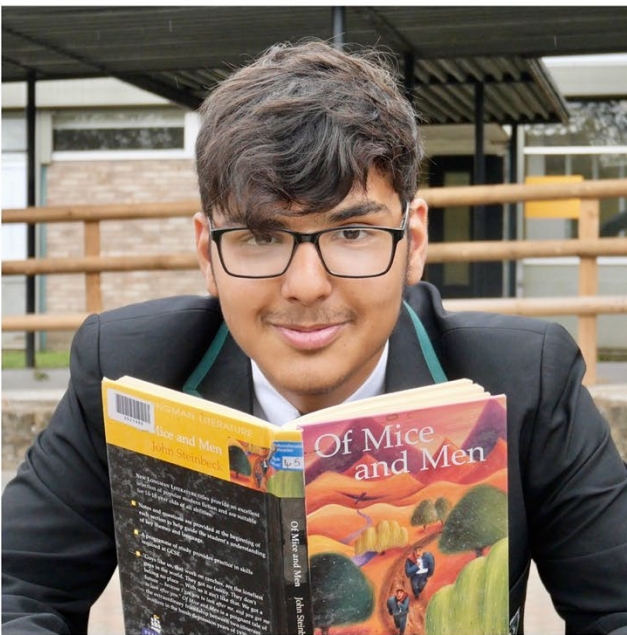




# BOWER PARK

ACADEMY



# Key Stage 4

## Options 2024

# Introduction

Welcome to your Key Stage 4 Options Booklet. The next two school years are a crucial part of your education. This booklet is designed to help you make the right choices and to achieve the best possible results in all of your subjects by the end of Year 11.

For many of you, the journey will continue after Year 11 at Sixth form or college. You need to ensure you are studying the right subjects now, so that you can be successful in your exams. This will then pave the way into Post 16 Education and onto University.

During this process you will be able to choose some of your subjects. We encourage you to consider selecting subjects you enjoy. We also offer new subjects you might find interesting and potentially beneficial in the future. However, some of your choices are mandatory. This ensures you continue to access a broad and balanced curriculum. This will provide you with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to be successful.

Listen very carefully to the advice and guidance you're given by your teachers, form tutors and parents or carers!

When reading through the booklet you will notice that each section has a page for each subject, which explains 4 important elements about that particular subject:

- What will I study?
- What skills will I develop?
- How will I be assessed?
- How will this subject help me in the future?

Once you have read through these pages you will need to ask yourself the following questions:

## **What subject lessons do you enjoy attending each week?**

If you enjoy the subject, you are more likely to do well, attend extra sessions for revision and try harder. This should be an important influence on your choices.

## **What subjects are you best at?**

You want to achieve the best you can to ensure you have the greatest amount of choice when it comes to deciding on your path after Bower Park. Choose subjects you believe you can do your best in. Consider your skills; are you better practically or better with theory? Most subjects are now weighted towards theory but some still have more practical elements; find out about the balance between these in the subjects you are interested in.

## **Do you think coursework would boost your grade or would 100% exam be better?**

Most courses now are purely exam based, but some do have coursework elements. Choose a subject which you will excel in; consider how you will be assessed – coursework may be your strength.

## **Have you looked at what subjects and grades Colleges/Sixth Forms want for courses you want to do beyond Year 11?**

Look at the type of career/apprenticeship that interests you or which university you would like to go to; work backwards, what GCSEs are required to access the course? A career may require a certain qualification, a College may specify a certain set of GCSE subjects and grades required. Research your Further Education options early so you are fully informed.

## **What can you do to find out more?**

Talk to teachers who teach a particular subject to discuss the course. Talk to your Form Tutor, talk to older students that study that subject. Make sure you visit Options Evening on 27<sup>th</sup> March. If necessary, try to visit post-16 places or request appointment with School Careers Advisor (see Ms Porter to do this).

Good luck with your choices!

Mr Shepley,  
Vice Principal



# Types of Qualifications

## What qualifications are available?

At Bower Park Academy we offer a range of qualifications:

### GCSE

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education and is the standard qualification taken by 14-16 year olds. You will take Maths, English Language, English Literature and Science as well as any other GCSE subjects you choose. The courses you choose may contain some controlled assessments, coursework and almost all will include final exams. The majority of exams will be taken at the end of Year 11.

### BTEC

BTECs (which stands for the Business & Technology Education Council) are high-quality, career-focused qualifications grounded in the real world of work.

BTEC courses focus on skills-based learning and are designed around themed units. Rather than testing everything at the end, BTECs are tested throughout the course using assessments based on real-life scenarios.

This practical approach allows learners to develop and apply the knowledge, skills and behaviours that employers and universities are looking for.

BTEC learners receive a grade for each individual unit (Distinction, Merit, Pass, or Unclassified). The final grade for a BTEC is calculated by looking at performance across each unit in the qualification using a points-based scale.

### OCR CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL

Our Cambridge Nationals are Level 1/Level 2 qualifications designed specifically for students aged 14 to 16. They are the equivalent to a GCSE. They are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction \*. They provide an excellent start for vocational study, contribute to a broad curriculum offer and enable progression to A Levels, apprenticeships or Level 3 vocational qualifications such as our Cambridge Technicals. We offer Cambridge Nationals in Sports Studies and Child Development.



# Year 10 Curriculum

## Key Stage 4

This booklet is designed to help you to choose some of the subjects you will be studying in Years 10 and Year 11 at Bower Park.

When you choose a subject, you are opting for it. This is why we call the final three subjects that you end up with, your options.

