

# The Forest Academy

Ks4 Options 2023



# Year 9 Options Booklet 2023

Together Fostering Achievement



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<sup>1</sup> \* = Language

<sup>2</sup> \*\* = Humanity

## Introduction

At The Forest Academy, we are passionate about the curriculum. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is broad-based and wide-ranging, and provides our pupils with the knowledge and skills that they need for the next stage in their learning journey.

As they move into years 10 and 11, pupils embark on courses leading to public examinations. This means that each pupil's curriculum becomes less wide-ranging as they start to specialise in particular subjects and prepare for these examinations.

All pupils will study English, Mathematics and Combined Science in Year 10, and will then select four other options from the options subjects. **It is expected that ALL pupils will study a Humanity (Geography or History). It is also expected that the majority of students will study a Language (French or Spanish). These subjects are labelled with a \* in this booklet.** Where selecting a Language might not be appropriate for a particular student, there will be an opportunity to discuss this at the Information, Advice and Guidance Interview. Pupils will also have core PE lessons, as well as Personal Development lessons (Personal Development lessons cover PSHE as well as aspects of careers, citizenship and Social, Moral Spiritual and Cultural development).

Our 'CALIBRE' curriculum (see page 3 for details) ensures that our pupils are extremely well prepared for life beyond TFA, and we have carefully considered how our options in Year 10 can offer progression to courses in the Sixth Form. Our curriculum is firmly rooted in our core values and ethos, with a commitment to ensuring that every single one of our pupils can identify and pursue their talents and can be pushed to achieve to the very best of their ability. This will ensure that our pupils are prepared for fulfilling and satisfying lives in work, leisure and at home.

During Year 9, pupils are given the opportunity to choose some subjects they wish to follow because it is believed that they are sufficiently mature to make such a decision; these decisions are very important. Choices need, therefore, to be made with careful thought and with the guidance of parents/carers and teachers. We would therefore encourage you to read through the information in this booklet carefully, and to fully discuss your child's options in order to support them in making the best choice for their future.

## The CALIBRE Curriculum



**CULTURAL CAPITAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT**  
Learning experiences that develop essential cultural capital and a curriculum that is tailored to the needs of the students in our community

**AMBITIOUS**  
Providing suitable challenge, pushing all students to excel and achieve to the best of their abilities

**LOGICALLY SEQUENCED**  
Structured in a way which supports development of conceptual understanding, with careful consideration of prior knowledge and next steps in the learning journey

**INTELLIGENT ASSESSMENT**  
Using carefully planned, reliable assessment to support student progress, and to identify how teaching and/or the curriculum need to be refined

**BREADTH AND DEPTH**  
Providing a broad range of experiences to allow students to identify their talents, and building a thorough rather than superficial level of understanding

**RETENTION**  
Making use of recent research on memory and learning to support long term retention of the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding

**EQUALITY**  
A curriculum that provides parity for all groups of students, supporting equality of opportunity for **all** students

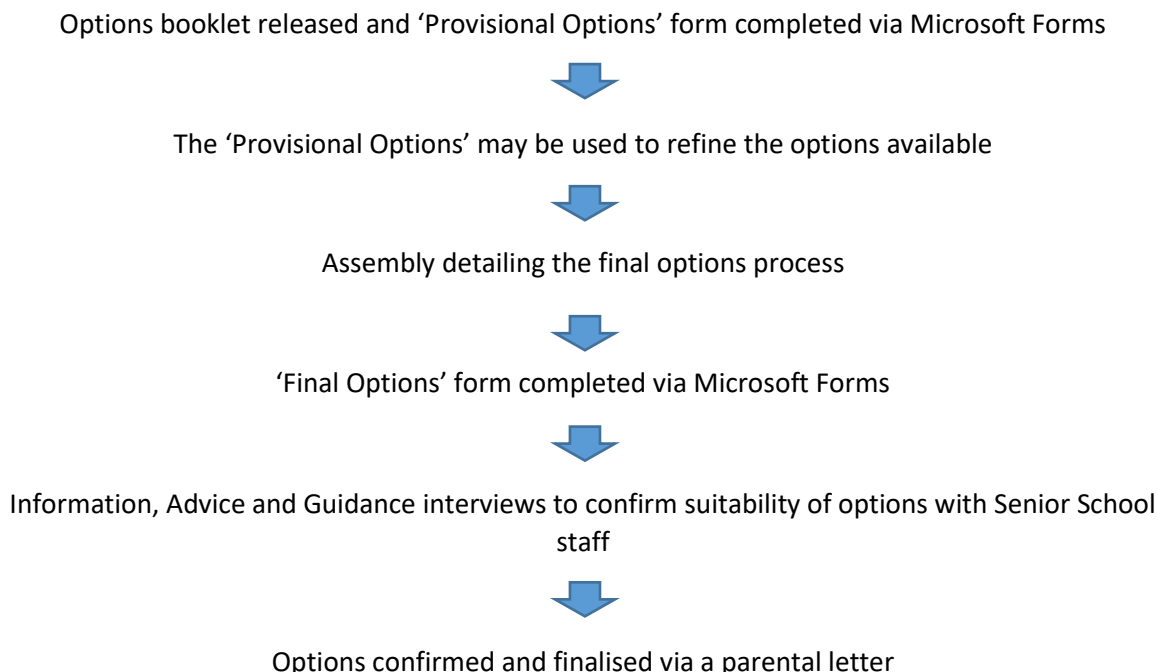
## Information, Advice and Guidance at The Forest Academy

The Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) that pupils receive whilst at The Forest Academy aims to develop the ability of pupils to identify appropriate career pathways that they might be interested in (and therefore the most appropriate options choices) and also to enhance pupils' skills in order to make them ready for the workplace.

All pupils will have an IAG interview with a senior member of staff after they have submitted their options form in Year 9. The purpose of this interview is to discuss each pupil's aspirations for the future, and to look at whether the options selected will match those aspirations as well as the pupil's interests and talents. This is further complemented by activities completed during Year 10 which look at CV writing and careers. All pupils will then have a further IAG interview during Year 11 in order to discuss their applications for Sixth Form study to ensure that they are selecting the most appropriate options and to look at entry requirements for their chosen courses. In addition, the curriculum includes further planned opportunities to allow our pupils to consider their future career plans, such as Personal Development lessons and our Careers Fair.

## Year 9 Options Process 2023

The flowchart below shows the key steps within the Year 9 options process:



Pupils will need to select a first choice and a reserve choice from each of the option blocks below.

Pupils will need to select a **Humanity (History or Geography)**. They should also select a **Language (French or Spanish)**. This will mean that they are entered for all the subjects required to achieve the English Baccalaureate (English, Maths, Science x 2, History or Geography, Language).

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
History**	French*	French*	Spanish*
Geography**	Spanish*	History**	History**
Spanish*	Geography**	Drama	Photography
PE	Construction	Music	Art
Food	History**	BTEC Digital Information Technology****	Computer Science****
Economics***	Business***	Sociology	BTEC Enterprise***
	Media Studies	Geography**	

**Please note –**

\*\*\*Disallowed combination 1 (you may not study more than one subject from the pink subjects - Business, Economics and BTEC Enterprise).

\*\*\*\*Disallowed combination 2 (You may not study both of the purple subjects - Computing and BTEC Digital Information Technology)




Please note that whilst we will endeavour to give all pupils their first choice subjects, this may not be possible and therefore some pupils will be given their reserve option. It is therefore essential to carefully consider both first choice and reserve options.

## Options – Myths and Mistakes

Pupils can at times make some mistakes when selecting their options. It is important to bear in mind that mistakes made in the process can have a significant impact on pupil progress. Here are some of the most common mistakes made by pupils selecting their options which pupils should aim to avoid:

1. **Selecting subjects which are judged to be ‘easy’** – Whilst some subjects might appeal to a particular pupil’s learning style, pupils should take care not to select a subject because they have heard that or think that it is easy. Each individual subject has its own particular challenges.
2. **Selecting options based on what friends are choosing** – Some options subjects may have several classes which means that individuals studying the same subject may be in different classes. Friends may select a course based on their own aptitudes and enjoyment of certain subjects which you yourself might not share. In addition, whilst every attempt is made to meet pupils’ choices, this is not always possible and therefore pupils may not end up studying a course even if they selected it as an option i.e. pupils may be given their reserve option.
3. **Selecting options based on wanting to be taught by a particular teacher** – As above, multiple classes for some options subjects means that there may be several teachers delivering the subject in Year 10 and 11. The timetable varies from year to year based on the staff present and the curriculum that needs to be delivered.
4. **Failing to carefully consider or think about the options** – This is an incredibly important decision. Options selected for Year 10 and 11 will likely influence those selected in the Sixth Form and beyond. It is important to consider any career aspirations that you might have and how the options selected might support those aspirations.

