

PATHWAYS

Wednesday 11th March 2020
4.30pm - 8.00pm



Welcome

Dear Student,

Welcome to your Key Stage 4 subject option booklet. This is an exciting time in your Academic life and using all of the information you have been provided with will help you make good decisions as you move into your GCSE studies.

Within this booklet, you will find information about the three different Pathways available to you as you head into Year 10, along with information about both the core and optional subjects. Alongside this information, you will have also received a letter detailing our recommended Pathway for you and the subjects to choose. These recommendations have been based on your work throughout Key Stage 3, including your latest interim results and the opinions of your teachers.

You are required to study specific subjects in order to ensure you achieve “8 qualifying subjects”. All available options meet these requirements.

All students at GCSE study the following core, compulsory subjects:

- English Language and Literature (taught as ‘English’ – 4 hours per week)
- Mathematics (4 hours per week)
- Science: Double Award (4 hours per week)
- History/Geography - already chosen in Year 9 (2 hours per week)

In addition, to ensure you are supported with your academic studies and are suitably prepared for the challenges you will experience in the coming years, you will also study ‘Wellbeing’. This is made up of Physical Education, to ensure you develop teamworking skills, understand maintaining a healthy lifestyle and develop general fitness and Inspire, which will explore wider PSHEE, RSHE and Careers topics alongside Religious Studies. You will also complete a week of work experience in Year 10.

Further to this, you choose three option subjects.

Please note that some subjects have very specific entry requirements, which are detailed on each page. If you are unsure about any of these requirements, or any of the information within each subject, please speak directly to a member of staff within that department.

Think carefully about these choices, as you need to make sure you have a balance of subjects which helps broaden your future success whilst maintaining a manageable workload. If you need any advice on this, please do speak to a member of staff.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Slack
Vice Principal

Advice for Parents/Carers and Students

There are four different pathways based upon your prior attainment at Key Stages 2 and 3:

Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 3
The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc.)	The Open Route	The Supportive Route
The 'Ebacc. route', which is encouraged for the majority of students, requires studying at least one humanities subject (Geography or History) along with French and then two other subjects of your choice. The two options may take the form of a GCSE or vocational qualification such as BTEC, OCR Technical or NCFE.	The 'Open route' ensures students have the correct combination of subjects to compete for sixth form places but not qualify for recognition of studying for the Ebacc. The three options may take the form of GCSE or vocational qualifications such as BTEC, OCR Technical or NCFE, require more focus on controlled assessment and less on examinations.	The 'Supportive route' is intended for those who require additional support in English and Mathematics. It aims to prepare students for their progression into post-16 study or apprenticeship by offering applied subjects such as 'Work Skills', along with optional choices in vocational and GCSE subjects.

Explanations of GCSE Grades

GCSE Grades	Equivalent Grade
9	A*+
8	A*-/=
7	A
6	B=/+
5	C+/B- <i>Strong pass</i>
4	C-/= <i>Standard pass</i>
3	D
2	E
1	G/F

English

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference
English Language – 8700
English Literature – 8702

Why you study English

English is such an important subject that will teach you invaluable skills that are an essential everyday life, the study of English is compulsory. Through the study of English, students will develop their literacy, analysis and communication skills. These are skills that employers will look for and one of the reasons why excellent results in this subject are important.

Why might you want to study English?

There are many different careers you could follow from English, such as:

- Digital copywriter;
- Editorial assistant;
- English as a Foreign Language Teacher;
- Journalist;
- Any career which involves literacy skills or analysis;
- Developing a love and understanding of literature;
- Understanding appropriate writing and communication skills.

What else could you get out of English?

English is one of the best subjects to develop your analytical and communication skills. Not only will studying English give you the ability to solve analytical problems, it will also help you develop creative thinking skills to tackle everyday issues like writing reports and communicating both verbally and in written work.

How is the course assessed?

4 exam papers at the end of Year 11:

English Language:

- Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – 1 hour 45 minutes
- Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 hour 45 minutes

English Literature

- Paper 1 – Shakespeare and 19th Century Novel – 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry – 2 hours and 15 minutes

Attitudes to learning:

A positive attitude and a willingness to work hard within the Academy and at home. You need to be prepared to have your thinking challenged, to make mistakes and learn from them.

Q: Which letter of the alphabet is always waiting in order?

A: The Q.



Mathematics

Exam Board
Edexcel

Specification Reference
1MA1

Why you study Mathematics

From the moment you get woken up in the morning by your alarm clock, to the traffic lights you sat at on the way to the Academy, Mathematics plays an important role in even the most basic day to day events. Not only will you develop your numeracy skills, Mathematics also improves your problem solving and logical thinking, which is how these day to day inventions came about in the first place. These are attributes that every employer looks for and is one of the many reasons why a good Mathematics result is highly sought after.

Why might you want to study Mathematics?

There are many different careers you could follow from Mathematics, such as:

- Accountant;
- Doctor;
- Architect;
- Engineer;
- Data analyst;
- Banking;

In many day to day tasks including: putting petrol in the car, paying a builder and understanding your wage.

What else could you get out of Mathematics?

Mathematics is one of the best subjects to develop your analytical, research and problem solving skills. Mathematics gives you the knowledge to tackle scientific, mechanical and abstract problems and also it will help you develop logic to tackle everyday issues like planning projects, managing budgets and even debating effectively.

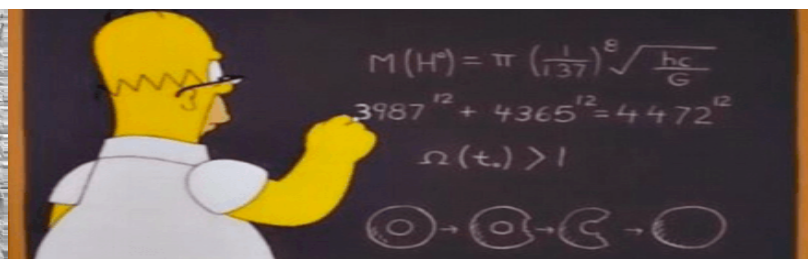
How is the course assessed?

