



YOUR OPTIONS

KEY STAGE FOUR CURRICULUM 2023-24

'Success for All'

www.buckinghamschool.org

Academic Year 2023-24



Welcome

Detailed in this booklet are the proposed Option choices for current Year 9 students to study in Years 10 and 11, starting in Summer 2023. The online videos and taster sessions are designed to help your child make an informed decision on which choices to make.

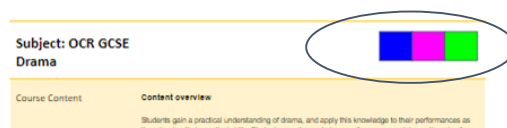
Introduction

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.

To help guide students towards appropriate Options, we have redesigned the curriculum into three new suggested pathways. Students will be given information on which pathway would be most suitable for them based on their current and prior attainment.

We have also labelled each Option subject with the pathway it is most suitable for at the top of each page:



- **Blue route** students will select four Options. It is suggested that one of these Options is either Geography or History; the second Option is either French or Spanish, giving students two further Options of their choice. This will lead to 10 Level 2 qualifications. These students will be working toward the EBacc pathway.
- **Purple route** students will select four Options. It is suggested that one of these Options is either Geography, History, French or Spanish. Students should then choose three further Options. This will lead to 10 Level 2 qualifications.
- **Green route** students will select four Options. It is suggested that one of these Options is ASDAN, another is either Construction, Sport BTEC, Health and Social Care BTEC or Business GCSE. Students should then choose two further Options. As ASDAN is not a Level 2 qualification, this will lead to 8 or 9 Level 2 qualifications (some students may take two GCSEs in Science, rather than three)

We will help students to make their choices by:

- Providing taster sessions in School during the week of the 12th December
- Providing suggested pathways for each student
- Giving information on each Option as well as videos from the Curriculum Leader
- Options Evening on Monday 19th December
- Virtual Parents Evening on Thursday 19th January

Options Blocks

We are determined that our curriculum should be based upon our students' wants and needs. For this reason, we will not block subjects until after the first round of options closes on 11th January. We hope that this will lead to a high proportion of students being able to take their first choice subjects. However, some students may not be able to take their first choice subjects and this will be discussed at our consultation evening on 19th January 2023.

Overview of KS4 Curriculum

Subject		Hours Studied per Fortnight			
Compulsory Subjects - taken by all students					
Mathematics		7			
English and English Literature (2 GCSEs)		8			
Science (Separate Sciences 3 GCSEs)		9			
PE for Health and Fitness		4			
Personal Development		1			
Philosophy and Ethics		1			
Blue	Hours	Purple	Hours	Green	Hours
Geography or History	5	Geography/ History/ French/ Spanish	5	ASDAN	5
French or Spanish	5	Option 2	5	Construction/ Sport BTEC/ BTEC Health and Social Care/ GCSE Business	5
Option 3	5	Option 3	5	Option 3	5
Option 4	5	Option 4	5	Option 4	5
Total curriculum time 50 hours					

Blue route choices should include at least **two EBacc subjects** (History or Geography and French or Spanish)

Purple route choices should include at least **one EBacc subject**, but could choose two.

Green route choices do not have to include EBacc subjects. It is suggested that green pathway students take ASDAN and one or more of Construction, Sport, Health and Social Care or Business.

How are Decisions Made About Suggested Pathways?

Suggested pathways are based upon prior attainment data and knowledge of students current abilities. Pathways have been developed to guide students towards making the most appropriate subject choices

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 (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) GCSE
- PE for health and fitness
- Personal Development (PSHE)
- Philosophy and Ethics

Tutor time will be used to enhance the key elements of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural understanding), Personal Development (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 good pass, (grade 5 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 through the Options.