In addition, pupils often hear rumours about how the options process works. Below are some common ideas that pupils have about the options process which are incorrect:

1. **First come first served.**  **Wrong**  
Pupils have an equal chance of obtaining their first choice as the final decisions are made once all options interviews are complete.
2. **Putting a subject down twice (or once) guarantees a place on that course.**  **Wrong**  
You must select four different options (first choice and reserve) in each of four blocks. No option which is selected is guaranteed. You must also follow the requirement to select both a Humanity and a Language.
3. **I can change my mind in September.**  **Wrong**  
The options selected are final. Class size limits and the need to finalise the timetable / group lists mean that changing options in September is only possible in exceptional circumstances.

## **Progression to the Sixth Form**

Pupils at The Forest Academy are automatically entitled to a place within the Beal Sixth Form, a dual-campus Sixth Form which was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in 2021. As our Year 9 pupils select their options, they may want to consider how this might affect their options available within the Sixth Form. Please see some of the grade requirements for Sixth Form subjects below:

KS5 Subject	Sector	En GCSE min grade	Ma GCSE min grade	Subject Specific min grade	
English Literature	Core	6	4	English	6 6
Mathematics	Core	4	7	Maths	7
Further Mathematics	Core	4	8	Maths	8 + APS 7.5+
Biology	Core/Science	5	5	Science	6 6*
Chemistry	Core/Science	5	5	Science	6 6*
Physics	Core/Science	5	5	Science	6 6*
Geography	Humanity	5	4	Geography	5
History	Humanity	5	4	History	5
French	MFL	4	4	French	6
Psychology	Science	5	5	Science	6 6**
Business Studies	Humanity	5	4	BS, Economics or Humanity	4
Drama	Creative	5	4	Drama	4
Economics	Humanity	5	5	BS, Economics, Humanity	4
Law	Humanity	5	4	Humanity	4
Media Studies	Creative	5	4	Media, Humanity, Creative	4
Music	Creative	5	4	Music	5
Politics	Humanity	5	4	Humanity	4
Religious Studies	Humanity	5	4	RS (or Humanity)	4
Sociology	Humanity	5	4	Sociology (or Humanity)	4
Computer Science	Tech	4	6	Computing, BTEC IT	6/Mt.
Art	Creative	4	4	Art (or Photography)	4
3D Design	Creative/Tech	4	4	CDT, DT, Art, Photography or Construction	4
Photography	Creative	4	4	Photography, Art	4
BTEC Construction (double A Level equivalent)	Tech	4	4	Not applicable	
BTEC Business (can be single or double A level equivalent)	Humanity	4	4	Not applicable	
BTEC IT (single A level equivalent)	Tech	4	4	Pass in BTEC IT or 4 in GCSE Computing	
BTEC Media Studies (double level equivalent)	Creative	4	4	Not applicable	
BTEC Sport (double A level equivalent)	Creative	4	4	Pass in BTEC Sport (inc. in exam unit) or 4 in GCSE PE	
BTEC Applied Science (double A level equivalent)	Science	4	4	Pass in BTEC Science (inc. Pass in exam unit) or 4 4 in GCSE Science	
<b>Three Year Pathway. Maths and English GCSE and 3 from these subjects:</b> Applied Science, Food Nutrition and Preparation, Construction, Information and Creative Technology, Financial Information, Creative Digital Media Production, Photography, Citizenship					3 Eg and/or Ma

## Core Curriculum

### ENGLISH

Exam board and course name	AQA English Language 8700 AQA English Literature 8702
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	The course will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>At the end of each half term, students will sit an examination paper or examination question.</p> <p>Year 10:</p> <p>Term 1 – An Inspector Calls</p> <p>Term 2—Language paper 1</p> <p>Term 3 – Love and Relationship poems from the AQA Anthology</p> <p>Term 4 – The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</p> <p>Term 5 – Language paper 2</p> <p>Term 6 – Love and Relationship poems from AQA Anthology</p> <p>At the end of Year 11, students will sit two examination papers for English Language. Paper 1, Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. Paper 2, Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives, looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time.</p> <p>The Speaking and Listening Assessment will emphasise the importance of the wider benefits that speaking and listening skills have for students.</p> <p>For English Literature, students will sit two examination papers. Paper 1 will test students on a Shakespearean text and a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel. Paper 2 will test students on the AQA Love and Relationship poetry and a modern text.</p> <p>Over the two year course students will study the following texts:</p> <p>An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley</p> <p>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Louis Stevenson</p>



	Macbeth by William Shakespeare AQA Love and Relationship Anthology
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	The skills in English can lead you into a range of careers, such as being a journalist, screenwriter, author, poet or solicitor. However, the skills in English are transferrable and could apply to numerous careers.