Next year your core timetable will be made up of:

## Core Subjects (everyone must study these)

### GCSE

English Language  
English Literature  
Maths  
Science

### Non-GCSE

Physical Education  
PSHE

It will also include four options from the following groups of subjects.

## Humanities (everyone must pick 1)

Choose **one** subject from this section.

### GCSE

History

### GCSE

Geography

## Open Options (you must pick 2)

In addition, you will also study the **Prince's Trust qualification**. You must then choose **two** of these subjects (you will also need to pick 2 reserve subjects):

### GCSE

Art & Design  
Computer Science  
Design and Technology  
Drama  
Food Preparation & Nutrition  
French  
Geography/ History (for those that want to study both)  
Media Studies  
Music  
Physical Education  
Religious Education  
Sociology  
Statistics

### Vocational

Child Development  
Performing Arts (Dance)  
Sports Studies





# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Which subjects should I choose?**

You should choose subjects you enjoy. It is likely that you will have enjoyed several subjects during your time at Bower Park Academy. It is probable that you have enjoyed the subject content and enjoyed that experience. It may be because you like the teacher, however, you must realise that there is no guarantee that this particular teacher will be teaching you in Year 10 or 11.

You should choose subjects you are good at. Your recent assessments and reports will give you a clear indication of how well you are doing in the different subjects. This will assist you in identifying which subjects you are doing well in. Speak to your teachers regarding your progress in those subjects that you are doing well in and seek their advice as to whether they think the subject will be suitable for you. It is very important that when making the choice of subjects, you keep in mind the subject content to be taught and how you will be assessed. Would you prefer exams or coursework-based courses?

## **Can I choose anything I want?**

You will have to complete the Core Subjects (English Language and Literature, Maths, Science). You will also have to study either History or Geography. You will then have three further choices from the subjects we offer. However, your subject choices should depend on which future pathway you are thinking about taking after Year 11.

If you are thinking about an academic pathway, going onto study A Levels and University, you should think about taking the facilitating subjects. Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by sixth forms or universities to get on to a range of A levels or degree courses. These include Maths, English, Science, French, History or Geography.

## **Will I get the subjects I want?**

We run an open preferences process, so that we give you the most input into your choices. It is possible that some subjects will not run due to the lack of numbers, or that a particular combination of subjects will prove impossible to timetable. For this reason, we ask that you rank the subjects you most want to do and select two reserve choices, which are also ranked. Whilst we will try to give you your first choices, this might not always be possible.

## **Will I be guided during the process?**

You will all be guided by your teachers, tutors, Mr Browne, Ms Evans and Mr Shepley throughout this process as to which options are the right ones for you to take. In all cases we will try our best to ensure that you get your options, where this is not possible it will be discussed with you as to what the alternative options are.

## **I want to be in classes with my best friends, is this possible?**

This is not a good way to think about options. Choose subjects that suit you, not your friends. If you choose exactly the same as your friends, you might well end up in different groups.

## **What if I change my mind about one of my options?**

Tell Mr Shepley as soon as possible. Every effort will be taken to ensure you are studying the subjects you want. Though be mindful, that this may NOT be possible if you change your mind. You need to have good reasons to change and should discuss this with your parents / guardian at home. You will not be able to change your options once you start them in Year 10.

## **Why do some pupils not get all their first choices?**

Although we will try our best to make sure you get all your chosen options. There could be a number of reasons, such as too few or too many pupils have chosen a subject. Sometimes it is due to the combinations chosen. This is why you must have reserve subjects and you must be prepared to take one of these.

## **What are the next steps in the preferences process?**

- w/c 5<sup>th</sup> February – Key stage 4 taster lessons across all subjects
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Year 9 Progress Evening
- w/c 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>st</sup> March - Information events during assemblies, form time and lessons
- w/c 18<sup>th</sup> March – Options Booklet launched
- 27<sup>th</sup> March – Year 9 Options Evening (4:30pm – 7pm)
- w/c Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – students complete their Options choices in their Computer Science lessons
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Options choices deadline
- July 2024 - Students informed of their option choices



# Core GCSEs

**English Language**

**English Literature**

**Maths**

**Science**





# English Language

## What will I study?

A range of modern and literary heritage fictions and literary nonfiction texts from the 19th to the 21st Century.

GRADING: 1-9  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: AQA

GCSE

You will have opportunities to express your viewpoint and develop your writers' craft in both creative and persuasive writing. You will become a confident orator and will speak, read and write in a range of different forms.

## What skills will I develop?

- Analysis of writers' use of language, form and structure to create meanings and effects.
- Offer informed personal responses including textual references to illustrate interpretations.
- Writers' craft - the ability to express ideas clearly.
- Critical reading of a wide range of fiction and literary non-fiction texts.
- Appreciation of writers' methods and influences.
- Write effectively including accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
<b>Paper 1:</b> Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Section A Reading (40 marks) Section B Writing (40 marks)	1 hour 45 minutes written exam – 50% of GCSE	Summer Term
<b>Paper 2:</b> Viewpoints and Perspectives	Section A Reading (40 marks) Section B Writing (40 marks)	1 hour 45 minutes written exam – 50% of GCSE	Summer Term

## Why should I study English Language?

English Language is a compulsory course as it is an essential qualification both in academic study and in the workplace. It enables you to learn valuable analytical, essay writing and interpretative skills. In addition you will develop your written and oral communication skills.

For more information, please speak to Mrs Kellaway (Head of English).



# English Literature

## What will I study?

A range of classic and modern texts from Shakespeare to John Agard covering a range of controversial and contemporary themes such as the reality of conflict, poverty, the power of government and cultural heritage to name but a few. You will debate, analyse, cross reference and form a mature and critical voice when approaching texts.

