

Ambition • Service • Kindness

Beaminster School

**Year 9 into Year 10
Course Booklet**

For September 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to the 2025 Courses Booklet.

Our options process is well established and rooted in our school values of Ambition, Service and Kindness. As such, our intention is for all pupils to receive a broad, high quality and challenging education that prepares them for life in the 21st century; that pupils are equipped to compete locally, nationally, and internationally; that pupils are able to develop academic and personal confidence, developing an enjoyment of learning and enabling success at the next stage of their education and in their adult working life.

All students are placed on programmes of study that will maximise their opportunities at the end of Year 11. In Years 10 and 11 we encourage students to want to develop and explore their own interests. However, this has to be balanced against the national picture, current Government expectations, and need for a breadth of curriculum. The age at which students can really specialise in certain areas is 16.

It is of vital importance that the programme of study followed in Years 10 and 11 opens doors and develops opportunities, rather than limits. To this end, and being a school that is so heavily invested in the individual, we have developed a number of routes forward.

Entry onto a route is based on data and information from Key Stage 2, as well as through a pupil's time in school to date, feedback from subject staff, oversight of the Head of Year and Tutor and, of course, discussion with the student.

The routes are designed to promote a breadth of study, while supporting those students for whom a grade 4 in English and Maths will be crucial. These routes are explained in more depth later in this booklet, and should you have any concerns we would welcome the opportunity to discuss these with parents.

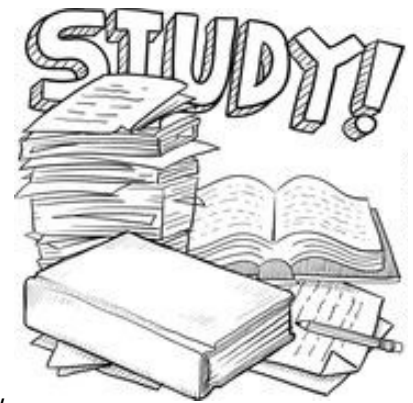
The school will identify a particular "Route" for every student, and students will then make their choices in line with their Route. Parents/ carers and students will be invited to our **Curriculum Information Evening at 6.30pm on Wednesday 12th March** when you will all have a chance to speak to subject staff and ask any questions. Following the evening, students will be asked to complete a survey and make their initial subject selections, following their Route. These selections will then be used to build the final Option blocks. By doing this, we will have taken the student voice into account as much as we possibly can in creating our Year 10 curriculum. Finally, following their Route, students will make their final selections from the Option blocks, including a reserve choice.

You can rest assured that sympathetic consideration will be given to the needs of every individual. However, we do reserve the right to make the final decision on choices, in consultation with you, depending on timetable and staffing constraints, appropriateness of courses, or where low numbers may preclude us from running a particular course.

As an inclusive school that has high aspirations for all, we seek to ensure that our students follow courses that will allow them to achieve qualifications that will put them in the very best position to make choices at 16 and beyond. We are proud of all our students and their achievements across the curriculum.

Should you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's Tutor, Ms Smith or me at your earliest convenience, and we look forward to working with you on these important choices and decisions.

Mr R Barnes
Deputy Head



Process

Week 24th Feb – Options week in school
Options subject raise awareness of their subjects and GCSE content in lessons.



Taster opportunity for some students in subjects not covered in Year 9
Computer Science and iMedia



Year 9 into 10 Courses Booklet issued
School Curriculum Information Evening 6.30pm, 12th March
allowing students, parents and carers to discuss subjects with teaching staff



Route letter advising students which Route has been identified for them sent out



Initial interest forms sent out electronically via MS Forms
These will be used to build the final Option blocks



Final Option blocks published



Students make their final choices (with reserves)
from the published Option blocks and following their designated Route



Conversations with students around choices (as required)
Confirm choices or move to reserve choices (if necessary)

While the process may seem daunting, it does run smoothly year after year
We will always seek to balance student interests,
however, the school reserves the right to amend a student's curriculum
should we feel it does not have sufficient breadth

Course Selection

Courses for 2025

All students follow a timetable of fifty lessons per fortnight (30 compulsory hours and 20 hours based on their route). Each lesson is one hour long.

All mainstream students will have 8 periods of English, 7 periods of Maths, 9 periods of Science, 3 of Personal and Religious Studies (PSHE, GCSE RS plus Careers) and 3 of PE/Games.

There are no formal tutor lessons for Year 10, but students will be seen on an individual or small group basis by their tutors to check on progress and deal with any problems. **Academic Monitoring Day** in November provides an early opportunity to review student progress.

All students will have access to ICT facilities for the production of coursework etc during Key Stage 4. There will be technical assistance available to students in the ICT room for as much of the time as possible. All students have access to Microsoft Office, both in school and out through Office365, accessed via the students' school email address. Every student is entitled to undertake a fortnight of **work experience** during Year 10. This provides a relevant insight into the world of work and develops key skills.

Key Questions for Parents

What subjects do students enjoy and are good at?

- The place to start – what will motivate them?
- What will they learn?
- What skills will they develop?

Which route has the school identified for my child?

- Do they understand the need to have plenty of opportunities available to them later on?
- Can my child see where they might be headed in two or four years' time?
- Is my child ensuring they have as much breadth to their curriculum as possible, or are they limiting themselves?

Something new?

- Could new subjects give them a fresh challenge?

How do students like to learn?

- Listen - do, individual – group, quantity of reading, research, reports, investigations ...

What are the student's interests?

- Projects, helping people, being outdoors, designing or making?

Does the student have a particular career path in mind?

- Some jobs require specific qualifications, but most do not at this early stage
- Keep an open mind and consider opportunities post 16.

