



Key Stage 4 Curriculum Guide

University of Chester Academies Trust

Welcome



Very shortly we shall be asking you to make some important decisions about your future. These decisions concern choosing subjects and types of examinations, and how these subjects might help you in your future life and career. This term you will have the opportunity to think about and discuss different careers and the subjects that are appropriate to them.

You will continue to follow courses in English, Maths, Science, RE and PE, so that you have a broad and balanced curriculum. You will also be asked to make further choices to complete your subjects at Key Stage 4. You need to consider carefully the subjects you choose, because you will follow them for two years and there is a great deal of work to get through. These two years will be very important in deciding the options open to you when you get to the age of sixteen and we want everyone to be successful.

Discuss the subject choices carefully with your parents. They will have the chance to meet teachers and discuss your choices. Talk to your teachers and get their views as well. Read this guide carefully and make sure you have all the information you need.

We will try to meet all of your choices. However, we do consider whether the subjects you have chosen are suitable and although we consult with you and your parents, the final decision about subject choice is ours. Remember, gather all the information you need, think about it carefully, discuss your ideas and, whenever you are in doubt, ask for help.

Mr K. McDermott
Principal

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Welcome to Key Stage 4

This final phase of your compulsory school education is probably the most important and hopefully the most exciting part of your learning so far. The next two years will bring challenge and change, as well as increased responsibility and a wealth of opportunities as young adulthood beckons.

Expectations are high for our Key Stage 4 students at the Academy. We believe every student can achieve and succeed, whatever their ability. Good attendance and punctuality are crucial for success and are a basic expectation for all students. Students are well supported and our outstanding pastoral system links very closely to the curriculum. Subject Teachers report on your progress each half term and Form Tutors will meet regularly with you in Academic Review. In addition to this, you will meet with your Learning Coach three times each year to review your progress and to set targets to take your learning to the next level – these meetings are the basis for your termly Achievement Plans, which will be sent home to your parents/carers. You will find that advice and help is available from Key Stage 4 pastoral and curriculum staff, right through until the end of Year 11.

At Key Stage 4 students are challenged to organise and manage their study time. Academic Review is a key focal point in each day where you will have the opportunity to continue with coursework and other assignments. Assemblies and extra-curricular activities remain an important part of Academy life and we hope that students will manage to balance their work life with enjoyment, through participating in the many events which allow time for us to grow together as a community.

Rewarding students is very important to us. In each term in Key Stage 4 we will have Achievement Assemblies where we acknowledge and celebrate hard work and encourage success. We expect that Vivos, which recognise good work and effort, will be awarded on a regular basis.

So there are lots of interesting times ahead! The first stage is to arrange the subjects you will be studying. Some of these you will get to choose and the details in this booklet will help with those decisions. We hope you are looking forward to joining Key Stage 4 and look forward to continue working with you as you take these next steps.

Introduction

This guide has been written to give you information about the subjects you could study once you have completed Year 9.

The end of Year 9 marks the end of Key Stage 3. Up until now you have had to study the compulsory subjects of the National Curriculum. Next year, when you move into Key Stage 4, although some of the subjects you must take are still compulsory you do have some choice about others. Please think carefully. This guide cannot give you all the information you need. Talk to your teachers. They are there to help.

At the Academy we care about your future. It is our job to help you to make the best choice to suit you.

Why do we have to choose?

At Key Stage 3 you studied at least 13 subjects. At Key Stage 4 you can now choose other subjects that are not part of the National Curriculum. To learn enough for GCSE and other qualifications you need to spend more time on each subject than you have done so far. This means you have to choose some of your Key Stage 4 subjects.

The Academy treats all its students as individuals:

- The Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed to provide the best possible educational opportunities for everyone.
- There is a mixture of traditional and vocational courses for you to choose from.

We have spent time ensuring that the currency of the courses on offer accurately meets the needs of all students and prepares them for the competitive world they will be joining in the future. Current Government curriculum measures (Progress 8 and Attainment 8) require students to pursue a suite of specific subjects and combinations of these subjects are available for all our students.

Qualifications

GCSE Courses

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSEs take two years to complete.

