



# PATHWAYS



Tuesday 14th March 2017  
6.30pm - 8.30pm

Lecture Theatre talks 6.30pm, 7pm and 7.30pm

# Welcome

Dear Student,

Welcome to your GCSE 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 four different Pathways available to you as you head into Year 9, along with information about both the core and optional subjects and your option form. 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 Learning Consultants.

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

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.

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

- English Language and Literature (taught as ‘English’ – 5 hours per week)
- Mathematics (4 hours per week)
- Science: Double or Triple Award (4 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 team working skills, understand maintaining a healthy lifestyle and develop general fitness, and Aspire, which will explore wider PSHE issues alongside Religious Studies.

Further to this, you choose four option subjects.

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

**Assistant Vice Principal – Curriculum, Planning and Resourcing**

# 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	Pathway 4
The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc.)	The Academic Route	The Applied Route	The Supportive Route
Current 8A and O	Current 8O	Current 8O	Current 8B
The 'Ebacc.' route, which is encouraged for the majority of students, requires studying at least one humanities subject (Geography or History) along with at least one Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish or German).	This route ensures students have the correct combination of subjects to compete for Sixth Form places but does not qualify for recognition of studying the full Ebacc. Students study one of the following: Geography, History or French, along with three academic subject choices.	The Applied route is for those who would prefer the option to study subjects that are more practical; often in the form of vocational courses such as BTEC, OCR Technical or BCS, which require more focus on controlled assessment and less on examinations. In addition to this, students must study one of the following: Geography, History or French.	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' and 'Functional Skills', along with an optional choice in a GCSE subject.

For further careers advice please book an appointment with Mr McCormack (ACE Director).

In addition to your Academic studies an increasing number of extra-curricular opportunities will become available to you including; Duke of Edinburgh Award and Combined Cadet Force. Information will be provided as these become available during the Academic year.

## Explanations of GCSE Grades

GCSE Grades	Equivalent Grade
9	A*+
8	A*-/=
7	A
6	B=/+
5	C+/B- This is the minimum expected standard
4	C-/=
3	D
2	E
1	G/F



# English

Mrs T. Dodd

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
English Language – 8700  
English Literature – 8702

## Why you study English

As English is such an important subject and will teach you invaluable skills that are essential in 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.

## Where could English lead?

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

- Digital copywriter
- Editorial assistant
- English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- Lexicographer
- 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 – Exploration 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

## What we will expect from you in English?

### 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

Mr A. Machin

**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.

## Where could Mathematics lead?

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, coding 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

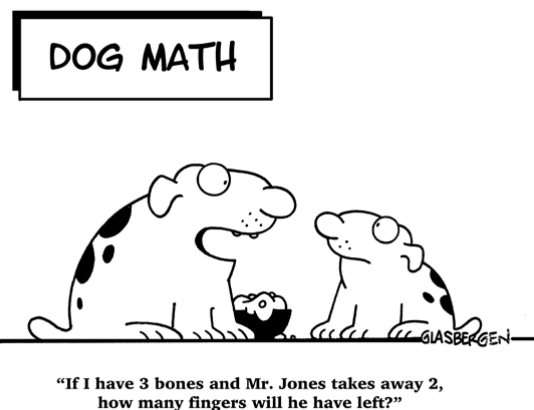
Paper 2 – calculator – 1 hour and 30 minutes

Paper 3 – calculator – 1 hour and 30 minutes

## What we will expect from you in Mathematics?

### Attitudes to learning:

A 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.

# Science

Mr R. Burlace

## Exam Board

AQA

## Specification Reference

Trilogy - 8468

Biology - 8461

Chemistry - 8462

Physics - 8463

## Why you study 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.

## Where could Science lead?

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)
- Beautician (Chemistry)
- Sound engineer (Physics)

## What else could you get out of Science?

The new 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 formal assessments are external and exam based. All exams are terminal in the summer of Year 11.

## What we will expect from you in Science?

### Attitudes to learning:

You will be expected to persevere with challenges, think creatively and solve problems which will require you to be resilient, motivated and inquisitive.

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



# Wellbeing: Aspire and RS

Mr M. Kulyna

## Why you study Aspire and Religious Studies

As part of their childhood development students will undertake Wellbeing. This will be divided into Aspire, which is the Academy curriculum for PSHE, and Religious Studies.

Aspire covers PSHE which stands for Physical, Social and 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.

Within Wellbeing, students will also undertake 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."