- Art GCSE
 - Business Studies GCSE
 - Computer Science GCSE
 - Design & Technology GCSE
 - Drama GCSE
 - Film Studies GCSE
 - Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE
 - French GCSE
 - Geography GCSE
 - History GCSE
 - PE GCSE
 - Photography GCSE
 - Psychology GCSE
 - Sociology GCSE
 - Spanish GCSE
- 

Optional Vocational Subjects

- ASDAN
- Construction BTEC
- Health & Social Care BTEC
- Music BTEC
- Sport, Fitness & Activity BTEC

Subject Summaries

Within this booklet, 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

- **Taster sessions will run the week of 12th-16th December 2022**
- **Monday 19th December - Year 9 Options Information Evening**
- **Information about pathways, Option booklets and videos given to parents on 19th December at the Information Evening**
- **Options online portal opens 19th December for students to choose their subjects**
- **Options online portal closes 11th January 2023**
- **Option blocks decided according to student choices**
- **Virtual Options Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 19th January 2023. This will involve virtual student interviews by senior members of staff**
- **Options online reopens for any potential changes on 19th January 2023**
- **Final Options choices need to be completed online by Friday 3rd February 2023.**

Your Options 2023-24

Core Subjects

Page No.		
7	GCSE	English Language
8	GCSE	English Literature
9 - 10	GCSE	Mathematics
11	GCSE	Science – Biology, Chemistry and Physics
12		Personal Development (PSHE)
13		Philosophy and Ethics

Your Options 2023-24

Core Subjects

Subject	GCSE English Language	Compulsory for all
Course Content	<p><u>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</u></p> <p>Assessed written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE</p> <p>Section A: Reading</p> <p>Questions based on one literature fiction text</p> <p>Section B: Writing</p> <p>Descriptive or narrative writing - 1 extended writing question</p> <p><u>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</u></p> <p>Assessed written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE</p> <p>Section A: Reading</p> <p>Questions based on one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text.</p> <p>Section B: Writing</p> <p>Writing to present a viewpoint -1 extended writing</p> <p>Alongside this, students will complete a Speaking and Listening Assessment which, although compulsory, does not contribute to the final GCSE grade.</p>	
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	

Curriculum Leader
Curriculum Leader Email

Mrs S Merrick
smerrick@buckinghamschool.org

Your Options 2023-24

Core Subjects

Subject	GCSE English Literature	Compulsory for all
Course Content	<p><u>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel</u></p> <p>Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 64 marks 40% of GCSE</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry</u></p> <p>Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes 96 marks 60% of GCSE</p> <p>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.</p>	
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 2023-24

Core Subjects

Subject	GCSE Mathematics	Compulsory for all
Course Content	<p>The course will cover the following content headings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number 2. Algebra 3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change 4. Geometry and measures 5. Probability 6. Statistics 	
Where does this Course lead?	<p>GCSE qualification in Mathematics</p> <p>Progression routes will suit individual abilities and needs.</p> <p>The GCSE will form a basic requirement for entry to either College or School based courses, including A Levels that aren't necessarily Maths and other more vocational courses . A 'pass' in GCSE Mathematics will be a requirement for almost all job applications.</p>	
How Parents can help	<p>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 students to consolidate their classwork at home.</p> <p>Pinpoint will be used during the course of the qualification, giving students targeted workbooks to complete. Completing this as part of independent work will be required.</p>	
Assessment	<p>There are three assessment objectives:</p> <p>AO1 - Use and apply standard techniques</p> <p>Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2023-24

Core Subjects

Subject	GCSE Mathematics	Compulsory for all
Assessment (cont.)	<p>AO2 - Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>AO3 - Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Students will be assessed at the end of the two year period. Three written terminal papers will be taken, two calculator papers and one non-calculator paper. The Exam Board used is Pearson Edexcel. All papers are of equal weighting; each paper carries 80 marks, giving a total of 240. All 3 papers are 1 hour and 30 minutes long. There are two tiers of entry, Foundation and Higher. Foundation Tier allows students to access Grades 1 to 5. The Higher Tier enables access to Grades 5 to 9. Decisions on tier of entry will be made in Year 11.</p>	

