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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 2020.

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 Wood
Senior Deputy Head

Miss Biggenden
Progress Leader, Year 9
The Year 10-11 Curriculum for Examination 2018-2020

Curriculum Diagram

Maths

English
  - English Language
  - English Literature

ICT

Science
  - Double Award
  - Triple Award

CORE PE or BTEC Sport

Option 1
  - Computer Science
  - French
  - Geography
  - History
  - Spanish

Option 2
  - Art & Design
  - Business Studies
  - Construction
  - Performing Arts
  - Hospitality
  - Photography
  - Product Design
  - Textiles

Option 3
  - Ethics & Philosophy
  - Leisure & Tourism
  - Media Studies
  - or
  - choose one subject from Option A or
  - Option B not already chosen
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:

- Firstly, you must choose between the double award and the triple award in science. By selecting the double award you will also be opting to study for a qualification in ICT.
- Secondly, you are asked to select from the physical subjects: BTEC Sport or Core Physical Education.
- 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.

You must also select a reserve option should it not be possible to offer you one of your first choices.

Your choices must be written on the official options form, signed by a parent, and returned to your tutor by Wednesday 28th March 2018.

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.
Questions & Answers

Q: Why has the timetable been put together the way it has?
A: We want students to have as much chance of success as possible. We want to give students a broad education which will put them in a great place beyond their GCSEs at the Wellington Academy. The balance of subjects we feel is right to equip students with the skills they need to be successful in life.

Q: Can I choose both Geography and History?
A: Yes. Put one in your option 1 slot and the other in option 3.

Q: What should I base my choices on?
A: What is in the course. What you think you might be successful at. What you are thinking you may do as a future career. What you enjoy.

Q: What should I NOT base my choices on?
A: What your friends are doing. Which teachers you like - the teacher you think is teaching that subject may well be different from the one who actually does.

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. This is why your reserve option is really important.
Year 9 Options Choices 2018

Student Name: _____________________

Tutor: _____________________

All Students will study the following subjects:
Maths, English (Language and Literature);
Triple Science or Double Science + ICT;
Core PE or BTEC Sport.

**Option 1**
- Computer Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- Spanish

**Option 2**
- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- Construction
- Performing Arts
- Hospitality
- Photography
- Product Design
- Textiles

**Option 3**
- Ethics & Philosophy
- Leisure & Tourism
- Media Studies
- or choose one subject from Option A or Option B not already chosen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science (please tick one)</th>
<th>Triple Science</th>
<th>Double Science and ICT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education (please tick one)</td>
<td>Core PE</td>
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<th>Options</th>
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<td>2nd Reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free Choice</td>
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Please be aware that we may not be able to run courses with very low demand. In this unlikely event, we will look to use the students reserve choice.

Signed (Student): ........................................................................................................................................

I understand the preferences made by my child and support their choice of subjects.

Signed (Parent/Carer): ........................................................................................................................................
English Language

GCSE
Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?
Over the course of the two years, you will study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. You will develop your skills in analysing these texts 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 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 test.

Component 1: Fiction and Imaginative Writing
1 hour 45 minutes
40% of overall GCSE grade

Section A (20%) - Reading
You will be given an extract from a 19th century literature 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 (20%) - Writing
You will complete one imaginative writing task. The task will be linked to the theme of the reading extract in Section A.

Component 2: Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing
2 hours
60% of overall GCSE grade

Section A (30%) - Reading
You will be given two extracts (about 900-1200 words in total) of high-quality non-fiction writing, from either the 20th or 21st century, and you will have to answer a series of questions on these two extracts. These questions will test your understanding of the extracts, your analysis of language and structure, your evaluation of key ideas expressed in the text and your ability to compare the ideas presented.

Section B (30%) Writing
You will complete one transactional writing task. The task will be linked to the theme of the reading extract in Section A.

Component 3: Spoken Language
You will need to complete one presentation/speech to a teacher, which will be recorded. From this you will then continue a discussion on your chosen topic with the teacher.

How will the course help me in the future?
Employers require their employees to have a good command of the English Language with many companies now asking for a Grade 5 in English Language or above. They want to know that you can comprehend reading material and that you can write well. Developing these skills will, therefore, be essential in helping you secure great jobs and career paths in the future.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Miss Odell or Mrs Morgan
English Literature

GCSE
Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?
Over the course of the two years, you will study an exciting and inspiring range of literature texts - ranging from a Modern play to more classic texts taken from the 19th century, a poetry cluster and a Shakespearean play.

