

Success for All through Achievement, Challenge & Enjoyment



Your Options

Key Stage 4 Curriculum 2019-20

Academic Year 2019-20

Welcome

Detailed in this booklet are the proposed Option choices for current Year 8 students to study in Years 9, 10 and 11 starting in September 2019. The Options Evening on **Thursday, 24 January 2019**, is designed to help your child make an informed decision on which choices to make.

During the evening, the curriculum model will be explained and you will be able to talk to teachers from the different subject areas, meet students who presently study the subjects and see the resources which are used.

Introduction

We believe in preparing your child for an aspirational pathway and will be giving them choices based on what we believe suits their academic ability and potential. The offer is broad and balanced, and allows for many opportunities Post 16 and at University.

Our curriculum at The Buckingham School will meet the needs of all students and will serve to provide them with an education which challenges and engages; is linked to individual student's abilities and identified progression plans; and prepares all students for life, further learning, employment and training.

We will do this by:

- Providing all students with extensive information, advice and guidance on all Options
- Supporting students with career choices through career education, guidance and research opportunities
- Enabling students to consider and define their own career pathways and future plans in order to enable them to make effective choices
- Providing parents and carers with accessible information and opportunities for face-to-face information and guidance so that they are able to effectively support students in the options process
- Providing students and parents/carers with signposts to further information and impartial guidance.

We will guide students towards:

- Subjects they are good at
- Subjects they enjoy
- Subjects that will stretch and challenge them
- A balanced range of subjects
- Subjects that are linked to individual progression plans Post 16 and beyond.

What choices do students have?

Core Studies

The Core Studies curriculum offer is set for all students. The Buckingham School Core offer comprises:

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Science GCSE
- PE for health and fitness
- PSHE
- Enrichment

Tutor time will be used to enhance the key elements of SMSC, PSHE, Philosophy & Ethics, British Values and Citizenship.

Options

Options include a range of GCSE and Vocational qualifications. Vocational qualifications are BTEC Level 2 qualifications that are equivalent to GCSE. BTEC qualifications are more vocationally linked, and assessed through a portfolio of evidence, in addition to an external examination. These also include hands-on and practical skills development, alongside theory and classroom learning.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) is not a qualification in itself. It is awarded to students who have achieved a grade 4 (old grade C) or above in:

- English
- Mathematics
- At least two Sciences (which can include Computer Science)
- A Modern Foreign Language – French or Spanish
- Geography or History

Success in Ebacc subjects can lead to taking these subjects Post 16, where they are seen as facilitating subjects. These subjects are highly recognised at top Universities; especially those in the Russell Group. For this reason, we have adapted our curriculum models so that more of our students can study these subjects, in addition to still being able to have at least two additional options.

Optional GCSE Subjects

The following GCSE subjects are available. Please note that every opportunity will be taken for your child to study their first choices, however, this is not always achievable when creating the timetable.

- Art GCSE
- Business Studies GCSE
- Computer Science GCSE
- Dance GCSE
- Drama GCSE
- Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE
- Media Studies GCSE
- Music GCSE
- PE GCSE
- Photography GCSE
- Psychology GCSE
- Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs)

Optional Vocational Subjects

- Business BTEC
- Construction BTEC
- Health & Social Care BTEC
- Performing Arts BTEC
- Sports Leadership BTEC
- ASDAN

Subject Summaries

Within this pack, you will find summaries of each of the subjects offered across our Key Stage 4 (KS4) curriculum. Each summary has details of the Curriculum Leader for that area, to whom students can direct any specific requests for further information.

Many of these sheets also contain links to websites where more detail on the specific courses can be found.

Advice and Guidance

We are committed to providing all our students with detailed advice and guidance in making the right options. We know that the vast majority of our students consider parents/carers to be one of their most valued sources of advice and we will provide information and guidance to parents/carers in order that you can provide the support needed in this process.

Our students will have the opportunity to meet with specialist staff to discuss Options in subjects that have not been part of their Key Stage 3 curriculum provision.

In addition to the breadth of advice and support offered in school, students should be encouraged to conduct their own research in job options and the qualifications that might be needed to secure certain career paths.

Timeline for the Options Process

- **Students should use all the advice, information and guidance resources available to them and ensure that they are clear on what subjects best meet their individual need.**
- **Options Evening will take place on Thursday, 24 January 2019.**
- **The Options form will include clear guidance on how to make your choices. All students will be asked to provide a reserve subject choice.**
- **Students will make their option choices online. Please refer to the instructions on how to use the Online portal document.**
- **Options choices need to be completed online by Monday, 4 February 2019.**
- **Where necessary, parents, carers and students will be invited to discuss their choices and confirm their options between 11 February and 13 February.**
- **Where possible, a student's first choice will be offered but this cannot be guaranteed.**
- **Please note that sufficient numbers are required to run each Option offered.**

Your Options 2019-20

Core Subjects

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	Key Stage 4 Information regarding Pathways available in Science	
12	GCSE	COMBINED Science
13	GCSE	SEPARATE Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
14		PSHE

Your Options 2019-20

Core Subjects

Subject **GCSE English Language**

Course Content

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Assessed written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks
50% of GCSE

Section A: Reading

Questions based on one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

Descriptive or narrative writing - 1 extended writing question

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Assessed written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks
50% of GCSE

Section A: Reading

Questions based on one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text.

Section B: Writing

Writing to present a viewpoint -1 extended writing

Alongside this, students will complete a Speaking and Listening Assessment which, although compulsory, does not contribute to the final GCSE grade.

Where does this Course lead?

This course is a perfect introduction to A Levels in English Language and/or English Literature. It is a fully recognised qualification that can lead to entry into sixth forms, colleges and universities.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

Students will need to read widely to develop their reading skills and to keep up with homework tasks.

How Parents can help

Parents/carers will need to encourage students to read extensively and in a range of genres and also to support students in their homework.

Assessment

Two compulsory exams.

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

Your Options 2019-20

Core Subjects

Subject **GCSE English Literature**

Course Content

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

64 marks

40% of GCSE

Two extended questions; one on a Shakespeare play and the second on the 19th century novel. Both texts will be studied in detail in class with the students.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes

96 marks

60% of GCSE

Three extended questions; one on a modern text that students will read and study before the exam, a second on an anthology of poetry that students will also have studied and the final question will be on an unseen poem.

Where does this Course lead?

This course is a perfect introduction to A Levels in English Language and/or English Literature. It is a fully recognised qualification that can lead to entry into sixth forms, colleges and universities.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

Students will need to read their chosen texts.