If you have an interest in sports teaching, development, management and coaching, physiotherapy, podiatry, sports therapy, and sport psychology as careers, undertaking PE will greatly assist in this.

PE will provide enjoyment, escapism and increased self-esteem. Hormones are released during physical activity which provides you with an essential 'feel-good factor', contributing to your physical and mental well-being which will aid you concentration and learning in other subjects.



*A: Cricket!*



# Geography

Mr M. Kulyna

**Exam Board**  
OCR B

**Specification Reference**  
J384

## Why should you choose Geography?

Geography is a very contemporary 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.

## Where could Geography lead?

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 hr 15 mins (35%)
- Paper 2 – People and Society – 1 hr 15 mins (35%)
- Paper 3 – Geographical Exploration – 1 hr 30 mins (30%)

## What we will expect from you in Geography?

### Attitudes to learning:

A positive attitude, engaged, punctual and organised. You should have a curious and enquiring mind and want to know more about the world around you.

Q: What did the ground say to the earthquake?

A: Hey, you crack me up!

# History

Mr J. Mills

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
8145

## Why should you choose 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 inter-war Europe and Germany under Hitler, through to the History of medicine and Elizabeth I, there is something to interest everyone.

## Where could History lead?

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 idea, 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?

2 exams at the end of Y11

- Paper 1 – 1h45
- Paper 2 – 1h45

## What we will expect from you in History?

### Attitudes to learning:

A positive attitude, engaged, punctual and organised.



**Q:** How was the Roman Empire divided?

**A:** With a pair of Caesars!

# GCSE French

Mr L. Price

**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.

## Where could French lead?

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 a language to degree level, a GCSE in French 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:

E3 and above in at least one foreign language.

### 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

# GCSE Spanish

Mr L. Price

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
8698

## Why should you choose GCSE Spanish?

Spanish is spoken by over 350 million people around the world and as it's from the Romance language family, it will help you to build your English knowledge too!

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.

## Where could Spanish lead?

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 Spanish?

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

## How is the course assessed? 3 exams at the end of Year 11:

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

## What we will expect from you in GCSE Spanish?

### Prior Attainment:

E3 and above in at least one foreign language.

### Attitudes to learning:

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



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

**A:** Just Juan.



# GCSE German

Mr L. Price

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
8668

## Why should you choose GCSE German?

German has the largest number of native speakers in Europe and is a Lingua Franca of Central and Eastern Europe. They are world leaders in engineering too, so knowing German is helpful if you are looking for jobs in this field.

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.

## Where could German lead?

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 German?

Some universities will only accept applicants who have studied at least one foreign language at GCSE level. Whilst you may not want to study a language to degree level, a GCSE in German 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 German?

### Prior Attainment:

E3 and above in at least one foreign language.

### Attitudes to learning:

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



**Q: Do Germans have a favourite number?**

**A: Nein!**

# GCSE Sociology

Mr J. Mills

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
8192

## Why should you choose GCSE Sociology?

Sociology is about understanding the society in which you live and forces that shape it. If you have ever wondered why some groups of students seem to do better in school or why people wait longer before getting married than they used to, then Sociology might be the subject for you. You will learn how to think critically about real issues in the real world.

## Where could Sociology lead?

Sociology will prepare you for a number of careers. These include:

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

## What else could you get out of GCSE Sociology?

Students develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society, its structures, processes and issues. Sociology is exciting, interesting and relevant to students' lives.

## How is the course assessed?

100% Examination:

- Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes
- Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes

## What we will expect from you in GCSE Sociology?

### Attitudes to learning:

Positive, engaged, punctual and organised.



**Q: Why does Karl Marx only drink mint tea?**

**A: Because all proper-tea is theft!**

# GCSE Psychology

Miss M. Benning

## 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.

### Where could Psychology lead?

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, Maths 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.

# GCSE Music

Miss R. Baines

**Exam Board**  
OCR

**Specification Reference**  
J536

## Why should you choose GCSE Music?

Music is simply a force that cannot be explained. It provokes emotion, unites people and has changed culture throughout history.

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.

## Where could Music lead?

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 study a range of genres from popular music of today to baroque, classical and film music. 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 practise and performing. Overall music will give you an outlet to be creative and will be a positive influence on all of the other subjects you choose to study.