The most important thing is to keep their options open by choosing a broad and balanced range of subjects. The school will offer advice and direction with the aim of allowing students to maximise their opportunities at the end of Year 11.



About the Ebacc.

At various points in the Year 9 into 10 process 'Ebacc' is mentioned. Ebacc is short for English Baccalaureate and it refers to a particular combination of subjects. The Government currently expects schools to have the vast **majority of students** taking **this combination** of qualifications. As such, this means a majority of students at Beaminster will follow this combination.

Subjects included in the Ebacc are:

English Language
English Literature
Maths
Science



Core Subjects
(Science is also available as an Option
as is Computer Science)

Spanish / French,
Geography or History

Core subjects for Green Route and advised for all others

A study by UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the Ebacc provides students with greater opportunities in Further Education. Sutton Trust research reveals the Ebacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths. (Source: www.gov.uk)

Why does the school refer to the Ebacc?

The school takes the view (and always has) that a broad range of subjects, taken through years 10 and 11, enable pupils to make the best choices post 16 when they can really specialise in terms of their curriculum.

English, Maths, Science, French or Spanish and Geography or History, when combined with other creative, technology or sport subjects, represent a broad and balanced curriculum.

In an ever changing world our aim is that our students are ready and able to compete locally, nationally and internationally with other young people in a world that is rapidly changing.

Students identified for Green Route will follow the MFL option (French/Spanish), as well as Geography or History.

Students on the Purple Route will take, as part of their options, two Ebacc subjects and are encouraged to follow the Ebacc route.

Red Route. Students following this route select from the range of subjects, however, because of the additional requirements for their route, they are welcome to select from one of the Ebacc subjects, or from the wider range.

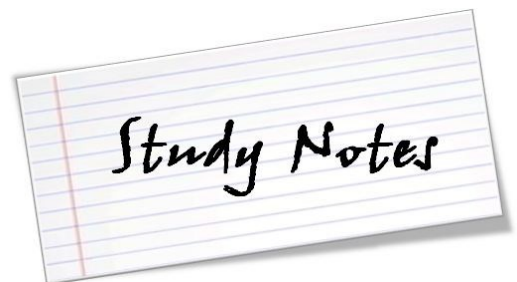
Yellow Route. Students must select one Ebacc subject in addition to Study Support.

All students will have two free subject choices.

Our last Ofsted inspection (September 2023) commented that the school has an "Ambitious curriculum for pupils" and that "Pupils study a range of subjects at KS4, with the Ebacc subjects now at the heart of the curriculum for most pupils."

This builds on our previous Ofsted inspection that recognised we needed to raise the aspirations of our students.

NB: Students may select **both** Geography **and** History in their final choices.



The Routes Forward

There are various routes forward at KS4. Students' routes have been identified by the school and their route letter should be read in conjunction with this booklet before submitting their initial interest forms and then later their final option form.

How have Routes been selected?

We have considered what we know about students based on their time with us and their school performance from Year 6 to date, using the knowledge and experience of their tutors and teachers. We have also considered what has happened in the rest of Dorset and on a national level, as the combination of subjects students study has evolved. We are also maximising future opportunities for students through a breadth of subjects students.

Green Route

As part of their programme of study students will take:

- History / Geography (students are welcome to select both of these subjects)
- French / Spanish (MFL) This will be the language students are currently studying
- Two other choices (e.g. creative / arts / sports based / a science / technology or other Ebacc subjects).

This means students will study the range of qualifications known as the Ebacc or English Baccalaureate (Maths, English, Science, Geography or History, French / Spanish (MFL).) This is in line with many other schools nationally. The Government expects schools to have the majority of students taking this combination.

Purple Route

Must select at least **two subjects** from the Ebacc list below and then have two other choices (e.g. creative / arts / sports based / a science / technology).

EBacc Subjects:

Geography
History
French / Spanish (the language a student is currently studying)
Computer Science
Science Option.

Red Route

Some students, who have been identified by the school, may wish to follow a more work related vocational route, selecting a course that best matches their interests and aspirations. Our aim is always to place students on courses where they will have the maximum chance of success, and with more courses and opportunities post-16 requiring success in Maths and English, we have included a support option which will allow pupils to receive extra input in these key areas, boosting their chances of successfully securing post-16 routes. Students following the Red route may go on to follow a vocational course at college, or take up an apprenticeship after Year 11.

Red route students select study support as 1 option, a work related or Prince's Trust qualification as 1 option, and then select 2 options from the remaining subjects.

Yellow Route

Our aim is always to place students on courses where they will have the maximum chance of success, and with more courses and opportunities post-16 requiring a Grade 4 in Maths and English, we have included a support option which will allow pupils to receive extra input, boosting their chances of successfully securing post-16 routes.

The Yellow route will also allow students time to be supported in additional study and underpins our desire for all our students to achieve the qualifications they need to enable them to progress seamlessly on to the next stage of their education or career.

Yellow route students = 1 option (study support) + 1 Ebacc subject and 2 options from columns.

All students have two “free” choices.

All students are entering two year courses for their GCSEs. **They are not able to drop out of courses and are required to follow a full curriculum.**

We recognise that some students and their parents will have particular views and therefore, as always, parents and carers with any queries should contact their child’s Tutor in the first instance, Ms Smith or Mr Barnes. However, the initial survey is only the first step and further discussions can take place when the final Options columns are issued.

Examination Boards

AQA	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance
BTEC	Applied learning Qualifications (BTEC Introductory Level 1)
EDEXCEL	University of London Examination and Assessment Centre
NCFE	National educational awarding organisation
OCR	Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations
WJEC	Welsh Joint Education Committee

Additional Information

You may find the following link to what qualification levels mean on Gov.uk useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/overview>





Core Subjects

**Taken by
All Students**

**CORE SUBJECT
TAKEN BY ALL
STUDENTS**

English Language

AQA
8700

*English
Language*

*Allocation of marks:
Examinations 100%*

*Spoken Language
Non-examined
assessment: to be
reported separately
on the certificate*

Students will study GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. These are separate courses, which lead to two separate GCSE qualifications.