GRADING: 1-9  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: AQA

GCSE

## What skills will I develop?

- Analysis of writers' use of language, form and structure to create meaning.
- Offer informed personal responses to illustrate interpretations.
- Understanding of relationships between texts and contexts.
- Essay writing.
- Critical reading of a wide range of texts and responses to these.
- Appreciation of writers' methods and influences.

## How will I be assessed?

You will complete 6 essays across two, closed book exams.

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
<b>Paper 1:</b> Shakespeare and the 19 <sup>th</sup> century novel	<b>Section A - Shakespeare</b> (30 marks plus 4 SPAG): Macbeth <b>Section B - 19<sup>th</sup> century novel</b> (30 marks): A Christmas Carol	1 hour 45 minutes written exam – 40% of GCSE	Summer Term
<b>Paper 2:</b> Modern texts and poetry	<b>Section A - Modern Prose or Drama</b> (30 marks plus 4 SPAG) <b>Section B - Poetry (30 marks)</b> Power and Conflict <b>Section C - Unseen Poetry (32 marks)</b> Unseen Poetry	2 hours and 15 minutes – 60% of GCSE	Summer Term

## Why should I study English Literature?

It is a compulsory course as it is an essential qualification both in academic study and in the workplace. It enables you to learn valuable analytical, essay writing and interpretative skills.

For more information, please speak to Mrs Kellaway (Head of English).



# Mathematics

## What will I study?

- Number Skills
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and Measures
- Statistics and Probability

GRADING: 1-9  
HIGHER/FOUNDATION TIER  
BOARD: Edexcel

GCSE

## What skills will I develop?

- Analytical skills
- Research skills
- Problem solving and reasoning skills
- Transferrable skills to life outside school such as budgeting and coding
- Logical and sequential thinking
- Interpreting problems and communicating mathematically

## How will I be assessed?

This is an Edexcel tiered course.

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Paper 1	Non- Calculator	Exam: 1hr 30m 33.3% of GCSE	Summer Term
Paper 2	Calculator	Exam: 1hr 30m 33.3% of GCSE	Summer Term
Paper 3	Calculator	Exam: 1hr 30m 33.3% of GCSE	Summer Term

## Why should I study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a compulsory course which is an essential qualification both in academic study and in the workplace. It enables you to learn invaluable analytical reasoning, and trouble-shooting skills that are necessary for all areas of life.

For more information, please speak to Mr Ahmed (Head of Mathematics).



# Combined Science

## What will I study?

GRADING: 1-9  
HIGHER/ FOUNDATION TIERS  
BOARD: EDEXCEL

GCSE

### Biology

Key concepts in biology, cells, genetics, natural selection and genetic modification, health, disease and the development of medicines, plants, homeostatis, exchange and transport, and ecosystems and material cycles.

### Chemistry

Key concepts in chemistry, states of matter and mixtures, chemical changes, extracting metals and equilibria, groups in the periodic table, rates of reaction and energy changes, fuels and earth science.

### Physics

Key concepts of physics, motion and forces, conservation of energy, waves, light and the electromagnetic spectrum, radioactivity, energy, forces, work, electricity and circuits, magnetism and the motor effect, electromagnetic induction, and the particle model.

## What skills will I develop?

- Development of scientific thinking
- Experimental skills and strategies
- Analysis and evaluation
- Scientific vocabulary, quantities, units, symbols and nomenclature
- Application to exam questions

## How will I be assessed?

There will be six exams, each taking 1 hour 10 minutes.

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Exams	Paper 1 and 2: Biology Paper 3 and 4: Chemistry Paper 5 and 6: Physics	Each Exam: 1hr 10m 60 marks	Summer Term

## Why should I study Science?

Science matters. GCSE study in the Sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. All students should learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of Science.

For more information, please speak to Mr Patel (Head of Science).



# Humanities

**Geography**

**or**

**History**



# Geography

## What will I study?

The GCSE course recognises the vital role geography has in the 21st century and aims to give students a better understanding of the world we live in, especially how the activities of people in different parts of the world are influenced by physical & human environment. It is ever changing, so is always relevant to today's world.

GRADING: 1-9  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: AQA

GCSE

- **Paper 1: Living with the physical environment** - Challenge of natural hazards; the living world and physical landscapes.
- **Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment** - Urban challenges, changing economic world & the challenges of resource management.
- **Paper 3: Applied Fieldwork Enquiry and Geographical application** - Fieldwork Methods, Fieldwork Enquiry, and Issues evaluation.

## What skills will I develop?

You have an interest in people and places in the news and are able to present your work in an orderly way and to express yourself clearly in writing. As Geography is a literacy-based subject, part of the exam marks are awarded for the quality of the student's written communication. Geography also has a high numeracy content. Students will require a good knowledge of number, the ability to draw graphs and be able to apply statistical analysis to data they collect.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Exams	Paper 1: 35% of qualification Paper 2: 35% of qualification Paper 3: 30% of qualification	Exam: 1hr 30m each	Summer Term Year 11
Fieldwork Requirements	<b>Fieldwork Requirements:</b> Candidates must complete two fieldwork investigations; this comprises of two field trips in Year 10. The trips take place in Walton on the Naze and the Docklands, East London. The fieldwork is a compulsory part of the course.	Field Trip	Year 10

## Why should I study Geography?

You will develop many skills through the course. It is a practical course with opportunities to learn outside the confines of the classroom. You will learn to use modern computer based mapping, digital technologies, map skills, interpreting photographs, analysing articles, decision making and debating.

For more information, please speak to Mrs Gunes (Head of Geography).