3 Exam papers at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 – non-calculator – 1 hour and 30 minutes;
- Paper 2 – calculator – 1 hour and 30 minutes;
- Paper 3 – calculator – 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Attitudes to learning:

Positive attitude, willing to work hard in school and at home, prepared to be challenged, to make mistakes and learn from them.



Q: What did zero say to eight?

A: "Nice belt!"

Combined Science

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference
Trilogy - 8468

Why you study Combined Science

You experience science all day, every day, from the food you eat at breakfast, to the clothes you wear, the car you travel in and the pen you use at school. Science allows us to travel great distances in short periods of time, treat, and cure diseases and develop solutions to the world's energy problems.

Why might you want to study Combined Science?

Science opens up a huge range of career opportunities to you in scientific, manufacturing, engineering, medical and technological industries. The skills you learn in science can also be applied to any other job – you will learn to work precisely, methodically and logically to investigate causes and their effects, solving problems and identifying relationships.

Scientists don't all work in labs – here are some job roles you could take that involve science:

- Engineer (Physics/Chemistry);
- Doctor (Physics/Chemistry/Biology);
- Forensic scientist (Physics/Chemistry/Biology);
- Video game designer (Physics);
- Pharmacist (Chemistry/Biology);
- Marine Biologist (Biology);
- Geologist (Chemistry);
- Sound engineer (Physics).

What else do you get out of Science?

The GCSE Science curriculum places great emphasis on practical work, investigative, mathematical and research skills. This will equip you with skills and knowledge that will allow you to understand and explain the world around you.

How is the course assessed?

All assessments are external and exam based. All exams are terminal in the summer of Year 11. GCSE Combined Science students will take a total of six papers, two for each subject. Each Double Science paper will have a duration of 1h 15m. Paper 1 and Paper 2 each cover half the content for the subject, with certain topics assigned to each paper.

What are the transferable skills gained from Combined Science?

The science curriculum places an emphasis on practical skills, as part of the course you will complete a minimum of 21 required practicals developing your dexterity, safety awareness, confidence, independence and ability to understand and explain the world around you. Science has an emphasis on mathematical skills allowing you the opportunity to practice and apply the skills learn in mathematics lessons including graph drawing, rearranging equation, conversion of units and percentage change calculations.

Attitudes to learning:

- Motivated;
- Enthusiastic;
- Inquisitive;
- Persevering;
- Persistent.

A geologist's favourite saying: "Igneous is bliss, but being sedimentary is not geiss."



Wellbeing: Inspire

Why you study PSHEE, RSHE, Careers and Religious Studies:

All students will study PSHEE, RSHE, Careers and Religious Studies.

Inspire covers PSHEE (Physical, Social, Health and Emotional Education) and RSHE (Relationships and Sexual Health Education). This involves allowing students to reflect on real life issues, contemporary themes linking to the world around them, and key issues affecting Britain today. Students will cover an array of topics including: sex education, anti-bullying, drugs education, planning for careers, British Values and anti-terrorism to name but a few. These topics are crucial in developing our young people into adults who can undertake difficult decisions in the future, identify and cope with personal concerns, educate their peers in reflecting honestly and openly on the world around them, and be prepared for the expectations society will put on them.

Students will also explore Religious Studies. This will ensure our students develop an understanding of different religions and therefore a tolerance and respect towards them. Students will also cover moral and ethical decisions that they see and hear about in the media and may also experience one day in their own personal lives.

Wellbeing should therefore prepare our students excellently for the future and dealing with the next phases of their life, whether it be in transitioning to higher education, getting a job, dealing with trauma or a plethora of other factors and issues adults experience in their everyday lives.



After hearing a sermon on Psalm 52:3-4 (lies and deceit), a man wrote the IRS, "I can't sleep knowing that I have cheated on my income tax. Enclosed is a check for \$150. If I still can't sleep, I'll send the rest."

Wellbeing: Core PE

Why you do this course

A high-quality physical education curriculum inspires all students to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically-demanding activities. It should provide opportunities for pupils to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness. Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect.

What else do you get out of this course?

The national curriculum for physical education aims to ensure that all students

- Develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities;
- Are physically active for sustained periods of time;
- Engage in competitive sports and activities;
- Lead healthy, active lives.

What we will expect from you in Core PE

Prior Attainment:

An interest in health and wellbeing, and enjoyment of sport and fitness.

Attitudes to learning:

'Can do' attitude! Eager to learn, develop and challenge current understanding. A want to learn about new sports and theories.

Q: What is an insect's favourite sport?

A: Cricket!



French

Exam Board

AQA

Specification Reference

8658

Why should you choose GCSE French?

More than 220 million people speak French. It's the second most widely learnt language, and the only language other than English which is taught in every country. 6% of the world speaks English as their first language, 12% of the world speaks English as their second language and 82% of the world are relying on you to speak another language.

There are over 262 million people over the age of 5 years old that speak more than one foreign language. Why would you want to give them the edge over you at interview?

In a multicultural society it is absolutely imperative that we understand other ways of thinking and other cultures, as well as developing our communication skills.

Why might you want to study GCSE French?

Research carried out by Keith Marshall at the University of Bangor, Wales shows that year-on-year language graduates have lower rates of unemployment than graduates in the great majority of other subjects.

Learning how to interact with speakers of other languages means you are less likely to be stuck in one mode of thinking. It can help you to see things from a range of perspectives - making you more adaptable, creative, and insightful.

What else could you get out of GCSE French?

Some universities will only accept applicants who have studied at least one foreign language at GCSE level. Whilst you may not want to study MFL to degree level, a GCSE in MFL may be your route to a successful academic future.

How is the course assessed?

100% externally assessed through four equally-weighted examinations (listening, speaking, reading, and writing).

What we will expect from you in GCSE French

Prior Attainment:

Expected and above in French.

Attitudes to learning:

Absolute excellence. MFL requires patience, and complete commitment and determination.



Q: What do French people call a bad Thursday?

A: A tra-jeudi

History

Exam Board
OCR B

Specification Reference
J411

Why should you do History?

"Those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it." In a world that is increasingly confusing and uncertain, it is more important than ever that we learn the lessons of History. If you are interested in why the world is the way it is and how it came to be then History is the course for you. From The Making of America and Germany under Hitler, through to Public Health and Elizabeth I, there is something to interest everyone.