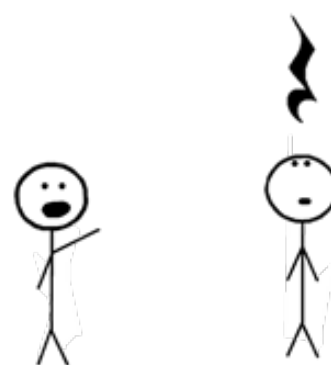
## How is the course assessed?

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 along with having a willingness to act upon constructive criticism whilst working with peers.



**STOP!**

**You're under a rest!**



# GCSE Drama

Mrs L. Karim

**Exam Board**  
OCR

**Specification Reference**  
J316

## Why should you choose GCSE Drama?

Drama offers the unique ability to explore themes, issues and the world around us in a creative and imaginative way through performance. Drama develops a vast array of essential life skills such as empathy, the ability to communicate, self-confidence, problem-solving and peer trust.

## Where could Drama lead?

By studying GCSE Drama 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 GCSE Drama?

Studying Drama 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. The subject refines creating, devising, presenting, performing and responding skills. Drama is evident in our everyday life, through a range of media sources.

## How is the course assessed?

60% in Academy assessment, 40% exam:

- Devising drama – learners will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama (30%).
- Presenting and performing texts – learners develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text (30%).
- Performance and response – learners will practically explore a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama and will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance. (Written exam 40%)

## What we will expect from you in GCSE Drama?

### Prior Attainment:

You will be able to perform to an audience with confidence and enjoy working as a group. You have the confidence to challenge yourself in developing practical and written skills.

### Attitudes to learning:

Positivity is the key to success in this subject area.

D.R.A.M.A: Determination, Resolve, Aptitude, Motivation, Application



**Q: What's the best way to become an actor?**

**A: Break a leg of course, then you'll be in a cast for weeks! (Don't try this at home).**

# Media Studies

Mrs T. Dodd

## Exam Board

Eduqas

## Specification Reference

To be confirmed

### Why should you choose GCSE Media Studies?

GCSE Media Studies is designed to get you to draw on your existing experience of the media – in its many forms. The course is designed to give you the knowledge to not only think more analytically about the media, but also to produce a media text of your own, using a set of technical skills which you will develop as part of your study.

### Where could Media Studies lead?

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

- Advertising account executive.
- Broadcast journalist.
- Editorial assistant.
- Event organiser.
- Information officer.
- Magazine journalist.
- Market researcher.
- Writer.

### What else could you get out of GCSE Media Studies?

In the current world in which we live, you are probably already somewhat of an expert in this subject: think about how much of your daily life is spent immersed in some form of the media, from watching TV to listening to the radio, or catching up on all the news on Twitter to watching the latest film. Why not put this experience to good use, in a subject which will provide enough variety to keep you on your toes, plus the opportunity to test your skills as a budding film director or webpage designer?

### How is the course assessed?

One exam and one piece of coursework:

- Unit 1 (Exam) Thinking about the Media: Investigating and Planning 2 hrs 15 mins  
Section A: Thinking about the media, Investigating four questions. Candidates respond to stimulus material chosen from a topic set by WJEC.  
Section B: Thinking about the media - Planning a series of tasks: candidates demonstrate planning and creative skills through a series of creative tasks which demonstrates knowledge of the convergent nature of the contemporary media.
- Unit 2 (Coursework) Creating for the media: Investigating and Producing three pieces of work from at least two different media: two textual investigations on two different media areas [one must be print-based] and one media production consisting of research, planning, the production itself and an evaluation of the production (40%).

### What we will expect from you in GCSE Media Studies?

- You should be predicted a Grade 5 or above in English in order to access the GCSE Media Studies course.

#### Attitudes to learning:

A positive attitude, an enthusiasm for the media in all its forms and a willingness to have your assumptions challenged are a must!

**Q: What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards?**

**A: a receding hare-line.**

# Performing Arts

Mrs L. Karim

**Exam Board**  
Edexcel

**Specification Reference**  
BJC39

## Why should you choose Performing Arts?

Choosing to study for a BTEC First Award Performing Arts is a good decision if you want the opportunity to explore different areas of the Performing Arts.

Performing Arts allows pupils to develop their creativity through devising and practical performing skills in a vocational context as well as enhancing and refining research techniques and accurate writing skills.

