



The
Wellington
Academy



Key Stage 4

Options Booklet

September 2021

Welcome Year 9

The second half of Year 9 is an absolutely crucial time for all students at the Wellington Academy. It is the time when they leave Key Stage 3 behind and enter into a new stage of their school careers in Key Stage 4. This will culminate in the GCSE and BTEC exams in the summer of 2022.

It is so important that students make the right decisions as to which courses they will pursue in Key Stage 4 for the best chance of success and we are here to support you all the way. The whole process of options is essentially a team effort, and to make the best choices you need accurate information. This can come from:

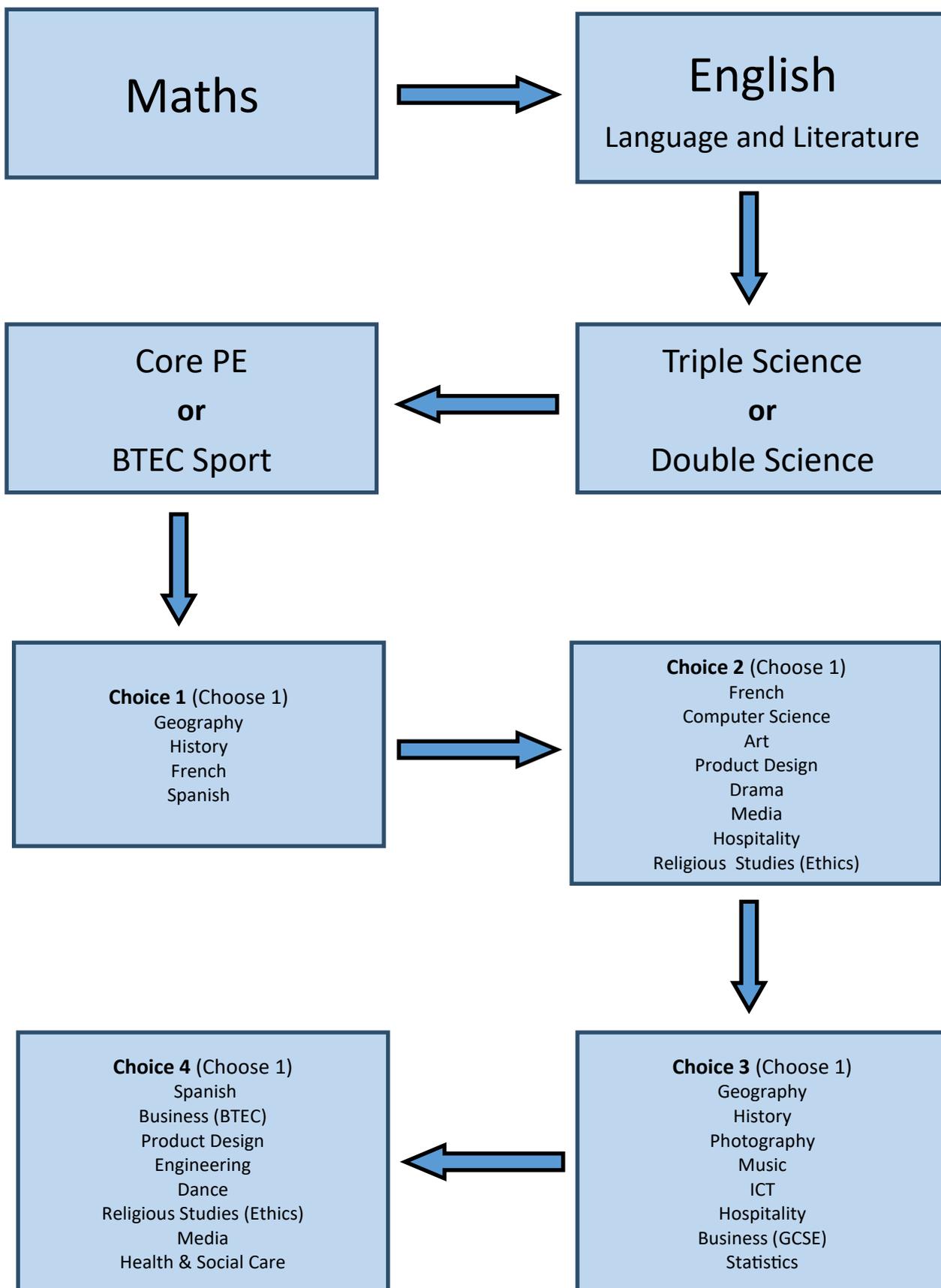
- Parents
- Tutors
- Teachers
- Our Careers Advisor

This booklet also contains masses of useful information for making an informed decision. Some subjects are compulsory (**core**) but others you can pick and choose between (**options**). So please read all the information carefully and ask if you are unsure of anything.

Mr Paddock
Head Teacher

Mr Tewksbury
Head of Year 9

Curriculum Diagram



The Process

The curriculum diagram shows which subjects students will study in Year 10 and 11. There are core subjects which everyone will take: Maths, English, and Science. There are then some choices for students to make:

- 1.** Firstly, you must choose between the double award and the triple award in science.
- 2.** Secondly, you are asked to select from the physical subjects: BTEC Sport or Core Physical Education.
- 3.** Finally, you should select one subject from each of the remaining option blocks.

Our curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that the choices on offer meet with the new national requirements and provides the breadth and depth that will ensure a balanced diet of subjects.

Your choices must be written on the official options form which your tutor will fill out with you during your School Cloud meeting on the 3rd or 4th of March. The deadline for final choices is the **8th of March**. (Of course, if you are unable to make these deadlines due to the current COVID situation, our Year 9 team will work with you to have the choices made as soon as is possible.)