In those two years you may do controlled assessment, which used to be known as coursework, in some subjects. Controlled assessments count towards your final grade and may include projects, fieldwork, artwork, experiments or investigations. You will also have to sit exams at the end of the course.

When you take GCSEs you can achieve pass grades from A* to G. If you don't achieve the minimum pass mark to get a grade G, then a U grade is awarded, which means 'unclassified'.

Different subjects are organised in slightly different ways. In some subjects, such as history, music, and art and design, everybody studying the subject sits exactly the same exam paper. In other subjects, like English, Science, French and Maths, you have a choice of two tiers.

Each of the tiers has a different target range of grades. If you take the higher tier, you will be able to get an A*, A, B, C or D grade. If you take the foundation tier, you will be able to get a C, D, E, F or G grade.

The exams are structured like this to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to show what they are capable of without being put off by questions that are too hard or too easy. Your teachers will decide which is the most appropriate tier of entry for you.

Throughout your GCSE, you may have to complete controlled assessments. It is up to your teachers when you do your controlled assessments. They will choose a time that suits your class and fits in with the course you are studying. Controlled assessment marks count towards your final grade, so it is important to take it seriously and do it as well as you can. Using the National Curriculum Framework GCSE qualifications are either Level 1 or Level 2. Grades D to G are Level 1, while A* to C are Level 2.

GCSEs are the main entry requirements for continuing study at Level 3. They are also the minimum educational requirement for many jobs.

GCSEs are changing...

New GCSEs in Maths, English Language and English Literature will be introduced from September 2015. These are the first style of the new GCSEs that will be graded from 9-1. This will be explained more fully in the first progress report next year.

BTEC First Qualifications

BTEC Firsts are Level 2 qualifications i.e. equivalent to GCSE grades A* to C. They provide a broad, solid foundation for progression to Level 3 and employment.

BTEC First qualifications were originally designed for use in colleges, schools and the workplace as introductory Level 2 courses for learners wanting to study in the context of a vocational sector. They are intended primarily for learners in the 14 – 19 age group, and have a clear progression route to a Level 3 course or to an apprenticeship.

BTECs are vocationally related qualifications, so you will develop knowledge and understanding by applying your learning and skills in a work-related context.

BTECs are designed to:

- Engage and encourage you to take responsibility for your own learning, and develop essential work-related skills, such as working to deadlines and presenting information effectively.
- Motivate young learners, and open doors to progression into further study or the workplace.
- Provide you with opportunities to link education and the world of work in engaging, relevant and practical ways.

- Enable you to develop your English and mathematical competence in relevant, applied scenarios.

BTEC Firsts have external assessment worth 25 percent of the qualification. These are set and marked by the examining board.

They are graded as pass, merit or distinction.

Qualifications

What are my Choices?

Below are the choices available and a timetable for when you must select which subjects you will be taking for Key Stage 4.

Thursday 5th March

An introduction to the process for Parents and Students.

Friday 6th March - Thursday 12th March

Student guidance by Parents, Teachers and Learning Coaches.

Thursday 12th March

Last day for 'Preference Forms' to be completed.

Friday 20th March - Thursday 2nd April

Student interviews with senior staff to confirm preference choices.

Compulsory Subjects (For all Students)

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Dual Award)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- French (Ebacc students only)

If you have been chosen as an English Baccalaureate Student (Ebacc), you have been identified as one of our most able students and you will already have started GCSE work in the core subjects of Maths, English and Science.

All courses could lead to 'A' Level or Level 3 Vocational courses in school followed by:

- University
- A Higher Apprenticeship, or
- Employment

Success on your course means that you will have GCSE's in all the subjects that are required for most jobs or further study.

Making up Your Mind

When making a decision about subjects these are some of the things you should think about:

What is the subject about?

Section two gives brief details of each subject but talk to your subject teachers and Learning Coach as well. Ask students in Year 10 and 11 about the courses they are taking.

Do I like the subject?

Most people do better studying subjects they enjoy and in which they have achieved success.

Will I be able to cope with the subject?

Some subjects require practical skills. Some need more writing than others. Some involve research out of school. Find out from the teachers concerned whether they think you would be good at the subjects which interest you.