GCSE English Language

This qualification is made up of two exam papers both of which focus on the development of reading and writing skills. Students will prepare for *two written examinations* taken during the GCSE exam period at the end of Year 11.

Non Exam Assessment (NEA)

The speaking presentation is compulsory. The GCSE English Language grade will only be awarded upon completion of the two written examinations and this spoken assessment. The speaking presentation takes place in the classroom setting and is filmed (exam board requirement).

Language Paper 1 Section A (Reading)

There are 4 questions in this section all testing reading comprehension of one unseen fiction extract.

Section B (Writing)

There is one extended writing task in this section and students can choose to do either the *descriptive* or *narrative* writing task.

Language Paper 2 Section A (Reading)

There are 4 questions in this section all testing reading comprehension of two unseen non-fiction texts.

Section B (Writing)

There is one extended *persuasive* writing task in this section.

The Literature and Language course both function to develop independent reading and writing skills that will serve students well, not only towards GCSE success but, importantly, beyond their school days.

It is vital that students take ownership of their own learning, developing resilience in the face of challenge and actively engaging in the learning process. Organisation, persistence and good attendance are absolute necessities to be successful in both of these GCSE courses.



**CORE SUBJECT
TAKEN BY ALL
STUDENTS**

English Literature

AQA
8702

*English Literature
Allocation of marks:
Examinations 100%*

GCSE English Literature

This qualification gives students an opportunity to explore and study a range of prose, drama and poetry.

Students will learn to read texts critically and thoughtfully, enabling them to then write about them analytically and precisely. Students will prepare for *two written examinations* taken during the GCSE exam period at the end of Year 11.

Literature Paper 1

This paper is made up of two questions in which students have an opportunity to demonstrate their reading comprehension and analytical writing skills. All students study 'Romeo and Juliet' (Shakespeare) and 'A Christmas Carol' (Dickens).

Literature Paper 1

This paper is made up of three sections.

Section A

One question based upon the study of the modern play 'An Inspector Calls' (JB Priestley).

Section B

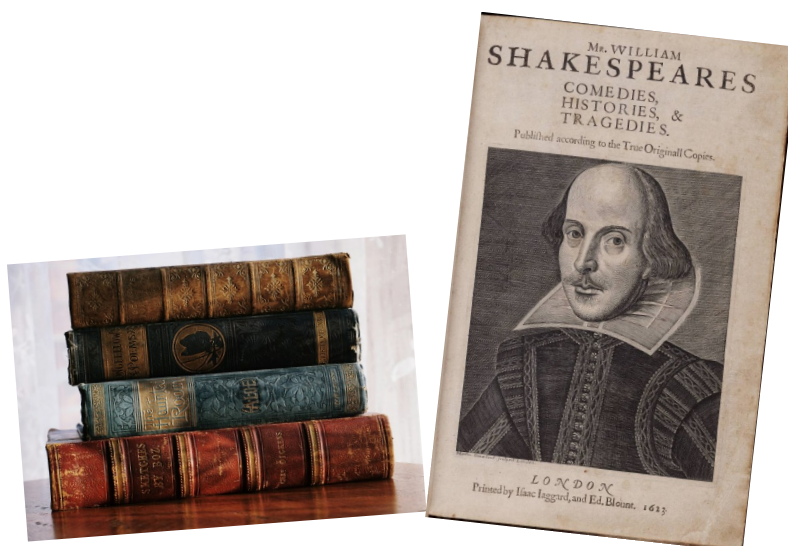
One comparison question based upon the study of 15 poems from the 'Power and Conflict' anthology.

Section C

There are two questions assessing two unseen poems.

The Literature and Language course both function to develop independent reading and writing skills that will serve students well, not only towards GCSE success but, importantly, beyond their school days.

It is vital that students take ownership of their own learning, developing resilience in the face of challenge and actively engaging in the learning process. Organisation, persistence and good attendance are absolute necessities to be successful in both of these GCSE courses.



**CORE SUBJECT
TAKEN BY ALL
STUDENTS**

Maths

AQA
8300F
or
8300H

*Allocation of
marks:
Examination 100%
End of
Year 11 only*

All students continue to study mathematics in Key Stage 4 covering the areas defined in the AQA specification:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rate of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Students will continue to be taught in ability groups and will be entered for the GCSE examination.

The GCSE has two tiers of entry – Foundation and Higher – and both tiers allow students to attain a grade 5.

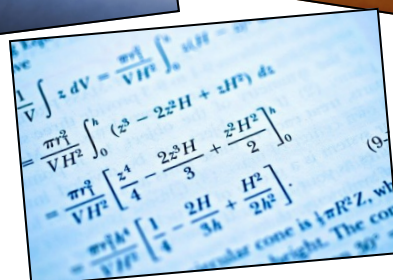
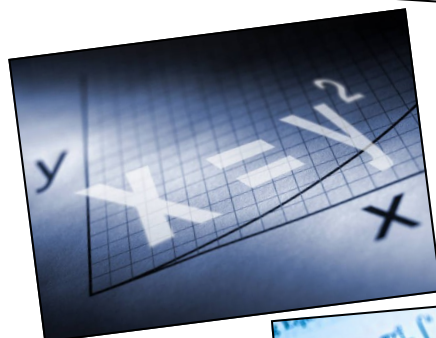
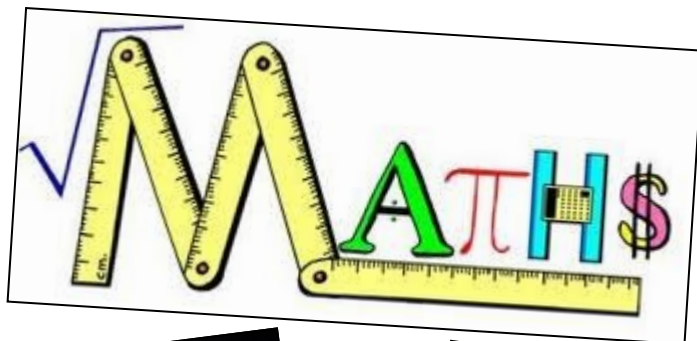
Every student will be encouraged to aim for the highest level within their capabilities.