How is the course assessed?
This course is assessed through two examined components.

Component 1: Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature
1 hour 45 minutes
50% of your overall GCSE English Literature grade

Section A - Shakespeare (Macbeth)
This section of the paper will contain two questions: the first question will be extract based and the second question will ask you to consider how a theme presented in the extract is explored elsewhere in the play.

Section B - Post-1914 Literature (Blood Brothers)
You will answer one question on the play. This essay question could be checking your understanding of character, theme or key events across the play. Your understanding of the social and historical context is of paramount importance here.

Component 2: 19th century Novel and Poetry since 1789
2 hours 15 minutes
50% of your overall GCSE English Literature grade

Section A - 19th century Novel (A Christmas Carol)
This section of the paper will contain two questions: the first question will be extract based and the second question will ask for your consideration of the whole novel. This could be with a focus on character, setting, theme or key events within the novel.

Section B - Poetry since 1789
There are two parts to this section. The first part will be a question about two poems studied from the Edexcel Anthology. You will be asked to compare two poems with a focus on the theme 'Time and Place'. The second part of this section will be a question asking you to compare two unseen contemporary poems. In both responses you will have to show your understanding of context, language, structure and form.

How will the course help me in the future?
Firstly, reading high quality texts enables you to become better communicators. It has a proven ability to enhance the vocabulary you use. In addition, reading a wide variety of literature helps you to develop your ability to empathise with other people, places and time periods. You learn a lot about the world around you when you read great literature texts!

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Miss Odell or Mrs Morgan
Mathematics

GCSE
Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?
GCSE Mathematics is studied by all students in Years 9, 10 and 11. We will cover 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?
Miss Stocker, Mr Biggs
Physical Education

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. By partaking in your weekly PE lesson you will gain endless benefits and we hope that during your 2 years we will help instil in you a love for sport that you will take with 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 an even study of all three sciences from 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.

Both sets of courses are run by the exam board AQA. The link for the Combined Science course is: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464

The separate subjects are:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463

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 15 minutes 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 the Year 9 courses 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
Art & Design
GCSE / BTEC Level 2
Examination Board: Edexcel or AQA

What will I study?

Portraiture - A1 - Pencil portrait, A2 - Oil pastel portrait, A3 - Artists research [EHP], A4 - Tonal canvas, A5 - Personal response.

Scape - A6 - Pencil landscape, A7 - CityScape, A8 - Mock exam - dreamscape, A9 - Artist research 2 [EHP], A10 - Final exam.

Learning will take place using a combination of teacher-led tuition/guidance/instruction, research and exploration and personal/individual development.
Candidates should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas including: painting, drawing, mixed-media, sculpture, land art, installation, printmaking, film, animation, television, video and photography: lens-based and/or light-based media.

How is the course assessed?

The assessment objectives detail those qualities which can be demonstrated by students in their work and measured for the purposes of assessment. They are equally weighted. They are not presented in any order of importance, neither is there any implied sequencing of activities. Students are free to develop their own routes through requirements, either singularly or in combination.

Students must evidence coverage of all of the assessment objectives in the Portfolio of Work and in their response to the Externally Set Task. Students must demonstrate their ability to:

AO1 Develop their ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.

AO2 Refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, techniques and processes.

AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.

AO4 Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions and where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

Unit 1: Coursework = 60% of overall grade
Unit 2: Exam = 40% of overall grade

How will the course help me in the future?

Success in gaining this qualification will give students a strong platform to further their creative interests, skills and knowledge within the Creative Arts, entry onto one or more of our A Level courses, eventually into university and/or acceptance on a foundation level course.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?

Mrs Tuliva, Mrs Rose, Mrs Furnell, Miss Bilton

NB This course currently runs as a GCSE however depending on numbers this qualification may change to a BTEC level 2 qualification (a GCSE equivalent).
BTEC First Award in Sports

BTEC
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 50 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 want to take part in PE every week this is not the course you should be choosing.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Mr Woodley
Business Studies

GCSE / BTEC – Level 2
Examination Board: OCR

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 large multinational organisations operate. You will look at:

- Marketing - advertising, promoting and researching competitors
- Finance - how to calculate profit, understand balance sheets and cash flow
- Human resources - recruiting the right people, Employment law and motivation
- Production - how companies make their products and ensure high quality goods
- External Environment - how the economy works and how this impacts on businesses and individuals
- Enterprise - the attributes you need to have to be successful in business

How is the course assessed?
This course uses coursework as the main assessment method. There is also a Finance exam, which can be undertaken a couple of times if necessary. The BTEC Units are based on real business case studies and students work through the tasks to either a Pass, Merit or Distinction Level.

