



# Options Booklet 2022-23

# **Introduction**

## **To students**

You will soon be ending your time at Key Stage 3 and moving onto Key Stage 4. In Year 10 and 11 you will have to choose which optional subjects you study. You need to think carefully about the choices that you make, as they can help you when you progress onto further education (college/university) and future employment.

This booklet is designed to give you as much information as possible about the choices you are about to make. When making your option choices it is vital to take a lot of things into consideration including what you are good at, what you enjoy and what you want to do when you finish Key Stage 4. Do not make your choices because your friends have chosen them or because you like a particular teacher. What may be right for your friend, may not be right for you. Remember that your teachers and tutors can always help if you have any worries or concerns about your options.

## **To parents**

Your son or daughter will soon be choosing the option subjects they will be taking in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). It is important they make informed decisions through consultation with the school and with you. This booklet is designed to contain as much information about the options process as possible. However, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

All Key Stage 4 students are required to study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Core PE. Students then have the opportunity to select 4 optional choices. One of these choices must be an English Baccalaureate (EBACC) subject (History, Geography, French, Spanish or Computer Science). The students will be given information about individual option subjects through lessons and assemblies.

At the end of Term 4, Year 9 students will meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss their options over the next month to ensure they have considered the correct choices for them. Following these meetings, the option subjects will be allocated and individual students will be spoken to if there is an issue with their option choices. Final option decisions will be made by the end of May.

# Year 9 Options Timeline

<b>Year 9 Options Process</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Introduction Assembly	w.c.6.3.23
Options Student Voice (forms)	w.c. 6.3.23
Options fortnight – info in lessons and booklets	w.c. 6.3.23
Year 9 Parents Evening	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
Year 9 CLF Raising Aspirations Day	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March
Complete Options Form Online in School	w.c. 8 <sup>th</sup> May
Begin 1 to 1 meetings with SLT	8 <sup>th</sup> May
Option subjects allocated and alterations made if necessary	End of May
Options letter confirming choices	July

## Different Types of Courses

There are a range of optional subjects on offer at Winterstoke Hundred Academy. Option subjects may be examined in different ways and awarded a different qualification.

### **GCSEs**

Most students will study for GCSEs in the core subjects and many of the option subjects are also examined by taking a GCSE. In some subjects, there are two different 'tiers' of examination offered; for example a higher or foundation tier in Mathematics, Science, French and Spanish.

Most GCSE subjects are examined by a mixture of timed exam papers, coursework and in-class controlled assessment.

### **BTECs / Vocational Subjects**

Heavily weighted towards practical work or coursework rather than examinations. We offer the following BTEC/Vocational subjects:

- Health and social care
- Sport
- Music
- Travel and Tourism
- Business

BTEC/Vocational subjects tend to be weighted 60% coursework and 40% exam. The benefits of students taking BTEC/Vocational subjects are students get a second chance to re-take an exam if they do not get their desired outcome.

## GCSE Grading System

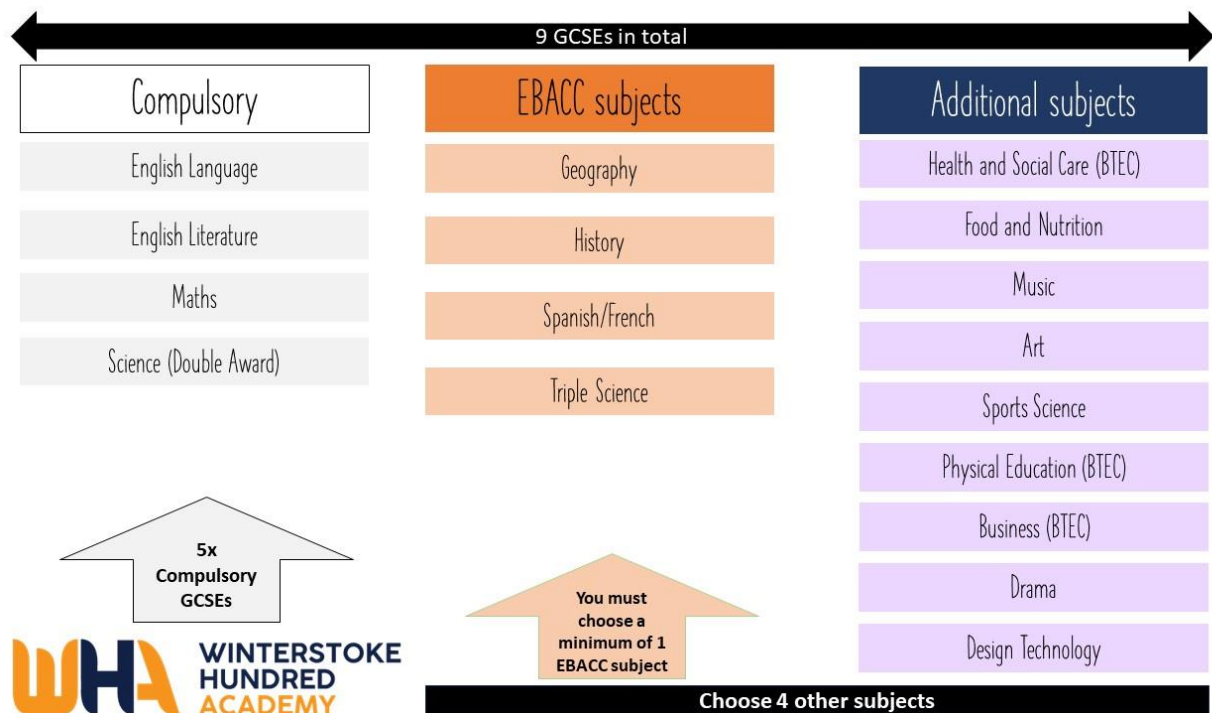
Over the last few years new GCSE grades have been introduced for all subjects, with numbers replacing the old letter grades.