## Where could Performing Arts lead?

BTEC Performing Arts is a vocational course that explores many areas of the Performing Arts Industry including performance and production roles. You will have the opportunity to develop performances as part of a group and individually, allowing you to make informed artistic choices. You will have numerous opportunities to perform to audiences ranging from your peers, assessors and invited audiences. You will develop key life skills such as confidence, team work, leadership skills and communication skills. There will also be opportunities to see live professional performances including an annual visit to London's West End.

## What else could you get out of Performing Arts?

The study of this course would prepare students for future advanced studies and the world of work via a vocation-based, knowledge-applied understanding of how the world of theatre works in terms of production skills, audition techniques, presenting, acting and performance.

## How is the course assessed?

- 75% in Academy assessment.
- 25% Exam.
  - Unit 1 - Individual Showcase: Externally assessed portfolio and performance.
  - Unit 2 - Preparation, performance and production: Internally assessed performance and log book/portfolio work.
  - Unit 3 - Acting Skills: Internally assessed performance and log book/portfolio work.
- Unit 7 - Production skills for performance: Internally assessed log book, research notes and portfolio.

## What we will expect from you in GCSE Drama?

### Prior Attainment:

You be able to perform to an audience with confidence and enjoy working as a group. You have the confidence to challenge yourself in developing practical and written skills.

### Attitudes to learning:

Positivity is the key to success in this subject area.  
Be enthusiastic and determined to succeed even when you encounter obstacles.

**Q: Why is the stage the most hygienic place in the World?**

**A: Well, every time we turn on the lights, it gets a wash.**

# GCSE Fine Art

Miss M. Jeanneret

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
4200

## 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 on existing knowledge and strengths.

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

- Painting and 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.

## Where could Fine Art lead?

Studying Fine Art will develop student's 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 of 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

## 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 was the painting arrested?**

**A: Because it had been framed.**



# GCSE Textiles

Miss M. Jeanneret

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
4202

## 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.

## Where could GCSE Textiles lead?

Studying Textiles will develop student's 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 of 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 buyer
- Stage & Costume design
- Fashion photographer
- Dressmaking

## 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.*

# GCSE Photography

Miss M. Jeanneret

## Exam Board

AQA

## Specification Reference

4202 – Art & Design: Photography

### 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, but also additional Enhancement Software.

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.

### Where could GCSE Photography lead?

Studying Photography will develop student's 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 of 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?

#### 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.



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

# GCSE Design & Technology

Mr C. Dawson

**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.

## Where could GCSE Design & Technology lead?

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.

## 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 done via group work, you'll also gain communication and teamwork skills. Not to mention a great work out for your creativity bone!

## How is the course assessed?

50% Coursework  
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.

# Level 2 Information Technology

Mrs K. Kinsella

## Exam Board

To be confirmed

## Specification Reference

To be confirmed

### Why should you choose IT?

The new courses are ideally suited to learners who have an interest in the world of IT, but have a preference for practical, rather than theoretical learning. The courses will be tailored towards specific Information Technology career areas and have a strong focus on creativity.

### Where could IT lead?

Whilst they share similar concepts, IT is quite different to Computer Science in terms of what is delivered. In general terms, IT teaches how to 'use' a Computer and Computer Science teaches how a computer works.

### What else could you get out of IT?

IT at this level is designed to equip learners with the practical IT skills they need to progress, whether that's to other Level 2 qualifications or apprenticeships, to junior roles in the IT industry, or to Level 3 general or vocational qualifications. Learners will achieve a qualification that is relevant to the needs of the industry, placing them in a sound position for progression to further study and equipping them with relevant employment skills.

### How is the course assessed?

This course has not yet been accredited; further information will be available over the coming weeks.

### What we will expect from you in IT?

#### Attitudes to learning:

Positivity, enthusiasm and lots of determination!

**Q: What do you get if you cross a computer and a life guard?**

**A: A Screensaver!**



# GCSE Computer Science

Mrs K Kinsella

**Exam Board**  
OCR

**Specification Reference**  
J276

## Why should you choose GCSE Computer Science?

Computing is an important part of a rapidly changing economy. Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that technology is used has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years.

The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees.

## Where could GCSE Computer Science lead?

GCSE Computer Science explores the principles of digital technology and way of working that's called 'computational thinking', with programming as a core of the course, but it is also really creative and you'll get a real buzz out of something you have made work by yourself. So, if you enjoyed basic programming (such as Scratch or Python) in previous years then you might find Computer Science is for you.

## What else could you get out of GCSE Computer Science?

As new technologies are developed, the world needs more and more people to research new ways of using computers to do the things they want.