# History

## What will I study?

A range of History that covers a broad time period (from Medieval to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century). The course includes a British and non-British depth study as well as a thematic study. The content includes Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, Weimar and Nazi Germany and the Cold War. The thematic paper will focus on Migrants in Britain from c800-present day with a specific focus on Notting Hill c1948–c1970.

GRADING: 1-9	GCSE
ONE TIER ENTRY	
BOARD: EDEXCEL	

## What skills will I develop?

At Key Stage 4, our aim is to enhance students' knowledge and skill-set of a historian. In particular, students will develop:

- The ability to formulate and express opinions based on historical facts/sources.
- The ability to think critically and consider a range of interpretations.
- A real understanding of cause and consequence & the ability to link and sequence events together.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Paper 1:	<b>Thematic Study/Historical Environment:</b> Section A: Notting Hill c1948–c1970 Section B: Migrants in Britain, c800-Present Day	30% of the final grade. 1 hour 20 mins.	Summer Term
Paper 2:	<b>Period study/ British depth study:</b> Section A: Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91. Section B; Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-88.	40% of the final grade. 1 hour 50 minutes.	Summer Term
Paper 3:	<b>Modern Depth Study</b> Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39.	30% of the final grade. 1 hour 30 minutes.	Summer Term

## Why should I study History?

If you have a real love or passion for learning and understanding about the way life was and the reasons for why our lives are the way they are today, then study History. Be prepared to work hard and be able to write extensive pieces of writing that narrate, analyse, evaluate, explain and justify events and your beliefs.

For more information, please speak to Mr Kenlin (Head of History).



# GCSE Options

## GCSE:

**Art & Design**

**Computer Science**

**Design and Technology**

**Drama**

**Food Preparation & Nutrition**

**Media Studies**

**Music**

**Physical Education**

**Religious Education**

**Sociology**

**Statistics**

## Vocational:

**Child Development**

**Performing Arts (Dance)**

**Sports Studies**

**Prince's Trust**



# Art and Design

## What will I study?

Your work will be marked using 4 assessment objectives; AO1 developing ideas, AO2 exploring and experimenting, AO3 recording your own ideas, and AO4 presenting a meaningful and purposeful outcome.

You will study these across a number of projects:

- One best practice skills lab.
- One self-portraiture project.
- A print making project and mixed media project.
- One unseen theme externally set by exam board using mixed media processes.

You will work and experiment in a range of materials, including; fine art practices such as drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture as well as, Graphic Communication, Textiles, Photography and 3-dimensional design.

You will study a range of genres including portraiture. In the past, themes of work have included Limitations, Fragments, Distortion, Messages, Metamorphosis, Lock, Power and Ordinary/Extra Ordinary.

## What skills will I develop?

- Controlled timed drawing assessments
- Photoshop and printmaking
- Artist analysis and critiques
- Refinement and experimentation
- Technical drawing
- Research and investigation
- Composition development
- Documenting processes
- Independent working
- Preparatory development

## How will I be assessed?

Students will complete a personal portfolio as part of two components. At the end of each unit, students are expected to sit a controlled assessment period of sustained focus across a 10-hour exam, based on their chosen idea/theme (AO4).

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Component 1	Personal Portfolio contributes to <b>60%</b> of your overall GCSE grade	2 x 10-hour periods of sustained focus	Summer and Autumn Terms
Component 2	Unseen externally set component contributes to <b>40%</b> of your overall GCSE grade (controlled)	1 x 10-hour period of sustained focus	Summer Term

## Why should I study Art and Design?

Art and Design enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye co-ordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. The large workload of the course helps focus, organisational and time management skills. You will need to commit to 4 hours of homework each week.

For more information, please speak to Mr Browne (Head of Art).

GRADING: 1-9	GCSE
ONE TIER ENTRY BOARD: EDEXCEL	

**No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage. Choose GCSE Art and Design if you want to work in the creative industries.**



# Computer Science

## What will I study?

The computer science course covers all aspects & the methodologies of computing. Students are required to develop an in-depth theoretical knowledge of what goes on behind the scenes of a computer. Students will use a range of programming languages which will help to develop an understanding of concepts within the computational thinking paper.

GRADING: 1-9  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: AQA

GCSE

## What skills will I develop?

Students will complete a practical programming project using the system lifecycle. This includes decomposing a problem, creating pseudo code and algorithms in preparation for programming a solution. Once they have completed the required code they will then test and annotate their code. There is also an expectation to reflect on the completed solution in the form of a written document, which explains the purpose of their solution. They will also develop an understanding of the effect of the digital world in society.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Paper 1	<b>Computational thinking, problem solving.</b> A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing a student's practical problem solving and computational thinking skills.	<b>2 hours</b> 50% of the total GCSE	Summer Term
Paper 2	<b>Written assessment</b> Students display their theoretical knowledge of data representation, computer systems, networks, cyber security and the ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider issues including privacy.	<b>1 hour 45 minutes</b> 50% of the total GCSE	Summer Term

## Why should I study Computer Science?

In an ever-changing world, one certainty is that computer science will be at the heart of a large proportion of careers. A vast amount of these will be based around the ability to code. This qualification will enable students to learn how to code in Python, which is seen as the foundation for a range of languages being used in this industry.

For more information, please speak to Mr Graham (Head of Computer Science).



# BTEC Performing Arts (Dance)

## What will I study?

This course is largely practical based with students studying a range of choreographic processes, techniques and professional repertoire in Years 10 and 11. Dance at BTEC level is a practical and creative subject that requires critical thinking and allows students to develop and apply their skills ready for a performance. Learners will become skilled in performing and learn how to evaluate and improve their work. At all times, students are encouraged to respond in a creative and original manner. They will develop key skills needed in any work place, such as communication, presentation, creative thinking, meeting deadlines and responding to feedback. They will also learn to work individually and as a team alongside others in the class.