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?
Mr Carr

NB. Whilst we are running this course as a BTEC qualification if there are enough students opting for it we may also run it as a GCSE.

The GCSE course is made up of 2 exams (75%) and 1 controlled assessment project (25%) and is more exam weighted. The controlled assessment is based on the scenario of a student being a Business Consultant and advising a business on what decisions to make in terms of its Marketing strategy. This could include making recommendations on the best location, price, and type of products to offer and how to advertise/promote the business.
Catering & Hospitality

BTEC - Level 2
Examination Board: WYEC

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 within Catering and Hospitality within a practical context.

Students are given the opportunity to work both individually and with their peers and apply knowledge from other subjects (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 and Miss Wright
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.

Computing science is a tough and challenging subject. Within the first few lessons you will dive straight into computer programming, which 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 a written exam 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 ICT & Computing.

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 Ricketts
Construction

BTEC – Level 2
Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I study?
This is a BTEC Level 2 course, covering a range of activities to give the learner an introduction into Construction and the Built Environment. The course is a combination of practical skills in Carpentry, Brickwork, Painting and Decorating and other associated trades.

How is the course assessed?
The course is assessed through a mixture of practical projects, written assignments and 2 externally set exams.

How will the course help me in the future?
The course can lead to progression onto a college course studying a specific trade, or help in applying for an apprenticeship. There is also an opportunity to study professional building studies at Level 3, with a chance to progress to university or managerial employment. A number of our 6th Form students have already successfully followed this route.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Mr Teasdale
Ethics & Philosophy

GCSE
Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?
The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Religious Studies A consists of three externally
examined papers.

All students must complete:
Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion Christianity
Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Islam,
Paper 3: Area of Study 3 – Philosophy and Ethics (Christianity).

Students must study all two content areas based upon Christianity.

Arguments for the Existence of God.

How is the course assessed?
Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion Christianity (1 hour 45 minutes 118 marks, 50% of the
qualification)
Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Islam, (50 minutes 59 marks, 25% of the qualification)
Paper 3: Area of Study 3 – Philosophy and Ethics (Christianity) (50 minutes 59 marks, 25% of the
qualification)

You will be marked for your spelling, punctuation and grammar (5%).

How will the course help me in the future?
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 & teachings!

Lawyers & 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!

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Mr Eccles or Mrs Martin
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.

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.

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:
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.

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 Baker
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: 1894 – 1918 (the focus is World War 1 and its causes)

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 1894 – 1918.). 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?
This course is designed to:

○ develop and extend student’s knowledge and understanding of: specified key events periods and societies in the history of their locality, Britain, and the wider world; and of the wide diversity of human experience

○ engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers

○ develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context

○ develop an awareness of how and why different interpretations have been constructed about people, events and developments from the past and why they may have been accorded significance

○ organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions

○ recognise that the discipline of history and a knowledge and understanding of the past helps them to understand their own identity and significant aspects of the world in which they live, and provides them with the basis for further wider learning and study
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?**

Miss Fiske
IT User Skills

Level 1
Examination Board: The Learning Machine (TLM)

What will I study?
Students study a range of industry standard subject areas in the field of IT. These topic areas, or units, can be combined to create a coherent focus which will help them towards further study IT in post16 education or employment.

The over-arching aim is to enable learners to support their learning in all subjects using IT tools that are freely and legally available from the internet. Other aims of the course are;

- developing the skills needed for employment
- gaining practical experience and competence with contemporary technologies including programming where appropriate
- developing practical skills in creativity and problem solving
- developing an understanding of the social and commercial impact of IT
- developing an understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental issues raised by IT
- developing the skills to work collaboratively with IT

How is the course assessed?
The course consists of 5 units;

1) Improving productivity using IT
2) IT Security for Users
3) Digital Editing and Publishing
4) Digital Modelling
5) Digital Design and Graphics

How will the course help me in the future?
The TLM qualification is a good grounding for any students in any discipline since the skills acquired in computer use and applications will apply to any field of study and at any level. Students wishing to work in local companies will have the application skills and specialist knowledge to work in administration, marketing, sales, research and development, accounting or technical roles. Students wishing to continue their IT and computing studies will be able to increase their knowledge and work to a BTEC in IT.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Mr Ricketts
Media Studies

GCSE
Examination Board: AQA

What will I study?
The media is all around us and we are delighted to offer this exciting course. Over the course of the two years, you will study a range of media to include television, film, radio, music videos, magazines, advertising and marketing, newspapers, online, social and participatory media and video games. You will explore the forms, the theoretical concepts behind them and eventually also create your own media product.