Businesses today require an ever-increasing number of technologically-aware individuals - even more so in the gaming, mobile and web related industries. GCSE Computer Science will build a strong foundation for those who wish to move on to further study and training in specialised Computing areas. You'll learn skills and techniques that will help you in your future career. Basic project management techniques, product development cycles, problem solving. Computer science also opens a lot of doors - it's part of your 5 A\*-C measure, and counts as a science for the English Baccalaureate.

## How is the course assessed?

2 exams & 1 project:

- Computer systems - written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 40% of GCSE
- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 40% of GCSE
- Programming Project: (03/04) - Non-Exam Assessment (NEA), 20% of GCSE

## What we will expect from you in GCSE Computer Science?

### Prior Attainment:

A prediction of a Grade 7 in Mathematics and a Grade 5 in any Modern Foreign Language.

### Attitudes to learning:

You've got to be able to think logically, solve puzzles and be tenacious when the going gets tough.

**Q: What did the computer do at lunchtime?**

**A: It had a byte!**

# GCSE Business

Mrs K. Kinsella

**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 their own lives and on society, today and in the future.

## Where could GCSE Business lead?

Business students usually have good commercial awareness, 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 many different walks of life. Studying Business can support many choices of career. You will learn about different types of businesses and 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?

### Attitudes to learning:

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.**

# Level 2 Business

Mrs K. Kinsella

## Exam Board

Edexcel

## Specification Reference

To be confirmed

### Why should you choose BTEC 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 their own lives and on society, today and in the future.

### Where could BTEC Business lead?

BTEC Business will enable you to develop knowledge and understanding by applying your learning and skills in a work-related context. Additionally, this course will encourage you to take responsibility for your own learning and to develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace. These skills include: team working; working from a prescribed brief; working to deadlines; presenting information effectively; and accurately completing administrative tasks and processes.

### What else could you get out of BTEC Business?

BTEC Firsts open doors to progression into further study and responsibility within the workplace.

### How is the course assessed?

2 core units:

Enterprise in the Business World – Internally assessed

Finance for Business – External examination

2 Optional Units:

Promoting a Brand – Internally assessed

Recruitment, Selection and Employment – Externally assessed.

### What we will expect from you in BTEC Business?

#### Prior Attainment:

None – strong literacy skills are an advantage.

#### Attitudes to learning:

Excellent communication skills and the ability to manage your own time effectively.

Q: What does Santa call his wife at tax time?

A: A dependent Claus.

# GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Mr C. Dawson

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
8585

## Why should you choose GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition?

This is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills. The course will ensure students develop an understanding of nutrition and health, food science, safety, food choice, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. Students will also learn about British and international culinary traditions, food security and food safety. At the heart of the qualification is a focus on developing practical cookery skills and a strong understanding of nutrition.

## Where could GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition lead?

This course equips students with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. The course will inspire and motivate students, opening their eyes to a world of career opportunities and giving them the confidence to cook with ingredients from across the globe.

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, Catering and Hospitality, Food Styling and Photography, Food Retail, Environmental Health and The Food Standards Agency.

## What else could you get out of GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition?

Food Preparation and Nutrition will enable students to develop many desirable skills that both employers and universities seek. Primarily students develop their practical cookery skills through making a large variety of recipes and practising key culinary techniques. In developing these skills students will enhance their communication, teamwork, problem solving and analytical skills. The course will help students develop an understanding of the future of food and how as consumers we have the power to make moral and ethical decisions that can make a difference to the world we live in. Students will become confident in decision making and developing their own judgements in a supportive and creative classroom environment.

## How is the course assessed?

50% Coursework – Food investigation and food preparation assessment.

50% Written exam

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

### Prior Attainment:

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

### Attitudes to learning:

Students must demonstrate a positive attitude to learning. They must complete classwork and homework well, showing a willingness to learn and be prepared to bring in ingredients for recipes.

**Q: How much room is needed for fungi to grow?**

**A: As mushroom as possible.**

# Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care

**Exam Board**  
OCR

**Specification Reference**  
J811  
Ms J. Lones-Greaves

## Why should you choose Health & Social Care?

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

## Where could Health & Social Care lead?

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 consist 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.

There are two additional, internally assessed, units moderated by OCR.

## What we will expect from you in Health & Social Care?

The need to work independently, in pairs and groups in order to complete the task sets, therefore I will need to see 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.