How Parents can help

Students will need to buy copies of the texts for students to explore and study and also support students in their homework.

Assessment

Two compulsory exams.

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

Your Options 2019-20

Core Subjects

Subject

GCSE Mathematics

Course Content

The new GCSE in Mathematics will be more demanding than the current specification and has additional content compared to the current specification.

Subject content is split into three groups:

- Content that all should master
- Content that should be taught but only the higher achieving students should master
- Content that will only be taught to the highest achieving students (those likely to progress to A level Mathematics)

Where does this Course lead?

GCSE qualification in Mathematics

For the most able Mathematicians there will be an opportunity to also follow a level 2 qualification in Award in Algebra. This is very useful for those thinking of continuing Mathematical studies at A-level.

Progression routes will suit individual abilities and needs.

The GCSE will form a basic requirement for entry to other college or school based courses, such as 'A' Levels. A pass in GCSE Mathematics will be a requirement for almost all job applications.

How Parents can help

Parents can help by making sure students come to lessons properly equipped. Parents can also keep track of homework tasks listed on Google Classroom and encourage the use of online lessons from the Maths Pixl App to secure understanding and practice skills developed in lessons.

Assessment

There will be three assessment units:

AO1 - Use and apply standard techniques

Students should be able to:

- accurately recall facts, terminology and definitions
- use and interpret notation correctly
- accurately carry out routine procedures or set tasks requiring multi-step solutions

Continued overleaf.

Your Options 2019-20

Core Subjects

Subject

GCSE Mathematics

Assessment

AO2 - Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically

Students should be able to:

- make deductions, inferences and draw conclusions from mathematical information
- construct chains of reasoning to achieve a given result
- interpret and communicate information accurately
- present arguments and proofs
- assess the validity of an argument and critically evaluate a given way of presenting information

AO3 - Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts

Students should be able to:

- translate problems in mathematical or non-mathematical contexts into a process or a series of mathematical processes
- make and use connections between different parts of mathematics
- interpret results in the context of the given problem
- evaluate methods used and results obtained
- evaluate solutions to identify how they may have been affected by assumptions made

- Three written terminal papers to be taken at the end of year 11.
 - There are a total of three papers, where there are two calculator papers, and one non- calculator paper with Edexcel (1MA1).
 - All papers are of equal weighting for the final examination marks with each paper worth 80 marks, for a total of 240.
 - All papers are 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
 - Tiered papers: Foundation Tier Grades 5 to 1, Higher Tier Grades 9 to 3.
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Your Options 2019-20

Core Subjects

Key Stage 4 Science Options

As Science is a core subject, all students must follow a Science course as part of their KS4 curriculum. Currently, there is a national expectation that students complete KS4 with two Science GCSEs. The Buckingham School currently has two courses available within Science at GCSE.

The two courses that we will be offering are:

- Combined Science – 2 GCSEs
- Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) – 3 GCSEs

Separate Sciences is an academically demanding course. We will support student requests to study Separate Science using the following pieces of information:

- KS2 English and Maths data
- KS3 Science data, including all end of unit tests, assessment tasks and homework tasks
- Professional discussions with previous Science teachers.

It is the expectation that students who start on the path towards Separate Sciences from the beginning of Year 9 remain on this pathway throughout Years 9-11. This is because it forms one of their option choices.

Your Options 2019-20

Core Subjects

Subject

Combined Science

Course Content

This course is designed for the majority of our students. It gives students opportunities to progress onto STEM careers, as well as giving them valuable insight into real-life science applications. Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics units. Science at Buckingham School is taught with a heavy emphasis on practical work and so students should expect to carry out multiple practical activities for each unit.

On successful completion of this course, students will achieve two GCSEs in Combined Science.

Where does this Course lead?

This course sets students up well to continue studying science at Key Stage 5. Depending on the students' attainment, they would be able to follow either vocational (BTEC) and/or academic (A-Level) routes.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

There are no longer coursework components to Science GCSEs, however, the students will be carrying out specific practicals throughout their course that they will be expected to write about during their examinations.

How Parents can help

Parents/carers may wish to consider purchasing a good revision guide specific to the new AQA GCSE Combined Science specification (9-1). Suitable revision guides will be available from Reprographics during the Autumn term. It is our intention that all of our students have access to past examination papers.

Assessment

This is a linear course and therefore all of the students' exams are sat in the summer of Year 11, although progress will be monitored through formative and summative internal assessments throughout the course.

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

Excellent revision guides are available from both AQA and Collins publishers. Students will be made aware of how they can access these resources through their class teachers.

GCSE Bitesize online offers a variety of support activities to support revision and exam preparation.

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/AQA-KS4-SCIENCE-COMP-GUIDE.PDF>

Your Options 2019-20

Core Subjects

Subject

Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Course Content

This course is designed for the most able science students. It contains units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and each course will be examined separately at the end of Year 11.

On completion of this course, students will receive three GCSEs in the three Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). By studying separate sciences students will cover more science content and therefore be better prepared should they wish to take science A Levels or use scientific skills in their careers in the future. Whatever career students are considering, taking triple science will set them up well for later in life due to transferable science-based skills, such as problem solving.

Where does this Course lead?

This course prepares students wonderfully for further academic study, i.e. A-Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics at Key Stage 5. The new AQA GCSE course has been specifically designed to make the transition between GCSE and A-Level as seamless as possible. These courses can then lead to a wide variety of university courses and careers in STEM subjects.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

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<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/AQA-KS4-SCIENCE-COMP-GUIDE.PDF>

Your Options 2019-20

Core Subjects

Subject

PSHE

Course Content

PSHE stands for personal, social and health education. Within this course, the following things will be covered throughout KS4:

- Healthy lifestyles – including physical, mental and social health
- Relationships – including sex education
- Online safety
- Living in the wider world – including financial capability
- Careers education

Where does this Course lead?

This course is not externally assessed but rather designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, safe, successful and purposeful lives. It forms an integral part of our commitment to developing our students holistically.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

There may be trips that run throughout the duration of KS4 but no specialist requirements exist.

How Parents can help

Discuss things covered in the PSHE curriculum with your child.

Discuss current affairs and news articles with your child.

Discuss their aspirations and life goals with them, including choice of possible career.

Assessment

Assessment will be internal and not externally awarded.