### **MATHEMATICS**

Exam board	Edexcel Maths GCSE
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>The course is designed to give students a solid understanding in basic Mathematical ideas and concepts.</p> <p>1 Number 2 Algebra 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change 4 Geometry and measures 5 Probability 6 Statistics</p>
Are there tiered exams?	<p>There are two tiers of entry for this course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher: Grades 4 to 9 available</li> <li>• Foundation: Grades 1 to 5 available</li> </ul>
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>There are 3 examination papers for this course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x non-calculator</li> <li>• 2 x calculator</li> </ul> <p>The course is assessed through three exam papers sat at the end of year 11. Two papers are Calculator and one is a Non-Calculator paper.</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	Mathematics is a key component of many exciting careers, from engineering to medicine, and business and finance to space exploration. Numeracy skills that are developed are also highly valued by employers.

## **COMBINED SCIENCE**

Exam board	Exam Board: OCR Combined Sciences Course Name: GCSE Gateway Science Suite - Combined Science A
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>Key topics covered:</p> <p>Biology: Cell structure, organ systems, ecosystems, genes, inheritance and natural selection.</p> <p>Chemistry: Particle model, predicting chemical reactions, monitoring and controlling chemical reactions.</p> <p>Physics: Matter, forces, energy, electricity, waves and radioactivity</p> <p>This qualification is worth two Science GCSEs and covers a balance of the three Sciences Biology, Physics and Chemistry. The course provides the foundation for understanding the material world.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	<p>There are two tiers of entry for this course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Higher: Grades 9-9 to 4-3 available</li><li>• Foundation: Grades 5-5 to 1-1 available</li></ul>
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>There are six written examinations in total (two papers in Biology, two papers in Chemistry and two papers in Physics). Each exam lasts for 1 hour 10 minutes. There are 60 marks in each examination and each is worth 16.7% (one sixth) of the GCSE. The questions are a mixture of: multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>This is the choice made by the vast majority of students nationwide and is an excellent preparation for university or many Science based careers (e.g. Nursing) and trades (e.g. electrician or gas engineer).</p>

## Options Subjects

### ART AND DESIGN

Exam board	AQA GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>The aim of the course is to ensure that a broad and balanced curriculum is taught. You will be able to develop a higher level of skills and expertise in a range of Art and Design techniques. You will also gain a greater awareness of the visual world and certain aspects of the History of Art. Art and Design is a practical subject and lesson time will be almost exclusively spent in the creation of original art and design work. This will involve a lot of independent research and investigation, including continuous written documentation and analysis of your own and others' work.</p> <p>The work produced consists of a series of Art projects set by the Art and Design staff. The topics are mark making and personal identity. There will then be an external exam project, which will be set by the exam board. The Artwork will be both two and three-dimensional; you will use a range of materials throughout the course. Homework tasks are an essential part of the course and you will be expected to learn to work independently, demonstrating resourcefulness and self-motivation.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>The course is made up of two components as set out below:</p> <p>Component 1: Coursework Students will produce a sketchbook containing 2 sustained projects. This component is worth 60% of overall grade.</p> <p>Component 2: Externally set exam paper Student will select a question from an externally set paper and produce a sustained investigation resulting in 1 process book and a final piece. Students will also complete a 10 hour set examination at the conclusion of this project. At the end of the course all candidates' work is marked by the art department to receive a final grade, which is checked for fairness and accuracy by a moderator from the examining board.</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>A good level of skill and ability is called for if you are considering joining the course. Art is a very enjoyable subject to take part in but you must have a foundation of skills to begin with. A successful GCSE student must also exhibit enthusiasm and commitment and be willing to work hard on developing his/her creative potential.</p> <p>For those students who are interested in taking their studies further, there are a number of post 16 Art and Design courses available. At Forest Academy, we offer A level Art and A level Photography in the Sixth Form.</p>