Does my choice fit in with the timetable?

The Key Stage 4 timetable is put together so that as many people as possible can study the options they choose. However, some subjects may not run if only a few students choose them.

Do I need the subject for my long-term aims?

Think about your future plans:

- Job after Sixth Form
- Job after School
- Apprenticeship
- University
- College Course

Use the Careers Library

You will have careers advice throughout KS4: The Careers library is open and your Learning Coach will discuss future plans with you.

Involve your parents

Parents and other relatives have experience of the world outside school. Talk to them!

Your Form Tutor and Learning Coach

Both your tutor and Learning Coach will always be prepared to give help and advice. They will be very much involved in supporting your choice. Make sure you use that help.

What future changes might affect my choice?

Think about:

- Changes in the job market.
- Changes in yourself.
- Changes in qualifications required.
- Changes in technology.
- Changes in your personal circumstances.

Some subjects are important but not necessarily compulsory for particular careers. Some skills you can pick up later. Find out what skills you need for careers which interest you.

Don't choose a subject just because you like the teacher or because your friends have chosen it.

The subjects identified for you help to make sure that you keep your options open and do not lose the chance of certain careers by making wrong subject choices now. The choice you make is final.

If you find after you start a subject that you do not like it, then it may be difficult or impossible to change. Other subjects that you may wish to take may be full by then.

What to do Next?

- Read through the details of the courses which are on the next pages of this booklet.
- Make a list of the subjects that you might like to follow.
- Discuss with your parents, Form Tutor and Learning Coach which subjects you would like to take and why. Complete the preference form and indicate which subjects you wish to study.
- Show your form to your parents and then discuss your choices with your Form Tutor.
- Give your preference form to your Form Tutor by Friday 13th March 2015.

Making up Your Mind

Careers Information

The promotion of quality Careers Education and Guidance is a priority at University Church of England Academy for all our Students.

We aim to help the young people make informed choices about their future, to implement their decisions and to create longer-term plans for progression throughout their working lives.

As part of our PSHCE programme we offer our students career advice. There is a Careers Information area based in the iRead Centre in the Academy. This provides excellent facilities for Careers research and information gathering. Students also have access to IT resources such as 'Kudos', 'Way Ahead' and 'U' Explore.

Year 10 & 11 Students are invited to take part in events such as:

- Visits to Universities.
- Visits to Army Careers Exhibition.
- KS5 Information Evening where universities and employers provide information about next steps.

We also have:

- Learning Coaches to guide, set targets and monitor students progress.
- A range of visiting speakers.
- At the Key Stage 5 Information Evening all Year 11 students and their parents have the opportunity to discuss their post-16 transition ensuring they are consistent with HE, FE or job ambitions. In addition help is on hand during GCSE results day.
- In Year 11, students will be invited to attend a Careers Convention to gather information from a variety of organisations including Universities, Colleges, Training Providers and local employers.
- Presentations delivered by RAF, and Royal Navy.





English Language & Literature

Compulsory Subject - GCSE

What I will study?

English: Writing, reading and spoken language skills, plus some literary texts, and texts from other cultures.

English Language:

Writing, reading and spoken language skills.

English Literature: Key texts both modern and from our literary heritage.

This leads to two GCSEs.

How is the course assessed?

All are 100% examination.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

You will need to be investigative, analytical, creative and technical with your writing.

Why should I take this course?

An English qualification is compulsory and desirable. Which course you follow will be discussed with you.

To find out more please talk to:

Mrs S Smith or Mr S Robinson

Mathematics

Compulsory Subject - GCSE

What will I learn about?

We use mathematics to explain and understand the world we live in and to make predictions about what will happen in the future. Mathematics is a problem-solving tool that allows us to develop an understanding of all things in the world in which we live.

You will continue to build on the skills learnt at Key Stage 3 covering number, algebra, shape and space and handling data in more detail. You will learn new skills and techniques in these areas, and then apply them in practical situations to see how mathematics solves real life problems. There is now a much greater emphasis on problem solving and the assessment of mathematics in its use in real life scenarios.

How is the course structured?