If we are not going to be able to offer you your choice of options or we feel that the courses you have picked might be unsuitable for you, we will arrange a meeting with you to discuss the possibilities.

Questions & Answers

Q: Can I study two languages?

A: Yes. Just select them in your preferred option blocks.

Q: Can I study Product Design and Engineering?

A: No. These subjects are too similar to count as separate qualifications if you study both.

Q: Can I study Computer Science and ICT?

A: No. These subjects are too similar to count as separate qualifications if you study both.

Q: Am I guaranteed my chosen options?

A: We will, where possible, try to accommodate everyone. However we may need to discuss your options with you after the deadline if we are concerned about your choices, or if they are not possible for another reason.



CORE SUBJECTS

English Language

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Over the course of the two years you will study a selection of fiction and non-fiction texts. You will develop your skills in analysis with a focus on language, structure and form. We will help you become critical evaluators of the English Language. The skills you develop here will help you in the understanding and the crafting of your own texts as you manipulate language, structure and form for a variety of different purposes and audiences.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through two components and a Spoken Language presentation.

Component 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

1 hour 45 minutes

50% of overall GCSE grade

Section A (25%) - Reading

You will be given an extract from a fiction text to read and answer questions on. The Questions will test your understanding of the extract, your analysis of language and structure, and your evaluation of key ideas expressed in the text.

Section B (25%) - Writing

You will complete one extended writing task. The task focuses upon descriptive or narrative writing linked to the theme of the extract in Section A

Component 2: Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives

1 hour 45 minutes

50% of overall GCSE grade

Section A (25%) - Reading

You will be given two extracts, both non-fiction, which are linked by theme. These texts may come from the 19th, 20th or 21st century. Questions will focus upon your understanding of the two texts alongside your analysis of language and structure. You are also asked to compare, summarise and evaluate the key ideas presented in the two texts.

Section B (25%) Writing

You will complete one extended writing question, which asks you to present a viewpoint. This could be: a speech, a letter, an article or a leaflet.

Component 3: Spoken Language

You will complete one presentation with a topic of your choice which will be recorded. Further questions will be asked about the topic of your presentation allowing you to develop your ideas and discuss the issues further.

How will the course help me in the future?

The breadth of texts studied in English offers students the chance to develop knowledge and understanding of the world around you. In addition the subject allows you to develop empathy and emotional intelligence. These skills enable you to work well with others and build crucial skills that employers are seeking.

English will also help you to develop confidence and skills in communication, presentation and discussion.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Ms Lyons

English Literature

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Over the course of the two years, you will study an exciting and inspiring selection of literature texts – ranging from modern texts to Shakespeare – these will be: Romeo and Juliet, An Inspector Calls, Jekyll and Hyde, and a collection of Power and Conflict poetry.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through two examined components.

Component 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel

1 hour 45 minutes

40% of your overall GCSE English Literature grade

Section A (20%) – Shakespeare

You will be given an extract from the play that you have studied and asked to write in detail about that extract focussing upon a character, theme or issue; you will explore how this is shown in the whole of the play.

Section B (20%) – The 19th century novel

This question is structured in exactly the same way but focuses on the novel you will have studied.

Component 2: Modern texts and poetry⁹

2 hours 15 minutes

60% of your overall GCSE English Literature grade

Section A (20%) – Modern text

You will be given a choice of two essay questions that ask you to consider the presentation of key themes, issues in the play or characters. It is important that you are able to relate the text to the social and historical context in which it was created.

Section B (20%) – Poetry

In this section, you will be presented with a copy of one of the poems that you will study in class. The question will be centred around a theme and will ask you to write about the poem you have and one of the others you have studied.

Section C (20%) – Unseen Poetry

You will be presented with a poem that you have not seen. The majority of marks in this section are awarded for discussing the way in which the poet presents ideas and themes through language, form and structure. In the final question on this paper, you will be asked to compare this poem to a second 'unseen' poem, considering writers' techniques.

How will the course help me in the future?

The breadth of texts studied in English offers students the chance to develop knowledge and understanding of the world around you. In addition, the subject allows you to develop empathy and emotional intelligence. These skills enable you to work well with others and build crucial skills that employers are seeking. English will also help you to develop confidence and skills in communication, presentation and discussion!

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Ms Lyons

Mathematics

GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

GCSE Mathematics is studied by all students in Years 10 and 11. We will cover the topics of number, proportion, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability.

Higher achieving Maths students will also be given the opportunity to study for a Further Maths qualification which helps students prepare for the rigours of studying the subject at A Level.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is 100% by examination at the end of Year 11 consisting of 3 x 1 hour 30 mins exams (1 being a non-calculator exam). The course consists of 2 levels, foundation and higher, with all students being given the opportunity to maximise their potential. A lot of exam preparation is set for homework in Year 11, and students need to approach this with a serious commitment to their own learning in order to achieve the best grade they can.

How will the course help me in the future?

Mathematics is regarded as an important qualification for entry onto many post-16 courses, and the highest grades indicate a good starting point for further mathematical study, either through the new Core Maths qualification or the traditional AS/A Level.

Whether it be the technical mathematical skills learned, the problem solving skills that are developed, or just the concept of how numbers are used in real life, the study of mathematics is important and useful for everyone, throughout their life.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Burns

Core PE

What will I study?

If you select core PE you will have two lessons of practical PE each week. You will be given a choice of what sport you complete. These may include using the fitness suite, netball, table tennis, dodgeball, badminton and football. In Core PE there are no theory lessons, no course work to produce and no formal qualification to work towards

How is the course assessed?

In Year 10 and 11, only your approach to learning is assessed.

How will the course help me in the future?