Why might you want to study History?

History is a fantastic subject to equip you with the skills required to go into a number of careers. These include:

- Journalism;
- Academia;
- Politics;
- Broadcast media;
- Education/Teaching;
- Museum curating;
- Civil Service;
- Any career that requires you to analyse and evaluate a lot of information.

What else could you get out of History?

History is a subject that will challenge you and develop your ability to think critically about important issues. Through studying the subject, your independence and resilience will grow as you learn to pick apart complex ideas, developing the ability to analyse and evaluate effectively. The skills you develop will be built upon a foundation of key historical concepts such as chronological understanding, causality and significance.

As a department, we hope to be able to offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities to enhance your learning and give you a greater appreciation of the world around you.

How is the course assessed?

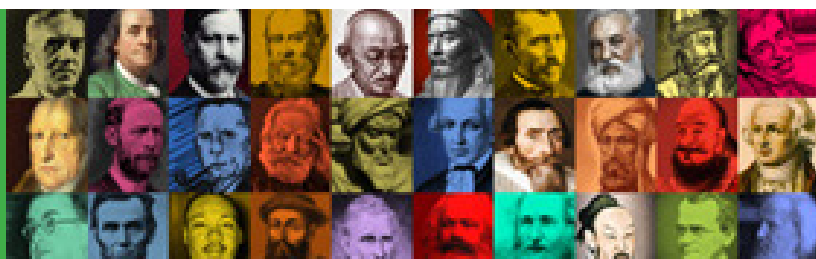
- Paper 1: British History – 1 hour 45 minutes
- Paper 2: History Around Us – 1 hour 45 minutes
- Paper 3: World History – 1 hour 45 minutes

Attitudes to learning:

Positive, engaged, punctual and organised.

Q: How was the Roman Empire divided?

A: With a pair of Caesars!



Geography

Exam Board
OCR B

Specification Reference
J384

Why should you do Geography?

Geography is a subject that investigates and links both the physical and human elements of our planet. It investigates our past and present and what our likely future is to be. For our students it will develop their sense of curiosity and knowledge of the world around them as well as enhance their employability due to the vast number of transferable skills that Geography has to offer. Finally, there are opportunities to develop these skills both inside and outside of the classroom.

Why might you want to study Geography?

Geography is a great subject to equip you with the skills required to go into a number of careers. These include:

- Journalism;
- Scientific investigation;
- Politics;
- Disaster management;
- Teaching;
- Civil Service;
- Any career that requires you to analyse and evaluate data.

What else could you get out of Geography?

Geography will help you develop important skills such as independent thinking, discipline and problem solving. It can also help you to gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments, develop and extend your competence in fieldwork, your knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes and help you to be able to pick out the essential from the trivial and to understand the world we live in. Additionally, we hope to offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities to enhance your learning on the course.

How is the course assessed?

3 exams at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 – Our Natural World
1 hour 15 minutes (35%);
- Paper 2 – People and Society
1 hour 15 minutes (35%);
- Paper 3 – Geographical Exploration
1 hour 30 minutes (30%).

Attitudes to learning:

Positive, engaged, punctual and organised.



Q: What did the ground say to the earthquake?

A: Hey, you crack me up!

Science: Triple Award

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference

Physics	8463
Biology	8461
Chemistry	8462

Why should you study Triple Science?

Triple Science, sometimes known as 'Seperate Sciences' or 'Single Sciences', is where students study all three sciences and gain three GCSEs. This choice is recommended but not essential if you are interested in pursuing A-Levels in the Sciences and are considering pursuing a career that would need a Science degree. Triple Science is very similar to Combined Science but you study topics in greater depth and explore new topics including space and kidney structure and function.

Why might you want to study Triple Science?

Science opens up a huge range of career opportunities to you in scientific, manufacturing, engineering, medical and technological industries. The skills you learn in science can also be applied to any other job – you will learn to work precisely, methodically and logically to investigate causes and their effects, solving problems and identifying relationships.

Scientists don't all work in labs – here are some job roles you could take that involve science:

- Engineer (Physics/Chemistry);
- Doctor (Physics/Chemistry/Biology);
- Forensic scientist (Physics/Chemistry/Biology);
- Video game designer (Physics);
- Pharmacist (Chemistry/Biology);
- Marine Biologist (Biology);
- Geologist (Chemistry);
- Sound engineer (Physics).

What else could you get out of Triple Science?

Enhanced practical and mathematical skills preparing you for the practical aspect of A-level Science. A deeper understanding of key topics which form the foundation of A-Level Science.

How is the course assessed?

All GCSE Science students (both Combined and Triple students) will take a total of six papers, two for each subject. The Triple Science paper will have a duration of 1h 45m. Paper 1 and Paper 2 each cover half the content for the subject, with certain topics assigned to each paper.

Attitudes to learning:

- Motivated;
- Enthusiastic;
- Inquisitive;
- Persevering;
- Persistent.

Q: What did the scientist say when he found 2 isotopes of Helium?

A: HeHe



Psychology

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference
8182

Why should you choose Psychology?

Have you ever wondered what it is that makes some people behave the way they do, why you're scared of spiders or how different things can affect your mood and even your confidence? Studying Psychology could provide you with the answers to your questions.

Why might you want to study Psychology?

If you study Psychology you'll be able to hone your analytical and organisational skills and learn about scientific research methods, including collecting and working with data. Learning about human behaviour can also help to build your communication skills and improve your teamwork and leadership skills.

What else could you get out of Psychology?

This engaging and effective qualification introduces you to the fundamentals of psychology, alongside developing critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills.

How is the course assessed?

At the end of the course you will complete two written exams which are worth 100 marks each and are worth 50% each of the total Psychology GCSE.

What we will expect from you in Psychology

Prior Attainment:

You will need to be competent in all areas of English, Mathematics and Science.

Attitudes to learning:

You are expected to contribute orally to lessons and develop the skills of expression of thought and academic debate.



Q: How many psychologists does it take to change a light bulb?

*A: Just one, as long as the light bulb *wants* to change.*

Fine Art: Art and Design

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference
4200

Maximum Group size
18

Why should you choose GCSE Fine Art?

