Team Sport Opportunities
- First Aid
- Career Development
- Teambuilding and Outdoor Adventurous Activities

Assessment

Assessment for NGB Leadership Awards through practical element. This course is non-examinable, however expectations of producing a portfolio of evidence will be required.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

NGB Sporting Awards including officiating and coaching. Leisure Industry.

Music

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

GCSE Music is an exciting course which allows you, the musician to develop your composition, performance and listening and appraising skills. Through class work and coursework you will develop independent thinking skills, be able to manage time more effectively and be a team player in addition to becoming a more rounded musician.

The course is broken down into 3 areas:

◇ Understanding Music

What's assessed

- Listening
- Contextual understanding

How it's assessed

Exam paper with listening exercises using excerpts of music.

Questions

- Section A: Listening (68 marks)
- Section B: Contextual understanding (28 marks)

The exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes.

This component is worth 40% of GCSE marks (96 marks in total).

◇ Performing Music

What's assessed

Music performance

How it's assessed

As an instrumentalist and/or vocalist

- Performance 1: Solo performance (36 marks)
- Performance 2: Ensemble performance (36 marks)

This component is 30% of GCSE marks.

◇ Composing Music

What's assessed

Composition

How it's assessed

- Composition 1: Composition to a brief (36 marks)
- Composition 2: Free composition (36 marks)

This component is 30% of GCSE marks.

Assessment

Coursework -	Performance	30%
	Composition	30%
Exam -		40%

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level equivalent courses are available in Music, Music Technology, Performing Arts and Popular Music. These can lead onto a wide variety of degree courses. Employment opportunities are extensive.

Music Technology

Level 2 First Award in Music—Pearson Specification

Subject Information

BTEC Music Technology is an exciting course which allows students who enjoy music and the technology involved in its production to learn more about the industry, the software available to be used and how to use it. Through class work and coursework you will develop independent thinking and group-work skills, be able to manage time more effectively and get experience in planning real live performances, in addition to researching future work in the industry .

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Award in Music is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH). It has core and optional units. The units will be decided by the teacher in charge of the group after looking at pupils' strengths in Music and Music Technology.

The course has 2 core areas that all pupils study:

The Music Industry

What's assessed

- Jobs available in the music industry, qualifications needed for them, ways of managing your own gigs and equipment, etc.

• How it's assessed

Exam paper with written questions.

- **The exam is 1 hour.**

This component is worth 25% of qualification (50 marks in total).

Music Production and Production Analysis

What's assessed

- Methods in producing your own music and the different techniques in doing this.

How it's assessed

Exam paper with written questions.

- **The exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes.**

- This component is worth 25% of qualification (50 marks).

Students will be taught two of the following optional units, depending on what the teacher thinks suits them the best.

- Managing a Music Product
- Introducing Music Composition

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level equivalent courses are available in Music, Music Technology, Performing Arts and Popular Music. These can lead onto a wide variety of degree courses. Employment opportunities are extensive, particularly helped through Music in the Industry unit.

Physical Education

Single Award - 1 GCSE—Edexcel Board

Subject Information

This GCSE in Physical Education will equip pupils with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Pupils will also gain understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and well being.

Pupils selecting this subject need to be performing to a good level in at least two practical activities, be committed to attending extra-curricular activities and the ability to learn and apply theoretical concepts.

GCSE Physical Education consists of two externally-examined papers (60%) and two non-examined assessment components.(40%).

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems - Written examination - Paper 1

- Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology
- Topic 2: Movement analysis
- Topic 3: Physical Training
- Topic 4: Use of data

Component 2: Health and Performance - Written examination - Paper 2

- Topic 1: Health, fitness and well being
- Topic 2: Sport psychology
- Topic 3: Socio - cultural influences
- Topic 4: Use of data

Component 3: Practical Performance – internally marked and externally moderated

- **Three** physical activities from a set list
- One must be a **team** activity
- One must be an **individual** activity

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme - internally marked and externally moderated

- Aim and planning analysis
- Carrying out and monitoring the PEP
- Evaluation of the PEP

Assessment

Two written examinations – 60% of GCSE Full Course.

Multiple choice, short answer questions and extended writing questions.

Paper 1 - Fitness and Body Systems - 1 hour and 45 minutes

Paper 2 - Health and Performance - 1 hour and 15 minutes

Two non-examined assessments - 40% of GCSE Full Course

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level Sports Studies; BTEC Nationals; Diplomas in Sport and Recreation
Careers in the Armed Services, Police, PE Teaching, Sports Journalism, Coaching, the Leisure Industry.