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

Your Options 2019-20

Options Subjects

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21	BTEC	Business Studies
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24-25	BTEC	Construction and The Built Environment
26	GCSE	Dance
27	GCSE	Drama
28	GCSE	Food Preparation and Nutrition
29-30	GCSE	French
31-32	GCSE	Geography
33	BTEC	Health & Social Care
34	GCSE	History
35	GCSE	Media Studies
36	GCSE	Music
37	BTEC Tech Award	Performing Arts
38	GCSE	Physical Education
39-40	GCSE	Photography
41	GCSE	Psychology
42	GCSE	Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)
43	BTEC	Sports Leadership
44-45	GCSE	Spanish

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Art & Design

Course Content

Years 9, 10 & 11 - Over the three years, students will learn a variety of skills and techniques to help them complete a portfolio of work, selection of further work and an externally set task, (10 hour exam in Year 11) covering a range of the skills listed below:

Painting: Candidates should explore the use of tone, colour, composition, materials and context. Candidates can show this through the use of various processes and media, such as inks, acrylic, water colour or oil paints.

Drawing: Candidates should be encouraged to work from direct observation to explore drawing using line and tone. They should also be encouraged to explore a wide variety of drawing materials using different surfaces. Drawing materials might include pastel, pencil, pen and ink, paint, charcoal or other materials.

Printmaking: Candidates should explore a variety of printmaking techniques and produce either a series of related images or one-off prints using methods such as linocut, etching, mono printing or screen printing.

Written work:

Students must record their ideas, observations and insights both visually and through written annotation using appropriate specialist vocabulary, as work progresses. The content and presentation of annotation will be determined by what the student wishes to communicate, including how it supports the development of their work through the creative process.

At GCSE students must submit a portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

Exam length at GCSE is 10 hours. Coursework is 60% and the controlled assessment (exam) is 40%. Our examination board is AQA. Details of the Assessment Objectives and course specification can be found on their website (see link below).

Continued Overleaf.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Art & Design

Course Content

Art and Design (Full Course) Art and Design – At a glance

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work

Controlled Assessment – set and marked by Centre and moderated by AQA. 80 marks – 60% - Candidate portfolio selected from work undertaken during course of study and must include a selection of further work.

Unit 2: Externally Set Task

Question papers issued from 1 January. Marked by Centre and moderated by AQA. 80 marks – 40% Unlimited preparation time. 10 hours of sustained focused study. Candidates respond to their chosen starting point.

The Art Exam (controlled assessment) is 10 hours. However, the preparation for the exam is graded too. This is roughly 10 weeks (30 lessons/hours) to complete a sketch book in preparation for the final outcome which you do in the 10 hours.

Students get graded on the same four Assessment Objectives as the coursework.

Where does this Course lead?

The GCSE leads directly to A level at Sixth Form. Students can also study Photography at A level. The GCSE and 'A' level courses we offer use the same exam board so assessment criterion are similar. This makes progression easier for students.

Visits/ Coursework / Specialist Requirements

All basic equipment is supplied, for example, acrylic paint, oil pastels, colour pencils etc. Students may wish to purchase their own resources however, it is not essential.

We require students to always attend their lesson with their own stationary and they can purchase an art pack of materials and A3 sketchbook for September, in Year 10 and an A4 sketchbook for January, in Year 11.

Any specialist crafts that students choose to undertake in Year 11 for their exam may need to be purchased by the student.

How Parents can help

The course is very time consuming and parents will need to motivate their child to work at home and to attend afterschool catch up clubs. Visiting galleries and drawing at home will help to broaden student's knowledge and understanding.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject **GCSE Art & Design**

Assessment

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES:

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
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Students work has to cover all 4 Assessment Objectives (above). Further breakdown of the boundaries are on pages 41,42 and 43 of the Art and Design Specification found on the AQA website.

Guides / Support
Materials / Websites

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/subjects/AQA-W-SP-14.PDF>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design->

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

**ASDAN
Bronze Award, Short Course Award**

Course Content

Skills for life including numeracy, literacy, working with others, problem solving, planning and reviewing, communication skills, home management, health and survival, community work, information handling, world of work, improving the environment, current affairs, healthy living, personal finance, enterprise, fundraising, research skills and presentation skills.

Where does this Course lead?

Bronze Award – Short Course Award
Silver Award / Gold Award

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

ASDAN booklets, evidence portfolios, walks, parks, projects in school and the local community.

How Parents can help

By watching and sharing up-to-date news and current affairs for discussions, supplying their children with the correct equipment for school and by supporting with any homework required.

Assessment

Internal and external moderation.

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Business Studies

Students will all cover the Business Enterprise unit first and will then be led on to the appropriate course (either BTEC or GCSE Business Studies) they will attain the higher grade on.

Course Content

Students take two Business Studies Exam Units:

Unit 1: Investigating Small Business

Unit 2: Building a Business

Where does this Course lead?

Learners progress onto AS & A2 GCE Applied Business Studies or a BTEC Level 3 Certificate.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

Trips to large Business Marketing seminars and students are required to read and take an interest in local, national and global economic, political and business issues.

How Parents can help

Parents and carers can greatly assist student's learning by actively increasing their child's knowledge by discussing local and national business issues and explaining their own work place structures and services. Parents are encouraged to join The Buckingham School Business Club.

Assessment

Unit 1: Exam (50%)

Unit 2: Exam (50%)

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

Fully equipped ICT facilities, textbooks, learning guides, teacher's notes and coursework clubs. Students involved with whole school Enterprise ethos. Edexcel examiner's websites and online support material.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject **BTEC Business Studies**

Students will all cover the Business Enterprise unit first and will then be led on to the appropriate course (either BTEC or GCSE Business Studies) they will attain the higher grade on.

Course Content

Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Business			
Unit	Core units	Assessment method	GLH
1	Enterprise in the Business World	Internal	30
2	Finance for Business	External	30
Optional specialist			
3	Promoting a Brand	Internal	30
4	Principles of Customer Service	Internal	30
5	Sales and Personal Selling	Internal	30
6	Introducing Retail Business	Internal	30
7	Providing Business Support	Internal	30
8	Recruitment, Selection and Employment	Internal	30

Students take mandatory units 1 & 2 plus 2 optional units

Where does this Course lead?

BTECs are vocational qualifications designed to give students the skills they need to either move on to higher education or go straight into employment. They can use this qualification to progress on to BTEC L3 and Advanced Level courses.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

Trips to large Business Marketing seminars and students are required to read and take an interest in local, national and global economic, political and business issues.

How Parents can help

Parents and guardians can greatly assist student's learning by actively increasing their child's knowledge by discussing local and national business issues and explaining their own work place structures and services. Parents are encouraged to join The Buckingham School Business Club.