Regular exercise is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. People who lead an active life are more likely to live longer and less likely to develop serious diseases such as heart disease and diabetes. Participation in regular exercise also helps to reduce anxiety and lowers your risk of other mental health conditions such as depression. Through participating in your weekly PE lessons you will gain many benefits and during your two years we will aim to instil in you a love for sport that will take you into your 6th Form studies and beyond.

Are there any pre-requisites for taking the course?

No, you should just approach lessons with enthusiasm. The more you put into it, the more you will get out.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Woodley

Science

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

You will either follow a Combined Science course that results in you obtaining two GCSE grades spread across three sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Or you will be able to follow the three separate science courses that results in you obtaining three GCSEs of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. As you can see below, the same topics are taught for both sets of qualifications. There is a greater depth of coverage for the subjects when taken separately and longer assessments at the end of the course.

How is the course assessed?

With the combined course there are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. Each paper is 1 hour 15minutes in duration.

With the separate science courses there are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes in duration.

How will the course help me in the future?

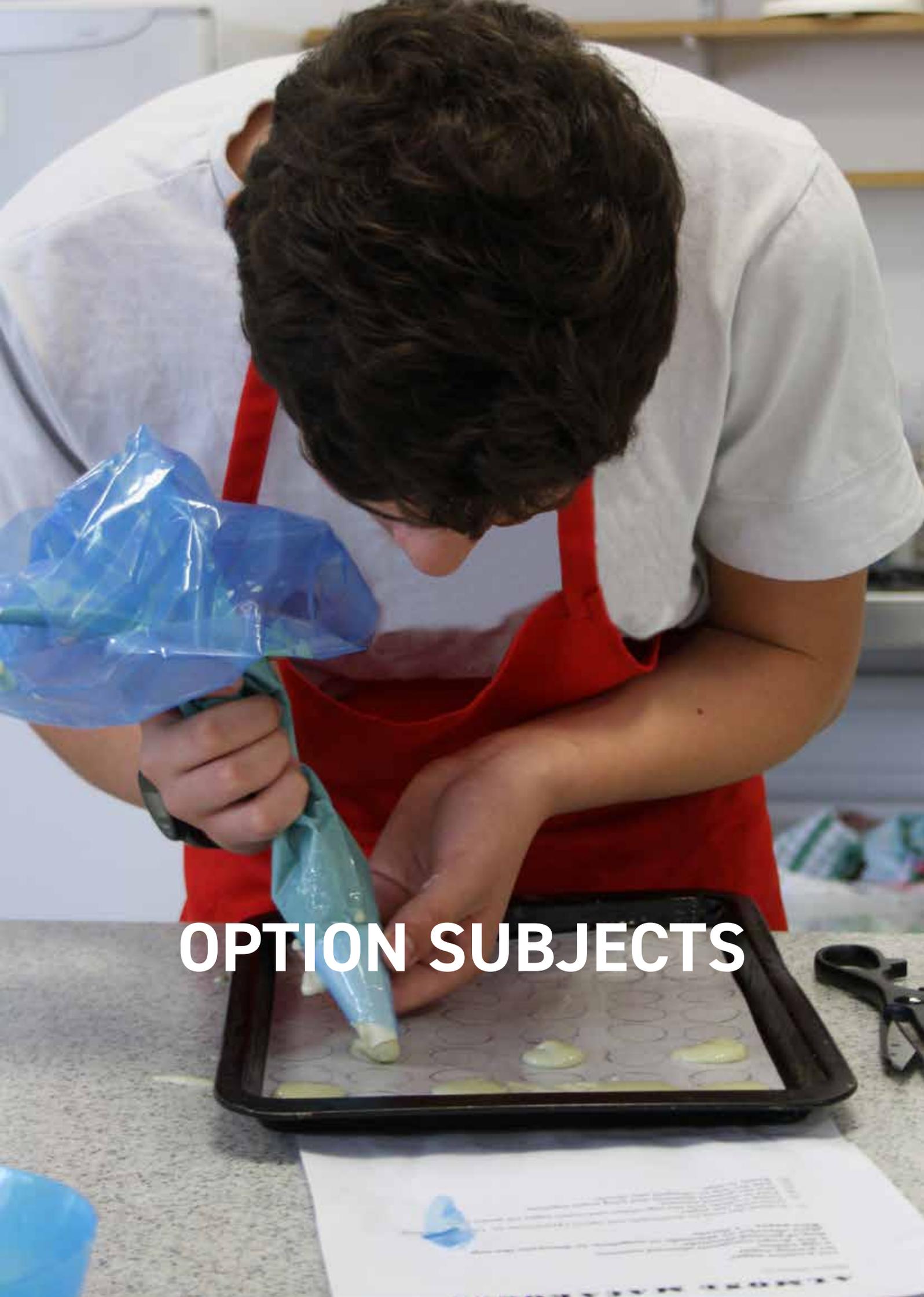
Science is compulsory at GCSE and as such is generally highly regarded by colleges and employers regardless of your chosen career/further education pathway. For those completing KS3 Science at a high level, you should be taking the triple science route as this will prepare you more thoroughly for post 16 study of the sciences.

Are there any pre-requisites for taking the course?

The combined Trilogy Award is open to all students. Students wishing to take separate Science will need to be recommended by their teacher.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Burton



OPTION SUBJECTS

Art & Design

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, art and design is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art and design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work. Fine art explores ideas, conveys experiences or responds to a theme or issue of personal significance. The areas of study are very broad and cover drawing, painting, sculpture, installation and mixed media.

How is the course assessed?

There are two components:

- **Component 1 Portfolio:** produce a sustained project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study. This is worth 60% of your overall marks.
- **Component 2 Externally set assignment:** there's a separate externally set task paper for each title. It features seven tasks and you have to complete one of them. You get preparation time, plus ten hours of supervised time. This is worth 40% of your total marks.