This table shows how the new GCSE grades relate to the old ones:

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

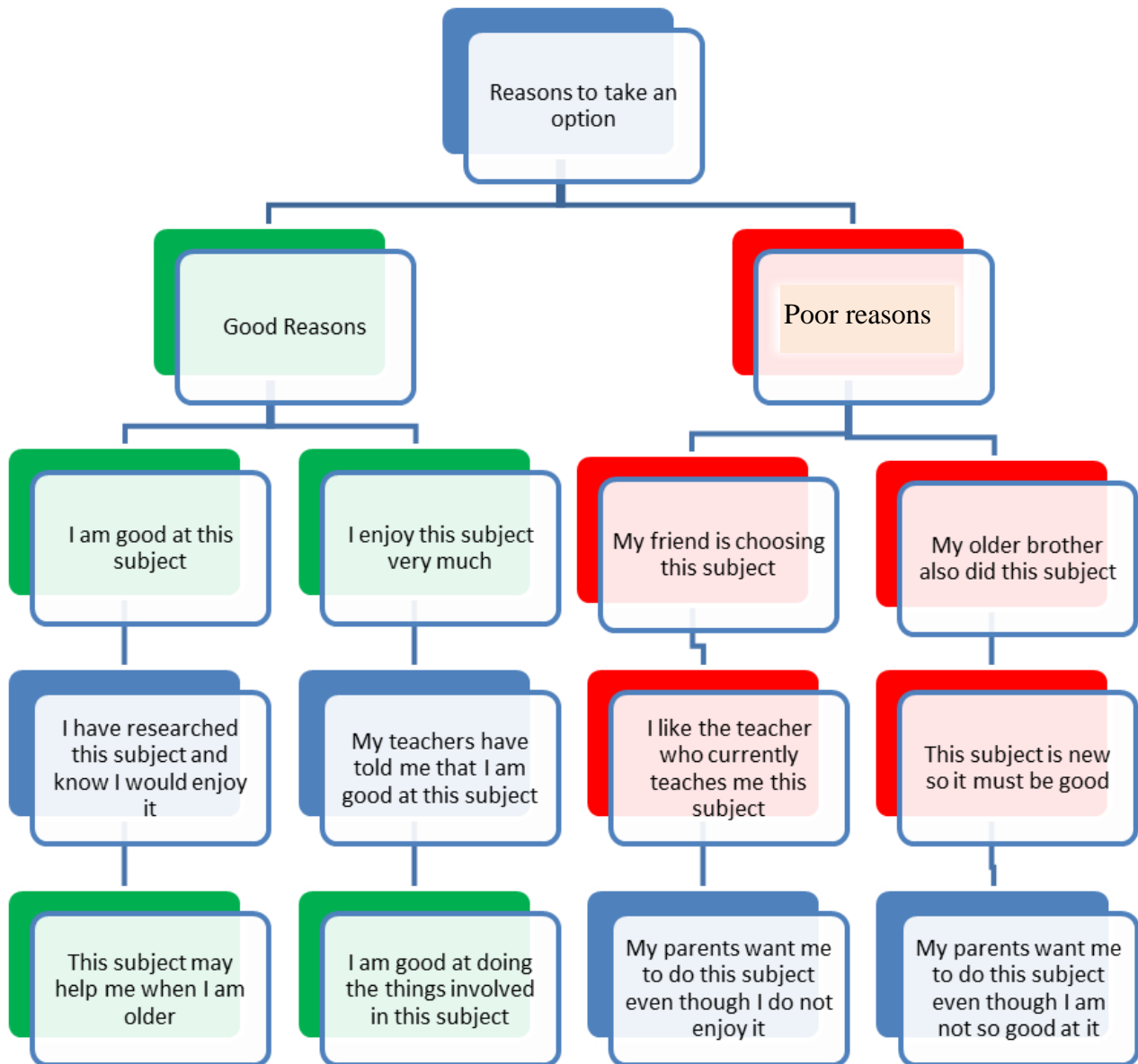
**GOOD PASS (DfE)**  
 5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**  
 4 and above = bottom of C and above



# Making your choices for the right reasons

There are many reasons why you may choose a certain option and it is important that you choose an option for the right reasons. You will have to study this subject for 2 years; you should not base your choice on things that may change.



## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### **What is meant by the options process?**

While we want you to make your own choices as far as possible, we may feel that there are other pathways better suited to you. We will meet with you to discuss your choices to ensure that they are right for you. In this way we will try to maximise your chances of attaining your full potential across a good range of qualifications recognised by colleges, universities and employers.