Year 10 and 11 – you are already being prepared for the examinations now; we follow a five year plan to provide full coverage of the curriculum to ensure the best possible progress is made. All students will be entered for their Mathematics GCSE at the end of Year 11, as we follow a linear specification.

How will my work be assessed?

There are two main ways that students' work is assessed:

a) Internally – Mathematics teachers feed back to students on their progress by marking homework, mock assessments and offering supportive advice in preparation for examinations. Set sizes will decrease further, with sets containing small numbers to facilitate targeted support in key areas. This support will help you to achieve your target grade in Mathematics.

b) Externally – students will sit a full GCSE examination at the end of Year 11. There are 3 x 1 hour 30 minutes assessments, all carrying equal weighting. Paper 1 will be a non-calculator exam. Papers 2 & 3 will require a scientific calculator.

Students will be entered at either Higher or Foundation Tier based on their Year 9 performance and teacher assessment.

What can this qualification lead to?

Many careers and higher education courses have previously asks for a GCSE at Grade C or above in Mathematics as it demonstrates a basic level of competence in working with numbers and problem solving. A Mathematics GCSE, along with an English GCSE, is a crucial qualification for students' progression after Year 11. Students who are successful at the Higher Level are generally encouraged to consider taking mathematics at A Level in the Sixth Form.

Science

Compulsory Subject - GCSE

What will I study?

In year 10 you will study for Science GCSE and cover 3 topics; Biology (classification, variation and the environment), Chemistry (acids, atmosphere, metals and fuels) and Physics (waves, electricity, energy and the solar system). In Year 11 you will study for Additional Science and cover a further 3 topics; Biology (cells, systems and organisms), Chemistry (The Periodic table, atoms, bonding and reactions) and Physics (electricity, forces and nuclear power).

How is the course assessed?

Each topic in Years 10 and 11 is assessed with a written exam that lasts 1 hour. Each topic is worth 25% of your grade. The final 25% for each GCSE is generated by the completion of internally assessed activities. In these activities your teacher will assess how well you can plan, carry out and analyse scientific investigations.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

The course focuses on your practical skills as well as investigative skills. You will need to be able to analyse and evaluate data in all topics. There is an element of mathematical skills needed for calculations. Students who are adept in Science will follow the triple Science GCSE. This involves a greater depth of study in the three subject areas.

Why should I take this course?

This course gives you 2 GCSEs and will be very useful if you wish to progress to study A levels.

To find out more please talk to:

Mrs V Downing or Miss K Walton

Physical Education

Compulsory Subject - Core PE

What I will study?

Practical activities including: Games (football, netball, basketball, tennis, badminton); gymnastics (trampoline, gym); athletics, outdoor pursuits, swimming.

How is the course assessed?

There is no assessment.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

Show commitment and demonstrate a keen interest in active participation. Show willingness and enthusiasm to try activities of which you may have no experience. Take part in extra-curricular clubs. Some activities may take place outside school and involve travel and the use of other facilities. Internet to research the project work.

Why should I take this course?

Taking part in sport is important, not only for personal health and fitness but also for developing key skills and attributes such as teamwork and resilience.

Art & Design (2D & 3D)

GCSE

What will I study?

This course will provide you with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore interest in Art and Design. Students can explore practical and contextual ideas through a range of 2D or 3D processes, new media and technologies, from fine art to ceramics. All your research is presented and developed through the use of sketchbooks and / or design sheets, visual diaries / journals, culminating in a final exhibition of your work. You are encouraged to independently research contemporary and traditional designers' work.

Course Content

The course is mainly practical, but you will need to record written research, analysis and annotation.

Unit 1 – Portfolio of Work (60%) - During Years 10 and 11 you will complete two-three thematic coursework projects.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Task (40%) – Research a set theme, explore and make preparatory studies and complete a 10 hour “final piece”.

What skills / attributes will I need to be successful?

You will need to be enthusiastic about art, and already have a good level of practical skill. It is essential that you are able to work independently and think creatively and imaginatively.

Why should I take this course?

This course will allow you to do something you enjoy and are good at, whilst also gaining a qualification. The creative and technology industry is currently one of the fastest growing industries. It links to careers as a photographer, art teacher, Ceramicist, artist, fashion designer, glass artist, landscape architect, animator, make-up artist, costume designer, illustrator, sculptor, tattooist, TV or film director.