How will this course help me in the future?

You can continue your art and design studies at AS and A-level. If you don't want to take your art and design studies any further, the transferable skills you gain will still be valuable. You'll develop problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly. Art and design opens the doors to lots of career paths including Fashion design, graphic design, Theatre design, Animator, Video game designer, illustrator, advertising, publishing and so many more.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Tuliva

Business Studies

BTEC – Level 2

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

In Business Studies you will look at all aspects Of how a business is run. from setting up your own small business through to investigating how businesses can grow effectively.

Exploring Enterprises -Students will have the opportunity to examine the characteristics Of enterprises. exploring how enterprises meets customers' needs and investigating the factors that contribute to the success Of an enterprise.

Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity — This includes exploring ideas to plan for a micro-enterprise activity. pitching a micro-enterprise activity and reviewing their own pitch for a micro-enterprise activity.

Promotion and Finance for Enterprise -The emphasis for this unit is on promotion. financial records. financial planning and forecasting.

How is the course assessed?

The course is made up Of three components. Two Of these are internally assessed and one externally assessed. The three-block structure (Exploring. Developing and Application) allows students to build on and embed their knowledge. grow in confidence and then put into practice what they have learnt.

How will the course help me in the future?

Every student in the future will either. set up their own business. be self-employed or work for a business. This is a great course for understanding how businesses operate. Business is a •live' subject and any theory you learn is used daily in business. It is a great grounding for many future careers; particularly. finance, marketing. production or HR.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Fowler or Mrs Coombes

Business Studies

GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

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Exploring Enterprises –Student

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Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Fowler or Mrs Coombes

Computer Science

GCSE

Examination Board: OCR

What will I study?

Technology is ubiquitous in our modern society. Everything from mobile phones, televisions, traffic lights, theme parks, agriculture to sport depend on technology. You need to be prepared for the digital world. The computing syllabus will give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. As part of this, a large amount of the course will be spent learning computer programming. Through this study of computer programming, the course will help you develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. For many, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects, especially mathematics and other sciences, and even applied in day-to-day life. It is a fact that information technologies continue to have a growing importance. This means there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If you want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science, you will find that this course provides superb stepping stone. Students who have taken Computing GCSE and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have a sound underpinning knowledge of this area. Computer science is a tough and challenging subject. Within the first few lessons you will dive straight in to computer programming, which you may find challenging but fascinating. The computing science qualification enables you to;

- Develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies, understanding of how they work and apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts;
- Acquire and apply knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming;
- Use your knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become independent and discerning users of IT, able to make informed decisions about its use, and aware of the implications of different technologies;
- Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts: and develop computer programs to solve problems.

How is the course assessed?

The course is made up of 2 written exams and controlled assessment. Programming skills underpins the control assessment element of the course while a thorough understanding of the main parts of a computer is required for the written exam paper. In order to deal with the complexities of the course, in particular the logic skills, you need to be in the top 2 sets Of mathematics. Exceptions can be made for those with good programming experience, in consultation with the Head of Business and Computing. Students need to be resilient and understand they will need to independently solve coding problems.

How will the course help me in the future?

The course is great for anyone who sees themselves with a future in computing, programming, game development, web development or as a mobile phone app developer.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Hughes

Catering & Hospitality

BTEC - LEVEL 2

Examination Board: WJEC

What will I study?

Catering and Hospitality offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for students to develop their knowledge and extend their range of skills both practical and theoretical.

Students are given the opportunity to work individually and with their peers and to apply knowledge from other subjects such as Maths, English, Science, PE and the Arts.

Areas of study include;

Unit 1

- The Industry
- Hospitality Operations
- Health and Safety
- Food Safety
- Menu Proposals

Unit 2

- Nutrition
- Special diets
- Poor nutrition
- Cooking Methods
- Dish proposal factors
- Environmental issues
- Customer needs
- Production plan

How is the course assessed?

Students will complete both controlled assessment and an externally set exam.

Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry 40%

Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in action 60%

How will the course help me in the future?

Hospitality and Catering is a starting point for many career options and is a good foundation for further education courses with nutrition and diet, food safety, quality control, product development, food science and catering. It gives students a good grounding for the professional catering courses offered in years 12 and 13 here at the Academy.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Tuliva

Design Engineering

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

Examination Board: OCR

What will I study?

Engineering design is a process used to identify market opportunities and solve problems which contribute to the development of new products and systems. This qualification is aimed at learners who wish to study the processes involved in designing new engineered products and the requirements of a design specification. Through research and practical activities, learners will understand how market requirements and opportunities inform client briefs and will use practical skills such as drawing, computer modelling and model making to communicate design ideas.

A practical approach to teaching and learning will provide learners with knowledge in engineering technology and develop their critical thinking, creativity and skills through engaging practical experiences.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Unit 1 (25% of the qualification) 1 hour written paper

Design briefs, design specifications and user requirements.

This unit provides the opportunity for learners to develop their understanding of the requirements of design briefs and design specifications for the development of new products. Through research and practical activities, learners will understand how consumer requirements and market opportunities inform design briefs.

Component 2: Unit 2 (25% of the qualification)

Product Analysis and research.

This unit will enable learners to perform effective product analysis. They will research existing solutions and assess the development of engineered products. Learners will develop skills and gain practical experience of product assembly and disassembly to appreciate manufacturing processes, design features and materials used.

Component 3: Unit 2 (25% of the qualification)

Developing and presenting engineering designs.

This unit develops techniques in generation, concept development and the communication of design ideas using hand rendering and computer-based presentation techniques including CAD (computer aided design) software.

Component 4: Unit 2 (25% of the qualification)

3D design realisation.