Useful websites:

www.drfrostmaths.com

www.corbettmaths.com

www.mathsgenie.co.uk

www.mrbartonmaths.com

www.pinpointlearning.co.uk

Your Options 2023-24

Core Subjects

Compulsory for all

Subject	Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) 3 GCSEs
Course Content	<p>This course, offered to all students in our school, contains units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and each of the three sciences will be examined separately at the end of Year 11.</p> <p>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 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 separate sciences will set them up well for later in life due to the transferable science-based skills developed.</p>
Where does this Course lead?	<p>This course prepares students wonderfully for further academic study, i.e., A Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics at Key Stage 5. The 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, degree apprenticeships, and careers in STEM subjects.</p>
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>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.</p>
How Parents can help	<p>Parents/carers may wish to consider purchasing good revision guides specific to the AQA GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics specifications (9-1). Suitable revision guides will be available from Reprographics throughout the year.</p>
Assessment	<p>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.</p>
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>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, SENeca Learning and the AQA website offer a variety of support activities for revision and exam preparation.</p> <p>The specifications can be found here: Biology: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF Chemistry: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-8462-SP-2016.PDF Physics: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-8463-SP-2016.PDF</p>

Your Options 2023-24

Core Subjects

Subject	Personal Development (PSHE)	Compulsory for all
Course Content	<p>PSHE stands for Personal, Social and Health Education. Within this course, the following things will be covered throughout KS4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Health and Wellbeing – including physical, mental and social health · Relationships – including sex education · Living in the Wider World – including financial capability 	
Where does this Course lead?	<p>Personal Development (PSHE) in KS4 allows students to further develop their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of themes, as well as consider how a variety of topics impact others. Personal Development 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. Students are able to share their views and opinions, and become more self-confident both in and outside of the classroom. Personal Development forms an integral part of our commitment to developing our students holistically, and gives students an understanding of our school virtues (ambition, curiosity, confidence, empathy, resilience, respect and integrity) and how to demonstrate these.</p>	
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>There are opportunities throughout the duration of KS4 but no specialist requirements exist.</p>	
How parents/carers can help	<p>Discuss the topics covered in the PSHE curriculum with your child, including extended learning tasks.</p> <p>Discuss current affairs and news articles with your child.</p> <p>Discuss aspirations and life goals, including education and career pathways.</p>	
Assessment	<p>Assessment will be internal and not externally awarded.</p>	
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>PSHE Association</p>	

Your Options 2023-24

Core Subjects

Subject	Philosophy and Ethics	Compulsory for all
Course Content	<p>Philosophy and Ethics encourages us to explore and challenge our assumptions about what we are, how we think, and the nature of the world around us. In Philosophy and Ethics lessons students take the methods and tools of philosophical and ethical enquiry and apply them to contemporary beliefs and values and key issues facing the world today. How we live has a big impact on others, in terms of the relationships we cultivate, the behaviours we adopt or avoid and the principles we choose to live by. This course investigates our beliefs, values and decision-making processes and it challenges assumptions and ideas to see if they can still stand up as relevant and meaningful.</p>	
Where does this Course lead?	<p>Philosophy and Ethics in KS4 is not externally assessed, but rather designed to develop students' knowledge and understanding of different religious beliefs and practices and to provide opportunities for students to consider their own beliefs. Philosophy and Ethics gives students a forum in which to develop their core values and contemplate some key philosophical and ethical issues affecting today's world.</p>	
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>There are opportunities throughout the duration of KS4 but no specialist requirements exist.</p>	
How parents/carers can help	<p>Discuss with your child the topics covered in Philosophy and Ethics. Help your child make links between current affairs stories and philosophical and ethical issues.</p>	
Assessment	<p>This is not an assessed course.</p>	
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>BBC Bitesize</p>	

Your Options 2023-24

Options Subjects					
Page No.					
15-17	GCSE	Art & Design	Blue	Pink	Green
18	Bronze Award, Short Course Award	ASDAN			Green
19	GCSE	Business Studies	Blue	Pink	Green
20-21	GCSE	Computer Science	Blue		
22-23	BTEC	Construction and The Built Environment	Blue	Pink	Green
24	GCSE	Design and Technology	Blue	Pink	Green
25	GCSE	Drama	Blue	Pink	Green
26	GCSE	Film Studies	Blue	Pink	Green
27	GCSE	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Blue	Pink	Green
28-29	GCSE	French	Blue	Pink	Green
30-31	GCSE	Geography	Blue	Pink	
32	BTEC	Health & Social Care	Blue	Pink	Green
33	GCSE	History	Blue	Pink	
34	BTEC First Award	Music	Blue	Pink	
35	GCSE	Physical Education	Blue	Pink	
36-37	GCSE	Photography	Blue	Pink	Green
38	GCSE	Psychology	Blue	Pink	Green
39	GCSE	Sociology	Blue	Pink	Green
40-41	GCSE	Spanish	Blue	Pink	Green
42	BTEC Tech Award	Sport	Blue	Pink	Green

Your Options 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Art & Design



Course Content

Throughout Year 10 and 11, students will learn a variety of skills and techniques to help them complete a portfolio of work, selection of further work (SOFW) 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 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Art & Design



Course Content

Art and Design (Full Course) – 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 after school catch up clubs. Visiting galleries and drawing at home will help to broaden student's knowledge and understanding.