There are three examinations at the end of Year 11, one non-calculator, the other two with calculator allowed.

Entry Tier

Grades available:

Foundation	1–5
Higher	4–9



**CORE SUBJECT
TAKEN BY ALL
STUDENTS**

Science

AQA
Combined
Science
Trilogy 8464

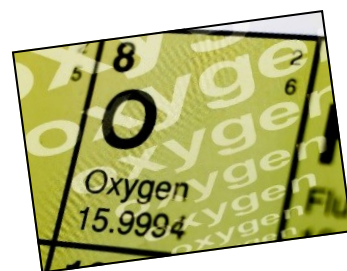
Allocation of
marks:
Examination
100%

During Year 10 students will be taught in ability groups based on their performance at Key Stage 3. They will have 9 lessons per fortnight in which they will be taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects by subject specialists. They will be studying the "AQA Trilogy" course. This qualification is linear, so students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. They will be awarded 2 GCSEs.

Throughout Year 10 and Year 11 students will cover the following topics:

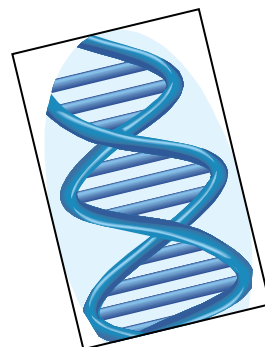
Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology.



Chemistry

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources.



Physics

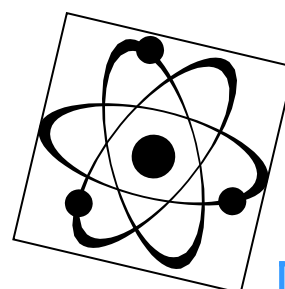
1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism.



Assessments

There are six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas, are 1 hour 15 minutes long and are worth 16.7% of the final grade.

The practical aspect of science will be examined in the final exams. It is expected that students complete "Required Practical Activities" as part of their normal lessons.



**CORE SUBJECT
TAKEN BY ALL
STUDENTS**

Personal and Religious Studies

AQA
*Religious
Studies A*
8062NA

*Allocation of
marks:
Examination
100%*

*Grades range
from 9–1*

This course started in Year 9 with studies about the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity, and a study of religion, peace and conflict. All students in KS4 follow a GCSE in Religious Studies that will lead to a full GCSE qualification. This course satisfies the legal requirements for RE and will allow the students to gain a GCSE grade following external examinations in Year 11. The PRS lessons will also cover Life Studies (PSHE) topics such as relationships and sex education and careers input.

The course will help students become knowledgeable on a range of current issues, create a sense of responsibility, understand and respect the views of others, understand how British values have emerged, develop their communication skills and use reasoned argument supported by a range of evidence to respond to religious belief, moral issues and ultimate questions, recognising the complexity of issues. Students critically approach a range of views both religious and non-religious

The course enables students to explore issues through the lenses of theology, philosophy, sociology and psychology. By understanding what other people think, pupils will be able to make more sense of their world. Students will consider a range of views, both religious and non-religious. The course followed is AQA Religious Studies A. The subject is seen by many as being very important, not least for its historical and cultural illumination, as well as its ability to help pupils understand other areas of study, for example, English Literature. A view endorsed by the prominent atheist Richard Dawkins in 2017.

Jewish Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

A study of Jewish beliefs and teachings and how these impact on the practices of Jewish people around the world today. This covers topics such as bar and bat mitzvahs, marriage and festivals.

Relationships and Families

Teaching about nature and purpose of families in the 21st century, sex, marriage, cohabitation and divorce. The roles of men and women and gender equality.

Religion and Life

A study of ethical and philosophical issues surrounding: abortion, euthanasia, origins of the universe, value of the world and human responsibility to it, use and abuse of animals.

Religion, Crime and Punishment

A study of ethical and philosophical issues surrounding: corporal punishment, death penalty, causes of crime, types of crime, forgiveness.

The 1998 Education Act reaffirmed that RE should be a compulsory subject, though parents have always had the option of withdrawing their children from RE lessons on the grounds of their conscience.



Subject Details

**Select from the following
courses according to the
identified route being taken**

**French / Spanish (MFL) is a
Core Subject for those
on the Green Route**

3D Sculpture

AQA 8205

Fine Art

*Allocation of
marks:
Coursework 60%
Controlled test
40%*

The GCSE Art/Sculpture course is suited to those students who enjoy working within the Art department and are enthusiastic about expressing their ideas through the process of making.

Sketchbooks are used extensively to record, observe and develop ideas. Students are taught to draw using a range of techniques and materials. They learn to work with pencil, black biro, charcoal, graphite, paint and various other media. All students make huge progress with their drawing skills throughout this course.

The course focuses on the three main traditional sculptural techniques: Carving, Constructing and Modelling. Students are taught to work with clay, plaster, wood, wire, papier-maché and found materials.