GRADING: PASS, MERIT,  
DISTINCTION  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: PEARSON

BTEC

## What skills will I develop?

- Physical & Technical Skills
- Use of key terminology
- Expressive Skills
- Choreographic Skills
- Analytic and evaluation skills

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Component 1	<b>Exploring the Performing Arts</b> Internally assessed, externally moderated	30% of qualification, (90 marks).	Year 10
Component 2	<b>Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts</b> Internally assessed, externally moderated	30% of qualification, (90 marks).	Year 11 Winter term
Component 3	<b>Responding to a Brief</b> Externally assessed	40% of qualification, (120 marks)	Year 11 Summer Term

## Why should I study Dance?

BTEC Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience. Our schemes of learning engage learners' creativity, passion and interests to help develop their skills in performance.

For more information, please speak to Ms Anderson (Dance Teacher).



# Design and Technology

## What will I study?

Learning about Design and Technology will encourage students to develop thinking skills that open up a world of possibility, giving them the tools to create the future. The areas of study are split into three main sections:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

## What skills will I develop?

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities.
- Producing a design brief and specification.
- Generating design ideas.
- Developing and evaluating design ideas.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Non-examined assessment (coursework)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Substantial design and make task</li><li>■ Identifying and investigating design possibilities</li><li>■ Producing a design brief and specification</li><li>■ Generating design ideas</li><li>■ Developing design ideas</li><li>■ Realising design ideas</li><li>■ Analysing and evaluating</li></ul>	30 – 35 hours. 50% of overall grade.	Ongoing
Exam	A – Core technical principles (20 marks) B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks) C – Designing & making principles (50 marks)	2 hours. 50% of overall grade.	Summer Term Y11

## Why should I study Design Technology?

Jobs that are technology based are knowledge intensive and require a distinct set of technical, analytical and communication skills. More than 50 percent of today's jobs require some degree of technology skills, and experts say that percentage will increase to 77 percent in the next decade.

For more information, please speak to Mr Miah (Head of Design and Technology).

GRADING: 1-9  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: AQA

GCSE





# Drama

## What will I study?

This course is largely practical based with students studying a wide range of issues, topics and play texts during Years 10 and 11. Drama at GCSE level is an intellectual, practical and artistic subject that asks students to consider and think about the world around them. They become skilled in staging and performing and learn how to evaluate and improve their work. At all times, students are encouraged to respond in a creative and original manner. They will develop skills needed in any work place, such as communication, presentation, creative thinking, problem solving and evaluating. They will also learn to work and co-operate with others in the class.

GRADING: 1-9	GCSE
ONE TIER ENTRY	
BOARD: WJEC/ EDUQAS	

## What skills will I develop?

- Analysing a set text
- Use of key terminology
- Practitioner based explorations
- Devising
- Performing from a text

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Component 1	<b>Devising Theatre</b> Internally assessed, externally moderated	40% of qualification, (60 marks).	Summer Term Year 10
Component 2	<b>Performing from a text</b> Externally assessed by visiting examiner	20% of qualification, (60 marks).	Spring Term Year 11
Component 3	<b>Interpreting Theatre</b> Exam	40% of qualification, 60 marks	Summer Term Year 11

## Why should I study Drama?

Drama GCSE will help develop all personal attributes that can make individuals stand out as they progress through their education and into employment. Our schemes of learning ignite and engage learners' creativity, passion and interests. The non-written assessment allows learners to explore their own interests and develop their skills in performance and design.

For more information, please speak to Mrs Lechmere (Head of Performing Arts).



# Food Preparation & Nutrition

## What will I study?

The course is designed to motivate pupils to gain knowledge, skills and understanding of how to prepare and cook a wide range of different foods, applying the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. This course is ideal for anyone who really enjoys cooking, is interested by nutrition and health, wants to investigate food science and extend their knowledge and skills from Year 9. You will learn about:

- Nutrition; the role and function of nutrients in our body, diet and health.
- Food Science; the characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.
- How to plan, prepare, cook and present food safely.
- Food from different cultures.
- Moral, cultural, environmental issues and technological developments surrounding the food industry.

## What skills will I develop?

You will develop skills in culinary arts, variety of cooking methods & techniques, food styling and presentation, organisation, time management & planning skills. Through analysis & evaluation you will learn how to make informed choices about the food you consume with regards to health and environment. Through planning and cooking dishes you will learn how to modify recipes and cook with complete independence. Food is closely linked to Science; the new GCSE course gives you the opportunity to gain skills in conducting food investigations.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Written Paper	Multiple choice and longer questions. 1 hour 45 minutes	50% of your final grade.	Summer Term
Two pieces of NEA (coursework)	<b>Food investigation (15%)</b> Students write a report about the principles that underpin the prep and cooking of food. <b>Food preparation assessment (35%)</b> Students will plan, prepare, cook and present 3 dishes within 3 hours.	10 hours preparation  20 hours preparation	Year 11

## Why should I study Food Preparation & Nutrition?

You'll gain a range of different culinary skills and knowledge, understand how to eat healthily, receive expert support from trained chefs and develop your palette. Having knowledge about the food we eat is essential for life and Food Prep will give you the experience to join one of the largest industries in the UK.

For more information, please speak to Mr Conibeer (Teacher of Food Technology).

Some Food Preparation practicals will require additional time afterschool.

Students should be prepared to complete certain aspects of the course in an afterschool session.