Assessment

Unit 1: Internal
Unit 2: External (Exam)
Optional Units: Internal

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

Fully equipped ICT facilities, textbooks, learning guides, teacher's notes and coursework clubs. Students involved with whole school Enterprise ethos. Edexcel examiner's websites and online support material

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Computer Science

Course Content

The Computer Science GCSE is structured to allow students get solid grounding in programming and theory of computing. An outline of the key exciting concepts is listed below. The course is split so that there is a compulsory programming task (not examined) and two external examinations that are taken in Year 11.

Programming project:

Programming techniques; Analysis; Design; Development ; Testing and Evaluation and Conclusions, using all the skills that they have built up.

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:

Algorithms: Programming techniques : Producing robust programmes; Computational logic; Translators and facilities of languages; Data representation Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (80 marks)

Computer systems

Systems Architecture; Memory; Storage; Wired and wireless networks; Network topologies, protocols and layers; System security; System software; Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns; Computer systems. (80 marks)

Where does this Course lead?

The course gives students an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming which many students find absorbing.

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area.

Students who have taken a GCSE in Computing and who then progress to study the subject at 'A' Level/BTEC or university will have an advantage over their colleagues who are picking up the subject at these levels.

Continued Overleaf.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject **GCSE Computer Science**

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving students a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course provides excellent preparation for students who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

Visits / Coursework /
Specialist Requirements

Computer Science Conference
Annual University Computing Department Day;
App development, National Coding Competitions
Bletchley Computing Trip
From students we require enthusiasm for independent study and research, ask that they read around the subject, be proactive attitude; Build upon their independent learning; meet deadlines and prioritise their time; attend extra-curricular clubs/activities/trips.

How Parents can help

Codecademy/ Khan Academy /W3 Schools/Javascript/Python/SQL
All students have Google drives and Computing google classroom that they can access and then share their work and progress with their parents

Assessment

Programming NON examined but compulsory:
Total 20 hours (Completed within the course)

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
1 hour and 30 minutes
Written paper 40% of total GCSE

Computer systems
1 hour and 30 minutes
Written paper 40% of total GCSE.

Guides / Support
Materials / Websites

Course book - OCR Computer Science for GCSE Student George Rouse, Sean O'Byrne::
New GCSE Computer Science OCR for the Grade 9-1 Course:
Complete Revision and Practice
Websites
<http://www.cambridgegcsecomputing.org/>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/standard/computing/computer_systems/

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

BTEC Construction and The Built Environment

Course Content

Construction Technology, Construction and Design, Scientific and Mathematical Applications, Brickwork, Joinery, Decorating, Construction Drawing.

The core units are:

Unit 1: Construction Technology

This unit covers the different forms of construction that can be used for low-rise offices, retail units and homes. Students will develop an understanding of the structural performance required for low-rise construction and explore how substructures and superstructures are constructed. This unit will be externally assessed.

Unit 2: Construction and Design

In this unit, students will develop a broad understanding of the construction industry, the sorts of projects it undertakes and the contribution it makes to wider society. Students will also look at how client needs can shape the design of a building and develop their own design ideas to a given brief.

The mandatory unit is:

Unit 3: Scientific and Mathematical applications for Construction

In this unit, students will apply scientific and mathematical knowledge, understanding and skills to practical construction contexts. Students will develop an understanding of the scientific principles affecting the performance of construction materials and develop skills to perform mathematical calculations in the construction contexts.

Students choose one further unit from the seven optional specialist units offered within this qualification, building on the core and the mandatory unit to provide students with an opportunity to develop a wider understanding and appreciation of areas of the construction industry, dependent on their interests and motivation.

The optional specialist units available are:

Unit 5: Construction Drawing Techniques

Where learners will develop the techniques to interpret and produce clear construction drawings through a variety of methods.

Continued overleaf.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

BTEC Construction and The Built Environment

Where does this Course lead?

Level 2 BTEC First Award is for girls as well as boys. The rationale for all qualifications in the BTEC First Suite in Construction and the Built Environment is to:

- Inspire and enthuse students to consider a career in the Construction industry
- Give students the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding and develop skills in the Construction industry
- Support progression to a more specialised Level 3 vocational or academic Construction course or an apprenticeship
- Give students the potential opportunity in due course to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the Construction sector.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

Applicants need to have:

- Ability with mathematics (Set 1,2 or 3)
- Science ability is also required
- Drawing skills need to be of a good standard for the design unit of this course
- Students must also have good practical skills.

How Parents can help

Students will require:

Overalls, boots, calculator, pencil, ruler, pen and access to a computer and printer.

Good key skills and organisation are vital if students are to cope with this course.

Assessment

25% external and 75% internal

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

www.edexcel.com

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Dance

Course Content

You will:

- Develop skills, knowledge and understanding of dance as a performer, choreographer and critic;
- Apply and adapt your skills in performance and choreography;
- Create dances for a range of purposes and in response to different stimuli;
- Develop your ability to analyse, evaluate and appreciate dance;
- Learn to appreciate the contribution of dance to your personal and social health, fitness and wellbeing.

Where does this Course lead?

The skills gained during the course are relevant to all subject areas, future employment and progression to many Post-16 courses. These include Level 3 courses in Dance, Drama, Musical Theatre and PE. It can also lead to a range of careers and college or university courses.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

Students will need to realise that all lessons they participate in will support their coursework, either practical or written. Therefore, they will need to keep detailed lesson notes. These will also support revision for the final GCSE written exam.

All students need to understand that they will be expected to perform solo, duet and group dances. These will be completed and performed to an external examiner.

How Parents can help

Whilst many students will bring some previous experience of dance, others will have very little. This course aims to value and build on whatever experience students have, therefore, supporting students to complete the expected hour of rehearsal each week is very useful.

The school also runs several different after school clubs to build confidence and skills and, therefore, it would be useful to allow your son/daughter to stay after school.

Assessment

- Practical (60%) Written Exam (40%)
- Performance (30%)
- Set phrases in a solo performance
- Duet/trio performance
- Choreography (30%)
- Solo OR group dance
- Written Exam (40%)
- Questions are based on student's own experience as a performer and choreographer and on the GCSE Dance Anthology – a collection of professional dance works.