Techniques are taught through a series of projects inspired by the work of artists and sculptors from around the world. In Year 11 students are confident and skilled enough to explore their own ideas independently, using any relevant materials or techniques they prefer.

The course requires students to produce a substantial package of coursework (60%) and a final exam project (40%).

Students work hard in an enjoyable, focused, yet fun working environment.

Comments from current Year 10 and Year 11 students:

“It is great fun and really enjoyable”

“Turning our designs into real sculptures is brilliant!”

“There’s a great atmosphere in the room when we’re all making things.”

Please note that students **cannot** study both 3D Sculpture **and** Art and Design.



Art and Design

AQA 8201

Allocation of marks:

Coursework 60%

Controlled test

40%

Do you enjoy being creative?

Art and the Arts engage our brains like nothing else. The physical act of using our hands and minds to draw, paint and make artwork is hugely beneficial to our wellbeing. If you enjoy making, thinking, doing, reflecting, working with independence, problem solving, imagination and creativity then this is the course for you.



This is a really exciting and rewarding course. You will experience and gain knowledge of many different types of art, hone your existing skills and try many new techniques and materials. We aim to build your skills and in turn confidence. Well-structured and taught projects lead to a sense of personal accomplishment creating a portfolio of work to submit for your GCSE, and also to be really proud of.



Year 10: Mark Making Project

In Year 10 we explore mark making; using dip pens and fine liner pens to create forms and shapes in space looking at some graphic and illustration art to help us. We explore the techniques of the Impressionists and show you how to make a garden painting inspired by Monet.

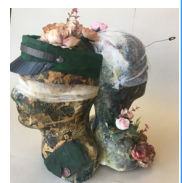
Year 10: Collage Project

This is an experimental mixed media project exploring a range of styles with art materials, photography and digital options.

Year 11

For the mock exam unit, we visit the exciting London gallery **Tate Modern** Here you can experience artists' work in person to inspire you in a final project of **your choice**. Depending on your interests this could combine drawing, painting, collage, mixed media, three-dimension, digital art, photography or film.

GCSE art is fun and enjoyably challenging. We aim to broaden your knowledge of art and design and give you an experience of all that it can be. Art is for everyone. It is also the starting point for many careers in the Arts. Our Art students have gone on to study graphics, product design, illustration, fine art, architecture and animation.



The course requires students to produce a substantial package of coursework (60%) and a controlled practical test (40%).

All the work is completed under the guidance and support of Art Department staff.

Some comments from previous Year 11 Art students:

"The course is a creative release that is different from other subjects"

"I found my artistic skills have really improved drastically!"

"I found the course rewarding and satisfying"

Please note that students **cannot** study both Art and Design **and** 3D Sculpture.

Computer Science

Pearson Edexcel
L1/L2
1CP2/01
1CP2/02

Allocation of marks:
Paper 1 Written Exam 50%
Paper 2 Practical Onscreen Assessment 50%

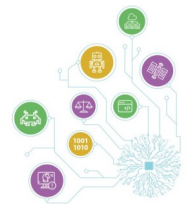
Why study GCSE Computer Science?

Do you like solving complex problems? Do you have a strong passion for applying your mathematical skills in the real world? This course will equip you with essential skills for the digital age. It fosters problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity. Additionally, it opens up future career opportunities in technology, a rapidly growing field.

Understanding computing concepts will also enhance your ability to navigate and innovate in an increasingly tech-driven world. It is important that you have a strong background in Mathematics for this course as you will be studying topics like Boolean logic, Binary Code, Hexadecimal, and there will be lots of coding in the Python computer language as well as data manipulation.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impact of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy and cybersecurity
- apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science.



Course Content

Paper 1 - Principles of Computer Science

- Topic 1: Computational thinking – understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to follow, amend and write algorithms; ability to construct truth tables.
- Topic 2: Data – understanding of binary, data representation, data storage and compression.
- Topic 3: Computers – understanding of hardware and software components of computer systems and characteristics of programming languages.
- Topic 4: Networks – understanding of computer networks and network security.
- Topic 5: Issues and impact – awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, and the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

Paper 2 - Application of Computational Thinking

Topic 6: Problem solving with programming:

- understanding what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work in relation to creating programs
- understanding how to decompose and analyse problems
- ability to read, write, refine and evaluate programs.

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

OCR
Level 1 / 2 J834

*Allocation of
marks:*
R093 70 marks
R094 50 marks
R098 70 marks

The media industry is vast, covering both traditional and new media sectors, and providing work for individual freelance creatives as well as large teams in design houses and multinational companies. Job roles frequently overlap multiple sectors, and products often need to be suitable for more than one kind of output. This course helps to prepare students to work in this growing industry.

Delivered using online classroom learning (e.g. Teams and OneNote) with regular written assignments and a practical component, this fast-paced course is split into three different units of work, one of which is an externally assessed written exam (1 hour 30 minutes), and the other two are NEA (coursework) units which are internally assessed (approx. 10 hours per assessment). Organisation and self-motivation are key requirements.

Unit 1 R093 Creative iMedia in the media industry (Externally assessed exam 1 hour 30 minutes)

In this unit students will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. You will engage with legal and ethical issues as well as considering the processes used to plan and create digital media products, learning how media codes are used to create media products that convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. You will also learn how to choose the most appropriate format and properties for different media products.

Unit 2 R094 Visual identity and digital graphics (NEA unit 1 of 2)

In this unit, you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. Applying the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate their visual identity to engage a target audience.

Unit 3 R098 Visual imaging (NEA unit 2 of 2)

In this unit, you will learn how to apply the conventions of both static and moving images using language of visual imaging and communication. Planning and capturing photographs and moving images using a digital camera and learning to edit and process photographs and video sequences to create meaningful products in response to client briefs.