Studying Fine Art will provide students with the opportunity to explore new and exciting techniques and processes while building existing knowledge and strengths.

Students will get the opportunity to work in a combination of areas such as:

- Painting & Drawing;
- Construction (Card, Mod-Roc, Paper, etc.);
- Printmaking;
- Mixed Media;
- Photography.

Students will respond to set themes exploring a vast range of techniques and processes. They will also be involved in looking at a variety of artists, craftspeople and exhibitions to enhance their understanding and to gain inspiration. Students will create final pieces on varying scales, challenging themselves with both modern and traditional techniques.

Why might you want to study GCSE Fine Art?

Studying Fine Art will develop students' interest and enjoyment of Art and Design allowing them to be introduced to a variety of experiences using a range of media, processes and techniques. It lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Art and Design or related subjects in Further Education.

What else could you get out of GCSE Fine Art?

Students will get the opportunity to create their own portfolio of work. Sketchbook work is essential to the project work and is used at every opportunity to record ideas and to show the development of those ideas. Computers are now an integral part of research and students are encouraged to make full use of this facility. Annotation and evaluation will be an important aspect to document progress. Studying this course could lead to careers such as an artist, designer (Interior, Graphic, Fashion etc.), photographer, curator, teacher and many more.

How is the course assessed?

- 60% Coursework, 40% Externally set task - 10 hour examination time.

What we will expect from you in GCSE Fine Art

Prior Attainment:

Students should have demonstrated a good skill and interest within their Art lessons. They will have shown enthusiasm and passion for techniques and be experimental learners.

Attitudes to learning:

Students should have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning. They should have completed classwork and homework well, showing a willingness to learn.

Q: Why did Van Gogh become a painter?

A: Because he didn't have an ear for music!



Art and Design: Graphics

Exam Board

AQA

Specification Reference

4205

Why should you choose Graphics?

Graphic Communication is the process of designing visual material to convey information, ideas and meaning in response to a given or self-defined brief. Students will work in the areas listed below:

- Communication Graphics
- Design for print
- Advertising and branding
- Illustration
- Package design
- Typography
- Interactive design
- Multi-media
- Signage
- Packaging
- Photography

Students will explore a vast range of techniques and processes in response to set themes. Students will also be involved in looking at a range of artists and designers. Students will create final outcomes such as adverts, signage and package design.

Why might you want to study Graphics?

Studying Graphic Communication will develop students' interest and enjoyment, allowing them to be introduced to a variety of experiences using a range of media, processes and techniques. It lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Graphic Communication or related subjects in Further Education.

What else could you get out of Graphics?

Students will get the opportunity to create their own portfolio of work. Sketchbook work is essential to the project work and is used at every opportunity to record ideas and to show the development of those ideas. Using computers and digital software is an integral part of the course. Annotation and evaluation will be an important aspect to document process. Studying this course could lead to a career in graphic design, illustration, advertising or web design.

How is the course assessed?

- 60% Coursework
- 40% Externally set task - 10 hour examination time

What we will expect from you in Graphics

Students should have demonstrated a good skill and interest within their Art lessons. They will have shown enthusiasm and passion for techniques and be experimental learners.

Attitudes to learning:

Students should have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning. They should have completed classwork and homework well, showing a willingness to learn.



"Design is intelligence made visible"
- Alina Wheeler

Photography

Exam Board

AQA

Specification Reference

4206 – Art & Design: Photography

Maximum Group size

25

Why should you choose GCSE Photography?

Studying Photography will provide students with the opportunity to explore new and exciting techniques and processes while building on existing knowledge and strengths.

Students will get the opportunity to work in a combination of areas such as:

Camera skills, understanding digital imagery, working with Software, particularly Photoshop, and using photographers & artists as a way of developing and understanding ideas. Students will undertake a series of projects, identifying strengths and weaknesses while investigating photographers and genres.

Why might you want to study GCSE Photography?

Studying Photography will develop students' interest and enjoyment of Art and Design Photography allowing them to be introduced to a variety of experiences using a range of media, processes and techniques. It lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Art and Design Photography or related subjects in Further Education.

What else could you get out of GCSE Photography?

Students will also get the opportunity to create their own work. Documentation is essential to the project work and is used at every opportunity to record ideas and to show the development of those ideas. Computers are now an integral part of research and students are encouraged to make full use of this facility. Annotation and evaluation will be an important aspect to document progress. Studying this course could lead to careers in Photography such as:

- Portrait Photographer;
- Industrial Photographer;
- Forensic/Medical Photographer;
- Free-Lance Photographer;
- Media Photographer;
- Curator.

How is the course assessed?

60% Coursework, 40% Externally set task - 10 hour examination time. All work is centre assessed and moderated by the examining board.

What we will expect from you in GCSE Fine Photography

Students should have demonstrated a good skill and interest within their Art lessons. They will have shown enthusiasm and passion for techniques and be experimental learners.

Attitudes to learning:

Students should have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning. They should have completed classwork and homework well, showing a willingness to learn.

Photographers are very mean. First, they frame you, then they shoot you, then hang you on the wall.



Fashion and Textiles

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference
4202

Maximum Group size
15

Why should you choose GCSE Textiles?

Studying Textiles will provide students with the opportunity to explore new and exciting techniques and processes, exploring a range of textile media, including both traditional and new technologies. These include sewing and embellishing, printing, techniques such as batik and felting, dyeing materials, fabric construction and manipulation.

Students will explore a vast range of new techniques and processes in response to set themes. Students will also be involved in looking at a range of fashion designers and textile artists to investigate trends and styles on the catwalk. Students will construct final outcomes such as bags, dresses, cushions and wall hangings, and build confidence using sewing machines and decorating fabrics.

Why might you want to study GCSE Textiles?

Studying Textiles will develop students' interest and enjoyment of fashion allowing them to be introduced to a variety of experiences using a range of media, processes and techniques. It lays an appropriate foundation for further study of fashion and textiles or related subjects in Further Education.

What else could you get out of GCSE Textiles?

Students will also get the opportunity to create their own portfolio of work. Sketchbook work is essential to the project work and is used at every opportunity to record ideas and to show the development of those ideas. Computers are now an integral part of research and students are encouraged to make full use of this facility. Annotation and evaluation will be an important aspect to document progress.