GRADING: 1-9  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: AQA

GCSE



# French

## What will I study?

Throughout the two years, you will study the following themes and all assessments are based on them. These themes apply to all four question papers. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. You are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to your own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where French is spoken.

GRADING: 1-9  
HIGHER/ FOUNDATION TIERS  
BOARD: AQA

GCSE

**Theme 1: Identity and Culture** – including my family and friends, technology in everyday life, free-time activities and customs & festivals in French speaking countries.

**Theme 2: Local, national, international & global areas of interest** – including home, town, neighbourhood and region, social issues, global issues and travel and tourism.

**Theme 3: Current & Future study and employment** – including my studies, life at school/college, education post-16 and jobs, career choices and ambitions.

## What skills will I develop?

The GCSE French course will enable you to develop your ability to communicate confidently and coherently in French for immediate use and for the future.

- You will learn how to convey what you want to say and develop your thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently.
- You will be able to listen to and understand clearly in French.
- You will develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where French is spoken.

## How will I be assessed?

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and Higher Tier (grades 4-9).

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
<b>Exams</b>	Paper 1: Listening Paper 2: Speaking Paper 3: Reading Paper 4: Writing	Length of exam varies	Summer Term

## Why should I study French?

Learning a language is always considered a great advantage for students. In an ever changing world, one certainty is that French will be at the heart of a large proportion of careers. Employers always say they value the skills developed by language learners which include: communication skills, interpersonal skills, team working skills, presentation skills, problem solving skills, organisational skills and good learning strategies. As the famous medieval philosopher Charlemagne once wrote, “*Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom.*”

For more information, please speak to Ms Alexis (Head of Modern Foreign Languages).



# Community Languages

If you are fluent in a language other than English, we would encourage you to take an additional GCSE as a Community Language (see table below for languages available). Typically, you would take an exam in this language at the end of Y10. You must be able to read, speak, write and listen (comprehend) to a high level in this language in order to pass the GCSE. You do not need to choose this as one of your option subjects as you will not have weekly lessons in it.

Please discuss the details of this separately with your parents/ carers and then with Ms Alexis (Head of Modern Foreign Languages).

If you require further information, you can also visit the websites for each exam board.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/>

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

Course Outline	
Bengali - AQA	Arabic - Edexcel
Chinese (spoken Mandarin) - AQA	Greek - Edexcel
German - AQA	Japanese - Edexcel
Italian - AQA	Portuguese - Edexcel
Modern Hebrew - AQA	Gujarati - Edexcel
Panjabi - AQA	Persian - Edexcel
Polish - AQA	Turkish - Edexcel
Urdu - AQA	Russian Edexcel



# Media Studies

## What will I study?

Media Studies GCSE is designed to enable students to develop a critical awareness of the role of the mass media in society. Students will study a variety of media institutions, such as the film industry, British Broadcasting and the press. They will also study media audiences, with a focus on how media products affect audiences. Media 'language' will be studied, not only the language of the press, but the 'language' of film and television. Students will learn about narrative construction, composition and mise-en-scene and they will do this through analysis and also through practical production. An important aspect of media study is the representation of various groups in society and students will look at the stereotyping of gender and ethnic groups.

GRADING: 1-9  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: EDUQAS

GCSE

## What skills will I develop?

- The ability to analyse media texts through the identification of specific examples of media language.
- Develop a range of interpretations based around the construction of media texts.
- Understanding of relationships between producers, audiences and media texts.
- Critical reading of a wide range of media texts and responses to these.
- An understanding of the issues and debates surrounding the representation of various groups in society.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
<b>Component 1:</b> Paper 1	<b>Exploring the Media</b>	1 hour and 30 minutes – 35% of GCSE assessment	Summer Term
<b>Component 2:</b> Paper 2	<b>Understanding Media Forms and Products</b>	1 hour and 30 minutes – 35% of GCSE assessment	Summer Term
<b>Component 3:</b> <b>Non-exam assessment</b>	<b>Creating Media Products</b>	Internally assessed on a theme which is set by the exam board (This changes annually)	Year 10

## Why should I study Media Studies?

Media Studies enables you to learn valuable analytical, essay writing and interpretative skills. The subject is ideal for students who want to know more about the media industry. This will be a useful course for those wishing to enter the media industry including jobs web content, journalism, video, graphic design or media production.

For more information, please speak to Mr Sears (Assistant Principal).



# Music

## What will I study?

During practical lessons, you'll develop your musical skills by playing either on your own or in a group. Some lessons are not practical. In these lessons, you will learn about different styles of music, listen to different styles and answer questions on music that is played to you. Skills you will learn are:

- Two performances (One solo and one ensemble)
- How to compose in a multitude of genres
- Musical forms and devices
- Music for ensemble
- Film music
- Popular music

GRADING: 1-9	GCSE
ONE TIER ENTRY	
BOARD: WJEC/ EDUQAS	

**Having one to one instrumental or vocal lessons is essential for taking this course.**

**You can sign up for these lessons by contacting Mr Mackenzie for prices. Certain students may be eligible for financial support towards their lessons.**

## What skills will I develop?

- Critical appraisal (listening), performing and composing.
- Fine motor skills
- Expressive skills
- Technical skills
- Mental skills and attributes
- Creative thinking
- Analyse and evaluate own work

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
<b>Component 1: Performing</b> - 30% of GCSE.	One piece must be an ensemble (group piece) lasting at least one minute. One piece linked to an Area of Study. You can use any instrument or voice, or choose a technology option.	Non-exam assessment (NEA)	Summer Term
<b>Component 2: Composing</b> - 30% of GCSE.	All learners are required to create and develop musical ideas in relation to given and chosen briefs. Learners must submit two compositions with a total playing time of between 3-6 minutes.	Non-exam assessment (NEA)	Year 11
<b>Component 3: Appraising</b> - 40% of GCSE.	This examination will assess knowledge and understanding of music through the following four areas of study - Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music	Written examination: 1 hour 15 mins	Summer Term Y11

## Why should I study Music?

Music is a powerful subject that gives you the opportunity to develop as a performer, a composer and a reflective listener. It is academic, expressive and can give you many career opportunities. This could include performing, health care treatment, community based projects, theatre work and much more. As Hans Christian Andersen famously said, 'Where words fail, music speaks'.