Your Options 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Art & Design



Assessment

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES:

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

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 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject	ASDAN Bronze Award, Short Course Award 
Course Content	Skills for life including numeracy, literacy, teamwork, 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, cooking, 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 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Business Studies



This qualification equips learners with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect business decisions. It is a well-rounded introduction to the subject.

Course Content

Students take two Business Studies Exam Units:

Business 1: Business Activity, marketing and people (50% of total GCSE)

Business 2: Operations, finance and influences on business (50% of total GCSE)

Where does this Course lead?

Learners can 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 students learning by actively increasing their child's knowledge by discussing local and national business issues and explaining their own workplace structures and services. Parents are encouraged to join The Buckingham School Business Club. It is also advisable that students purchase the course workbook and textbook.

Assessment

Business 1: Exam (50%)

Business 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 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Computer Science



Course Content

The Computer Science GCSE is structured to allow students to get solid grounding in programming, hardware and computing theories. 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.

Computer systems:

Systems Architecture; Memory and Storage; Computer network, connections and protocols; Network Security, System software;

Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology;

(80 marks)

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:

Algorithms, Programming fundamentals, Producing robust programs, Boolean Logic, Programming Languages and Integrated Development Environments

(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 Computer Science 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 2023-24

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

From students, we require enthusiasm for problem solving and resilience. We ask that students have a proactive attitude and build upon their independent learning; with objective setting a key skill for the course.

Students are encouraged to attend extra-curricular clubs/activities/trips.

How Parents can help

All students have Google drives and Computing classrooms that they can access and then share their work and progress with their parents. Parents can support by making sure students are meeting all deadlines in regards to extended learning.

Assessment

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

Computer systems
1 hour and 30 minutes
Written paper 50% of total GCSE.

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
1 hour and 30 minutes
Written paper 50% of total GCSE

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

New GCSE Computer Science OCR for the Grade 9-1 Course:
Complete Revision and Practice
Websites
[Isaac Computer Science](#)
<https://app.senecalearning.com/> - both GCSE and Python Courses
[BBC Bitesize](#)
[W3Schools](#)

Curriculum Leader
Curriculum Leader Email

Miss L Townes
ltownes@buckinghamschool.org

Your Options 2023-24

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: 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.

The mandatory unit is:

Unit 3: 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.

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. We will be focusing on Carpentry as the main unit.

Exploring Carpentry and Joinery Principles and Techniques:

In this unit, students will be introduced to the tools, materials and PPE used by Carpenters and Joiners. You will learn about potential health and safety risks within the work area, completing a full risk assessment. You will actively make and assemble a carpentry frame, consisting of a host of specialist carpentry joints.

Continued overleaf.

Curriculum Leader
Curriculum Leader Email

Mr M McElroy
mmcelroy@buckinghamschool.org

Your Options 2023-24

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 in woodwork and carpentry.

How Parents can help

Students will require:

Calculator, pencil, ruler, pen and access to a computer and printer.

Good key skills and organisation are vital if students are to succeed with this course. They will have to work independently at home on their Unit 3 client house specification drawings and conceptual ideas.

Assessment

25% external and 75% Continuous assessment internal.

Guides / Support

Materials / Websites

www.edexcel.com

Your Options 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject

Design and Technology



Course Content

1. Core technical principles

In order to make effective design choices students will need a breadth of core technical knowledge and understanding that consists of:

New and emerging technologies, mechanical devices, energy generation, storage and new materials/working properties and systems approach to design.

2. Specialist technical principles

In addition to the core technical principles, all students should develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the following specialist technical principles:

A selection of materials or components, forces and stresses, ecological and social footprint, sources and origins, using and working with materials, scales of production and specialist techniques and processes.