Doctor, Doctor! I got a letter in the post the other day. It said 'Do Not Bend'. I thought, "Well how am I supposed to pick it up then?"



# Hair & Beauty

Francesco Group

## Exam Board

City and Guilds

## Specification Reference

3038 – Level 2 Technical Award in Hair & Beauty

### Why should you choose Hair & Beauty?

The Level 2 Technical Award in Hair & Beauty Studies allows learners to gain theoretical knowledge and a small number of technical skills, related to the hair and beauty sector. This programme of study is designed to give 14 - 19 year olds the technical and professional skills needed to progress from Further Education onto an apprenticeship, into university or into the modern jobs market.

### Where could Hair & Beauty lead?

This qualification allows you to explore the world of hair and beauty and the environment in which its industries operate. You will study how hair and beauty has developed from ancient times to the present day and develop hair styling, make-up and manicure technical skills to produce your own photographic image. You will explore ethics of product testing, effects of ingredients on hair and skin and how disorders of the hair and skin can impact on services. The qualification develops the following knowledge, understanding and skills:

- Specific services carried out within the hair and beauty sectors, roles and responsibilities and typical working patterns
- Evolution of hair and beauty from use in Ancient times to the mid 90s
- How technological advancements, changes to the economy, and social factors have influenced the sector
- Chemistry of cosmetics and biology related to hair and beauty
- Uses of design and images for business use

### What else could you get out of Hair & Beauty?

There are many paths which Hair and Beauty can take you down. Some of these include:

- Styling women's hair
- Make up application
- Manicure Treatment
- Health and Safety
- Reception duties

### How is the course assessed?

Students will complete both written and practical tests throughout the course including an assignment including research, exam paper at the end of year 11 and taking part in a photo shoot.

### What we will expect from you in Hair & Beauty?

#### Prior Attainment:

- Artistic flair and an interest in fashion
- Good communication skills
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Good appearance and personal presentation
- Reasonably numerate and literate

#### Attitudes to learning:

- Punctual and reliable
- Positive attitude and willing to learn new skills.
- Motivated and enthusiastic
- Follow rules in the salon environment.

I saw an advert saying "Hairpieces from £5". I thought, "That's a small price toupee".

# GCSE Religious Studies

Miss S. Walsh

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
8062

Humanities (Optional)

## Why should you choose GCSE Religious Studies?

Religious Studies at Q3 Academy is a thought provoking and engaging option. Suitable for students that enjoy sharing their opinions and engaging with the thoughts and opinions of others. Students will learn how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture, and develop valuable skills that will help prepare them for further study. Students study Christianity, Islam and Sikhism.

## Where could Religious Studies lead?

Religious Studies is a fantastic subject to study if you are interested in a career working closely with people. Careers in social work, teaching and medicine all favour students who have studied Religious Studies due to the skills you will gain through studying this subject. Students are encouraged to work closely with their peers enhancing their interpersonal skills. Religious Studies also helps to develop students' empathy, social awareness and reasoning skills.

## What else could you get out of GCSE Religious Studies?

Religious Studies is a fantastic accompaniment to other Humanities subjects such as History, Geography and Psychology. Furthermore Religious Studies helps students to improve their extended writing and evaluation skills, which will be beneficial to many other subjects.

## How is the course assessed?

Student will sit 2 exams at the end of year 11 that each last 1hr 30 minutes.

## What we will expect from you in GCSE Religious Studies?

### Prior Attainment:

Your prior attainment in Religious Studies should show that you are on target to meet your end of year grade. If this is not the case then you may be considered on a case-to-case basis.

### Attitudes to learning:

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



There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned & went to heaven. The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!"

GCSE PE is targeted at sports minded students who play and represent the school or a club on a regular basis. If you have a passion for human biology or exploring the human mind through psychology

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.

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

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.

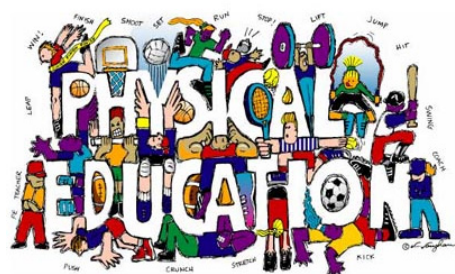
40% practical- 3 sports- 1 team/1 individual and a choice.  
These are then graded out of 10 for skills and out of 15 for game play.

60% theory- two 30% papers of 1 hour and 15 minutes.