Art & Design (Jewellery & Body Adornment)

GCSE

What will I study?

This course will provide you with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore interest in jewellery and body adornment. You can explore practical and contextual ideas through a range of 3D processes, new media, materials and technologies. All your research is presented and developed through the use of sketchbooks and / or design sheets, visual diaries / journals, culminating in a final exhibition of your work. You are encouraged to independently research contemporary and traditional designers' work.

How is the course assessed?

The course is mainly practical, but you will need to record written research, analysis and annotation.

Unit 1 – Portfolio of Work (60%) - During Years 10 and 11 you will complete two-three thematic coursework projects.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Task (40%) – Research a set theme, explore and make preparatory studies and complete a 10 hour “final piece”.

What skills / attributes will I need to be successful?

You will need to be enthusiastic about design, and already have a good level of practical and drawing skills. It is essential that you are able to work independently and think creatively and imaginatively.

Why should I take this course?

This course will allow you to do something you enjoy and are good at, whilst also gaining a qualification. The creative and technology industry is currently one of the fastest growing industries. It links to careers as a jeweller, fashion designer, set designer, costume designer, fabric cutter, machinist, product designer, exhibition designer, florist, interior and textile designer, merchandiser.

Art & Design (Product Design)

GCSE

What will I study?

This course will provide you with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore interest in product design. You can explore practical and contextual ideas through a range of 3D processes, new media, materials and technologies. All of your research is presented and developed through the use of sketchbooks and / or design sheets, visual diaries / journals, culminating in a final exhibition of your work. You are encouraged to independently research contemporary and traditional designers' work.

How is the course assessed?

The course is mainly practical, but you will need to record written research, analysis and annotation.

Unit 1 – Portfolio of Work (60%) - During Years 10 and 11 you will complete two-three thematic coursework projects.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Task (40%) – Research a set theme, explore and make preparatory studies and complete a 10 hour “final piece”.

What skills / attributes will I need to be successful?

You will need to have a genuine interest in produce design and manufacture, and already have a good level of practical skill. It is essential that you are able to work independently and think creatively and imaginatively.

Why should I take this course?

This course will allow you to do something you enjoy and are good at, whilst also gaining a qualification. The creative and technology industry is currently one of the fastest growing industries. It links to careers as an architect, carpenter, joiner, product designer, games designer, graphics designer, engineer, furniture designer, farrier, interior designer, landscape architect, teacher, tailor, fashion designer.

What I will study?

- Enterprise in the Business World.
- Finance for Business.
- Principles of Customer Service.
- Recruitment Selection and Employment.

In addition, you will learn how to prepare for the world of work.

How is the course assessed?

This course is mainly assessed through coursework and a small part will be an external assessment, through a short online exam.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

You will need to have a good standard of English and computer skills would be useful. You must be motivated and prepared to investigate topics for yourself. You should also be organised and be able to manage your time in order to meet coursework deadlines. Full attendance is essential.

Why should I take this course?

This course will provide you with the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to prepare you for the world of work. On successful completion of this course you will be able to progress to higher level qualifications.

What will I study?

This course will provide you with the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the engineering sectors, and a focussed understanding of engineering through a range of theory and practical based tasks.

How is the course assessed?

The course consists of 4 different units over the two years, with practical aspects to all of the three coursework based units.

Unit 1 – 1 hour external exam (25%) - The Engineered World

Unit 2 – Coursework (25%) - Investigating an Engineered Product

Unit 3 – Coursework (25%) - Health and Safety in Engineering

Unit 6 – Coursework (25%) - Computer-Aided Engineering

What skills / attributes will I need to be successful?

You need to have a genuine interest in engineering (not car mechanics) to be able to cope with this theory based course. You will have a chance to develop some practical skills but this will depend on your overall progress. You will need to abide by safe working practices when in workshop situations i.e. correct clothing and footwear. You will be expected to work independently and be responsible for meeting deadlines. You should also have a good level of drawing and ICT skills.

Why should I take this course?