3. Designing and making principles

They will need to demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of designing and making principles in relation to the following areas:

Investigation, primary and secondary data, environmental, social and economic challenge, researching designers and design strategies, communication of design ideas, prototype development, specialist tools and equipment and Specialist techniques and processes.

Where does this Course lead?

This opportunity will allow learners to develop sound technical skills whilst exploring and consolidating knowledge and understanding relating to product design in Design and Technology. This can lead onto A Level in Design and Technology. It can lead to a number of careers, not just those directly linked with the Design Industry. It can also help to support applications to a wide range of further education courses such Product Design, Testing and Ideas Development in a range of business sectors.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

You will be able to visit existing design companies and gain best practices from industry standard. You will need access to CAD and be able manage design coursework and create a design portfolio.

How Parents can help

Encourage your child to complete all coursework and homework on Google Classroom. To complete additional research into designers linked to the component specification.

Assessment

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

NEA 1. Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours, 100 marks - 50% of GCSE

Your Options 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject: OCR GCSE Drama



<p>Course Content</p>	<p>Content overview Students gain a practical understanding of drama and apply this knowledge to their performances as they develop their practical skills. Students can choose to be a performer or can take on the role of designer in lighting, sound, set or costume. Students must choose one role throughout the component but can choose different roles throughout the course.</p> <p>Component 01/02: Devising drama Students research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama. They complete a portfolio of evidence during the devising process, give a final performance of their drama and write an evaluation of their own work. (30%)</p> <p>Component 03: Presenting and performing texts Students develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text. The chosen extracts must allow sufficient exploration of dialogue, plot and/or subplot, and characterisation to work in depth on their acting or design skills. (30%)</p> <p>Component 04: Drama: Performance and response Students explore practically a whole performance text and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed, performed and responded to. They also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance. (40%)</p>
<p>Where does this Course lead?</p>	<p>This Drama course looks at both performance and text and therefore will easily lead onto Level 3 performance courses or to A Level Drama</p>
<p>Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements</p>	<p>Coursework for performances to external audiences, classes in chosen techniques, video work. There will be an expectation to complete a rehearsal log which will be extra to the hours in school. You will also be expected to attend an evening professional performance at a local theatre.</p>
<p>How Parents can help</p>	<p>By watching and sharing differing performances/going to the theatre or experiencing a range of professional theatre experience for discussions, supplying their children with the correct equipment for school and by supporting with any homework required.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Internal and external moderation, including Solo performance & external written work.</p>
<p>Guides / Support Materials / Websites</p>	<p>https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242630-specification-accredited-gcse-drama-j316.pdf</p>

Curriculum Leader Ms R Curness
Curriculum Leader Email rcurness@buckinghamsschool.org

Your Options 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Film Studies



Course Content

The GCSE Film course will introduce students to a wide range of film forms and allow them to develop their understanding of how films are developed, created and produced. They will study the film industry and aspects of production such as audio, lighting, costuming, budget and finance.

Across the course, students will plan and develop their understanding of the many forms of film, their audiences and their impact. The three components will cover Developments in US Film including films from Hollywood's Golden Era, modern mainstream movies and contemporary independently produced films. As well as this, students will study Global English Language films such as Slumdog Millionaire, Global Non-English films such as Totsi and contemporary British films. They will also have a coursework element which gives them the opportunity to write their own screenplay.

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.

Where does this Course lead?

The course can lead to an A Level in Film Studies. 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 film 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

GCSE Film Studies

Exam:

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film Written examination 40% of qualification

Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Style Written examination 30% of qualification

NEA:

Component 3: Creating a screenplay Non-exam assessment 30% of qualification

Guides / Support Materials / Websites


https://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-gcse/#tab_overview

Curriculum Leader
Curriculum Leader Email

Mrs R Adewumi
radewumi@buckinghamsschool.org

Your Options 2023-24

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 commodities 2. Principles of nutrition 3. Diet and good health 4. The science of food 5. Where food comes from 6. 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 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?	<p>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.</p>
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. You will need to provide ingredients for practical sessions.</p>
How Parents Can Help	<p>Encourage your child to prepare and cook at home regularly and experiment with a range of ingredients from across the world.</p>
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%).</p> <p>You will plan and cook a three course menu in 3 hours.</p> <p>Written Examination (50%)</p>
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-gcse/#tab_overview</p>
Curriculum Leader Curriculum Leader Email	<p>Mrs Carol Gibson-Smith cgibsonsmith@buckinghamschool.org</p>

Your Options 2023-24

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 practice 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 French culture worldwide. The work covered in Years 10 & 11 is determined by the demands of the examination. As in KS3, 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 implementation of the English Baccalaureate that the Government are introducing.

Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements

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

In Years 10/11, 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 explore French radio, news websites online, watch French TV and Films.

Continued overleaf.

Your Options 2023-24

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 – 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 French, authentic texts and translation from French into English
Unit 4 - Writing	25%	Range of written tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing a photo (Foundation Tier only) • 40-word task (Foundation Tier only) • Translation from English into French • Structured 90-word writing task • Structured 150-word writing task (Higher Tier only)

Guides / Support Materials / Websites

Course book: AQA STUDIO GCSE Foundation/Higher books. (provided for work in school no need to purchase)

Students will need to purchase AQA GCSE French Grammar & Translation Workbook, available to purchase via ParentMail, priced at £5.00 and collected from Reprographics.

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

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

These are both also available to purchase via ParentMail and cost £6.00 for the Dictionary and £5.50 for the Book of Verbs.

Your Options 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Geography



Course Content

Within the Edexcel B Geography GCSE there are three main study areas;

Global Geographical Issues

Topic 1: Hazardous Earth – an understanding of the global circulation of the atmosphere and changing climate. Plus two depth studies of an extreme weather hazard (tropical cyclones) and tectonic hazards at contrasting locations.

Topic 2: Development dynamics – an understanding of the scale of global inequality. Plus a depth study of how one emerging country is developing and the consequences for people, environment and the country's relationship with the wider world.

Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world – an overview of the causes and challenges of rapid urbanisation across the world. Plus one depth study of a megacity* in a developing or emerging country.

UK Geographical Issues

Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape - an overview of the varied physical landscapes in the UK resulting from geology, geomorphic processes and human activity over time. Plus two depth studies of distinctive landscapes – Coastal change and conflict and River processes and pressures.

Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape - an overview of the changing and varied human landscape of the UK, including the socio-economic and political processes that influence it. Plus a case study of a major UK city - Dynamic UK cities.

Topic 6: Geographical investigations - two investigations, including fieldwork and research, carried out in contrasting environments, one from 'Coastal change and conflict' or 'River processes and pressures' and one of either 'Dynamic urban areas' or 'Changing rural areas' Students must undertake fieldwork for this.

Component 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions

Topic 7: People and the biosphere – an overview of the global distribution and characteristics of large-scale ecosystems, why the biosphere is important to human wellbeing and how humans use and modify it in order to obtain resources

Topic 8: Forests under threat – a detailed study of tropical rainforests and the taiga, looking at processes and interactions and issues related to their biodiversity and to their sustainable use and management

Topic 9: Consuming energy resources – a study of renewable and non-renewable energy, its supply and demand, access and energy security issues, its sustainable use and management

Continued overleaf.

Curriculum Leader

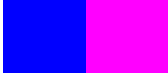
Ms B. Wootton

Curriculum Leader Email

bwootton@buckinghamschool.org


Your Options 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject	GCSE Geography 
Where does this Course lead?	This course offers students the chance to learn about the world around them and builds their academic journey towards A Level Geography. We encourage students to have a curiosity and fascination in finding out about the world and its people and to develop an excellent knowledge of where places are and what they are like. Through a holistic understanding of the ways in which places are interdependent and interconnected and how human and physical environments are interrelated, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the issues facing a diverse range of places and people, now and in the future. Recent world wide events have shown how valuable geographic skills are to understand the challenges and opportunities that face people today and tomorrow.
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	Students must undertake two field-trips for the completion of this course. There is no NEA.
How Parents can help	<p>Encourage discussion and debate around current affairs, natural disasters and innovations in the way we live and interact with our environment.</p> <p>Ensure your child has a revision guide and, if possible, a course-specific textbook to aid their extended learning.</p>
Assessment	<p>Assessment is done through three end-of-course exams.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global Geographical Issues: 1 ½ hours. 37.5% of the GCSE. 2. UK Geographical Issues: 1 ½ hours. 37.5% of the GCSE. 3. People and the environment issues - Making Geographical Decisions: 1 ½ hours. 25% of the GCSE. <p>10% of the marks available come from quantitative skills: Cartographic skills, graphical skills, numerical skills and statistical skills. Students also need to be able to deal with a range of knowledge and craft evaluative and extended responses.</p>
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>The course title is: Edexcel B GCSE Geography 9-1 Information can be found at: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/geography-b-2016.html</p> <p>Revision guides are available to purchase via ParentMail.</p>
Curriculum Leader Curriculum Leader Email	<p>Ms. B Wootton bwootton@buckinghamsschool.org</p>