### Prior Attainment:

- Playing sport at school team level minimum.

- '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!**

## Why should you choose Further Mathematics?

If you are an aspiring mathematician who intends to choose Mathematics at A-Level and potentially degree level then this may be the course for you. It is designed to stretch and challenge the most able mathematicians, incorporating some A- Level Mathematics and encouraging higher Mathematical skills, particularly algebraic reasoning. It emphasises higher order technical proficiencies, problem solving skills and rigorous argument. It is aimed at students predicted grades 8 or 9 at GCSE Mathematics.

## Where could Further Mathematics lead?

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

- Accountant
- Doctor
- Architect
- Engineer
- Data analyst
- Banking
- Any career which involves numerical skills or analysis.

## What else could you get out of Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics 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 whilst testing your problem solving abilities. Through this you will develop resilience and perseverance which you will be able to apply in a multitude of situations and careers. The topics not only extend your GCSE skills, but support them in order to help you achieve a higher grade in GCSE mathematics.

## How is the course assessed?

2 Exam papers at the end of year 11:

- Paper 1 – non-calculator – 1 hour and 30 minutes (40%)
- Paper 2 – calculator – 2 hours (60%)

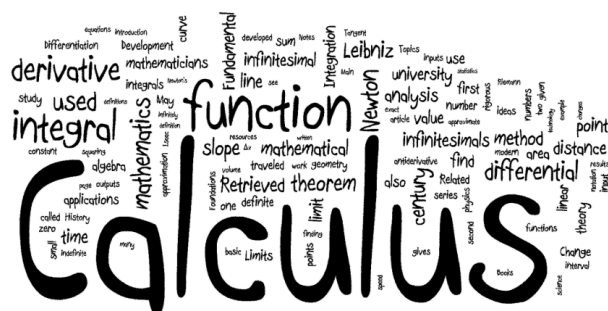
## What we will expect from you in Further Mathematics?

### Prior Attainment:

Predicted 7- 9 in GCSE Mathematics

### Attitudes to learning:

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



Q: Why is six afraid of 7?

**A: Because 7, 8, 9.**

# Level 2 Sport

Mr A. Turner

**Exam Board**  
Edexcel

**Specification Reference**  
8582

## Why should you choose Level 2 Sport?

The Level 2 First Award in Sport has been designed primarily for young people aged 14 to 19 who may wish to explore a vocational route throughout Key Stage 4, but it is also suitable for other learners who want a vocationally focused introduction to this area of study. It has been developed to:

- encourage personal development through practical participation and performance in a range of sports and exercise activities
- give learners a wider understanding and appreciation of health-related fitness, sports and exercise through a selection of optional specialist units
- encourage learners to develop their people, communication, planning and team-working skills by having the opportunity to select from optional units available in the qualification structure
- provide education and training for sport, leisure and recreation employees
- give opportunities for sport, leisure and recreation employees to achieve a nationally recognised level 2 vocationally-specific qualification
- give full-time learners the opportunity to progress to other vocational qualifications, such as the BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences, or on to A level, and, in due course, to enter employment in the sport and active leisure sector

## Where could Level 2 Sport lead?

The qualification provides opportunities for learners to develop the communication skills needed for working in the sport sector, as they progress through the course. This can be achieved through presentations and in discussions where they have the opportunity to express their opinions.

The qualification provides opportunities for learners to focus on the development of personal, learning and thinking skills, and English and mathematics knowledge and skills, in a sport-related context.

## How is the course assessed?

Three 75% Internally marked units.

One 25% Externally marked examination unit.

## What we will expect from you in GCSE PE?

### 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 does someone who runs marathons make a good student?**

**A: Because education always pays off in the long run!**



# BTEC in Work Skills (Compulsory in Pathway 4)

**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.

## Where could BTEC Work Skills lead?

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.

## What we will expect from you in BTEC Work Skills?

### Attitudes to learning:

A determination and commitment to learn.  
Positive attitude, willing to work hard in school and at home, 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.

# Functional Skills English & Maths (Compulsory in Pathway 4)

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**Specification Reference**  
4720 (English) and 4367 (Mathematics)

## Why should you choose Functional Skills English & Maths?

**English:** This specification aims to ensure students have good communication skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. It assesses whether students can use these skills in everyday situations.

**Mathematics:** Aims to promote mathematical thinking and transferable skills rather than rote learning. Students will also cover: mathematics that is useful in everyday situations and the world of work, such as shopping, decorating, cooking and paying bills.