This is an ideal subject for anyone who wants to progress on to other related study, such as vocational qualifications in digital media and information technology, A-Levels, T-Levels and apprenticeships.



Design and Technology

Food Preparation and Nutrition

EDUQAS
C560P1

Allocation of marks:
Non exam assessment 50%
Written exam 50%

The Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE focuses on **practical cooking skills** to enable students to make links between theory and practice and be able to apply their understanding of food science and nutrition to **practical cooking**.

Why study food at GCSE?

The course will:

- Develop a wide range of practical skills that can be used throughout life
- Learn about nutrition and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Support applications to a wide range of further education courses.

Year 10 Course Content

Practical lessons

Students will develop a wide range of technical skills through practical and experimental work using all of the commodity groups. 3 hours 30 minutes per fortnight will be spent on practical work.

Theory lessons

Students will learn about: commodity groups, nutrition, diet and good health, the science within food, where food comes from and cooking and preparation methods.

Year 11 Course Content

September Non Exam Assessment (NEA) 1 Food Science Investigation (15%)

Apply food science knowledge to practical experiments and create a 6-8 page report. *Example task: Shortcrust pastry should have a short, crumbly, melt in the mouth texture. Investigate the best ingredients to achieve the perfect pastry (8hr assessment).*

November Non Exam Assessment (NEA) 2 Food Preparation (35%)

Research, plan and produce 3 dishes within a timed 3 hour practical assessment that showcases skills. *Example task: Research, prepare and cook three dishes that promote Street Food within the UK (12hr assessment).*

June Written Paper (50% of GCSE)

From February to June of Year 11 students will complete targeted revision using both practical and theory lessons to recap topics covered in Year 10 to fully prepare for the 1 hour 45 minute written exam paper.



Design and Technology

Specialising in Timbers or Textiles

AQA 8552

Allocation of marks:

Coursework 50%

*Written exam 50%
(2 hours)*

Design and Technology has changed. You are still able to opt for the different specialist material areas such as Textiles and Timbers, but there is now a common core of theory work. Everyone has to study this regardless of which specialist area you choose. Some of this theory is tested in the exam and some in your final coursework piece.

Design and Technology is an exciting course, with its distinguishing feature being its practical nature. This encourages students to design and make products with creativity and originality in a variety of practical activities, using a range of materials and techniques. Students will gain a working knowledge of textiles, woods, metals, polymers, smart materials, basic electronics and mechanisms.

Skills in Computer Aided Design (CAD) both 2D and 3D packages will be developed and opportunities to use Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) will be given, including the use of the laser cutter, CNC machine and the 3D printers.

Year 10

During the first year students will work on a range of smaller projects which will allow them to acquire the underpinning skills that are essential to their success in both the written paper and controlled assessment, these include practical skills, theoretical skills, designing skills, drawing skills, modelling skills and ICT/CAD skills.

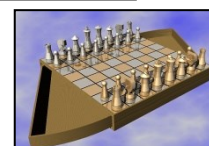
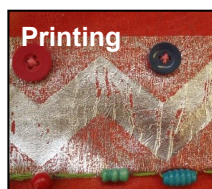
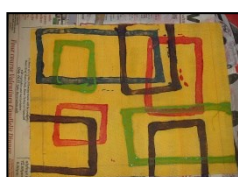
Year 11

The second year of this two year course is dominated by the design and make unit. Students will be given a range of design content, set by the exam board, and encouraged to choose a project that will fully display their talents. The majority of the time will be spent designing and making their project. Exam preparation will taking place weekly through homework tasks and class based tests.

Coursework is 50% and is a design portfolio and made product. The final exam is worth 50% of the total marks and is 2 hours.

This subject develops key **life skills** and equips you with the knowledge and **confidence** to problem solve, **experiment** and **analyse**. Skills that you will use everyday even if you decide not to pursue a design based activity as a career choice.

Possible career paths include: Architecture, engineering, product design, industrial design, furniture making and design, special effects work, automotive engineering and design, interior design, carpentry and joinery, textile design, fashion and textiles, costume design.



Drama

Edexcel
1DRO

Allocation of
marks:

Coursework:
Devising: Practical
and written
40% of qualification
60 marks

Performance from
Text: Practical
20% of qualification
48 marks

Written exam:
1 hour 45 mins
40% of qualification
60 marks

Should I study Drama at GCSE?

If you...

- Enjoy Drama lessons,
- Enjoy acting and performing,
- Want to see live theatre,
- Can evaluate your work and that of others then ... **YES!**

5 hours a fortnight, lots of fun. Hard work and commitment and the ability to work as part of a team is essential.

Component 1: Devising - Practical and written Coursework: 40% of the qualification – 60 marks

Content overview

Create and develop a **devised piece from a stimulus**

Marked internally.

There are **two parts** to the assessment:

- **A portfolio** covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation
- **A live group performance.**

Component 2: Performance from Text - Practical Coursework: 20% of the qualification – 48 marks

Content overview

Students perform **two key extracts** from a performance text.

Externally assessed by visiting examiner.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

40% of the qualification – 60 marks

Content overview

Practical exploration and study of **one complete performance text** (The Crucible by Arthur Miller).

Live theatre evaluation.

What students say:

“Learn team building and leadership skills.”

“It’s just good fun.”

“It makes you feel good about yourself. ”

See Ms Smith for more info.



French (Modern Foreign Languages)

AQA
8652

Allocation of marks:
Listening: 25%
Speaking: 25%
Reading: 25%
Writing: 25%

The French GCSE is a linear course.

There will be exams to test the 4 skill areas and these will be equally weighted. There are two tiers of entry: Foundation and Higher.