### **Will my choices affect my career?**

The curriculum at Key Stage Four is balanced to ensure you do not limit your future career options by narrowing your subjects too far. Everyone in the country does a core curriculum which includes all the subjects you need to go on to higher education or employment. Universities, colleges and employers want to know what level you achieved in your GCSEs, rather than what GCSEs you did. English and Maths GCSEs are the exceptions to this. You need a minimum of a Grade 5 in both English and Maths in order to make progress in many careers and especially if you aim to go to university.

Apart from your core subjects (English, Maths, Science) you do not always have to choose a subject in Year 10 in order to study it (or a related subject) at A Level or university. The exception might be Languages, where unless you are a native speaker of the language, it is advisable to continue studying the language otherwise you may forget what you have already learnt. If you intend studying Art in the future, it may also be advisable to choose that subject so that you can start to build your portfolio. Most other subjects you can start from scratch at A Level. If you need further information please talk to your teachers at the Progress Evening.

### **Are any subjects more important than another?**

As mentioned, English and Maths are the two subjects that employers and universities want to see. Your choices all have equal importance.

### **What is the English Baccalaureate?**

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC) is a Government measure of achievement for a certain combination of GCSEs. The measure is made up of English, Maths, Science (including Computer Science), either History or Geography and one Language. Students have to study at least study one Baccalaureate subject.

### **If I choose a vocational qualification, does this mean I will end up having to follow a career in this area?**

No, not if you don't want to. Remember it counts as the equivalent to a GCSE. Employers, universities and colleges want to know the grades you achieve before knowing what courses you did.

### **How will you know if a particular choice of subjects is not appropriate for me?**

You will all meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss your choices before agreeing whether the choices you have made are appropriate. This is based on your past performance and measured against what people with similar grades to you have achieved in the past, across the country.

### **What if I don't like the alternative choices you may make for me?**

You do not have to follow any alternative courses we have chosen for you; the meeting is to offer you advice. The range of subjects you choose should maximise your chances in your GCSEs. If you wish to choose a different subject from one we recommend, we will speak to your parents/careers and try to resolve any differences of opinion through dialogue. Don't forget in most cases this does not become an issue.

**How can I decide what subjects are best for me?**

'What do you enjoy most?' is your first question. 'What am I best at?' is your next.

**Who can help me decide what to choose?**

Listen to advice from your parents/guardians, teachers, friends, older brothers and sisters, but at the end of the day make sure you make the final decision.

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## **IMPORTANT**

**Am I guaranteed to get the subjects that I choose?**

Unfortunately, if there are not enough students choosing a course, we cannot run it; therefore, you may not get your first choice. We will complete student voice before we construct the options blocks to maximise the choices available to you.

We could limit the number of subjects we offer and make sure they all run, but then we would limit your choice.

It may be the case that two of the subjects you choose have to run on the timetable at the same time and this will mean you will have to choose between them. Again, this doesn't happen often.

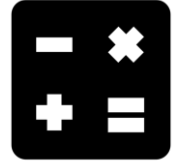
# Compulsory Subjects

## Maths

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Duration: 2 years



### *What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?*

Number, Algebra, Ratio & Proportion, Shape and Statistics & Probability

### *How will I be assessed in this subject?*

#### **Examination:**

3 papers at either Foundation (target grades 1 to 5) or Higher (target grades 5 to 9) tier

Paper 1 Non-calculator 90 mins

Paper 2 Calculator 90 mins

Paper 3 Calculator 90 mins

### *What careers will this help me with?*

All careers especially scientific careers including vocational areas such as medicine, engineering, sports science, finance, data analysis as well as many new and emerging jobs in areas such as esports



# Compulsory Subjects

## English Language

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Duration: 2 years



***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

***You will continue to work on the following key areas:***

*Speaking and listening skills*

*Reading and understanding*

*Language analysis*

*Writing for clarity and effect*

***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Examination:**

*There are two examinations worth 50% each:*

*Paper 1: Explorations in Reading and Writing*

*Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives*

***What careers will this help me with?***

*This will help you in a wide range of careers through supporting you to develop your communication skills, vital for any job.*

*Sales and marketing*

*Healthcare Assistant*

*Fitness Instructor*

# Compulsory Subjects

## English Literature

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Duration: 2 years



*What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?*

*You will study the following set texts:*

*A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens*

*An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley*

*Power and Conflict Anthology Poetry*

*Macbeth by William Shakespeare*

*Unseen poetry*

*How will I be assessed in this subject?*

**Examination:**

*There are two exams, worth 50% each of your total GCSE*

*Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel*

*Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry*

*What careers will this help me with?*

*Journalist*

*Copywriter*

*Teacher*

*Marketing Executive*

*Paralegal*

*Editor*

*Freelance writer*

# Compulsory Subjects

## Science/Triple Science

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board:

Duration: 2 years



	<p><b>Science (Double Award)</b>  <b>This is a 2-year course leading to 2 GCSE 9-1 qualifications in science.</b>          This course is compulsory and provides the foundation for understanding the physical and material world.</p>	<p><b>Triple Science (separate sciences)</b>  <b>This is a 2-year course leading to three GCSE 9-1 qualifications including Biology, Chemistry and Physics</b>          This course is optional and is designed to meet the diverse aims and ambitions of students from those who simply want to understand the world around them, to those who want to progress into further in-depth science study. Students who really enjoy science and find it interesting and motivating choose to take the Triple Science course at GCSE.</p>
<p><b><i>What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?</i></b></p>	<p><b>Biology:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cells and control,</li> <li>✓ Genetics,</li> <li>✓ Natural selection and genetic modification,</li> <li>✓ Health, disease and the development of medicines</li> <li>✓ Plant structures and their functions,</li> <li>✓ Animal coordination, control and homeostasis,</li> <li>✓ Exchange and transport in animals,</li> <li>✓ Ecosystems and material cycles</li> </ul> <p><b>Chemistry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ States of matter and mixtures,</li> <li>✓ Chemical changes,</li> <li>✓ Extracting metals and equilibria</li> <li>✓ Groups in the periodic table,</li> <li>✓ Rates of reaction and energy changes,</li> <li>✓ Fuels and Earth science</li> </ul> <p><b>Physics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Motion and forces,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Biology:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cells and control,</li> <li>✓ Genetics,</li> <li>✓ Natural selection and genetic modification,</li> <li>✓ Health, disease and the development of medicines,</li> <li>✓ Plant structures and their functions,</li> <li>✓ Animal coordination control and homeostasis,</li> <li>✓ Exchange and transport in animals,</li> <li>✓ Ecosystems and material cycles.</li> </ul> <p><b>Chemistry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ States of matter and mixtures,</li> <li>✓ Chemical changes,</li> <li>✓ Extracting metals and equilibria,</li> <li>✓ Quantitative analysis</li> <li>✓ Groups in the periodic table,</li> <li>✓ Rates of reaction and energy changes,</li> <li>✓ Fuels and Earth science,</li> <li>✓ Hydrocarbons and polymers</li> </ul> <p><b>Physics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Motion and forces,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conservation of energy,</li> <li>✓ Waves,</li> <li>✓ Light and the electromagnetic spectrum,</li> <li>✓ Radioactivity</li> <li>✓ Energy - Forces doing work,</li> <li>✓ Forces and their effects,</li> <li>✓ Electricity and circuits,</li> <li>✓ Magnetism and the motor effect,</li> <li>✓ Electromagnetic induction,</li> <li>✓ Particle model,</li> <li>✓ Forces and matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conservation of energy,</li> <li>✓ Waves,</li> <li>✓ Light and the electromagnetic spectrum,</li> <li>✓ Radioactivity,</li> <li>✓ Astronomy,</li> <li>✓ Energy - Forces doing work,</li> <li>✓ Forces and their effects,</li> <li>✓ Electricity and circuits,</li> <li>✓ Static electricity,</li> <li>✓ Magnetism and the motor effect,</li> <li>✓ Electromagnetic induction,</li> <li>✓ Particle model,</li> <li>✓ Forces and matter</li> </ul>
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<p><b><i>How will I be assessed in this subject?</i></b></p> <p><b>Examination:</b></p>	<p>100% exam, no coursework. This exam can be sat at both foundation and higher tier. There are six exam papers at the end of the course which cover the entire content.</p>	<p>100% exam, no coursework. This exam can be sat at both foundation and higher tier. There are six exam papers at the end of the course which cover the entire content.</p>
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<p><b><i>What careers will this help me with?</i></b></p>	<p>This science course does provide a preparation for further studies in sciences but does not go into as much depth as the Triple Science course. It can lead to careers in engineering, healthcare, environmental work, architecture, construction, catering, electrician, educator, pilot, veterinarian, pharmacist, research scientist</p>	<p>The Triple Science course provides thorough preparation for further studies in science disciplines at A Level and Degree level. Extra topics are covered on the Triple Science course, which is a help to students who are certain they wish to pursue further education in sciences. Studying the Triple Science course provides students with a variety of skills that can be applied to many areas of work, such as analysing and problem solving, engineering, healthcare, environmental work, architecture, construction, catering, electrician, educator, pilot, veterinarian, pharmacist, research scientist</p>
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# Options Subjects

## Art

**Qualification:** GCSE Art

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



### ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

Component 1 (Portfolio) work is worth 60% of the overall grade and you will work on this from the start of the course until January when you will be in Year 11. Students produce a portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to a set starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus. The portfolio may be presented in appropriate formats for the specification title they are following and chosen area of study, including sketchbooks, digital presentations, mounted sheets, maquettes, prototypes, animated work, scale models or illustrated written work. Component 2 (ESA – Externally set assignment) is a shorter project worth the final 40% and completed from January to April in Year 11. In this, students respond to one of five themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points and stimuli. Students research, plan and develop ideas for their response to the option they have chosen, which they must then realise within the ten-hour supervised time period in the April of Year 11.

You will have the opportunity to work with Photography, digital editing software, printmaking and other materials available to the department, as well as developing the most fundamental skills of drawing and painting. You will receive a brief and a list of tasks to guide you through the project. It allows us to ensure as the facilitator that you develop enough work for each Assessment Objective, on which you will be marked.

### ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

There are two areas of assessment:

- A portfolio, which is 60% of the total GCSE
- An externally set task, which is 40% of the total GCSE.

Both components are 100% non-exam assessment and are 100% internally marked and externally moderated by visit.

### ***Am I suited to Art GCSE?***

The course is very self-directed, and you must be committed, as the volume of work required is high. Art requires long hours of hard work and dedication. Students have to pay great attention to detail. Art clubs and Period 7 must be attended, and further work must be done at home, usually about two hours every week. It is not an easy option.

You must enjoy drawing, painting and be prepared to write about what your work and the ideas of others.

### ***What careers will this help me with?***

The creative industries, such as fashion designers, illustrators, advertising, marketing etc. have moved into first place to be the fastest growing economic sector in the UK, responsible for 5.6% of jobs, and worth £76.9bn to the UK economy. Many employers now actively seek those who have studied the arts. Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, was fond of saying his success was due to his hiring artists and musicians fascinated by technology rather than computer geeks. Top talent management agency, The Curve Group, specialising in financial and business services, declares that employees with arts degrees have developed more quickly in their roles from the start and has found them to have discipline, confidence and the ability to accept criticism.

# Computer Science

**Qualification:** GCSE Computer Science

**Examination board:** OCR

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

Do you enjoy programming and understanding how computer systems work? In this challenging and engaging qualification you will be expected to learn and apply your knowledge of computer systems and programming to solve problems. GCSE Computer Science also digs deep into the technical side of computing, including how different hardware and software devices work together to create a computer system.

### **Computer Systems**

This unit will introduce you to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. You will also become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science.

### **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming**

This unit encourages you to apply your knowledge and understanding of computer systems using computational thinking. You will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques and how to produce robust programs. You will also become familiar with the mathematics related to Computer Science.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

The Computer Science qualification currently consists of **2 written examinations (50% each)**

- Computer systems (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (1 hour 30 minutes)

## ***Am I suited to GCSE Computer Science?***

If you enjoy programming, Mathematics, problem solving and learning how computer technology works, then GCSE Computer Science is the choice for you! You should also show a willingness to practise your programming skills regularly, as this forms a large part of the course.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

Computer Science links well to careers such as becoming a programmer or an engineer, as well as a wide range of other technical roles in the digital and IT industry. It is also useful for students who wish to progress onto Computer Science/IT related courses in further education.

# Drama

**Qualification:** GCSE Drama

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

### Component 1: Understanding Drama

This is a **written** exam for 1 hour 45 minutes **(40%)**.

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of six
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

### Component 2: Devising Drama

This exam is both **written (30%)** and **practical (10%)**.

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

### Component 3: Texts in practice

This exam is **practical (20%)**.

- Performance of two extracts from one play

## ***Am I suited to Drama GCSE?***

You must enjoy Drama and be prepared to work with a variety of people. You should have good attendance as all practical's are in groups and non-attendance means letting others down. You should be enthusiastic about the subject, have an open mind to new ideas and be able to stay in character.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

Drama is a gateway to many different careers and jobs. You could be training for a career in theatre or on TV / film as an actor, director, designer or administrator, but, equally you could be training for any job that requires you to speak, present, organise, think, plan, discuss, work as a team and so on. Drama students can go into every conceivable career, from teaching to science, and from sport to business.

# French / Spanish

**Qualification:** GCSE French/ GCSE Spanish

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment.

Students learn the language in the following four skill areas, and the topics above are covered in each of these areas.

**Listening:** understand and respond to spoken language

**Speaking:** communicate and interact in speech

**Reading:** understand and respond to written language

**Writing:** communicate in writing

Studying a language at GCSE, allows us to develop our knowledge of how the language is structured, whilst building on the skills developed at KS3. Students will be able to speak with increasing confidence and fluency, write at varying length, appreciate authentic texts from the target language, and further their cultural understanding.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Languages are assessed entirely by end of course examinations.** There is equal weighting for Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing with 25% each.

Up to 40% of the questions are asked in the language and in the written papers all of the questions are in the foreign language studied.

The content studied over the two years as well as assessment and practice questions, will ensure students feel confident and prepared for their exams.

## ***Am I suited to GCSE French/ Spanish?***

Scientific research shows that learning languages opens pathways in the brain that help with learning other subjects too; it makes you more intelligent.

Languages make up four out of the five hardest GCSEs, which means that taking a language is seen by employers and universities as a sign that you can take up a challenge and are willing to work hard. However, languages are fun because they allow us to explore other cultures and access the wider world, but they also enable us to learn so much more about our own culture.

Most universities now require a language to GCSE level so it's really a 'no-brainer'.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

Languages can be useful in almost any career, and the ability to speak another language is highly desirable for many employers.

Whilst languages are of course essential in careers such as translating, interpreting and language teaching, the prospects of learning a language are not limited to these professions. As a linguist, you will have a huge advantage with careers in, but not limited to, hospitality, tourism, business, finance, media, publishing, archiving, sports logistics, national intelligence and security, and governmental or charity work.