Studying this course could lead to careers in design (Fashion, Interior etc.), teaching, fashion, stage & costume design, fashion photography, dressmaking and many more.

How is the course assessed?

- 60% Coursework, 40% Externally set task - 10 hour examination time

What we will expect from you in GCSE Textiles

Prior Attainment:

Students should have demonstrated a good skill and interest within their Art lessons. They will have shown enthusiasm and passion for techniques and be experimental learners.

Attitudes to learning:

Students should have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning. They should have completed classwork and homework well, showing a willingness to learn.



Q: Why do golfers wear two pairs of trousers?

A: In case they get a hole in one.

Business

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference
8132

Why should you choose GCSE Business?

Business affects the daily lives of us all, as we work, save, shop, invest, travel and play. It's important that you can engage in business activity with confidence and understand the role it plays in our society, the opportunities it generates, the skills it requires and the impact it can have on our own lives and on society, today and in the future.

Why might you want to study GCSE Business?

Business students usually have good awareness of the world around them, which is one of the most important qualities looked for by employers.

The Business GCSE will build a strong foundation for those who wish to move on to further study and training in specialised business areas. It will also provide skills if you wish to apply for an apprenticeship.

What else could you get out of GCSE Business?

You will gain knowledge and skills that are relevant in different walks of life. Studying Business can support many choices of career. You will learn about different types of businesses and we will support you if you decide to set up your own business in the future.

How is the course assessed?

2 exams:

- Paper 1: Influences of Operations and Human Resource Management on business activity, Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks, 50% of GCSE;
- Paper 2: Influences of Marketing and Finance on Business Activity, Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks, 50% of GCSE.

What we will expect from you in GCSE Business

Prior Attainment:

Positivity, enthusiasm and a determination to do your very best, along with an enterprising mind and the willingness to think creatively.

Q: What happens when business is slow at a medicine factory?

A: You can hear a cough drop.



Design & Technology

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference
8552

Why should you choose GCSE Design & Technology?

Design and Technology is the inspiring, rigorous and practical subject which prepares all young people to live and work in the designed and made world. It is about providing opportunities for students to develop their capability, combining their designing and making skills with knowledge and understanding in order to create quality products.

The new Design and Technology qualification has had its content refreshed and enhanced, while retaining what students liked about the old qualification. It is modern and relevant so that students learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices.

Why might you want to study GCSE Design & Technology?

Design and Technology is a fantastic subject, it will equip you with the skills required for a career in a wide variety of industries such as fashion, engineering, architecture, information technology, careers in hospitality, and even education.

Design and Technology goes well with Science and Technology subjects, including Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry and IT. When it comes to the sciences, having knowledge of how physical and chemical processes work can come in handy when designing different products. There is also a significant cross-over with Business.

What else could you get out of GCSE Design & Technology?

By studying Design and Technology, you'll be able to build up your creativity, problem solving, planning, and evaluation skills. As some projects are undertaken in groups, you'll also gain communication and teamwork skills.

How is the course assessed?

50% NEA

50% Written exam

What we will expect from you in GCSE Design & Technology

Prior Attainment:

Students must demonstrate a good skill and interest within their Design and Technology lessons. They will have shown enthusiasm and passion for techniques and be experimental learners.

Attitudes to learning:

Students should have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning. They must complete classwork and homework well, showing a willingness to learn.



*To be an optimist, the glass is half full.
To be a pessimist, the glass is half empty.
To a designer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.*

Statistics

Exam Board
Edexcel

Specification Reference
1ST0

Why should you choose Statistics?

If you are an aspiring mathematician who intends on continuing studying mathematics after Year 11 then this may be the course for you. It gives you greater depth into many statistical concepts introduced in GCSE Maths as well as challenging you further. It will help to improve your statistic work as well as supporting your studies in other subjects such as Psychology and Geography and forms the foundations of statistics at A-level Mathematics. It helps to develop problem solving skills and rigorous argument.

Why might you want to study Statistics?

There are many different careers you could follow from statistics, such as:

- Data analyst
- Finance analyst
- Meteorologist
- Doctor
- Accountancy
- Market research analyst

What else could you get out of Statistics?

Statistics offers an opportunity to explore and develop ideas in the subject which underpin understanding in GCSE Mathematics. You will be given opportunity to tackle challenging problems which develops logical thinking. You will make many links between maths and the real world we live in and give context to many problems. You will develop resilience and perseverance whilst also improving the knowledge and problem solving skills you need for GCSE Mathematics.

How is the course assessed?

2 Exam papers at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 – calculator – 1 hour and 30 minutes (50%)
- Paper 2 – calculator – 1 hour and 30 minutes (50%)

What we will expect from you in Statistics

Prior Attainment:

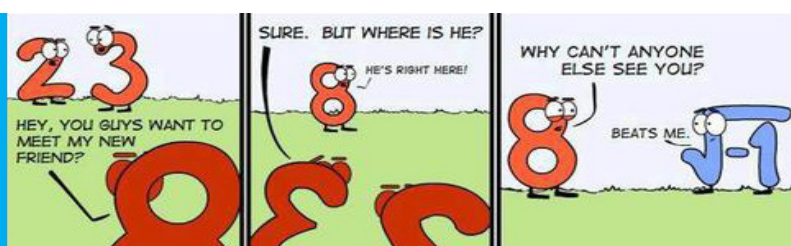
Predicted 6-9 in GCSE Mathematics

Attitudes to learning:

Positive attitude, willing to work hard in school and at home, prepared to be challenged, to make mistakes and learn from them and to have a love for maths.

Q: Why is six afraid of 7?

A: Because 7, 8, 9.



Religious Studies

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference
8062

Why should you choose GCSE Religious Studies?

Religious Studies will encourage you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to engage in debate and discussion about life in modern society. If you are interested in topics like: should the UK bring back the death penalty? Should animals be used to test new medicines? If there is evidence to support a belief in God? Then this is the right subject for you.

You will be studying Religion, Philosophy and Ethics with an emphasis on critical analysis of all three areas. You will be encouraged to develop your own personal values and beliefs using well-structured, informed arguments that supplies strong essay writing skills that will be transferrable to A-Level essay writing subjects.