This unit requires learners to apply practical skills to produce a prototype product or model using craft-based modelling materials alongside computer-controlled or rapid-prototyping processes. Learners will produce a prototype product in the form of a model and test design ideas in a practical context, to inform further development utilising more complex production processes.

How will the course help me in the future?

The course prepares learners for further studies in Engineering and Manufacturing. Learners can also secure apprenticeships in industry using this as a good gateway to securing their first placement.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Ryan

Design Technology Product Design

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Product design is a journey through the design phase which is delivered through a range of different medias. During the course, learners will be set a number of design problems to overcome which will build knowledge on properties of materials, product durability and sustainability.

Throughout the course learners will be researching and evaluating on areas of the design phase to find the best solution for the problem. Lessons will be split between theory and practical work to build and embed knowledge to prepare them for the NEA.

Product design is a demanding course which takes learners through all areas of Design Technology from KS3. Being a stem subject there is a nice cross-curricular link with Science (15% of the exam paper) and Maths (10% of the exam paper) which provides challenge.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Non-exam assessment (50% of the qualification)

The design and make task is to produce a substantial folder that includes:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating

The contextual challenge is set by AQA in term 6 of year 10 for learners to explore all areas highlighted above before making a prototype which accompanies their 25 page A3 portfolio.

Component 2: Written Examination (50% of the qualification)

The written exam will cover core technical principles, specialist technical principles as well as designing and making principles. A mix of question styles feature in the paper which include extended writing for sustainability (15%) and mathematical solutions (10%).

How will the course help me in the future?

The course ultimately prepares students for university courses in Design, Engineering and Manufacturing, or apprenticeships such as: Industrial designers, production developers, advanced manufacturing engineers, architects, automotive designers, construction and civil engineers, fashion designers, rapid prototyping engineers.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Ryan

NB This course is most appropriate for students studying higher level Maths and Science

French

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Compulsory topics will be linked to identity and culture; local, national, international and global areas of interest; and current and future study and employment.

How is the course assessed?

Papers will be tiered, with 25% assessment weightings per skill.

Speaking - is assessed by a single final spoken examination at the end of the course.

Writing - is assessed by a single final written examination at the end of the course.

Listening - students will either sit a final foundation or higher tier listening paper.

Reading - students will either sit a final foundation or higher tier reading paper.

The writing examination will now also include short translation passages and some authentic literary texts. There will no longer be any controlled assessment. All papers will be set and marked by the awarding organisation: AQA.

How will the course help me in the future?

Knowledge of a foreign language is fast becoming an essential requirement for many employers today who are competing in a global market. Learning a second language will greatly improve your job prospects and give you the edge over other candidates. Learning French opens up a wealth of opportunities for future work and travel. English is simply not enough anymore.

Why study a GCSE in French?

- English is not enough! Learning another Language really improves your communication skills.
- ££££££ - Having a GCSE in another Language could raise your salary by 8%+.
- There are a large number of Universities that now request a GCSE in a Language.
- Learning another Language helps improve your knowledge of English.
- Opens doors – more choice of jobs.
- Improves your memory.
- Helps improve your listening skills.
- TRAVEL – Languages can take you all over the world.

Future careers that use Languages.

- Tour rep
- Airhostess
- Translator
- Business man/woman
- Sales rep
- Sports advisor

- TV/media work.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Bennett

Geography

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

The course follows the AQA GCSE Geography specification. A summary of the content is as follows:

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment - This covers natural hazards, environments and physical landscapes in the UK.

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment - This covers urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management.

Unit 3: Geographical applications - This unit will cover the evaluation of a range of geographical issues, fieldwork in both human and physical environments and geographical skills.

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 is assessed through a 1 hour 30 minutes exam at the end of Year 11 and is out of 88 marks. It is worth 35% of the GCSE. 3 marks are available for the use of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG). Questions range from multiple choice to short answers and extended prose.

Unit 2 is assessed through a 1 hour 30 minutes exam at the end of Year 11 and is out of 88 marks. It is worth 35% of the GCSE. 3 marks are available for the use of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG). Questions range from multiple choice to short answers and extended prose.

Unit 3 is assessed through a 1 hour 15 minutes exam at the end of Year 11 and is out of 76 marks. It is worth 30% of the GCSE. 6 marks are available for the use of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG). Questions range from multiple choice to short answers and extended prose.

How will the course help me in the future?

The course will help you to:

Develop and extend knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes at a range of scales; Promote understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time; Develop and extend competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and GIS and in researching secondary evidence, including digital sources; Develop competence in applying sound enquiry and investigative approaches to questions and hypotheses; Enable students to apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts; and Develop the ability to construct well-evidenced arguments drawing on geographical knowledge and understanding.

Geography is a subject that is well regarded by further education colleges, universities and employers. It equips students with a wide range of knowledge and transferable skills that will compliment and support the study of other subjects at GCSE and A Level. Careers in the following areas benefit from geographical understanding: the police, armed forces, teaching, engineering, geology, natural resource exploration, renewable energy development, government, tourism, environmental conservation, aviation, cartography, digital mapping, travel writing, charity and aid work, flood management, town planning and defence.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Durkan

Health & Social Care

BTEC Level 1/Level 2

Examination Board: Pearson

What will I study?

The three components of the qualification give learners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of health and social care at Levels 1 and 2.

Subject content: Students have two internal assessments and one external assessment in the following components:

Component 1:

Human Lifespan Development

Learners will investigate how, in real-life situations, human development is affected by different factors through the life stages.

How it is assessed

- Internal assessment - assignments
- 30% of final grade

Learning aims

A Understand human growth and development across life stages and the factors that affect it

B Investigate how individuals deal with life events

Component 2:

Health and Social Care Services and Values

Learners study and explore practically, health and social care services and how they meet the needs of real service users. They also develop skills in applying care values.