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

The exam board (AQA) website and direct access to the Dance page is below; <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236>

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject	GCSE Drama
Course Content	<p>This course consists of both practical and written content. Students will be expected to explore themed work through devising and creating performance work using their own ideas on specific topics.</p> <p>Students will also need read and perform at least two scripts. The written work accompanies these and will be completed under controlled conditions in school. There is also a terminal performance and written exam.</p>
Where does this Course lead?	<p>After you have completed GCSE Drama, you can go on to higher levels of study. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ GCE Drama and Theatre Studies at AS and A2 Level▪ BTEC National Performing Arts (Acting)
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>Students will need to realise that all lessons they participate in will support their coursework, either practical or written. Therefore, they will need to keep detailed lesson notes.</p> <p>All students need to understand that they will be expected to perform both as an ensemble and occasionally on their own.</p>
How Parents can help	<p>Encouraging Drama students to experience many different styles and types of theatre is a very useful activity parents can participate in. Encouraging the Drama students to explore differing ways of recording their class work is also extremely useful.</p>
Assessment	<p>You will explore themes, ideas and plays in a wholly practical way and your teacher will assess how well you have done in both the performances and in a written portfolio. Parts of this course will also be externally moderated.</p> <p>You will also be required to sit a written exam based on a set text and review of a performance seen.</p>
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>The exam board (OCR) website and direct access to the Drama page is below; http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242630-specification-draft-gcse-drama-j316.pdf</p> <p>Another useful website is BBC bitesize; http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/drama/</p> <p>This will support the learning of specific skills needed for the course and aids the use of technical language.</p>

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject **Food Preparation and Nutrition**

Course Content	<p>Component 1 Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition</p> <p>Learners will be given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the six areas of content set out below. Learners will also be given the opportunity to develop technical skills through practical and experimental work. This opportunity will allow learners to develop sound technical skills whilst exploring and consolidating knowledge and understanding relating to food preparation and nutrition.</p> <p>Areas of Content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Food commodities2. Principles of nutrition3. Diet and good health4. The science of food5. Where food comes from6. Cooking and food preparation <p>Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action</p> <p>This component offers the students chance to apply the principles learned in component 1 in an assessed environment. There are different investigative tasks within this component and they focus on the scientific principles of food through alongside a task that focuses on the selection, preparation and evaluation of a three-course menu based on guidelines provided by the exam board.</p>
Where does this Course lead?	Food Preparation and Nutrition can lead to a number of careers not just those directly linked with the food industry. It can also help to support applications to a wide range of further education courses such as Food Science, Product Development, Food and Nutrition, Sports Science, Midwifery and Nursing, Medicine, Dietetics, Catering and Hospitality, Food Journalism and PR, Food Styling and Photography, Food Retail and Environmental Health.
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>Opportunities to experience foods from different cultures will occur during this course and trips to look at the production of food will be built into the curriculum.</p> <p>You will need to provide ingredients for practical sessions.</p>
How Parents can help	Encourage your child to prepare and cook at home regularly and experiment with a range of ingredients from across the world.
Assessment	<p>You will complete two NEAs (non-exam assessments) during the course.</p> <p>NEA 1: Food Investigation (15%). A report on the scientific principles of the preparation and cooking of food.</p> <p>NEA 2: Food Preparation assessment (35%). You will plan and cook a three course menu in 3 hours.</p> <p>Written Examination (50%)</p>
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>Information can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/food-preparation-and-nutrition/</p> <p>Revision guides are available to purchase from reprographics at school.</p>

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject **GCSE French**

Course Content

French GCSE is a practical course in which students learn to speak French in situations which might arise if they were in France or a French-speaking country. These situations include everyday activities, personal and social life, the world around us, the world of work and the international world.

Students also learn to understand details of what is said to them as well as announcements, instructions, requests and conversations within the areas listed above. They practise reading and understanding menus, timetables, weather reports, brochures, letters and accounts about an aspect of life in France.

The course gives students an insight into life in France or a French-speaking country and an awareness of its culture. The work covered in Years 10 & 11 is determined by the demands of the examination. As in Year 9, the vocabulary and the grammatical constructions associated with the topics required by the syllabus are taught concurrently. Regular practice is given in the four skills required by the GCSE syllabus.

Where does this Course lead?

A Modern Foreign Language qualification is an increasingly important asset in many careers. A GCSE in a modern language can be the basis for study at AS or 'A' level as well as Vocational courses.

A GCSE in a modern foreign language has gained even more importance with the planned implementation of the English Baccalaureate that the government are introducing.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

Course book: AQA GCSE French. Students will also benefit from having native speakers within the department.

In Years 9 or 10, students will have the opportunity to take part in a French residential trip where they can put into practice their French learned in lessons. It is an excellent opportunity for them to experience the culture and language of France.

How parents can help

Monitor the student's progress in their exercise books. Show an interest in what and how the student is learning in class. Be prepared to help the student to learn new phrases / grammar rules.

Encourage the student to listen to French radio online.

Continued overleaf.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject GCSE French

Assessment	Unit Title	Weighting	Nature of Assessment
	Unit 1 - Listening	25%	A range of question types based on pre-recorded spoken material in French.
	Unit 2 - Reading	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role-play• Photo card• Conversation
	Unit 3 - Speaking	25%	A range of question types based on written material in French and translation from French into English.
	Unit 4 - Writing	25%	List tasks (Foundation Tier only) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Message (Foundation Tier only)• Translation from English into French• Structured writing task• Open-ended task (Higher Tier only)

Guides / Support
Materials / Websites

Course book: AQA GCSE exercise book.

Each student will be expected to bring a dictionary to each lesson and a verb book.

We recommend:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-School-French-Dictionary-Valerie/dp/0199115281/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1394022729&sr=1-2&keywords=oxford+school+French+dictionary

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Blue-Pocket-French-Verbs-Language-Learning/dp/0071421637>

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Geography

Course Content

Component 01: Our natural world

Students develop an understanding and appreciation of the natural world they live in and why it looks the way it does. They study the rich diversity of landscapes and ecosystems which are changing through physical processes and human interactions.

There are four topics:

- Global hazards
- Changing climate
- Distinctive landscapes
- Sustaining ecosystems

Fieldwork skills include understanding and applying specific geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to real-world physical geographical contexts.

Component 02: People and society

Students explore the social, cultural, political and economic forces that make places unique, and how these change over time and space, particularly the growth of urbanisation and the challenges of feeding an ever-growing population.

There are four topics:

- Urban futures
- Dynamic development
- UK in the 21st century
- Resource reliance

Fieldwork skills include understanding and applying specific geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to real-world human geographical contexts.