# Geography

Qualification: GCSE Geography

Examination board: AQA

Duration: 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

### **Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35%)**

- Natural hazards – tectonics, weather and climate change.
- The living world – ecosystems, tropical rainforests, hot deserts.
- Physical landscapes in the UK – rivers, coasts, flooding.

### **Paper 2: Challenges in the urban environment (35%)**

- Urban issues and challenges – urbanisation, city studies, shanty towns, regeneration projects.
- The changing economic world – world development gap, north south divide in the UK.
- The challenge of resources management – renewable resources, food supplies, water supplies, energy.

### **Paper 3: Geographical applications (30%)**

- Physical fieldwork – Rivers (The Quantocks)
- Human fieldwork – Impacts of redevelopment on the environment (Bristol/WSM)
- A pre-release issue
- Map skills
- Geographical skills

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Examination:** 100%

**Paper 1:** PHYSICAL Geography topics. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short 1-4 mark questions, and longer 6 or 9 mark questions which require an extended written response. You will also answer questions on the case studies you have learnt.

**Paper 2:** HUMAN Geography topics. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short 1-4 mark questions, and longer 6 or 9 mark questions which require an extended written response. You will also answer questions on the case studies you have learnt.

**Paper 3:** This is primarily a skills paper. Section A is focused on a pre-released booklet of information on an issue which we have studied in class. You receive this booklet approx. 8 weeks before the exam and answer a mixture of short 1-2 mark as well as longer 6-9 mark questions about the information presented. The second section of paper 3 is a set of questions related to your fieldwork investigations. The third section sets questions on an 'unseen fieldwork' investigation, where you are given data from an enquiry and must analyse, present and evaluate that data.

## ***Am I suited to Geography?***

You should have a good level of literacy and numeracy. You should also have an interest in the environment, both physical and human, around you.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

Studying geography can help you develop data, research, scientific, and map skills. Geography often involves practical work so there are usually opportunities for fieldwork and travel. Learning about geography can also boost your soft skills, including communication, teamwork and time management. Studying geography can lead to careers in areas such as:

- Environment and ecology
- Town planning
- Surveying
- Cartography (making maps)
- Conservation

# History

**Qualification:** GCSE History

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991
- USA and Civil Rights 1945 - 1974

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Examination:** 100%. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

- Paper 1: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city. 30% of the qualification
- Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 & Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991. 40% of the qualification
- Paper 3: USA and Civil Rights. 30% of the qualification

## ***Am I suited to History?***

The skills you'll learn will be invaluable should you wish to take on History in the long-term. History is quite a challenging subject that requires a good memory for dates and issues, and an analytical mind. You will also need a high level of literacy and be prepared to write. You will learn to question the reliability of sources, which makes it good for developing critical thinking skills that will be essential at university and in the workplace.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

Journalist, Lawyer, Archaeologist, Administrator, Museum Worker, *Government, Police Officer, Politics, Marketing,*

# Music

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award in Music

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

You will study three units for this qualification:

### **Component 1: Exploring the Music Industry (30%)**

You will explore 8 different genres from music – creating a range of practical, composing, production and listening products. You will look at a range of different job roles in the music industry and they work together to create these products.

### **Component 2: Developing Music Skills (30%)**

You will develop your skills on your chosen instrument (or vocals). You will explore job roles associated with your skills to create a performance for an audience.

### **Component 3: Responding to a musical brief (40%)**

This unit allows you to put together everything you have learnt across the course to create a music product to fit with a given brief. You will create your own performances/compositions and present this alongside supporting documentation to show your intentions.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

### **Coursework:**

Components 1 and 2 are coursework-based. Your teacher will set you assignments for each component, which you will need to complete. There will be practical performance assessments, audio and video evidence, composition work and written coursework. You will then get graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction for each assignment and you have to gain at least a pass in each assignment to pass overall.

### **Examination:**

Component 3 will be an externally assessed exam where you put together all you have learnt to create a music product to a set brief.

## ***Am I suited to Music BTEC?***

You must love music and be energetic and enthusiastic about the subject. You should be confident enough to perform and share your front of the class. You will be a team player and part of a supportive and encouraging learning environment. You should have excellent attendance as the BTEC course is continually assessed (including audio/video evidence) and some of the work is in groups therefore difficult if students are missing. You should enjoy performing as you will take part in multiple school performances in and out of school (including representing the school in Battle of the Bands in Bristol). You should be able to meet deadlines and will be expected to attend extra lunch and after-school rehearsals as and when required.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

A number of careers exist that this course supports:

- Performing roles (session musician, backing singer, solo artist etc)
- Production roles (Working in a recording studio, supporting live performances in sound or set up)
- Other roles (Music teacher, music therapist, promoter, journalist, music management, artist liaison)

Even if you don't go into the music industry, it can help you to have a creative outlet whatever you go on to do, and employers value these key skills gained from studying music:

- Confidence raising
- Team working
- Empathy and understanding
- Hard work and commitment
- Creativity

# Physical Education

**Qualification:** BTEC Sport

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Practical Sports Performance
- Training for Personal Fitness
- Leading Sports Activities

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Examination:** The fitness for sport and exercise unit is assessed externally; you will have to complete an online assessment.