How it is assessed

- Internal assessment - assignments
- 30% of final grade

Learning aims

A Understand the different types of health and social care services and barriers to accessing them

B Demonstrate care values and review own practice

Component 3:

Health and Social Care Services and Values

This external component builds on knowledge, understanding and skills acquired and developed in Components 1 and 2. Learners will be given a case study and will assess an individual's health and wellbeing, drawing on their understanding of life events from Component 1. They will design a health and wellbeing improvement plan that draws on their knowledge of services and care values from Component 2.

How it is assessed

- External assessment - a task worth 60 marks completed under supervised conditions
- Supervised assessment period is two hours long
- Assessment availability is twice a year: February and May/June.
- 40% of final grade

Why study the BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care Level 1/Level 2?

Together, the health and social care sector employ one in ten of the working population, with the NHS being the largest employer in the UK with 1.4 million workers.

The BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care is valued by employers as it demonstrates how students can develop sector-specific knowledge and skills, and apply them to real-life situations.

Within all communities, and in an ageing population, there are many vulnerable groups of people in today's society. Some need full-time care, while others need help as they cannot manage alone but are still capable of leading an independent life. As a consequence, there are many jobs and career paths for people wanting to work in the health and social care sector. These jobs are for people who want to make a difference and have a rewarding career supporting others.

As well as for obvious reasons, like being a caring person, some people feel it is in their nature to work in a health and social care role. It can be a vocation. Others fall into health and social care because of personal experience. Caring for a friend or relative can be an eye-opening path into a career in this area. Sometimes people are so affected by giving support to someone close to them, or from having received support themselves, that they feel the need to become a health worker or social worker. Whatever the reasons, there are many highly valued jobs at different levels that, with the right education and training, can lead to exceptionally satisfying careers in health and social care.

What can the qualification lead to?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider.

progression to qualification at Level 3, such as the BTEC National Extended Certificate or BTEC National Diploma in Health and Social Care, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in aspects of health or social care.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Miss Turner

History

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Part 1 Wider World Depth Studies:

Unit 1: Germany, 1890 – 1945: Democracy and Dictatorship (the focus is the rise of the Nazis)

Unit 2: Conflict and Tension: 1990 – 2009 (the focus is on the Gulf and Afghanistan)

Part 2 Shaping the Nation:

Unit 3: Britain: Health and the People: c1000ad – Present.

(This focuses on the main factors affecting British people's health and how this changed over time.)

Unit 4: Elizabethan England: c1568 – 1603

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by two examinations.

There will be 2 written exams each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes:

Paper 1 is 50 % of the GCSE and will cover the Wider World Depth Studies (Section A: Germany & Section B Conflict & Tension 1990 – 2009.). This paper is worth 84 marks in total, including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Paper 2 is 50% of the GCSE and will cover the Shaping of the Nation (Section A, Britain and Health & Section B Elizabethan England. This paper is worth 84 marks in total, including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

How will the course help me in the future?

History is a subject well regarded by further education colleges, universities and employers. You will develop important, transferable skills such as research skills, excellent communication and writing skills, the ability to handle and analyse data, how to organise information, problem solve, ways to construct an argument and the ability to question the reliability of a range of information and evidence.

It may surprise you to learn that historians do, in fact, provide more directors of Britain's leading companies in proportion to the number of graduates than any other subject; outperforming law, science and engineering. Careers in the following areas benefit from historical understanding: Law, Politics, Business, Marketing, Journalism, Economics, Teaching, Insurance, Social Research, Archaeology and Curation (Museums, Galleries, Archives and Libraries.)

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Baker

ICT

OCR Cambridge National

What will I study?

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. It reflects this and provides students with a solid understanding of the subject which they can use in their working lives.

We will be focusing on 4 of the units listed from below:

- Understanding computer systems
- Using ICT to create solutions in a business environment
- Handling data using spreadsheets
- Handling data using databases
- Creating an interactive product using multimedia components
- Creating digital images
- Creating dynamic products using sound and vision

This is a great qualification to become an advanced IT user and developer and get you ready for the working world.

How is the course assessed?

There is one examination and 3 technical pieces of coursework that are to be completed independently.

How will the course help me in the future?

IT will support you in a whole array of subjects. If you are interested in working in IT or Media, Social Media, Games development, Administration and many more.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Hughes

Media Studies

GCSE

Examination Board: Eduqas

What will I study?

Within Media Studies, students gain knowledge and an understanding of a range of different media texts in addition to studying the context in which they were made. As a result, students glean knowledge about the world in which we live. This is a relevant and contemporary subject that students can pick as a GCSE option in Year 10. Key Stage 3 students will have some knowledge of the media through their English lessons where magazines, newspapers and advertising may be studied.

This is a popular, creative subject that students can opt to study. Many aspects are covered including film, TV, advertising, digital technology, magazines amongst others. Students critically engage with texts, learn the key skills to analyse them effectively as well as consider why institutions produce them, but also why and how audiences consume them.

There is a practical element to the GCSE course where students plan, organise, produce and edit media products ranging from their own advertising campaigns, magazines and moving image sequences.

The new GCSE 9-1 Media Studies qualification covers media skills including the following areas:

- Enquiry and critical thinking
- Knowledge of important media issues
- How media texts relate to context
- Specialist terminology used in relation to original ideas about a range of media texts
- Development of theoretical understanding
- Creative Media Production

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Exploring the Media

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 40% of qualification

This exam assesses media language and representation in relation to print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements. Students study 8 print media forms in addition to studying film, radio and computer games.