Component 03: Geographical exploration

This component draws on geographical knowledge, understanding and skills that have been developed in components 01 and 02. This synoptic assessment enables students to demonstrate their understanding of the connections between the different elements of the subject.

Geographical skills:

- Cartographic
- Graphical
- Numerical
- Statistical

This component includes a decision-making exercise, here students can become critical thinkers and develop arguments.

Continued overleaf.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject **GCSE Geography**

Where does this Course lead? This course offers students the chance to learn about the world around them and leads perfectly to A Level Geography.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements There are two field trips necessary for the completion of this course. Visits and trips that aid the students develop their skills, knowledge and understanding required in the course will be offered throughout KS4.

How Parents can help Encourage your child to read the news and stay afloat of current affairs. Ensure your child has a revision guide and even a course-specific textbook to aid their extended learning.

Assessment Assessment is done through end-of-course exams in all three components:

	Percentage of GCSE	Exam time allocation
Component 1 (Our Natural World)	35%	1 hour 15 minutes
Component 2 (People and Society)	35%	1 hour 15 minutes
Component 3 (Geographical exploration)	30%	1 hour 30 minutes

Guides / Support Materials / Websites The course title is: OCR B Geography for Enquiring Minds
Information can be found at:
<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/geography-b-geography-for-enquiring-minds-j384-from-2016/>

Revision guides are available to purchase from reprographics at school.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject	BTEC Health and Social Care
Course Content	<p>The course enables learners the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the health and social care sector.</p> <p>The units we study in Year 9 are: Services in Health and Social Care Effective Communication in Health and Social Care</p> <p>The units we study in Year 10 and 11 are: 1.Human Lifespan Development 2.Health and Social Care Services and Values Health and Wellbeing</p>
Where does this Course lead?	<p>This is a vocational subject that develops a range of skills, techniques, understanding, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successfully working in a health, social care or early year settings.</p> <p>At Key Stage 5, students can progress to the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate or Diploma in Health and Social Care</p>
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>Students will have use of ICT facilities and specialist text books. Guest speakers are invited into school to discuss health and social care issues.</p> <p>Students are able to attend support sessions at lunch-time and after school to help them with their coursework.</p>
How Parents can help	<p>Parents and carers can greatly assist student's learning by discussing local and national health and social care issues and by helping students to research local health, social care and early year settings.</p>
Assessment	<p>The final qualification consists of the three components studied in Years 10 & 11. Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. Component 3 is an external assessment.</p> <p>Students are awarded either a Pass, Merit or Distinction</p>
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>Information about the course can be found at www.qualifications.pearson.com - BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care Level 1/Level 2</p>

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject	GCSE History
Course Content	<p>The History GCSE course will teach students new and valuable skills. Students that take this subject will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Make links between events● Analyse the causes and consequences of events● Evaluate and interpret a range of sources● Draw conclusions from evidence● View the past from a range of perspectives. <p>Students will follow the Edexcel GCSE History course. The units studied are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches● Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–1088● Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–1939● The American West c1835-c1895
Where does this Course lead?	This course is designed to provide students with the skills they need to achieve their potential at GCSE.
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	Students use a range of source material and interactive activities. Students are taught in mixed ability teaching groups.
How Parents can help	Parents can encourage their children to use the Google Classrooms which been set up with a wide variety of revision resources and materials
Assessment	This course is assessed using core tasks, one per half-term. Students will be assessed on both their knowledge and understanding and their key skills. Mock examinations will take place in Years 10 and 11.
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html Materials - Revision guides are available

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject	GCSE Media Studies
Course Content	<p>The GCSE Media course will introduce students to a wide range of media texts and platforms and allow them to develop their understanding of how media products are developed, created and produced. They will study the media industry and the different audiences for media products as well as aspects of production such as audio, lighting, costuming and budget and finance.</p> <p>Across the course, students will plan and develop their own products including short films, radio shows and magazines and learn how to complete risk assessment paperwork, finance plans, shooting schedules and scripts and storyboards. They will also learn about the codes and conventions of different genres of product and explore an industry which is worth £977 billion worldwide.</p> <p>The course will encompass a range of group, pair and individual work and aims to build a detailed theoretical knowledge as well as developing a range of practical and technical skills.</p>
Where does this Course lead?	The course can lead to an 'A' Level in Media and Film. It can then be used to progress to university courses with a base in media, journalism or film studies or to apply for work experiences and apprenticeships in media firms.
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	This media course requires strong literacy levels and writing ability. All written exams require essay style responses.
How Parents Can Help	Support students in exploring a range of media texts, including film, TV, newspaper and magazine articles.
Assessment	<p>GCSE Media</p> <p><u>Exam:</u></p> <p>Component 1: Exploring the Media Written examination 40% of qualification</p> <p>Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products Written examination 30% of qualification</p> <p><u>NEA:</u></p> <p>Component 3: Creating Media Products Non-exam assessment 30% of qualification</p>
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/gcse/

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject	GCSE Music
Course Content	Unit 1: Understanding Music – Part A is a listening exam where students answer questions about various musical extracts. Part B tests students' knowledge of four set pieces and the various musical aspects of each. Unit 2: Performing Music - Performance standard to be equivalent to a minimum of Grade 3 equivalent by the end of year 11 – 1 Solo, 1 Group Unit 3: Composing Music - 2 Final pieces with a realisation/performance of each.
Where does this Course lead?	In addition to helping students acquire subject knowledge, this specification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provides students the opportunity to gain self-confidence through performing to others▪ Develops team-working skills through performing with others▪ Extends students' creative skills through composing music▪ Encourages the understanding of the importance of continuous evaluation and refinement in any process▪ Provides a solid foundation for progression to music related courses, including 'A' Level Music, and a career in music professions
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	Possible class trips to see a Symphony Orchestra perform. Coursework will involve music theory, written assignments, music composition, and audio recording of performances.
How Parents can help	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enrol student(s) in peripatetic music lessons for their specific instrument▪ Engage in any musical activities; concerts, musicals, symphony concerts, any place where they may hear various styles and genres of music▪ Listen to students perform/have them perform for family friends etc. (when they are ready, not forced).
Assessment	Unit 1: Understanding Music 40% 1 hour 30 minutes written examination 96 marks in total Unit 2: Performing Music 30% Controlled Assessment 72 marks in total Unit 3: Composing Music 30% Controlled Assessment 72 marks in total
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	There is a course study guide, composition workbook, listening example workbook and a revision guide that will all be very useful in terms of completing the GCSE course.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject	BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts
Course Content	<p data-bbox="421 422 739 447">Exploring the Performing Arts</p> <ul data-bbox="421 488 818 544" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="421 488 818 513">• Internally assessed assignments<li data-bbox="421 515 818 540">• 30% of the total course <p data-bbox="421 582 1019 607">Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts</p> <ul data-bbox="421 648 818 704" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="421 648 818 673">• Internally assessed assignments<li data-bbox="421 675 818 700">• 30% of the total course <p data-bbox="421 741 646 766">Performing to a Brief</p> <ul data-bbox="421 808 733 864" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="421 808 733 832">• Externally assessed task<li data-bbox="421 835 733 859">• 40% of the total course
Where does this Course lead?	If student's work to achieve a minimum of a merit in all units, they will receive a level 2 qualification. They will then be able to progress to level 3 qualifications in Performing Arts, depending on the strand chosen.
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	Evidence portfolios, performances to external audiences, classes in chosen techniques, video work. There will be an expectation to complete a rehearsal log which will extra to the hours in school.
How Parents can help	By watching and sharing up-to-date news and current affairs for discussions, supplying their children with the correct equipment for school and by supporting with any homework required.
Assessment	Internal and external moderation, including Solo performance & external written work.
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/performing-arts/2017/teaching-and-learning/First-Look_Guide__BTEC_Tech_Award_in_Performing_Arts.pdf