Why might you want to study GCSE Religious Studies?

The heart of Religious Education is about debating key topical issues. Lessons often consist of class discussions, debate in many forms and developing your social awareness of modern Britain and the world. You will learn how to construct evaluative essays; a skill that will be used throughout your education. Most days that you turn on the news, you will see something that has been studied in Religious Education.

What else could you get out of GCSE Religious Studies?

The subject is regarded highly by universities as it gives students a well-rounded informed view of the world around them. It is specifically useful to anyone looking to study Medicine, Social Work and jobs in the Police.

How is the course assessed?

Students will sit 2 exams at the end of Year 11 that each last 1 hour 45 minutes. Each exam paper tests similar exam skills.

What we will expect from you in GCSE Religious Studies?

Your full engagement in every lesson and a good attitude to learning. Both skills will result in RE being one of your highest GCSE grades.

Attitudes to learning:

Students should demonstrate a keen and enthusiastic attitude towards religious studies, which is evident on their interim reports.



"Whether Gods exist or not, there is no way to get absolute certainty about ethics. Without absolute certainty, what do we do? We do the best we can."

- Richard Stallman

Physical Education

Mr A. Turner

Exam Board
AQA

Specification Reference
8582

Why should you choose GCSE PE?

GCSE PE is targeted at sports minded students who play and represent the school or a club on a regular basis, or if you have a passion for human biology and anatomy. We will cover 6 key topic areas in theory lessons: Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, sport psychology, socio-cultural influences, and health, fitness and well-being. You will then put forward 3 practical activities from a set list specified from the exam board: One team sport; one individual sport and then another either individual or team sport.

Why might you want to study GCSE PE?

If you have an interest in sports teaching, development, management and coaching, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Sports therapy, and Sport Psychology to name but a few.

What else could you get out of GCSE PE?

A wide variety of teaching styles to enthuse and engage students in theory lessons. A variety of practical activities to find students' strongest 3 sports. We are linking with other schools in the area to give students competitive opportunities to give them the best grades possible.

How is the course assessed?

- 40% practical- 3 sports- 1 team/1 individual and a choice. These are then graded out of 10 for skills and out of 15 for game play;
- 60% theory- two 30% papers of 1 hour and 15 minutes.

What we will expect from you in GCSE PE

Prior Attainment:

Playing sport at school team level minimum.

Attitudes to learning:

- Can-do attitude! Eager to learn, develop and challenge current understanding;
- A desire and interest to learn about new sports and theories is essential to get the most from the course.

Q: Why was Cinderella not picked for the basketball team?

A: Because she always ran away from the ball!



Specification Reference
|277

"2b or not 2b"

Music

Exam Board
OCR

Specification Reference
J536

Why should you choose GCSE Music?

Music is a subject that offers a balance of technical theory and historical study combined with practical creativity, that will be enjoyed by all students who opt to study the subject at GCSE.

Why might you want to study GCSE Music?

By studying Music you will be developing musicianship, a skill that will support a wide range of further education and career choices. As part of the course you will have opportunities to develop performances as a soloist and as an ensemble and will compose and perform using music technology and recording equipment in our recording studio.

The course will enable you to broaden your musical experiences and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity. You will have numerous opportunities to perform to audiences ranging from your peers, assessors and invited audiences. The Music department offers many extra-curricular opportunities to support your studies including a Christmas production, choir, band, trips and visits. As a GCSE student you have the opportunity to work with peripatetic music professionals with skills on a wide range of instruments to support your learning further.

What else could you get out of GCSE Music?

Music plays a huge part in our everyday lives and studying Music allows you to develop social, technical and business skills such as problem solving, research, planning, analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as develop your creativity. Studying music will develop your discipline, composure under pressure, time management, communication, team and individual working ability - all gained from practice and performing.

How is the course assessed?

60% Coursework, 40% Listening Exam:

- Two performances (one ensemble and one solo) and two compositions. One of your compositions will be set to an OCR brief;
- Listening exam: 1 hour 30 minutes - 100 marks based on areas we will study throughout the course.

What we will expect from you in GCSE Music

You be able to play an instrument or be a confident vocalist.

Attitudes to learning:

Positivity, enthusiasm and a determination to do your very best.

STOP!

You're under a rest!



Dance

Mrs L. Karim

Practical (GCSE)

Exam Board

AQA

Specification Reference

J811

What are the requirements in order to take this course?

- Some previous experience in dance - in terms of attending formal lessons/being part of a dance academy or school/taking exams;
- Owning your own jazz shoes;
- Be willing to complete both the practical and written elements in this course.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Performance and Choreography: 60%

Internally marked and externally moderated

Performance: 30%

- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration)
- Duet/trio performance (three minutes in a dance which is a maximum of five minutes in duration)

Choreography: 30%

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

Component 2: Dance Appreciation: 40%

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works

Written exam (question based on students' own practice in performance and choreography and the GCSE Dance anthology): 1 hour and 30 minutes



In ancient Greece, dance was seen as a gift from the Gods. The main qualities of dance, such as order and rhythm, were also qualities of the Gods.

Performing Arts

Exam Board

Edexcel
Pearson

Why should you choose Performing Arts?

Performing Arts offers the unique ability to explore themes, issues and the world around us in a creative and imaginative way through use of performance. Performing Arts develops a vast array of essential life skills such as empathy, the ability to communicate, self-confidence, problem-solving and peer trust. It develops your ability to plan, active judgement and interpersonal skills.

Why might you want to study Performing Arts?

By studying Performing Arts you will be developing creative skills that will support a wide range of further education and career choices. As part of the course you will have the opportunity to create performances as an individual, as part of small and large groups and there is also the option to work as a designer exploring lighting, sound, set and costume.

The course will enable you to widen your theatrical experiences and interests, learn new performance styles and build upon negotiating and leadership skills. You will have numerous opportunities to perform to a range of audiences such as your peers, external assessors and invited audiences. You will also have opportunities to see live professional performances, including an annual visit to London's West End.

What else could you get out of Performing Arts?