Sport BTEC

BTEC Sport follows the Edexcel specification.

Subject Information

INTRODUCTION

BTEC Sport is a vocational course delivered through four contrasting modules. Pupils will develop an understanding and knowledge of sport through both practical and theory lessons. The modules focus on key aspects such as leadership skills, fitness and training and practical performance.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 First Award in Sport is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH). It has core and optional units. The units will be decided by the teacher in charge of the group after looking at pupils' strengths in Sport.

Learners must complete the two core units, and a choice of optional units to reach a total of 120 GLH.

This BTEC First Award has units that are internally assessed and a unit that is set and marked externally. Edexcel BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 First Award in Sport

Unit	Core Units	Assessment Method	GLH	
1	Fitness for Sport and Exercise	External	30	
It 2	Practical Sports Performance	Internal	30	is
Optional Specialist Units				
3	The Mind and Sports Performance	Internal	30	
4	The Sports Performer in Action	Internal	30	
5	Training for Personal Fitness	Internal	30	
6	Leading Sports Activities	Internal	30	

useful for pupils to study BTEC Sport who would like to continue with a career in sport, education or coaching.

Sociology

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

What is GCSE Sociology?

Have you ever wondered:

- *Why some people commit crimes?*
- *Why girls do better than boys in education?*
- *What effect violence on TV has on us?*
- *Where all those statistics on the news come from?*

If so, then Sociology is the subject for you. Put simply, Sociology tries to understand society and our place in it. We are all brought up in some kind of family, all go through education, and are all influenced by the society around us.

Subject Content

1. The sociological approach
2. Social structures, social processes and social issues
3. Families
4. Education
5. Crime and deviance
6. Social stratification
7. Sociological research methods

Assessment

Pupils sit two exams at the end of Year 11:

Unit 1 exam

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Unit 2 exam

- The sociology of Crime and Deviance
- The sociology of Stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Both exams last 1 hour and 45 minutes and all pupils will sit the same exam.

The exams are worth a total of 100% of the final GCSE mark.

There is no coursework.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

Sociology is widely acknowledged as an academic subject and will be an asset for many professional or career choices, including entry into Higher Education.

Spanish

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

All language courses require a disciplined approach and consistent hard work if success is to be achieved. A willingness to participate in oral work and a good memory are very important. GCSE French contains four main skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The emphasis is on developing communication skills and understanding other cultures.

What sort of activities will I be doing in class?

Lessons will be similar to those in Years 7, 8 and 9 with listening, speaking, reading and writing tasks, pair work or group work. The work will be divided into topic areas— Identity and Culture, Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest, Current and Future Study and Employment.

What will the final examination be like?

There are final examinations in each of the skills, weighted as follows:

Listening	-	25%	Speaking	-	25%
Reading	-	25%	Writing	-	25%

For the **Speaking Exam**, there will be a final speaking exam involving role play and general conversation. The test will last up to 12 minutes.

For the **Writing Exam**, there will be a final written exam lasting up to 1 hour 15 minutes. You will be required to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

For the **Listening Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 45 minutes. You will be required to understand and respond to different types of spoken language

For the **Reading Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 60 minutes. You will be required to respond in French and English, to different types of written language,.

Look to the future!

Studying Languages enables you to enjoy the advantages of gaining qualifications in subjects

Look to the future!

Studying Languages enables you to enjoy the advantages of gaining qualifications in subjects respected by all educational institutions, and also to become proficient in a very practical skill. Having a qualification in a foreign language (or even two!) is very impressive when filling in application forms.

A GCSE Language is an essential component of the English Baccalaureate. Languages are becoming more and more important and not just in careers such as teaching or translating. They can be used in many different jobs such as work in Travel & Tourism, Journalism, Football, Police, Hairdressing, Law, Medicine, Sales and so on. The list is endless. And what's more - research has discovered that employees who can speak another language at work earn between 8–10% more than their colleagues. Research has also found that people who can speak a foreign language use more of their brain than those who don't!

Assessment

GCSE (AQA) See above

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A GCSE in MFL is an advantage when applying for numerous degree courses including: Law, Medicine, Engineering, Politics and of course European Studies. It is also an essential qualification for the English Baccalaureate.