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject **GCSE Physical Education**

Course Content	The GCSE Physical Education course contains three areas of content. 1. The human body and movement in physical activity and sport. Applied anatomy and physiology • Movement analysis • Physical training • Use of data. 2. Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport. Sports psychology • Socio-cultural influences • Health, fitness and well-being • Use of data. 3. Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport.
Where does this Course lead?	GCSE PE can be the launch pad for a career in the sports industry and a lifelong commitment to fitness. Students who succeed in GCSE PE can study 'A' Level PE/BTEC Sport in Years 12 and 13.
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	Students require Level 5 in PE and, ideally, Level 5 in English, Maths and Science. Pupils must be adept in at least <u>two</u> sports. For example, they should either represent the school or play for an external team.
How Parents can help	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect extra course information regarding the specification of GCSE, Download past papers and mark schemes.• Support homework and coursework deadlines being met. Ensure students are suitably equipped for all lessons, including PE kit. Parents should also support and encourage their sons and daughters to attend extra curricular activities and external sporting ventures.• Pupils need to attend two extra-curricular sporting activities.
Assessment	Section 1 Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • 78 marks • 30% of GCSE Section 2 Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • 78 marks • 30% of GCSE Practical assessment of 3 sports 2 team one individual or visa versa. Assessed by teachers • Moderated by AQA • 100 marks • 40% of GCSE
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	AQA GCSE PE Revision guide AQA GCSE PE Text book http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/pe

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Photography

Course Content

Photography is defined as the practice of producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images. In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as: portraiture; location photography; studio photography; experimental imagery; installation; documentary photography; photo-journalism; moving image: film, video and animation; fashion photography

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas. Students will need to develop and show knowledge and understanding of the following things:

The way sources inspire the development of ideas, relevant to photography including:

- how sources relate to historical, contemporary, social, cultural and issues-based contexts and external considerations such as those associated with the cultural industries and client-oriented requirements
- how ideas, themes, subjects and feelings can inspire creative responses informed by different styles, genres and aesthetic considerations and/or an individual's distinctive view of the world.

The ways in which meanings, ideas and intentions relevant to photography can be communicated include the use of:

- figurative and non-figurative forms, image manipulation, close up, and imaginative interpretation
- visual and tactile elements such as: colour; line; form; tone; texture; shape; pattern; composition; scale; sequence; surface; contrast.

Within the context of photography, students must demonstrate the ability to:

- use photographic techniques and processes, appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example: lighting; viewpoint; aperture; depth of field; shutter speed and movement; use of enlarger; chemical and digital processes.
- Use media and materials, as appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example: film; photographic papers; chemicals appropriate to darkroom practices; digital media, programs and related technologies; graphic media for purposes such as storyboarding, planning and constructing shoots.

Where does this Course lead?

This GCSE leads directly to A Level Photography, currently offered in our sixth form. This is an ideal pathway as many of the processes, equipment and assessment are similar between the two courses.

Continued overleaf.

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Photography

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

Whilst we endeavor to supply all materials for the course, we do ask for a contribution of £50 to cover the purchase of specialist materials used during the course. Students who have their own DSLR cameras can use these for their coursework, although this is not a requirement.

Any specialist crafts and materials that students choose to use for their assessments may need to be purchased by the student.

We run a number of trips throughout the duration of this course.

How Parents can help

Encouragement to take photos, manipulate photos and publish photos are all ways in which parents can help. Researching different photographers and showing an interest in the subject will be vital to students' success in this subject.

Assessment

Assessment is through completion of two components:

Component 1:

- A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.
- 60% of the overall GCSE
- No time limit
- Internally assessed, externally moderated

Component 2:

- Externally-set assignment
- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time
- 40% of the overall GCSE

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/photography>

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject	GCSE Psychology
Course Content	<p>Psychology is one of the most popular subjects to study because it has a big impact on all areas of life, from education and health, to the economy and crime.</p> <p>Psychologists apply scientific methodology to explain human behaviour. They formulate theories, test hypotheses through observation and experiment, and analyse their reports with statistical techniques that help them identify important findings.</p> <p>The topics covered are:</p> <p>Criminal behaviour, Development, Psychological problems, Social influence, Memory, Sleep and dreaming, and Research methods</p>
Where does this Course lead?	<p>Psychology can help you in your future career, whatever that may be. There are plenty of exciting careers in psychology that you might want to explore, such as forensic psychology and working in mental health professions. However, studying the subject can help you in many other professions as well. For example, if you want to become a business manager, understanding human behaviour can improve your ability to manage and interact with your employees. The police, sports, working with children and finance are also popular career choices with people who have studied Psychology.</p>
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>There will be a visit that develops understanding of one area of the curriculum. There is no coursework in GCSE Psychology.</p>
How Parents can help	<p>By encouraging their son or daughter to take an interest in the world around them by reading a newspaper or watching the news on television. By talking about Psychology with their children, encouraging critical thinking and independent learning that includes wider reading.</p>
Assessment	<p>2 x written paper exams. Each worth 90 marks and lasting 1hr 30 mins. Each paper is worth 50% of total GCSE.</p>
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>More information can be found at http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-psychology-j203-from-2017/specification-at-a-glance/</p>

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Course Content

This course is designed for the most able science students. It contains units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and each course will be examined separately at the end of Year 11.