This course will allow you to do something you enjoy and are good at, whilst also gaining a qualification. The creative and technology industry is currently one of the fastest growing industries. It enables you to consider careers as an engineer (aerospace, automotive, chemical, gas, materials, mechanical, electrical, telecommunications), CAD technician, pilot, architect, electrician, fabricator, surveyor, welder.

What I will study?

In this course, you will develop:

- The ability to communicate effectively in French.
- The knowledge of French and language learning skills.
- The awareness and understanding of countries and communities where French is spoken.
- The ability to understand and learn French in a variety of contexts.

How is the course assessed?

The assessment drawn by AQA is divided into 4 skills:

Listening: Examination – 20%. **Speaking:** Oral examination lead by teacher – 30%

Reading: Examination – 20%. **Writing:** Controlled assessment (externally assessed): 30%.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

Learners will have successfully completed KS3 French. Success at KS4 is directly related to attendance, commitment to learning and completion of all assignments. You will need to be able to work independently and have good language skills.

Why should I take this course?

Thanks to new technology and improved travel and communications, the world has become a much smaller place. It is crucial, therefore, that we learn to speak and understand each other. This can only be done effectively by learning other languages and appreciating associated cultures.

Learning another language will enhance your employment prospects, whether you want a career in business, engineering, fashion or even world class football!

GCSE French offers a route to further study including A Level, it confirms your ability to learn a foreign language and facilitates the learning of other languages.

Employers frequently ask for candidates with language skills and a GCSE in a modern foreign language will place you in a strong position for interesting employment with plenty of career opportunities. Examples of employment where language skills are particularly valued include Journalism, Media, Law, Engineering, Business and Marketing, Sport and Leisure, Travel and Tourism, Immigration, Customs and Excise and Teaching (UK and Abroad).

What I will study?

A range of topical themes such as Battle for the Biosphere, Water World, River Processes and Pressures, Oceans on the Edge, Population Dynamics, Consuming Resources, Tourism, Living Spaces, Making a Living, Changing Cities, Development Dilemmas, Climate Change and Restless Earth – using relevant, up to date examples.

How is the course assessed?

- Two short exams (25% and 1 hour each).
- Controlled assessment based on fieldwork which will contribute towards 25% of your overall mark.
- Decision making exam within 25%

You will also have regular class assessments to track your progress.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

You will need to be interested in the world around you, both close to home and further afield. Willing to carry out fieldwork, research and ask questions. You will need to be organised and have good literacy and numeracy skills, a willingness to use your ICT, communication and interpersonal skills which you can show through debate and discussion. You will also need to be committed and hard working.

Why should I take this course?

Employers and universities value the broad range of transferable skills that Geography delivers. Geography fits neatly with science, arts and humanities, and geographers also tend to have very good ICT skills. A GCSE in Geography is excellent preparation for a variety of careers such as planning, tourism and recreation, environmental management and development. Geographers are very employable!

Health & Social Care

BTEC, Level 2

What I will study?

The course covers a wide range of up to date practices and applications in 4 study units, relevant to modern society's needs:

- Human Lifespan Development.
- Health & Social Care Values.
- Effective Communication in Health & Social Care.
- Social Influences on Health & Well-being.

How is the course assessed?

The course is mainly assessed through coursework, a small section will be externally assessed, through a paper based exam.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

You will need to be hard working, conscientious, caring, self-motivated and independent workers.

Why should I take this course?

Health & Social Care is a qualification linked into the world of work in so many areas, such as: Nursing and Midwifery, General Health Care, Child Care, working with people with Physical and Mental Health needs, Social Work and many more careers working with, and for people.

History

GCSE

What will I study?

- Unit 1 - International Relations: The Era of the Cold War 1943-91
- Unit 2 - The USA 1919-41
- Unit 3 - The transformation of British Society c1951-1979
- Unit 4 - Representations of History (Controlled Assessment) - Vietnam c1950-75

How is the course assessed?

3 x 1hr15mins examinations, assessing Units 1, 2 and 3, each comprising 25% of the final GCSE award 1 piece of coursework assessing Unit 4, comprising 25% of the final GCSE award

What skills / attributes will I need to be successful?