How is the course assessed?
This course is assessed through three components:

Component 1: Media One
Section A will focus on Media Language and Media Representations. Questions in this section can test any two of the following forms:
- Magazines
- Advertising and marketing
- Newspapers
- Online, social and participatory media and video games

Section B will focus on Media Industries and Media Audiences. Questions in this section can test any two of the following forms:
- Radio
- Music video
- Newspapers
- Online, social and participatory media and video games
- Film (industries only).

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
35% of GCSE
35% of overall GCSE grade

Component 2: Media Two
Section A will be based on a screening from an extract of one of the television Close Study Products and can test any area of the theoretical framework.

Section B will be based on either newspapers or online, social and participatory media and video games and can test any area of the framework.

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
35% of GCSE

Component 3: Non-exam assessment: creating a media product
You will have the opportunity to create a media product, applying your knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework.
A choice of one of five annually changing briefs, set by AQA.
30% of the GCSE

How will the course help me in the future?
Media Studies is a contemporary and interactive subject which encourages you to develop your creative, analytical, research and communication skills, through exploring a range of media forms and perspectives. It is relevant to all of our lives and provides us with the opportunity to explore contemporary issues.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Miss Odell
Performing Arts

BTEC – Level 2
Examination Board: Edexcell

What will I study in Performing Arts Dance?
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 and Miss Biggendren
Photography

GCSE / BTEC – Level 2
Examination Board: Edexcel or AQA

What will I study?
Practical Photography - A4 - Inspirational panel, A5 - Positive light, A6 - Passing of time.
Near and Far - A7 - Photography research (EHP2), A8 - Mock exam, A9 - Final exam.

Learning will take place using a combination of teacher-led tuition/guidance/instruction, research and exploration and personal/individual development.

Candidates should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas including portraiture, landscape photography, still-life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, experimental imagery, photographic installation, video, television and film.

How is the course assessed?
The assessment objectives detail those qualities which can be demonstrated by students in their work and measured for the purposes of assessment. They are equally weighted. They are not presented in any order of importance, neither is there any implied sequencing of activities. Students are free to develop their own routes through requirements, either singularly or in combination.

Students must evidence coverage of all of the assessment objectives in the Portfolio of Work and in their response to the Externally Set Task. Students must demonstrate their ability to:

AO1 Develop their ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.
AO2 Refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.
AO4 Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions and where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

Unit 1: Coursework = 60% of overall grade
Unit 2: Exam = 40% of overall grade

How will the course help me in the future?
Success in gaining this qualification will give students a strong platform to further their creative interests, skills and knowledge within the Creative Arts, entry onto one or more of our A Level courses, eventually into university and/or acceptance on a foundation level course.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Mrs Furnell

NB This course currently runs as a GCSE however depending on numbers this qualification may change to a BTEC level 2 qualification (a GCSE equivalent).
Smart Product Design and Manufacture (SPDM)
GCSE
Examination Board: Black Country Atelier

What will I study?
The purpose of the course is to provide pupils with practical technical knowledge, understanding and skills in designing and manufacturing products using contemporary technologies. SPDM integrates 3D Printing, CAD/CAM, coding and microcontrollers, and is the modern successor to GCSE Product Design, Engineering, and Systems and Control.

How is the course assessed?
The course is made up of three coursework units and an examination. This exam, however, can only be attempted after the coursework has been successfully completed. The exam results then determine the level of the final grade. Most of the exam content will be learnt through completion of the coursework. We like this approach because we believe it suits our students well as they learn through doing.

Unit 1 – PRODUCT DESIGN AND VISUALISATION: Students create designs product, make physical mock-ups to evaluate their designs and conclude with producing laser cut or 3D printed physical models.

Unit 2 – PRODUCT MANUFACTURE: This unit focuses on design for production. Students are taught to consider aspects of production including assemblies, quality control, and the use of Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) to produce high-quality parts.

Unit 3 – SMART ELECTRONICS: Electronic components and programming is the core of this unit. Interaction or movement can be added to models created in the first unit to make them 'Smart'. Students are taught how to code for such things flashing lights, buzzing sounds and simple movements.