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 30% of qualification

This exam assesses media language or representation, which will be based on an extract from one of the set television programme episodes to be viewed in the examination. In addition to the study of television students study music videos and online media in relation to media industries, audiences or media contexts.

Component 3: Creating Media Products

Non-exam assessment, 30% of qualification

An individual media production for an intended audience in response to a choice of briefs set by Eduqas, applying knowledge and understanding of media language and representation. The briefs will always specify the intended target audience, as well as other key requirements such as genre/style.

How will the course help me in the future?

In terms of further study and careers there are a range of qualifications and careers linked to an interest in media studies including: performing arts, broadcast & media, publishing and journalism, advertising and marketing, arts, crafts & design, information technology, travel and tourism.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Ms Thorne

“A story should have a beginning, a middle, and an end... but not necessarily in that order”
- Jean-Luc Goddard

Music

BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

The Award gives students the opportunity to develop music specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

1. Through listening exercises and practical music making/creating on a variety of instruments and technologies.
2. Students will need to have strong interest in music but not necessarily any instrumental or vocal experience, and they will need to be willing to work in a group as well as independently on research and written tasks.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

Component 2: Music Skills Development

Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief

How will the course help me in the future?

Study of the Music practice qualification will help students to make more informed choices for further learning either generally or in this sector. The choices that a student can make post 16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Students who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects.
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as BTEC National in Music or a BTEC National in Music Technology.

Students who perform well in BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice could consider employment in the music industry such as Music producer, Songwriter, Music Therapist, Session Musician, DJ, Record Producer, Background Singer, Radio DJ, Conductor, Recording Engineer, Music Teacher, Music Director, Composer.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Miss Lingard

Performing Arts: Dance

BTEC – Level 2

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

This demanding and expressive subject will encourage you to develop your creativity, focusing on practical work reflecting theatre practice. It will develop skills that supports progression to further study within this sector. The course engages and encourages students to become confident performers and designers with the skills they need for bright and successful future. The course builds in as much opportunity as possible for students to do what they like best – participate in performance. Students can choose to develop as a performer or as a designer or as both performer and designer. Whichever option they choose, students can be sure to gather many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons. Transferable skills students learn are to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts.

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1: Individual showcase including external written and practical assessment

Unit 2: School production

Unit 3/4: Group performance

How will the course help me in the future?

Careers in dance range from dance teaching (both within and outside education), dance movement therapy, outreach work within the community and occupations within the performing arts industry such as;

Performer

Choreographer

Lighting

Make up design

Costume design

Producer

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Miss Lingard

Performing Arts: Drama

GCSE

Examination Board: Eduqas

What will I study?

Drama is a creative course that can help you develop transferable skills, which you can take into any course, career or job.

GCSE Drama is both the study of existing plays, live theatre and the creation of your own unique performances. Students will be exposed to several live theatre performances throughout the course to aid in their completion of Component 3.

Drama gives you a range of Life Skills, interview skills, experience in communicating, practice in expressing yourself clearly, and the chance to be creative. Drama teaches you leadership skills, presentation and speaking skills and team working skills. This will help you to plan, communicate and to present yourself well. This course will help you be more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of different situations in life.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Devising Theatre – 40% Non-exam assessment: Internally assessed, externally moderated

Component 2: Performing from a Text -20% Non-exam assessment: Externally assessed by a visiting examiner

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre - 40% Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

How will the course help me in the future?

- Actor
- Director
- Designers: lighting technician in Theatres and Arenas
- Costume Designer
- Prop Designer
- Set Designer
- Playwright for Theatre, TV or Film
- Broadcasting Presenter in Media Sector
- Drama / English Teacher
- Theatre Manager
- Stage Management
- Marketing
- Advertising
- Event Organisation
- Business & Research
- Retail
- Hotels & Hospitality

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Lingard (Head of Performing Arts)

Mr Juliff (Teacher of Performing Arts)

Photography

BTEC Level 1 & 2 Tech Award in Art & Design Practice

What will I study?

The qualification is the same size as a GCSE and is ideal if you are interested in developing your skills and finding out about future career opportunities. You will explore some of the key areas within the creative industries, learning how to address the needs of clients by ensuring that your art and design work meets the requirements of a creative project brief.

In the first year you will start by working on **Component 1 (Generating Ideas in Art and Design)**. This is a chance to explore a wide range of artists/photographers/designers and use their work as inspiration for your own. You will explore the ideas generation process informed by investigation and exploration. The project is a really fun way to start exploring ideas, learning key skills and preparing you for the final task in Year 11. You will be responding to a brief requiring a specific final outcome. In Photography, you will be learning the rudiments of Portraiture through the process of understanding a range of camera skills and digital manipulation techniques. You are able to explore a range of desired outcomes through either traditional print based or something more installation based if you find you are more suited to a Fine Art Photographic style.

Component 2 (Develop Practical Skills in Art and Design) is completed across Year 10 and Year 11. You will follow a technical brief to produce a specific outcome. This will be broad enough to allow for a range of different skill sets. Having developed a sound understanding of camera and technical skills in Component 1, you will go on to develop this and your manipulation techniques further by exploring a more abstract light based project. Light drawings and light graffiti is always a popular choice but you will find your conceptual knowledge will have developed significantly from Component 1, allowing you to respond to the theme Light in an area that interests you most and plays to your strengths as a Photographer. You will then apply the development process using specialist materials, skills and techniques. You will continuously review and improve skills providing evidence as you go.

Component 3 takes place in Year 11. You will be provided with a client brief to which you respond with art and design work and a portfolio. There is a supervised assessment element to this which is completed over a 12 week period timetabled by Pearson.

How is the course assessed?