You will be expected to have an interest and enthusiasm for investigating the events of the past, and the study of history in general. You need to be a good listener and have the ability to be confident in sharing your ideas and interpretations with others in the class during class discussions. You will need to be able to express your ideas clearly and concisely, both orally and through your writing. In addition will be expected to produce pieces of extended writing throughout this course. You will need to have good chronological awareness, and have the ability to analyse sources of information and draw conclusions from them. You will need to be good at interpreting events in history, and understand why they took place. You should be able to identify the causes and consequences of changes in society at both a local, national and international level.

Why should I take this course?

If you are curious about the world you live in, and have a lively and enquiring mind, this is the GCSE for you! This course gives students an opportunity to study some of the key historical events, personalities, changes and issues of the twentieth century. It focusses on the origins, events and consequences of the Cold War, which dominated world history during the latter half of the twentieth century. It also explores some of the key challenges that faced America during the years between the First and Second World Wars, and the

changes that took place in British society between the years 1951 and 1979, including the role of society and family, education, work and labour relations, and the growth of media, communications and leisure during this period. Finally you will need to produce your own piece of extended writing which analyses the conflict in Vietnam between the years 1950 and 1975.

What will I study?

This course will provide you with the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the hospitality industry, and a focussed understanding of practical cooking skills through a range of theory and practical based tasks.

How is the course assessed?

The course consists of 4 different units over the two years, with practical elements to all of the three coursework based units:

Unit 1 – 1 hour and 15 minute external exam (25%) - Introducing the Hospitality Industry

Unit 2 – Coursework (25%) - Working in the Hospitality Industry

Unit 3 – Coursework (25%) - Food Safety and Health and Safety in Hospitality

Unit 6 – Coursework (25%) - Planning, Preparing, Cooking and Finishing Food

Compulsory 2 week work placement

What skills / attributes will I need to be successful?

You need to have a genuine interest in the hospitality industry (not just cooking) to be able to cope with this theory based course. You will have a chance to develop some practical skills but this will depend on your overall progress. You will need to abide by safe working practices when in practical situations i.e. correct and safe use of equipment. You will be expected to work independently and be responsible for meeting deadlines. You should also have a good level of drawing and ICT skills.

Why should I take the course?

This course will allow you to do something you enjoy and are good at, whilst also gaining a qualification. The creative and technology industry is currently one of the fastest growing industries. It enables you to consider careers as a cook, chef, caterer, bar worker, bar manager, baker, confectioner, cruise ship worker, food scientist, hotel manager, receptionist, kitchen assistant, play assistant, waiter, waitress, hotel porter, concierge.

What I will study?

This practical course aims to develop your skills in Dance performance, Choreography and Appreciation through a selection of assignments chosen to suit your skills and abilities. On this course you will study the following units of work:

- Unit 1 Individual Showcase: This focuses on your ability to apply for roles within performing arts. This will include a letter of application and / or audition piece.
- Unit 2 Preparation, Performance and Production: This unit focuses on preparing a piece of Dance ready for a performance. You will work in groups to put on a performance of your choice. You will take responsibility for creating the dance, performing in it and designing costumes.
- Unit 3 Dance Skills: This unit focuses on your key skills within Dance performance. Throughout this unit you will take part in practical class developing your skills in at least two Dance styles.

How is the course assessed?

This course is 75% coursework and 25% external assessment. This means there is no final written exam. Unit 1 is marked by the exam board under controlled conditions. This means that work is prepared in advance and then performed and presented to an external verifier. Units 2 and 3 are marked by your Dance teacher and internally verified.

You should expect to present the following items for assessment:

Performance, Choreography, Presentation, Logbook, Research notes, Portfolio.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

- High levels of ability in Dance.
- Good communication skills.
- An ability to work independently and creatively.
- Good organisational skills.
- Dedication and an enthusiasm for the arts.

Why should I take this course?

If you enjoy all aspects of Dance including Performance, Choreography and Appreciation and you like to work creatively and independently then this is the course for you.

Performing Arts (Drama)

BTEC, Level 2

What I will study?