On completion of this course, students will receive three GCSEs in the three Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). By studying separate sciences students will cover more science content and therefore be better prepared should they wish to take science A Levels or use scientific skills in their careers in the future. Whatever career students are considering, taking triple science will set them up well for later in life due to transferable science-based skills, such as problem solving.

Where does this Course lead?

This course prepares students wonderfully for further academic study, i.e. A-Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics at Key Stage 5. The new AQA GCSE course has been specifically designed to make the transition between GCSE and A-Level as seamless as possible. These courses can then lead to a wide variety of university courses and careers in STEM subjects.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

There are no longer coursework components to Science GCSEs, however, the students will be carrying out specific practicals throughout their course that they will be expected to write about during their examinations.

How Parents can help

Parents/carers may wish to consider purchasing a good revision guide specific to the new AQA GCSE Combined Science specification (9-1). Suitable revision guides will be available from Reprographics during the Autumn term. It is our intention that all of our students have access to past examination papers.

Assessment

This is a linear course and therefore all of the students' exams are sat in the summer of Year 11, although progress will be monitored through formative and summative internal assessments throughout the course.

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

Excellent revision guides are available from both AQA and Collins publishers. Students will be made aware of how they can access these resources through their class teachers.

GCSE Bitesize online offers a variety of support activities to support revision and exam preparation.

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/AQA-KS4-SCIENCE-COMP-GUIDE.PDF>

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

BTEC Sports Leadership

Course Content

Component 1: Understand the Body and the Supporting Technology for Sport and Activity. Aim: explore body systems, common sports injuries and technological advances in the sector.

Component 2: The Principles of Training, Nutrition and Psychology for Sport and Activity. Aim: explore how training, nutrition and psychological factors contribute to engagement in sport and activity

Component 3: Applying the Principles of Sport and Activity. Aim: to understand the attributes of a successful sports leader and plan and lead an engaging activity session.

Where does this Course lead?

This course pathway continues at The Buckingham School where you can Join our Sports Academy in sixth form and continue your learning in higher level detail. Expanding your knowledge into areas such as Sports Psychology, Business and Media. This can lead to University and your choice of a vast array of Sports related Degrees.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

Pupils will be required to lead younger students in their role as a Coach/Leader. They will require appropriate PE kit for their practical lessons.

How Parents can help

Support students with their homework
Add yourself as a parent to the Classes Google Classroom
Support students with their organisation and time management at home, especially in relation to completing assignment based coursework.

Assessment

Component 1: Understand the Body and the Supporting Technology for Sport and Activity. Assessment: internally assessed Weighting: 30% of total course

Component 2: The Principles of Training, Nutrition and Psychology for Sport and Activity. Assessment: externally assessed Weighting: 40% of total course

Component 3: Applying the Principles of Sport and Activity. Assessment: internally assessed assignments Weighting: 30% of total course.

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

For the course outline and specification please follow the link below
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/sport-activity-and-fitness.html>

Your Options 2019-20

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Spanish

Course Content

Spanish GCSE is a practical course in which students learn to speak Spanish in situations which might arise if they were in Spain or a Spanish speaking country. These situations include everyday activities, personal and social life, the world around us, the world of work and the international world. Students also learn to understand details of what is said to them as well as announcements, instructions, requests and conversations within the areas listed above. They practise reading and understanding menus, timetables, weather reports, brochures, letters and accounts about an aspect of life in Spain.

The course gives students an insight into life in Spain or a Spanish speaking country and an awareness of its culture. The work covered in Years 10 & 11 is determined by the demands of the examination. As in Year 9, the vocabulary and the grammatical constructions associated with the topics required by the syllabus are taught concurrently. Regular practice is given in the four skills required by the GCSE syllabus.

Where does this Course lead?

A Modern Foreign Language qualification is an increasingly important asset in many careers. A GCSE in a modern language can be the basis for study at AS or A level as well as vocational courses. A GCSE in a modern foreign language has gained even more importance with the planned implementation of the English Baccalaureat that the government are introducing.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

We follow the AQA specification. The course aims to develop students' language skills within a variety of contexts, relating to their own lifestyle and that of other people, including people in countries/communities where Spanish is spoken. The course builds on Key Stage 3 study and prepares students for further study.

How Parents can help

Monitor the student's progress in their exercise books. Show an interest in what and how the student is learning in class. Be prepared to help the student to learn new phrases / grammar rules. Encourage the student to listen to Spanish radio online and also to watch DVD's in Spanish.

Continued Overleaf.

Your Options 2019-20

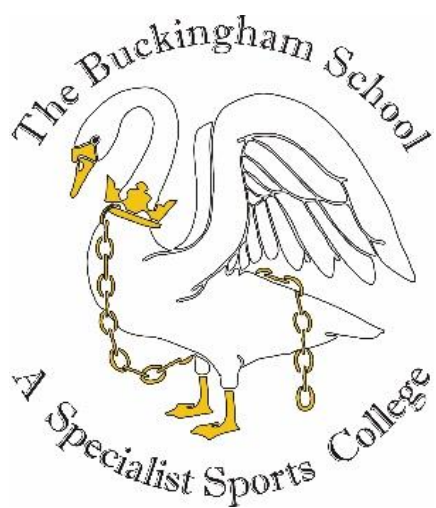
Option Subjects

Subject GCSE Spanish

Assessment	Unit Title	Weighting	Nature of Assessment
	Unit 1 Listening	25%	A range of question types based on pre-recorded spoken material in Spanish.
	Unit 2 Speaking	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role-play• Photo card• Conversation
	Unit 3 Reading	25%	A range of question types based on written material in Spanish and translation from Spanish into English.
	Unit 4 Writing	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• List task (Foundation Tier only)• Message (Foundation Tier only)• Translation from English into Spanish• Structured writing task• Open-ended task (Higher Tier only)

Guides / Support
Materials /
Websites

Course book: AQA GCSE exercise book.
Each student will be expected to bring a dictionary to each lesson and a verb book.
We recommend:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-School-Spanish-Dictionary-Valerie/dp/019911529X/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1394023816&sr=1-2&keywords=oxford+school+spanish+dictionary
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Pocket-Book-Spanish-Verbs-Language-Learning/dp/0071421629/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1394023966&sr=1-1&keywords=333+spanish+verbs
<http://www.spanishrevision.co.uk>



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