For more information, please speak to Mr Mackenzie (Head of Music).





# Physical Education

## What will I study?

The GCSE PE course is offered to students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency and application in PE throughout Key Stage 3 in both practical and theory.

GRADING: 1-9

ONE TIER ENTRY

BOARD: AQA

GCSE

Students will choose SPORT and they will be allocated GCSE PE or Sports Studies by the PE department. Students cannot study both PE and Sports Studies together.

## Why study Physical Education?

Physical Education is ideal for those people interested in sports and games to a high level of performance. It will enable them to gain an examination qualification consisting of practical, theory and coursework, all of which can be highly enjoyable and fun. The majority of the final mark (60%) is based on the theory of PE and sport. The theory component enables students to study the body and physical training for sport. Students will also learn how we can improve our health and fitness in order to improve our sporting performance, psychology behind the learning of skills and socio-cultural factors behind sport and the media.

## What skills will I develop?

GCSE Physical Education students must be talented, dedicated to hard work and improving their skills, interested in a variety of sports and knowledgeable about the theoretical aspects of physical activity.

- Students must be able to perform at a high level in three different sports (30%).
- Students must be able to apply theory aspects of the course to practical examples (60%).
- Students will complete a coursework unit which combines theoretical and practical knowledge and application analysing and evaluating their own performance (10%).

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Component 1: 30% of GCSE	Fitness and Body Systems	1 hr. and 15 m Exam	Summer Term
Component 2: 30% of GCSE	Health and Performance	1 hr. and 15 m Exam	Summer Term
Component 3: 30% of GCSE	Practical Performance	Non-examined assessment	Spring Year 11
Component 4: 10% of GCSE	Coursework	Non-examined assessment	Year 11

## Why should I study Physical Education?

To develop your interest in sport practically and theoretically. Potential careers include, physiotherapist, sports coach, sports journalist, PE teacher, sports psychologist, sports analyst, personal trainer and nutritionist.

For more information, please speak to Ms Ridpath (Head of PE).



# Religious Education

## What will I study?

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore the ethical issues which often dominate the news and consider the influence of religious teachings on the lives of followers.

GRADING: 1-9

ONE TIER ENTRY

BOARD: Edexcel

GCSE

## Religion and Ethics from a Christian point of view:

This will include the following; Christian beliefs, marriage and the family, Living the Christian life and matter of life and death.

## Religion, peace and conflict from a Muslim point of view:

This will include the following; Muslim beliefs, crime and punishment, living the Muslim life and peace and conflict.

## What skills will I develop?

This course encourages students to learn about the beliefs and practices of two religions, and to investigate and debate the big questions we're asking in the 21st Century. During your studies you will learn to analyse, justify, evaluate and to think critically.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
<b>Paper 1:</b> 50% of GCSE	Religion and Ethics	1 hour and 45 minutes	Summer Term
<b>Paper 2:</b> 50% of GCSE	Religion, peace and conflict	1 hours and 45 minutes	Summer Term

## Why should I study Religious Education?

Religious education will equip you with cultural, social, moral and spiritual knowledge, and this will prepare you for life experiences. It also allows you to engage with beliefs and values, which are important in today's society.

For more information, please speak to Mrs Mosuro (Head of RE).



# Sociology

## What will I study?

- Have roles within the family become more equal?
- Are schools patriarchal?
- Why do we have social inequality?
- How is social order kept through society?

GRADING: 1-9  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: WJEC/ EDUCAS

GCSE

Sociology is the study of human society. Sociology concentrates on the way we make society, what it is and how society shapes us. You will relate this to your own experiences of living in Britain. You will also study how societies have changed over time and how it differs across cultures.

## What skills will I develop?

By studying Sociology, you will develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about how sociologists study and understand social structures, processes and issues. You are encouraged to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues, thus developing critical, analytical and evaluative skills. In addition, you will develop transferable skills including how to investigate facts and reach conclusions, develop opinions and new ideas on social issues and analyse and better understand the social world.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
<b>Component 1:</b> Understanding Social Processes	Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission, families, education and sociological research methods.	Exam: 1 hr 45 mins. 50% of qualification	Summer Term
<b>Component 2:</b> Understanding Social Structures	Social differentiation and stratification, crime and deviance, applied methods of sociological enquiry.	Exam: 1 hr 45 mins. 50% of qualification	Summer Term

## Why should I study Sociology?

Sociology is about your life and the world around you. It helps you understand that the society we are presented with is not always the true picture and it will help you discover who is trying to manipulate your ideas and why they are trying to do that. If you know this, you can make more informed choices about your lives and your future. This is an academically rigorous subject so ideally you should be currently working towards a grade 6 in English or a Humanities subject.

For more information, please speak to Ms O'Neill (Head of Sociology).



# Statistics

## What will I study?

- The collection of data
- Processing and analysing data
- Tabulation, diagrams and representation
- Probability

## What skills will I develop?

- Analytical skills
- Research skills
- Problem solving and reasoning skills
- Transferrable skills to life outside school such as statistical analysis
- Logical and sequential thinking

## How will I be assessed?

This is an Edexcel tiered course.