Students taking the Foundation paper will be graded 1-5 and those taking the Higher paper will be graded 4-9.

The topics to be covered will be:

Subject Content

Assessment is set in the context of these three themes.

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle
- Topic 3: Education and work.

Theme 2: Popular culture

- Topic 1: Free-time activities
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture.

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Topic 2: Media and technology
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live.

The Government have made the decision that most students nationally will take a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language.

This is a Core Subject and must be taken by all those on the Green Route.



Geography

AQA
8035

Allocation of
marks:

Written exam
100%

GCSE Course Content

The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why, and helps to prepare you for those changes. As well as studying traditional Geography such as cities, energy, rivers, coasts, earthquakes and volcanoes, the GCSE course also tackles some big issues:

- environmental responsibility
- our global interdependence
- cultural understanding and tolerance
- commerce, trade and industry.



Living with the Physical Environment (35%, 1hr 30 mins)

Challenges of Natural Hazards: Tectonic hazards, weather hazards, extreme weather and climate change.

The Living World: Ecosystems, including tropical rainforests and deserts.

UK Physical Landscapes: Coastal and river landscapes in the UK.

Challenges in the Human Environment (35%, 1hr 30 mins)

Urban Issues and Challenges: City growth, challenges and sustainability.

The Changing Economic World: Development and the development gap, employment changes, UK differences.

The Challenge of Resource Management: Resource management, energy, water issues and food supply.

Geographical Applications (30%, 1hr 30 mins)

Issue Evaluation: Based on pre-release material (March of Year 11).

Fieldwork: Two days of fieldwork (one human, one physical). You will be asked exam questions about the work you have done.

All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11. Everyone has the same exam. There are no tiers of entry.

Where can Geography take you?

This is a highly regarded subject that complements and links with many others. Careers directly linked with Geography include:

Planner - Market Researcher - Housing Officer - Estate Agent - GIS Specialist - Chartered Surveyor - Remote Sensing Analyst - Cartographer - Crime Analyst - Transport Manager - Location Analyst - Retailer - Regional Development Officer - Travel Agent - Tourism Officer - Media Researcher - Environmental Consultant - Estate Manager - Forestry Ranger - Conservation Officer - Pollution Analyst - Weather Presenter - Disaster Manager - Flood Protection Officer - Water Supply Coordinator - Risk Assessor - Hydrologist - Coastal Manager - Geologist - Civil Engineer - Soil Conservationist - Aid Worker - Diplomat - Refugee Advisor - Charity Coordinator - Teacher - Marketing Manager - Accountant - Lawyer - Town Planner.



History

Edexcel
1HIO

3 Exam papers
(Longest paper
1hr 45 mins)

Why study History?

History is about real people whose lives were sometimes exciting, frightening and heroic. We will be exploring their fascinating and, occasionally, tragic stories, and how they impact on the world today. As well as being interesting, this course will help you develop skills which will be useful in a wide range of jobs or in further studies. Students should be willing to think hard and tackle complex and relevant political, social and cultural questions. The ideal student will be enthusiastic and have an enquiring mind.

What you will study

Themed Study: Medicine in Britain, c.1250-present

Students will investigate which factors helped to improve medical knowledge from the medieval period to today. Included is a study of the historic environment of the British sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries, treatment and life in the trenches. A trip to the battlefields of WWI is possible.

British Depth Study: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-88

Life in Anglo-Saxon England
The Norman Conquest
How William kept control of England
Life in Norman England.



Period Study: Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91

A study of the major events of the Cold War including:
The nuclear arms race, The Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the collapse of the Soviet Union

Modern Depth study: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

The impact of World War I
The Weimar Republic
The rise of the Nazis
The Nazis and control of Germany
Life in Nazi Germany



You will learn the following skills

- How to interpret and evaluate pieces of evidence (sources)
- How to communicate and apply your knowledge
- How to describe and analyse the key features of the period.
- Critical thinking and problem solving by studying: photographs, films, newspapers and original written sources.
- Evaluate historical interpretations of the past.

How is History relevant to me?

Besides being fascinating and teaching useful skills, History is a highly regarded subject and A-Level facilitating subject for the Russell Group of universities. History can lead to exciting careers in law, journalism, advertising, researching, archaeology, gaming developer and many more.

Assessment

There are three examination papers, the longest is 1 hour 50 minutes and the full range of historical skills will be tested. An ability to read and write well is important.

Music

OCR
J536

Allocation of marks:
Performing (coursework)
30% Composing (coursework)
30% Listening & Appraising 40% (exam)

If you enjoy taking part in musical performances, developing instrumental skills, composing your own music and listening to music, then you will enjoy GCSE Music.

The Music course will help you develop self-confidence, self-discipline and teamwork skills. The course provides substantial opportunity for practical and creative music making, composing and use of technology in recording and production of music.

This course is designed to build upon the work done through Years 7 to 9. It is not just for those who are having lessons on an instrument, although this is strongly recommended.

Approximately one third of the course is spent on performance activities – both individual performing and performing with others. A third of the course is spent on composing.

Practical workshops and theory help you to build up the understanding and skills you need to tackle individual composing tasks. The remaining third of the course focuses on listening. You will learn about a wide range of musical styles and traditions, covering a broad historical time span.

Topics covered will include Pop and Rock music, Film music, Music from around the world, as well as Baroque, Classical and Romantic music. We will also study the theory of Music so that the reading, writing and understanding of music becomes easier.

During practical 'workshop' lessons much performing and improvisation work is done in pairs or groups. Composing coursework is done individually – a significant amount of this work is set as homework.

Time will be spent in lessons preparing for individual or group performances which will be assessed. You will be given the opportunity to take part in concerts and you can use some of these performances as part of your performing portfolio.