Studying Performing Arts requires emotional maturity and gives students a deeper understanding of themselves. The subject is able to engender a deep sense of self-esteem and self-worth from the knowledge of working as part of a team to create a performance that engages and exhilarates an audience. It is a knowledge applied subject which refines creating, devising, presenting, performing and responding skills. Performing Arts is evident in our everyday life, through a range of media sources.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed in a variety of ways including:

- Practical assessments that focus on your performance skills. The practical assessments will take two main forms, scripted and devised – meaning that you have the opportunity to create original work as well as work from pre-existing performance texts. You will perform these to an audience and for at least one component be assessed by an external examiner;
- Written Portfolios – These form an important area of assessment and look at how well you can analyse and evaluate your own work and communicate how drama has been created. You have to show your knowledge of drama and how different styles of theatre have evolved throughout history;
- Live Theatre Evaluations – You will get the opportunity to take part in theatre visits as part of the course and an important area of assessment is your ability to evaluate the work of others.

*Trying to come up with a Performing Arts pun,
but it would just be a play on words!*



Sports Science

Mr A. Turner

Practical (Vocational)

Exam Board
OCR

Why should you do this course?

Elite sport has embraced sport science disciplines wholeheartedly in the past few decades. It considers every minute detail of an athlete's training programme, rest time, environment and psychology in the pursuit of excellence. The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Science offer learners the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles, and psychology in sport and sports performance.

What else could you get out of this course?

If you have an interest in any of the health and fitness contexts such as exercise, lifestyles and diet. It will provide opportunities to develop a significant core of knowledge and understanding of various elements of sport science. You will gain skills in administering fitness tests and planning training programmes, as well as planning diet programmes for differing athletes.

How is the course assessed?

One externally assessed exam (25%):

- Reducing the risk of sports injuries

Three internally assessed units from building a portfolio of evidence (75%):

- Applying principles of training
- The body's response to physical activity
- Sports nutrition

What will we expect from you in Sports Science

An interest in health and wellbeing, and enjoyment of sport and fitness.

Attitudes to learning:

'Can do' attitude! Eager to learn, develop and challenge current understanding. A want to learn about new sports and theories.



Q: What's a pumpkins favourtie sport?

A: Squash.

Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health & Social Care

Exam Board
OCR

Specification Reference
J811

Why should you choose Health & Social Care?

This is an ideal course for those interested in a career in the care sector.

Why might you want to study Health & Social Care?

Careers in Health and Social Care are thriving with a growing need for well-qualified staff in education, hospitals, residential care and private homes. Employment in Care is one of the most satisfying careers available with great career prospects. Many learners go on to do Level 3 Courses which can lead to gaining a place on a course at university.

What else could you get out of Health & Social Care?

Learners will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding through the use of focused activities such as role-play, case studies and scenarios. In addition, learners will be encouraged to develop greater independence and creativity (including Values of Care and the current legislation requirements and the importance of softer skills such as communication skills to ensure individuals' right to independence and dignity).

How is the course assessed?

The OCR Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care consists of two mandatory units and two optional units:

- R021: Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings;
- R022: Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings;
- Two additional, internally assessed, units moderated by OCR.

What we will expect from you in Health & Social Care

You will need to work independently, in pairs and groups in order to complete the tasks set, therefore you will need a willingness to listen to the views of others as well as being able to share your own ideas.

Prior Attainment:

An interest in people

Attitudes to learning:

- A willingness to ask for help;
- A willingness to follow advice;
- A willingness to listen to others.

"A modern health and social care system has to be completely focused on the needsw of its users"
- Patricia Hewitt



Childcare

Miss S. Khanam

Practical (Vocational)

Exam Board
NCFE

Specification Reference
600/6644/1

Why should you choose Childcare?

This qualification provides the opportunity to gain a vocational qualification that gives a basic introduction to the sector. It has been designed to meet the needs of students from the age of 14 years. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. It is aimed at a range of students who wish to be introduced to childcare and development for children aged 0-5 years. It also gives learners an insight into their preferred learning styles and assists in developing their ability to study.

Why might you want to study Childcare?

This option allows regular placement work to experience the world of work whilst studying for a qualification in Childcare.

What else could you get out of Childcare?

Students can progress to the following qualifications:

- Level 2 Award in Babysitting;
- Level 2 Certificate Introducing Caring for Children and Young People;
- Level 2 Award in Preparation for the Responsibilities of Parenting;
- Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce;
- Level 3 Award, Certificate and Diploma in Childcare and Education (EYE);
- Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce;
- and many other qualifications in the Childcare Sector at Level 2 and Level 3.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is via two internally assessed graded Assessment Tasks and an externally assessed Synoptic Assessment unit, which is assessed via a Multiple Choice Paper. The Award is graded from A* to D.

Attitudes to learning:

A want to work with children is a must! In order to do this you must want to work hard, be patient and understanding.



*I love all of my children equally.
Expect the one that naps.
I love that one more.*

Hospitality and Catering Level 1 and 2

Miss S. Robotham

Exam Board
Eduqas

Specification Reference
601/7703/2

Why should you choose Hospitality and Catering?

The WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering equips learners with theoretical knowledge about the industry as well as enabling them to develop practical skills in planning, preparing and cooking a variety of dishes.

Hospitality and Catering consists of two units:

Unit 1 - Hospitality and Catering industry: focuses on learning about different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the roles and responsibilities within the sector.

Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in action: develops learners' practical skills for planning, preparing, cooking and presenting nutritional dishes meeting the clients needs. Both units have also been designed to provide learners with an understanding of how the learning is relevant to the sector.

Why might you want to study Hospitality and Catering?

According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with the majority of new roles falling within the 18-24 age groups. The ability to plan, prepare and present food is an essential skill within the hospitality and catering industry.

What else could you get out of Hospitality and Catering?

The subject will help you to develop the following skills:

- Independent thinking
- Discipline
- Team work
- Problem solving
- Time management
- Develop and extend competence in a range of practical skills
- Develop and extend knowledge in the hospitality and catering industry

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 - 40% (written assessment)

Unit 2 - 60% (coursework)

What we will expect from you in GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Students must demonstrate a positive attitude to learning. They must show a willingness to learn, work as a team and be prepared with ingredients for practical lessons.

"Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were"



Creative iMedia

Mrs Y. Smith

Exam Board
OCR

Specification Reference
J817

Why should you chose Creative iMedia?