This practical course aims to develop your skills in Drama performance, Choreography and Appreciation through a selection of assignments chosen to suit your skills and abilities. On this course you will study the following units of work:

Unit 1 - Individual Showcase

Unit 2 - Preparation, Performance and Production **Unit 3** Acting Skills

How is the course assessed?

This course is 75% coursework and 25% external assessment. This means there is no final written exam. Unit 1 is marked by the exam board under controlled conditions. This means that work is prepared in advance and then performed and presented to an external verifier. Units 2 and 3 are marked by your Drama teacher and internally verified.

You should expect to present the following items for assessment: Performance, Acting skills, Presentation, Logbook. Research notes, Portfolio.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

High levels of ability in Drama. Good communication skills. An ability to work independently and creatively. Good organizational skills. Dedication and an enthusiasm for the arts.

Why should I take this course?

If you have a passion for Drama and creativity and are willing to work with others. You must be prepared to work hard at both the practical and the written side of the course.

Performing Arts (Music)

GCSE

What I will study?

Much of the course is made up of performing and you will have lessons with a teacher in the instrument you play. You will need to prepare, with the help of teachers, a piece to play on your own and a piece to play in a group. Two compositions also need to be submitted and you will learn how to plan a composition, what instruments suit certain styles and how to write your music down. You will get plenty of time and support to complete these compositions and to try out new ideas live. The last part of the course is the listening paper where you have to answer questions on 5 Areas of Study. To do this you will listen to and learn about music of all different styles from Classical to Rock 'n' Roll.

How is the course assessed?

Performance – 40%.

Composition 1 – 20%.

Listening paper – 20%.

Composition 2 – 20%

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

You must be able to play an instrument or sing as this is a major part of the course (40% of your marks). Practising outside of your lessons is very important so you need to be able to structure your time well and work hard to fit this in around your other studies.

Why should I take this course?

To further your knowledge and interest in Music, and develop your instrumental / vocal skills.

Physical Education: BTEC

BTEC, Level 2

What I will study?

Most of the course will be theory based with some practical lessons.

Areas you will study include:

- Core Units: Health & Fitness for Sport & Exercise (externally assessed), Practical Sport.
- Optional Units: The Mind & Sport Performance, Training for Personal Fitness, Leading Sports Activities, The Sports Performer in Action.

How is the course assessed?

Core unit is externally assessed – 25% of the final mark. Other units are coursework based.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

You must have a good sporting participation record. You should be able to work independently when studying or completing assignments. You should also be able to work as part of a group to share ideas and produce work collaboratively.

Why should I take this course?

The course prepares students for more advanced sport courses at school, college or university and for future employment in the sports industry.

Religious Education

GCSE

What will I study?

GCSE RE is an exciting and enriching study of important moral issues designed to encourage debate. The course is divided into four units including:

Belief in God ~ this investigates the scientific explanations of the universe including the Big Bang theory and evolution, the problem of evil and suffering and how religious issues are portrayed in the media (film ~ Bruce Almighty)

Matters of Life & Death ~ this unit explores the key issues of life after death including the paranormal, abortion and euthanasia (should an individual have the right to decide when they die?). The media question is centred on the film 'Million Dollar Baby' which explores the issue of euthanasia

Marriage & the Family ~ this unit investigates the importance of marriage, issues surrounding contraception and divorce, the nature of the family and how it has changed.

Social Cohesion ~ the final unit explores the issue of racism, sexism and the importance of racial harmony. The media question focuses on the film 'Bend it like Beckham'.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed with four end of unit assessments and an external GCSE paper at the end of Year 11 where four questions are answered based on the four units of study.

What Skills / Attributes will I need to be successful?

The ability to debate and challenge the views of others with regards the origin of the universe, the presence of evil in the world and what causes people to act immorally. If you enjoy questioning, then GCSE RE provides plenty of opportunity for you to challenge and question why things happen. The most important skills for the course are to be able to analyse and evaluate the beliefs of others as well as your own.

Why should I take the course?

RE develops many of the skills that employers recognise as important. RE helps to develop good communication and written skills that are essential to English. Many of the topics studied have parallels with History, Geography, Science, Psychology and Sociology. As a subject, it supports the development of a range of transferable skills that are important in careers such as Law, Philosophy, Psychology, Teaching and Nursing.



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