Your Options 2023-24

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 10 and 11 are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Human Lifespan Development 2.Health and Social Care Services and Values 3.Health and Wellbeing 	
Where does this Course lead?	<p>This is a vocational subject that develops a range of transferable skills, techniques, understanding, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successfully working in a Health, Social Care or Early Years settings. Health and Social Care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both Health and Social Care employees continuously rising. Social Care employees, such as Care Assistants and Social Workers work with individuals to support them to be as independent as possible in their own homes, in care homes or nursing homes. Healthcare employees, such as Doctors, Pharmacists, Nurses, Midwives, Healthcare Assistants and Physiotherapists, work with individuals to enhance their quality of life by improving their health.</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 textbooks. 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 Years 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>	

Subject Leader
Subject Leader Email

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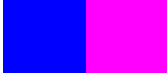
Your Options 2023-24

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 to purchase via ParentMail

Your Options 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice	
Course Content	<p>Overview: The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is a specialist Music Industry vocational qualification with a practical focus. The aim of this qualification is to provide you with the knowledge and range of skills needed to become a successful music performer and producer. The course is equivalent to GCSE and fully accredited by OfQual and DfES.</p> <p>What will I learn?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You will develop knowledge and understanding of styles and genres of music. - Explore techniques used to create music products. - Explore professional and commercial skills for the Music Industry. - Apply and develop individual musical skills and techniques. - Perform stylistically accurate cover versions. - Create original music using existing stylistic frameworks and traits. 	
Where does this Course lead?	<p>The BTEC Music Qualification allows you to progress to, Level 3 RSL and BTEC courses, A Level Music and Music Technology courses, and higher education courses such as degrees in Music, Popular Music, Music Technology and Music Business.</p>	
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>Students should already have an interest in Music and should be playing an instrument, have knowledge of production or be a competent singer. Students will be required to complete coursework tasks throughout this subject. Trips and visits will be planned alongside the course content and will be specific to the topic of study at the time. Students will be given clear deadline dates for all coursework and must adhere to all deadlines.</p>	
How Parents can help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support students with their homework • Support students with their coursework • Add yourself as a parent to the Google Classroom • Support students with their organisation and time management at home, especially in relation to completing assignment based coursework. • Discuss and implement study techniques which will be required for the examination unit of this course 	
Assessment	<p>This course is 100% coursework. Component 3 takes the form of a timed assessment under controlled conditions based on an assignment set and marked by Pearson.</p> <p>Component 1: – Exploring Music Products And Styles 30% (internally assessed) Component 2 – Music Skills Development 30% (internally assessed) Component 3 – Responding To A Commercial Music Brief 40% (externally assessed)</p>	
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>For the course outline and specification please follow the link below https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/music-practice-2022.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments</p>	
Curriculum Leader Curriculum Leader Email	<p>Ms Rachel Curness rcurness@buckingshamschool.org</p>	

Your Options 2023-24

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 two sports. For example, they should either represent the school or play for an external team.