## Where could Functional Skills English & Maths lead?

This course provides you with skills that are most useful in everyday contexts in the world of work. It also promotes critical thinking and develops skills over rote learning. In addition, these qualifications act as 'stepping stones' onto Post-16 study and will support progress in GCSE English and mathematics.

## What else could you get out of Functional Skills English & Maths?

These extra lessons will work along side your core subjects and will help embed particular skills through regular consolidation of knowledge in different functional situations.

## How is the course assessed?

**Mathematics:** 1 x 1hr 30min calculator paper (60 marks):

This paper assesses the skills standards with questions placed in contexts which may be unfamiliar and may be drawn from everyday life, the workplace or educational settings. The use of a calculator is expected.

**English:** 1x 45 minute reading test (18 marks) + 1x 45 minute writing test (20 marks):

Students have the opportunity to take reading and writing tests on screen rather than on paper, a more accessible option for students who are used to reading on-screen.

## What we will expect from you in Functional Skills English & Maths?

### Attitudes to learning:

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



**Q:** Why won't Goldilocks drink a glass of water with 8 pieces of ice in it?

**A:** It's too cubed.

# Making your Option Choices

## Year 8

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

Pathway 1	Pathway 2	Pathway 3	Pathway 4
The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc.)	The Academic Route	The Applied Route	The Supportive Route
Current 8A and O	Current 8O	Current 8O	Current 8B
The 'Ebacc.' route, which is encouraged for the majority of students, requires studying at least one humanities subject (Geography or History) along with at least one Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish or German).	This route ensures students have the correct combination of subjects to compete for Sixth Form places but does not qualify for recognition of studying the full Ebacc. Students study one of the following: Geography, History or French, along with three academic subject choices.	The Applied route is for those who would prefer the option to study subjects that are more practical; often in the form of vocational courses such as BTEC, OCR Technical or BCS, which require more focus on controlled assessment and less on examinations. In addition to this, students must study one of the following: Geography, History or French.	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' and 'Functional Skills', along with an optional choice in a GCSE subject.

### Pathway 1:

Humanities	Languages	Open Choice 1	Open Choice 2
History Geography	French Spanish German	Art and Design Business Studies Design Technology Drama Food and Nutrition Further Mathematics History French Photography Psychology Religious Studies Sociology	Business Studies Design Technology Geography Media Studies Music Photography Physical Education Psychology Sociology Spanish Textiles
		Level 2 ICT and Computer Science	

**Pathway 2:**

<b>Ebacc. Subject Choice</b>	<b>Option Choice 1</b>	<b>Open Choice 2</b>	<b>Open Choice 3</b>
History Geography French	Art and Design Design Technology Geography Health and Social Care History French Religious Studies	Art and Design Business Studies Design Technology Drama Food and Nutrition History French Photography Psychology Religious Studies Sociology	Business Studies Design Technology Media Studies Geography Music Photography Physical Education Psychology Sociology Spanish Textiles

**Pathway 3:**

<b>Ebacc. Subject Choice</b>	<b>Option Choice 1</b>	<b>Open Choice 2</b>	<b>Open Choice 3</b>
History Geography French	ICT Sports Studies Health and Social Care City and Guilds Certificate in Hairdressing and Beauty	Business Performing Arts	Design Technology Media Studies Music Photography Textiles

**Pathway 4:**

<b>First Subject</b>	<b>Second Subject</b>	<b>Third Subject</b>	<b>Open Choice</b>
Work Skills	Functional Skills English and Mathematics	Food and Nutrition	Design Technology Photography Textiles

At the start of Year 9, the Academy will assess the suitability of students within their chosen subjects. The Academy will withhold the right to change students' options, as appropriate, in order to ensure they achieve to the best of their ability.

# Making your Option Choices Year 8

Option Choice Form 2017-18:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which Pathway you are following by circling the appropriate box below:

1	2	3	4
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Please identify your four option choices, relevant to your pathway, along with a reserve choice for each:

	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4
First Choice				
Reserve Choice				

This will be alongside the core subjects, which all students follow, of:

- English Literature and Language
- Mathematics
- Science (either double or triple award)
- Wellbeing: Religious Studies/Aspire
- Wellbeing: Physical Education

Signed (Parent/Carer) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please separate and return this form to your son/daughter's company office by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.





# ACADEMY GREAT BARR

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



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