### **Coursework:**

The other units are all assessed by your teacher where you will be set assignments. Each assignment will have an assessment criterion which you must fulfil to pass. The assignments will vary in what they ask you to do. They may include practical tasks, PowerPoint presentations, making videos, or simply written tasks. We try and make the course and the assessments as practical as possible however the criteria does require some written assignments.

Assignments are graded Pass, Merit or Distinction, distinction being the highest grade. You have to pass every assignment to achieve a pass over all.

## ***Am I suited to BTEC Sport?***

If you enjoy PE and/or perform well in English you will do well in BTEC Sport. If you do not like exams then this course may be a good option for you! You are not assessed on your practical ability so anyone can do really well with a strong work ethic. You get to study one individual and one team sport in real depth. If you like the idea of working studying about sports such as football, netball or rugby for an extended period of time you will love BTEC Sport. If you enjoy the fitness suite you will also love the course. The health benefits you gain by choosing this option are a further reason why it's suited to you.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

PE teacher

Physical Trainer

Sports coach

Leisure centre worker

Professional athlete

Physiotherapist

# Physical Education

**Qualification:** Sport Science

**Examination board:** OCR

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- Nutrition
- Sports Injury
- Principles of training
- The body's response to exercise.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Examination:** The fitness for sport and exercise unit is assessed externally; you will have to complete a 1 hour exam of which you can have 2 attempts at set times.

**Coursework:** The other units are all assessed by your teacher where you will be set assignments. Each assignment will have an assessment criterion which you must fulfil to pass. The assignments will vary in what they ask you to do. They may include practical tasks, PowerPoint presentations, making videos, or simply written tasks. We try and make the course and the assessments as practical as possible however the criteria does require some written assignments.

## ***Am I suited to Sport Science?***

It is for students already studying BTEC sport who have good writing skills and a passion for sport.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

PE teacher  
Nurse  
Doctor  
Physical Trainer  
Sports coach  
Professional athlete  
Physiotherapist

# Design Technology

**Qualification:** GCSE Design Technology

**Examination board:** WJEC EDUQAS

**Duration:** 2 years



Design and Technology GCSE allows learners to identify and solve real problems through the design process and into manufacture. Learners are encouraged to work creatively & develop several core skills, including practical skills, planning and decision making.

The course covers both theory of materials and manufacture processes used in industry and the practical manufacturing skills to solve problems using hand tools & machinery. Students will learn 3D Computer aided design software and output their design to 3D print, laser cut and CNC routing machines.

## **What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?**

### **Technical Principles**

1. design and technology and our world
2. smart materials (Thermochromic, Photochromic)
3. electronic systems and programmable components (Scratch based coded circuits)
4. mechanical components and devices (gears, levers, pulleys, CAMS)
5. materials (woods, metals, plastic, paper & card)
6. CAD CAM (3d printing, laser cutting, CNC routing)

### **In depth knowledge and understanding of one of the above material groups**

- electronic systems, programmable components & mechanical devices
- papers & boards
- natural & manufactured timber
- ferrous & non-ferrous metals
- thermoforming & thermosetting polymers f. fibres & textiles

### **Designing and Making Principles**

1. understanding design and technology practice
2. understanding user needs
3. writing a design brief and specifications
4. investigating challenges
5. developing ideas
6. investigating the work of others
7. using design strategies
8. communicating ideas
9. developing a prototype
10. making decisions

### **In depth knowledge and understanding of Design & making**

- Selecting and working with materials and components
- marking out
- using tools and equipment
- using specialist techniques
- using surface treatments and finishes

**How will I be assessed in this subject?**

***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Coursework: 50%**

One piece of controlled assessment, roughly 35 hours work, to design and develop a prototype of a product using a material or mixture of materials of your choosing. Designing and making is worth 60% of the coursework marks

**Examination: 50%**

You will be questioned on your ability to analyse and evaluate design outcomes and wider issues and technical knowledge. The exam will be taken in Year 11.

***Am I suited to Design Technology?***

You should be creative, enjoy exploring design, innovative and willing to produce high quality practical work. Students should be confident in the workshop manufacturing ideas from paper, card, foam, woods, metals & plastics. DT students should be problem solvers, engineers and willing to learn new software used in industry.

***What careers will this help me with?***

Graphic Design, Product Design, Interior Design, Civil Engineering , Mechanical Engineering, Architecture.

# Food Preparation and Nutrition



**Qualification:** GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

**Examination board:** OCR

**Duration:** 2 years

## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- Nutrition
- Food: food provenance and food choice
- Cooking and food preparation
- Skills requirements: preparation and cooking techniques

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Coursework: Assessment 1: Not timed    Assessment 2: 3 hours    50%**

**Assessment 1: Food Investigation Task.** This task is worth 15% of the qualification and assesses the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

**Assessment 2: Food Preparation Task.** This task is worth 35% of the qualification and assesses the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food. Learners are required to prepare, cook and present three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours and plan, in advance, how this will be achieved.

**Examination: Food Preparation and Nutrition. Written exam: 1 hour 30 mins    50%**

Learners will be expected to answer questions based on content studied across the four sections listed above.