You will carry out tasks and projects throughout the course and your teacher will mark these, giving regular feedback. Towards the end of the course your knowledge will be assessed through a task that is set and marked by Pearson. Components 1 and 2 will be completed in Year 10 and Year 11. Component 3 will be completed in Year 11. The final outcome for the externally set task is completed in exam conditions within the classroom. Marks will range from a Level 1 Pass up to a Level 2 Distinction and you will be marked on all 3 components.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Tuliva

Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies A

Examination Board: AQA

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

How it's assessed

Students must take assessments in the following two components:

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity and Islam

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

50% of GCSE

Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

Each religion is marked out of 48.

Component 2: Thematic studies

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies. The following 4 themes are studied:

Theme A: Relationships and families.

Theme B: Religion and life.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

96 marks, plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

50% of GCSE

Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

Each theme is marked out of 24.

Why study Ethics and Philosophy at GCSE?

Employers regard GCSE Religious Studies as a good qualification. It shows you are aware of other people's beliefs and the nature of the society we live in.

Police Officers need to have a good understanding of multi-faith and multi-cultural issues in order to do an effective job. They must show tolerance & understanding and be against prejudice & discrimination. Many UK laws are based on Christian laws and teachings!

Lawyers and Judges must study Religion & Law as part of their training. Religion has influenced most of the laws in the UK, and also in other countries. They must have a good knowledge of religious beliefs & teachings as this may affect how a person lives and acts; they should also have a good knowledge of moral issues and ethics. It is vital that a lawyer is free from prejudice as they must treat everyone equally. A teacher will usually encounter students and parents of all different races & religions and should be free from prejudice. Teachers should have a good understanding of religious beliefs & teachings as they should be able to encourage and empathise with students and their lives.

Social Workers must have a good understanding of religious and cultural issues in order to understand and empathise with the people they are entrusted to help. Religion and culture affect all aspects of life, from birth to death, in the home and at work. All social workers must be free from prejudice and must treat everyone with respect and equally!

The study of Ethics and Philosophy is a gateway to many future career choices or for study at higher levels.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Martin

Spanish

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?

Compulsory topics will be linked to identity and culture; local, national international and global areas of interest; and current and future study and employment.

How is the course assessed?

Papers will be tiered, with 25% assessment weightings per skill.

Speaking - is assessed by a single final spoken examination at the end of the course.

Writing - is assessed by a single final written examination at the end of the course.

Listening - students will either sit a final foundation or higher tier listening paper.

Reading - students will either sit a final foundation or higher tier reading paper.

The writing examination will now also include short translation passages and some authentic literary texts. There will no longer be any controlled assessment. All papers will be set and marked by the awarding organisation: AQA.

How will the course help me in the future?

Knowledge of a foreign language is fast becoming an essential requirement for many employers today who are competing in a global market. Learning a second language will greatly improve your job prospects and give you the edge over other candidates. Learning Spanish opens up a wealth of opportunities for future work and travel. English is simply not enough anymore.

Why study a GCSE in Spanish?

- English is not enough! Learning another Language really improves your communication skills.
- ££££££ - Having a GCSE in another Language could raise your salary by 8%+.
- There are a large number of Universities that now request a GCSE in a Language.
- Learning another Language helps improve your knowledge of English.
- Opens doors – more choice of jobs.
- Improves your memory.
- Helps improve your listening skills.
- TRAVEL – Languages can take you all over the world.

Future careers that use Languages.

- Tour rep
- Airhostess
- Translator
- Business man/woman
- Sales rep
- Sports advisor
- TV/media work.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Bennett

Sport

BTEC First Award

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

If you select BTEC Sport you will have two lessons of PE each week. In these lessons you are required to produce course work in addition to performing practically. If you are looking to study sport or PE in sixth form this is the option you should choose. Throughout the course the amount of course work and practical work students complete will vary.

Students complete four units throughout the two year course:

Unit 1 – Fitness for sport and exercise

Unit 2 – Practical sports performance

Unit 3 – Training for personal fitness

Unit 4 – Leading sports activities

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 is assessed externally through an online examination worth 60 marks. This counts for 25% of the overall grade. The other three units are assessed internally by coursework and are each worth 25%. At the end of the course students should achieve either a pass, merit or distinction at level 2.

How will the course help me in the future?

Achieving a good grade in this subject will allow for progression onto Level 3 BTEC courses in year 12. Jobs, roles and opportunities within the sport and leisure industry, including working in sports coaching, sports medicine, sporting technologies, the fitness industry and as a sporting official, are all more achievable with a good grade in this subject.

Are there any pre-requisites for taking the course?

Yes, you must have an interest in PE. You need to enjoy the practical side of the subject as well as realising that there is coursework to produce. If you just want to take part in two practical PE lessons a week, this is not the course you should be choosing

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Woodley

Statistics

GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?

GCSE Statistics will cover the topics of the collection of data, processing, representing and analysing data, and probability. The course is split between 50% additional content and 50% content that is also in the Mathematics GCSE. This provides both additional help in the Mathematics GCSE and makes the course itself familiar to any potential student.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is 100% by examination at the end of Year 11 consisting of 2 x 1 hour 30 minutes exams. The course consists of 2 levels, foundation and higher, with all students being given the opportunity to maximise their potential. A lot of exam preparation is set for homework in Year 11, and students need to approach this with a serious commitment to their own learning in order to achieve the best grade they can.

How will the course help me in the future?

Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives students the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data.

It complements subjects such as GCSE Biology, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers – from weather forecasting to the biological sciences.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mr Burns

Notes



A series of horizontal dotted lines spanning the width of the page, intended for writing notes.





www.thewellingtonacademy.org.uk

The Wellington Academy, Tidworth Road, Wiltshire, SP11 9RR
tel: 01264 405060 email: admin@thewellingtonacademy.org.uk



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