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Paper 1	Written examination	Exam: 1hr 30m 50% of GCSE	Summer Term
Paper 2	Written examination	Exam: 1hr 30m 50% of GCSE	Summer Term

## Why should I study Statistics?

Development of transferable skills – students are introduced to the skills of statistical enquiry, and practise the underpinning statistical calculations and interpretation using real world data and authentic contexts. Our approach supports skills development for progression to a range of subjects and develops an awareness of statistics beyond the classroom.

## What careers are linked to Statistics?

- Data analyst
- Financial risk analyst
- Research scientist
- Financial trader
- Market researcher
- Palaeontologist

For more information, please speak to Mr Ahmed (Head of Mathematics).

GRADING: 1-9	GCSE
HIGHER/FOUNDATION TIER	
BOARD: Edexcel	



# Child Development

## What will I study?

Students who enjoy project-based learning and are interested in researching how we develop during our early years should choose Child Development. This course is a good first step if you are interested in a career in education, early years, special needs, health and social care, child psychology or nursing.

You will learn about:

- Health and well-being for child development.
- Understanding the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five.
- Understand the development of a child from birth to five years.

## What skills will I develop?

You will develop a range of skills that are valued by employers. Such as independent research skills, presentational skills, time management skills and developing literacy, speaking and listening skills.

## How will I be assessed?

Course Outline			
Module	Elements	Assessment	Date
Internal Assessment	Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years  Understand the development of a child from one to five years	60% of the course	Summer Term
External Assessment	Health and well-being for child development	Exam. 40% of the course	Summer Term

## Why should I study Child Development?

- To be able to transfer skills learnt in day to day activities to real life employment.
- Show tutors/employers how you're already engaged with the industries related to the course.
- Show how theory is applied in the world of work.

For more information, please speak to Ms Charlton (Assistant Principal).

GRADING: Pass, Merit, Distinction  
ONE TIER ENTRY  
BOARD: OCR

Cambridge  
National



# Sports Studies

## What will I study?

- Contemporary issues in sport written (40%)
- Performance and leadership in sports activities (40%)
- Sport and the Media (20%)

## What skills will I develop?

- Practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Develop skills as a performer in two different sporting activities and learn how to lead sporting activity session.

## How will I be assessed?

Module	Elements	Date
Exam	<b>Contemporary issues in sport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Issues which affect participation in sport</li><li>■ The role of sport in promoting values</li><li>■ The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country</li><li>■ The role National Governing Bodies (NGBs) play in the development of their sport</li><li>■ The use of technology in sport</li></ul>	Summer Term of Year 11
Set Assignment Part Practical/Written assignment	<b>Performance and leadership in sports activities</b> In this unit you will have an opportunity to develop your skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills	Summer Term of Year 11
Written Assignment	<b>Sports and the media</b> In this unit you will understand the different sides of a range of media sources and apply real life examples to show the nature of the relationship between media and sport. You will also learn how rapid development in technology is enabling sport to be viewed, replayed and discussed whenever and wherever the spectator wants. You will then develop your ability to evaluate and interpret the different ways in which sport is represented by the media.	Summer Term of Year 10

## Why study Sports Studies?

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes. Learners have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance.

For more information, please see Ms Ridpath (Head of PE).

**GRADING:** Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\*  
**ONE TIER ENTRY BOARD:** OCR

Cambridge  
National

Students will choose **SPORT** and they will be allocated **GCSE PE or Sports Studies** by the PE department.  
Students cannot study both **PE** and **Sports Studies** together.

## What will I study?

Students will study a range of topics that are deemed essential for allowing them to succeed in their personal life and future employment. For the Extended Certificate, students will study 9 units that will be chosen from the lists below. The units are determined by the class teacher and aim to cover at least one module from each broad area of skills.

**GRADING: Extended Certificate in Personal Development & Employability Level 1/Level 2**

Princes Trust

Please note, students will be invited to this option if the curriculum meets their needs.

## What skills will I develop?

- Developing a sense of personal growth and engagement in learning.
- Develop skills and attributes that are essential for working life and employment.
- Prepare students for progression into further education programmes, apprenticeships, or other work-based learning.
- Develop student's English & Maths skills within a practical, relevant context.

## How will I be assessed?

Skills for School	Personal, Social Development	Life Skills	Active Citizenship	Enterprise Projects	Preparation for Work
Reliability	Personal Development	Digital Skills	Community Impact	Undertaking an Enterprise Project	Career Planning
Peer Pressure and Building Friendships	Project-Based Learning	Managing Money	Sustainability	Employment vs Self-Employment	Customer Experience
Confidence	Teamwork Skills	Wellbeing	Constructive Use of Time		Experiencing the World of Work
Communication	Managing Behaviour	Wellbeing – Healthy Eating	Achieving and Contributing		Preparing for the World of Work
		Wellbeing – Physical Activity	Supporting Others in the Community		Presentation Skills
		Making Successful Transitions			
		Sexual Health			
		Parenting Skills			
		Breaking Habits			

The Personal Development and Employability Skills qualifications are 100% centre assessed using portfolios of evidence and are graded as pass or fail. The portfolios are internally assessed by centres and externally moderated by The Prince's Trust.

## Why study Prince's Trust?

The Prince's Trust Personal & Employability Qualification allows students to explore their own strengths and plans for the future. The units cover vital aspects of a young person's life that are useful in building self-confidence, independence and practical skills that can benefit them in the wider society.

For more information, please speak to Ms. Joseph (Teacher of SEND).





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