## ***Am I suited to Food Preparation and Nutrition?***

You should be interested in learning about food, where it comes from and the science behind cooking. You should be prepared for lots of writing as well as practical work. You should be enthusiastic about cooking and wanting to produce food of a high standard with creative, high quality presentation. You should be prepared to be organised with bringing in your own ingredients from home for recipes. You should be willing to learn a variety of practical skills and cooking techniques. You should be willing to try making new things.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

*Catering, Hospitality, Butchery, Baking, Food Science, Restaurant Management, Food Technology, Food Environmental Health.*



# Business

**Qualification:** BTEC Business

**Examination board:** Pearson

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

As a student of BTEC Business, you will develop transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, research and analysis. These skills are valued in both higher education and the workplace. You will develop the ability to apply learning to new contexts, acquiring knowledge, understanding and skills that will be recognised and valued. Through practical application, you will show an understanding of how businesses survive, are organised and compete in the business environment.

### ***You will study two mandatory units:***

The nature of business organisations and the business environment in which they operate. You will look at the range of organisations that exist locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, and consider the business framework in which they operate. There will be a particular focus on businesses in the local context.

The aims and objectives of business organisations and how they are organised into functional areas to meet their business goals. You will look at examples of local and national organisations. Again, there will be a particular focus on businesses in the local context.

In addition to this you will also study a range of optional units which cover a wide range of skills in business. From communication and finance to branding and logistics.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

The units are all assessed by your teacher where you will be set assignments. Each assignment will have an assessment criterion which you must fulfil to pass. The assignments will vary in what they ask you to do. They may include assignments, projects or case studies and practical tasks,

Assignments are graded Pass, Merit or Distinction, distinction being the highest grade. You have to pass every assignment to achieve a pass overall.

## ***Am I suited to Business BTEC?***

This will suit you if you do not like exams you will need to have an interest in business and the local area in Weston- super- Mare. There will be deadlines for completion of units so you will need to be able to organise your time well.

BTECs are designed to make you more employable by teaching you the right skills such as time-management, problem-solving and decision-making to help you enhance your performance in the workplace.

## ***What careers will this help me with?***

Accountants; marketing or recruitment specialists; financial advisors or management positions in a variety of areas and industries.

# Health and Social Care

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- The course is split into 3 compulsory components which are designed to help students explore the Health and Social care setting and develop knowledge and understanding about how people grow and develop across their life. In all 3 components students will study real life case studies to help them understand and put into practice the knowledge they have learnt.
- Component 1 is all about people and how different factors such as lifestyle choices, relationships and income/wealth can impact on how they develop over the course of their life. We will also look at a variety of expected and unexpected life events and how they affect growth and development.
- Component 2 is all about the Health and Social Care profession. What services people may need to access in order to get medical or social help and how those services meet individual needs. The care values that underpin the Health and Social care setting such as confidentiality, respect, safeguarding and duty of care.
- Component 3 is the exam and combines knowledge learnt in Component 1 and 2 in a Health and Wellbeing 2 hour written exam. You will study a case study and answer questions about what factors have had an impact on their development, what their health indicators tell you about their current health and risks to future health and what targets you can put in place to help them improve their health.

## **How will I be assessed in this subject?**

**Controlled assessment or Coursework:** 60% of your grade will be from 4 written assignments that you will complete in lessons in component 1 and 2.

**Examination:** 40% of your grade will be a written exam paper (2 hours). You will have 2 attempts to achieve your best grade.

## ***Am I suited to Health and Social Care GCSE?***

You will need to have good levels of literacy and a level of maturity to grasp the concepts which will be introduced. You need to be a caring and empathetic type of person. You will need to have a good work ethic and able to complete individual research and type up your findings.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

*'It has been hard to understand some of the new concepts but the human growth and development unit is really interesting.'*

*'I use my little sister for my case study so it's helping me understand her disabilities as well.'*

*'It has changed the way I think about other people and consider others less fortunate.'*

*'It's my favourite option'*

# Extra-Curricular Options

## Duke of Edinburgh



**Qualification:** Silver Award

**Examination board:** DofE

**Duration:** 1 year

### ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- Emergency procedures and first aid
- Countryside code, etiquette and hazards
- Navigation, map reading and orienteering
- Route planning
- Menu planning
- Survival skills
- Team building and leadership

### ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

All participants need to complete all 4 sections:

1. **Volunteering** 6 months
  2. **Physical** 3 months
  3. **Skill** 3 months
  4. **Expedition** 3 days and 2 nights
- ↔ One must be completed for 6 months

*For participants who have not completed their Bronze Award, an extra 6 months will need to be completed in either the Volunteering, Physical or Skill section.*

### ***Am I suited to Duke of Edinburgh?***

You should be interested in making a positive contribution within your community, keen to get physically active and healthy, and interested in learning a new skill. You should be prepared for lots of practical activities as well as completing some written work. You should be enthusiastic about adventuring in the outdoors and developing your communication and leadership skills.

You must be able to commit to the full duration of the course.

### ***What careers will this help me with?***

The DofE Award is an outstanding mark of achievement for a young person and probably the most widely recognised by employers and universities as a sign of a number of social skills, resilience, responsibility and a balanced approach to life and learning.

\*\*\*\*\* There will be a fee for completion of this nationally recognised qualification. \*\*\*\*\*