If you have any additional queries about this course please do not hesitate to contact Head of Music, Mrs Edwards.



Physical Education

AQA
8582

*Allocation of marks:
Practical performance 30%
Written examination 60%
Analysis and evaluation 10%*

Teachers and the Youth Sport Trust worked closely to develop a GCSE in Physical Education that will inspire. New and contemporary topics will help students of all abilities develop a well-rounded skill set and prepare them for progression to further studies. The specification is engaging and assessment is clear. This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course.

Subject content

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Use of data
5. Sports psychology
6. Socio-cultural influences
7. Health, fitness and well-being.

Assessment

2 papers, both 1 hour 15minutes.
78 marks and 30% of GCSE per paper.

A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport
Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport. 40% of GCSE. Students must be participating in at least **ONE** sport and competing regularly at school/club standard. It is essential that students attend clubs in order to be involved at a challenging level.

For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity). One activity needs to be a team activity, one an individual and the third can be either.

Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity from the specified list. A list of practical activities can be found at AQA GCSE PE 8582.



Science Option

AQA

Biology 8461

Chemistry 8462

Physics 8463

Allocation of marks:

Examination

100%

Students who select the Science Option will have 14 lessons per fortnight so must be 100% committed to the subject, and will be taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects by subject specialists.

They will be studying the AQA Biology, AQA Chemistry and AQA Physics separate science courses.

Students **MUST** take Biology, Chemistry **AND** Physics. There are no choices within the option block.

The course is mostly suitable for students who attain "Above Expected" or "Significantly Above" in their end of Key Stage 3 Year 9 assessment. Places on the course are restricted due to limitations on class size. As a result of this, a selection process may need to take place.

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course and will be awarded 3 GCSEs.

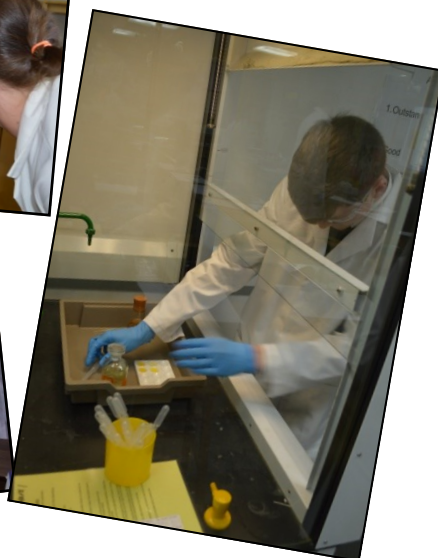
Throughout Year 10 and Year 11 students cover the same basic modules as those students who are studying 'AQA Trilogy,' however, extra time is spent covering these modules in more depth with extra science topics being included.

We recommend this course for students who may wish to study A Level qualifications in Science in the future.

Assessments

There are six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas, are 1 hour 45minutes long and worth 50% of the final grade for that subject.

The practical aspect of science will be examined in the final exams. It is expected that students complete "Required Practical Activities" as part of their normal lessons.



Spanish (Modern Foreign Languages)

AQA
8692

Allocation of marks:
Listening: 25%
Speaking: 25%
Reading: 25%
Writing: 25%

The Spanish GCSE is a linear course.

There will be exams to test the 4 skill areas and these will be equally weighted. There are two tiers of entry: Foundation and Higher.

Students taking the Foundation paper will be graded 1-5 and those taking the Higher paper will be graded 4-9.

The topics to be covered will be:

Subject Content

Assessment is set in the context of these three themes.

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others
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Theme 2: Popular culture

- Topic 1: Free-time activities
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Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest
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The Government have made the decision that most students nationally will take a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language.

This is a Core Subject and must be taken by all those on the Green Route.



Study Support

Available on
Red and
Yellow
routes only

This updated course is an essential option for some students. The course allows students to receive additional support to access Maths and English study.

With 98% of employers rating qualifications in Maths and English as most important, this option on the Red and Yellow routes has been well received.

Our redesigned Study Support option focuses on equipping students with the skills and knowledge they require to access their GCSE qualifications.

With an initial focus on supporting achievement in both Maths and English, some of the skills will be applicable to all subjects studied and should allow pupils to access the demands of both the GCSE exams and curriculum with greater confidence.

We are currently finalising the components of this course.

The Government decided that young people who are in education after Year 11 without the equivalent of a new Grade 4 in Maths and English are required to keep studying these subjects, and re-sitting them until they reach a grade 4 (or equivalent level).

Therefore, to ensure that all our students can access the widest possible range of opportunities after their GCSEs, this opportunity forms part of the curriculum for students on **Red** and **Yellow** routes.



Work Related Qualification (WRQ)

Continuous assessment within the working environment alongside practical, written and oral tests

For Red Route Students Only

The distinguishing feature of these proposed courses is that students will acquire work related skills that will be useful in any occupation whilst also ensuring access to a broad curriculum.

Work Related Learning

A mixture of mechanics and building construction skills giving students a taste of possible sectors before considering apprenticeships.

Achieve is a functional skills qualification developed by the Prince's Trust.



START SOMETHING

The programme is completely flexible so the students

participating can

choose the units that they are most interested in, and try lots of new things such as:

- Delivering a community project and making a real difference in your local area
- Learning all sorts of new skills to help with meeting new people and building your confidence
- Taking on a business challenge to put your entrepreneurial skills to the test
- Improving your knowledge and ability to look after yourself and live a healthy life
- Top tips to help you write the perfect CV and get ahead in your career.

Please note that places on vocational courses are strictly limited and all courses will run subject to appropriate staffing, funding and timetabling.

Should the work related courses not run, students will undertake Achieve.