Digital Media is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives and vital to the UK economy. Everywhere you look you see creative and digital media; in magazines, on advertising posters, game covers, logo design etc. Production of digital media products is a requirements of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce. The Creative iMedia qualification will help you develop specific and transferable skills such as research, planning, review of yours and others work, working with others and communicating creative concepts to set audiences like adults, teenagers, elderly and children. The course allows you a hands-on approach to production with 75% of the course completing creative digital tasks set by the exam board.

Why might you want to study Creative iMedia?

The mandatory units of Pre-Production Skills (exam) and Creating Digital Graphics underpin the key industry skills and give you the opportunity to develop your skills in this area. There are a wide range of optional units which cover different media disciplines like comic strip development, website creation, digital animation among others, allowing you to develop and demonstrate your abilities and passion. Each optional unit is assessed through a practical task-based assessment with OCR-set tasks.

What else could you get out of Creative iMedia?

Creative iMedia is a very practical course allowing you to create digital products to demonstrate your media skills along with understanding the different needs of clients and the audience at which those products could be aimed at. You would acquire essential knowledge of the global media industry, develop transferable skills and tools, which, as well as aiding you on your creative media course, will also support your learning in other subject areas. Creative iMedia can lead to further study of the subject, i.e A-Level ICT, Level 3 Creative iMedia, the Study of Multimedia Computing and can eventually lead to employment in Web Design, Digital Media Development, Video Games Design, Special Effects and many other fields.

How is the course assessed?

1 exam

- R081 Pre-production Skills - 25% (1 hour 15 minutes)

3 coursework units

- R082 Creating Digital Graphics - 25%
- 2 optional units - 25% each

What will we expect from you in Creative iMedia

No prior attainment but a good level of wirrtten English is desirable.

Attitudes to learning:

You need to be able to work to set deadlines, be hardworking and have good time management, especially as 75% of this course is practical.



"Digital design is like painting except the paint never dries"
- Neville Brody

BTEC Work Skills (Compulsory in Pathway 3)

Miss L. Chamberlain

Exam Board
Edexcel

Specification Reference
Level 2, Certificate or Extended Certificate

Why should you choose BTEC Work Skills?

The Pearson BTEC Entry Level Awards and Certificate in Work Skills are designed to prepare learners for employment and ensure that they have the knowledge and skills to succeed in the workplace.

This BTEC has been offered to give students a flexible program of study to enhance their application of employability skills. It has been designed so that all skills, knowledge and understanding provided is current, useful and relevant to both students and potential employers.

Why might you want to study BTEC Work Skills?

Units within the course give you an opportunity to think about future employment and develop skills that are required by most employers. Units include various job related skills including: applying for jobs, preparing for interview, self management, career progression, managing money, building working relationships with colleagues, personal presentation in the workplace, self assessment.

What else could you get out of BTEC Work Skills?

A qualification in employability skills and developed confidence and understanding in applying for jobs.

How is the course assessed?

Internally assessed assignments following each unit.

An early finish of this course will allow students to potentially gain additional qualifications in later years and receive additional time for support in English and Mathematics during the Academy day.

Attitudes to learning:

- A determination and commitment to learn;
- A positive attitude;
- Willing to work hard in school and at home;
- Be prepared to be challenged, to make mistakes and learn from them.

My first job was working in an Orange Juice factory. But I got canned; I couldn't concentrate.





Making your Option Choices

All students will study:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Double Science
- Wellbeing: Core PE (Non-examined)
- Inspire (Non-examined)

Students will then pick three options from the following blocks (one from each block):

	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3
GCSE Qualifications	Business Dance Fashion and Textiles French Graphics (Art) Photography Religious Studies Seperate Sciences	Art and Design Business French Physical Education Psychology Religious Studies	Business Computing Design Technology French Music Photography Psychology Statistics
Vocational Qualifications	ICT (iMedia) Sports	Health and Social Care Hospitality and Catering Performing Arts Work Skills	Child Care Hospitality and Catering Sports

Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 3
The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc.)	The Open Route	The Supportive Route
The 'Ebacc. route', which is encouraged for the majority of students, requires studying at least one humanities subject (Geography or History) along with French and then two other subjects of your choice. The two options may take the form of a GCSE or vocational qualification such as BTEC, OCR Technical or NCFE.	The 'Open route' ensures students have the correct combination of subjects to compete for sixth form places but not qualify for recognition of studying for the Ebacc. The three options may take the form of GCSE or vocational qualifications such as BTEC, OCR Technical or NCFE, require more focus on controlled assessment and less on examinations.	The 'Supportive route' is intended for those who require additional support in English and Mathematics. It aims to prepare students for their progression into post-16 study or apprenticeship by offering applied subjects such as 'Work Skills', along with optional choices in vocational and GCSE subjects.

Pathway 1 (Ebacc.)		
<i>French must take the place of one choice in this Pathway</i>		
Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3
French Business Dance Fashion and Textiles Graphics (Art) ICT (iMedia) Photography Religious Studies Separate Sciences Sports	French Art and Design Business Health and Social Care Hospitality and Catering Performing Arts Physical Education Psychology Religious Studies	French Business Child Care Computing Design Technology Hospitality and Catering Music Photography Psychology Sports Statistics

Pathway 2 (Open Route)		
Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3
Business Dance Fashion and Textiles Graphics (Art) Photography Religious Studies Separate Sciences	Art and Design Business Physical Education Psychology Religious Studies	Business Computing Design Technology Music Photography Psychology Statistics
ICT (iMedia) Sports	Health and Social Care Hospitality and Catering Performing Arts	Child Care Hospitality and Catering Sports

Pathway 3 (Supportive Route)		
Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3
Dance Fashion and Textiles Graphics (Art) Photography		Design Technology Music Photography
ICT (iMedia) Sports	Work Skills*	Child Care Hospitality and Catering Sports

*Compulsory in this Pathway.



ACADEMY GREAT BARR

Chief Executive: Dr Caroline J S Badyal, EdD, MA BE.d, DipEd, NPQH | Head of School: Mr Mark Arnall BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

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Q3 - Quaerere | 'Seek that which is good, that which is right, that which is true'



The Grace
Charitable Trust

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teachers network