How will the course help me in the future?
The course ultimately prepares students for university courses in Design, Engineering and Manufacturing or for work through apprenticeships as:

Industrial designers, product developers, advanced manufacturing engineers, architects, automotive designers, construction and civil engineers, fashion designers, user-experience designers, artists, rapid prototyping engineers, game and film producer or even as teachers.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Mr Ricketts
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.

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.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Mrs Bennett
Textiles

GCSE / BTEC – Level 2
Examination Board: Edexcel or AQA

What will I study?
Students will learn about different aspects of textiles as a creative medium. The course offers the opportunity to explore the world of fashion and textiles with a heavy emphasis on creativity, making this the perfect option for anyone interested in fashion, art or both.

You don’t have to be a whizz at using the sewing machine to be suitable for this course! You will gain knowledge of how the sewing machines work and learn how to use the Bernina sewing machines to help you create interesting textures, drawings, make garments and ‘wearable art’ as well as for decorating fabrics.

The course is an art and design endorsement so you will learn about key elements such as: line, tone, shape, form, pattern, colour, shade, light and texture.

You will have to draw but not as you know it! Everyone can draw, however in textiles you will have the chance to draw with stitch, inks, fabric collage, wax, biro, charcoal....the list is endless!

Throughout the course you will study a range of textile based techniques and have the chance to learn many more such as: weaving, batik, fabric dyeing, machine/hand embroidery, fabric manipulation, mixed media textiles, printing, image transfer, garment construction, felting, embellishing, knitting, crochet, appliqué/reverse appliqué, quilting, polyfuson.

You will above all learn to be creative and view any material as an opportunity to create something amazing!

How is the course assessed?
Year 10 will consist of 2 projects which will enhance the skills and knowledge developed over KS3 and allows students to experience textiles in a more creative way. Students will produce a portfolio (sketchbook) of work as well as 2 ‘outcomes’ that will be used to document and evidence their ability to fulfil the four assessment objectives. This is the same in Year 11, the only difference being that one of those projects is an externally set task resulting in a 10 hour exam. Students spend 2 full school days in exam conditions making their outcomes.

The Exam board used is AQA. Work is assessed using the following criteria:
AO1: Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding

AO2: Refine ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions in visual and/or other forms.

AO4: Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.

Coursework = 60%
Examination = 40%
How will the course help me in the future?
Textile design is useful for careers and further courses in:
Textile/fashion/print/knitwear design
Textile artist
Art/textiles teacher or lecturer
Retail buyer

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Mrs Tuliva

NB This course currently runs as a GCSE however depending on numbers this qualification may change to a BTEC level 2 qualification (a GCSE equivalent).
Travel & Tourism

BTEC Level 2
Examination Board: Pearson

What will I study?
BTEC Firsts in Travel and Tourism can help you take your first steps towards a career in retail or business travel. You’ll learn essential skills such as business awareness, customer service and understanding destinations in the UK and worldwide.

How is the course assessed?
The smallest qualification in the suite is the Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award (120-guided-learning-hour [GLH]) qualification. This qualification has been developed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction to the travel and tourism industry.

It includes two core units that form the fundamental knowledge and understanding of the travel and tourism sector, followed by a selection of four optional specialist units from which a further two are chosen.

The core units are:

- Unit 1: The UK Travel and Tourism Sector – this unit covers the main types of tourism in the UK, the contribution that travel and tourism makes to the UK economy and the different component industries that make up the UK travel and tourism sector.
- Unit 2: UK Travel and Tourism Destinations – this unit covers what the different types of UK destinations have to offer, as well as locating tourist UK destinations and routes. The optional specialist units offered within this qualification build on the core and provide learners with an opportunity to develop a wider understanding and appreciation of areas of the travel and tourism sector, depending on their interests and motivation. Learners will be able to select their optional specialist units from:
  - Unit 3: The Development of Travel and Tourism in the UK – which looks at developments that have shaped the sector and how the UK travel and tourism industry has developed as lifestyles, interests and technology have changed, giving an insight into why it is such a dynamic sector.
  - Unit 4: International Travel and Tourism Destinations – which looks at international travel and tourism destinations and gateways and reasons for their appeal to different visitors.
  - Unit 5: Factors Affecting Worldwide Travel and Tourism – covers the influential factors on tourism and why events such as natural disasters can have a significant impact on the sector.
  - Unit 6: The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience – which looks at the needs and expectations of different types of customer in the travel and tourism sector and how organisations address these.

How will the course help me in the future?
This course gives learners the potential opportunity, in due course, to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the travel and tourism sector, for example posts in travel agencies, visitor attractions and the tourist information centre.

Which member of staff should I contact for more information?
Mr Carr