How Parents can help

- 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 child 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 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject

GCSE Photography



Course Content

Photography is defined as the practice of producing images using light-sensitive materials, such as photographic film and 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

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 way in which meanings, ideas and intentions relevant to photography can be communicated including 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 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject	GCSE Photography 
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>Whilst we endeavour 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.</p> <p>Any specialist crafts and materials that students choose to use for their assessments may need to be purchased by the student.</p> <p>We run a number of trips throughout the duration of this course.</p>
How Parents can help	<p>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.</p>
Assessment	<p>Assessment is through completion of two components:</p> <p>Component 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 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 <p>Component 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Externally-set assignment · Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time · 40% of the overall GCSE
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/photography</p>


Your Options 2023-24

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: 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.</p> <p>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>Excellent extended writing/literacy skills and strong foundations in Science/Maths and English at KS3 will be of benefit for this course.</p> <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 your child 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> <p>Revision resources are available through OCR and Hodder for this course.</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 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject	GCSE Sociology 
Course Content	GCSE Sociology equips learners to be able to explain and evaluation a variety of sociological concepts in order to aid our understanding in education, families and households, understanding crime and deviance as well as how we stratify groups of individuals within society. Sociology broadens our ability to understand why people believe particular viewpoints that focus on an individual's gender, social class, ethnicity and age. GCSE Sociology will aid your understanding of people and society and allows individuals to put forward arguments that can be supported and criticised by viewpoints from the past and present
Where does this Course lead?	This course allows for a variety of careers in Law, Psychology, Health and Social Care and Criminology and would provide a basis for further Level 3 study in any of the subjects mentioned. Previously, students have gone on to careers in Nursing, Teaching, Police, Criminal Justice System and Social Work.
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	There is no coursework and the final exam will consist of two papers lasting 1h 45 and this will contain essay writing so it's important you're able to show willingness to broaden your ability to write these within the subject.
How Parents can help	Parents can support learners by purchasing the revision guides.
Assessment	Two exams focusing on The Sociology of Education and Families (Paper 1) and The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification (Paper 2). Each are 1h 45.
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192/specification-at-a-glance</p> <p>https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192/appendix-a-key-terms-and-concepts</p> <p>https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192/appendix-b-texts-and-summaries</p>

Your Options 2023-24

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 practice 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 A Level as well as vocational courses.

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

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.

In Years 10/11, students will have the opportunity to take part in a Spanish residential trip where they can put into practice their Spanish learned in lessons. It is an excellent opportunity for them to experience the culture and language of Spain.

Students will also benefit from having native speakers within the department.

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 2023-24

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, authentic texts and translation from Spanish into English
	Unit 4 - Writing	25%	Range of written tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing a photo (Foundation Tier only) • 40-word task (Foundation Tier only) • Translation from English into Spanish • Structured writing task – 90 words • Open-ended task – 150 words (Higher Tier only)

Guides / Support
Materials /
Websites

Course book: Viva! AQA GCSE Spanish Foundation/Higher. (Provided for work in school no need to purchase)

Students will need to purchase AQA GCSE Spanish Grammar & Translation Workbook £5.00 available to purchase via ParentMail, priced at £5.00 and collected from Reprographics.

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>


These are both also available to purchase via ParentMail and cost £6.00 for the Dictionary and £5.50 for the Book of Verbs.

Curriculum Leader
Curriculum Leader Email

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Your Options 2023-24

Option Subjects

Subject	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport	
Course Content	<p>Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity</p> <p>Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance</p> <p>Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity</p>	
Where does this Course lead?	<p>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 a Sports Psychology, Business and Media. This can lead to University and your choice of a vast array of Sports related degrees.</p>	
Visits / Coursework / Specialist Requirements	<p>Pupils will be required to lead other students in their role as a Coach/Leader. They will require appropriate PE kit for their practical lessons.</p>	
How Parents can help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support students with their homework • Add yourself as a parent to the Google Classroom • Support students with their organisation and time management at home, especially in relation to completing assignment based coursework. 	
Assessment	<p>Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (non-exam internal assessment)</p> <p>Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (non-exam internal assessment)</p> <p>Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (External examination assessment - 1.5 hours)</p>	
Guides / Support Materials / Websites	<p>For the course outline and specification please follow the link below https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/sport/2022/</p>	

HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- History or Geography
- A language
Ancient or modern

WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.



The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies,
August 2017

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

WHAT ABOUT ARTS AND MUSIC?

While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.

Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.

Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017

Further Information
Search EBacc on GOV.UK for more information.

"Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer."

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities. (The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

"Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers."

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce



You should also get in touch with your child's school directly – they will be able to tell you about their specific GCSE and EBacc offer and explain all of your child's options.



'Success for All'

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