## **BUSINESS**

Exam board	Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>Topics</p> <p><u>Theme 1 Investigating Small Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise and entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Spotting a business opportunity</li> <li>• Putting a business idea into practice</li> <li>• Making the business effective</li> <li>• Understanding external influences on business</li> </ul> <p><u>Theme 2 Building a Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing the business</li> <li>• Making marketing decisions</li> <li>• Making operational decisions</li> <li>• Making financial decisions</li> <li>• Making human resource decisions</li> </ul> <p>By learning about these areas, students will gain an understanding of the core concepts, issues and skills that are involved in starting and running a small business. Students will examine these in relation to mainly local and national businesses in the UK.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>Theme 1 Paper</p> <p>Theme 2 Paper</p> <p>Each assessment is 1 hour and 30 minutes and out of 90 marks. The paper is divided into three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section A: 35 marks</li> <li>• Section B: 30 marks</li> <li>• Section C: 25 marks</li> </ul>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>This qualification is designed to offer candidates the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding that will prepare them for entry into employment at trainee level within some business environments.</p> <p>Candidates can progress onto a Level 3 course or A-levels if they achieve this qualification along with grades 9 - 4 in English, Maths and meet other requirements for particular subjects.</p>



## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam board	AQA Computer Science
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>Computer Science introduces the scientific and technical side of working with IT and computers. The technical and scientific nature of this course means that it is included in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc.) as a “Science” subject.</p> <p>This exciting new course has been designed to develop your IT skills through practical activities, but also to help you develop a detailed technical understanding about how computers work. Aimed at the future “App” developers, problem solvers, programmers and computer scientists, you will learn in detail how these devices, which we rely so much upon, actually work, and how to write computer programs to solve problems. You will be programming in Python throughout the 2 years. Although there are practical elements, this GCSE course will be assessed through two examinations worth 50% each.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>The course is assessed through two exams:</p> <p><b>Paper 1: Computational thinking and programming skills</b></p> <p>What's assessed?</p> <p>Computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.</p> <p>How it's assessed?</p> <p>Written exam: 2 hours; 90 marks; 50% of GCSE</p> <p><b>Paper 2: Computing concepts</b></p> <p>What's assessed?</p> <p>Theory content.</p> <p>How it's assessed?</p> <p>Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes; 90 marks; 50% of GCSE</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>Students should study this subject as the career opportunities in this field are vast and are increasing all the time. Students will develop computational thinking skills as well as a technical understanding of how computers work.</p> <p>They will also develop vital programming skills which they will showcase via exams and classwork.</p> <p>The course provides an excellent foundation for further study within the Sixth Form and beyond, and will help to develop a wide range of useful skills.</p>

## **CONSTRUCTING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Exam board	WJEC Level 1/2 Construction in the Built Environment
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>This course has been designed to allow learners to develop the understanding and skills related to a range of construction principles.</p> <p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be introduced to the principles of the built environment.</li> <li>• Develop skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment.</li> <li>• Explore a range of professional and trade roles</li> <li>• Explore some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment.</li> </ul> <p>Study three construction trade areas of the built environment, including planning, undertaking and evaluating construction tasks.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>This qualification is made up two external assessments. These will be worth 50% of the qualification, and include one 60 minute and one 120 minute exam.</p> <p>In addition, there is an internally assessed component. This Unit will be assessed via project work, which is worth 50% of the qualification. Throughout this unit students will learn to interpret technical information in order to identify materials, tools and equipment needed to complete construction tasks.</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>Would you love the opportunity to transform the world around you? Are you looking to learn about new technologies, materials and processes that are involved in construction projects? Do you want to develop a good foundation for a successful career in construction? If so, it's time to uncover your potential. This subject will allow you to develop your understanding and skills to realise the answer to these questions. It is a fun and exciting subject with practical work to complete. The construction industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities, from tradesperson to leading large scale construction projects, and from an architect to renovator of our historic built environment. It is also an ideal route for progression onto the Level 3 Construction course we offer at TFA (Beal sixth form).</p>

## DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (BTEC)

Exam board	Pearson BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Digital Information Technology						
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces and dashboards as a way to present and interpret data</li> <li>• Process that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct</li> <li>• Attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication</li> <li>• Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.</li> </ul> <p>It is an introduction to the application of project planning techniques to plan, design and develop a user interface, how to collect, present and interpret data and the use of digital systems.</p> <p>By learning about these areas, students will gain an understanding of the core concepts, issues and skills that are involved in starting and running a small business. Students will examine these in relation to mainly local and national businesses in the UK.</p>						
Are there tiered exams?	No						
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>Components 1 and 2 are Coursework:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Component</th><th>Description of Pearson-set Assignment</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques</b></td><td> <p>Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.</p> <p>The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of supervised assessment.</p> <p>60 marks.</p> </td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data</b></td><td> <p>Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.</p> <p>The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of supervised assessment.</p> <p>60 marks.</p> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	Description of Pearson-set Assignment	<b>Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques</b>	<p>Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.</p> <p>The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of supervised assessment.</p> <p>60 marks.</p>	<b>Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data</b>	<p>Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.</p> <p>The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of supervised assessment.</p> <p>60 marks.</p>
Component	Description of Pearson-set Assignment						
<b>Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques</b>	<p>Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.</p> <p>The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of supervised assessment.</p> <p>60 marks.</p>						
<b>Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data</b>	<p>Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.</p> <p>The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of supervised assessment.</p> <p>60 marks.</p>						

	<p>Component 3 is an external written exam:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Component</th><th>Description of external assessment</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices</b></td><td> <p>External assessment set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions.</p> <p>The assessment will be completed in 1 hour 30 minutes within the period timetabled by Pearson.</p> <p>60 marks.</p> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	Description of external assessment	<b>Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices</b>	<p>External assessment set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions.</p> <p>The assessment will be completed in 1 hour 30 minutes within the period timetabled by Pearson.</p> <p>60 marks.</p>
Component	Description of external assessment				
<b>Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices</b>	<p>External assessment set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions.</p> <p>The assessment will be completed in 1 hour 30 minutes within the period timetabled by Pearson.</p> <p>60 marks.</p>				
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects including Computer Science, Business Studies/Finance and Product Design</li> <li>• Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector</li> </ul> <p>Candidates can progress onto a Level 3 course or A-levels if they achieve this qualification along with grades 9 - 4 in English, Maths and meet other requirements for particular subjects.</p>				

## **DRAMA**

Exam board	AQA GCSE Drama
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>GCSE Drama is about the artistic and creative exploration of key world issues and texts. It allows for students to develop their creativity as well as develop key skills that can help with the future world of work.</p> <p>Key topics and themes that can be explored within Drama are: Mental Health, Family, Community issues, the environment, Learning from historical events, Religion, Conflict within life and social groups, Love, Growing up, Illness, Emotions.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>The GCSE is split across the two years, with students completing mock versions of the individual GCSE components while also developing the vital skills needed for the completion of the GCSE.</p> <p>The GCSE is split into three individual components with a 60% practical to 40% written split.</p> <p><u>Component 2: Devising Theatre</u></p> <p>Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated</p>



	<p>40% of qualification - 80 marks</p> <p>Learners are required to devise a piece of original theatre in response to a stimulus, using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or the characteristics of a genre of drama.</p> <p><u>Component 3: Performing from a Text</u></p> <p>Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner</p> <p>20% of qualification - 40 marks</p> <p>Learners are required to participate in a performance from a text. Learners will gain a deeper understanding of how to interpret a text for performance and realise artistic intentions.</p> <p><u>Component 1: Understanding Drama</u></p> <p>Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p>40% of qualification - 80 marks</p> <p>This component requires learners to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed through the study of a performance text and through responding to live theatre.</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>GCSE Drama allows for students to develop other key life skills that can be applied to the wide work world.</p> <p>These skills include communication, teamwork, resilience, time management, confidence, leadership, focus, interview skills, reasoning, empathy and problem solving.</p> <p>This subject compliments GCSE English and History as well as languages well, helping to develop your ability to see things from different angles and perspectives and by helping you to understand different artistic and historical views.</p> <p>A GCSE in Drama can lead to numerous different areas of study due the skills that Drama develops. In the future students can go on to study subject such as Medicine, Teaching, Law, Politics, English, Psychology, Social Services, Computer Science and Drama and Theatre.</p>

## ECONOMICS

Exam board	AQA GCSE Economics
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	GCSE Economics will allow students to understand how markets and the economy work, helping them to develop an economic awareness to benefit them personally and professionally for years to come. The course will provide students with lots of opportunities to explore today's economic issues, and will tackle problems related to the economy, business, society and the environment.
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>GCSE Economics will be assessed through two exams:</p> <p><u>Paper 1 – How Markets Work – Content 1-6</u>  1 hour 45 minute exam – 80 marks  50% of the GCSE  This unit will explore economic foundations, resource allocation as well as ideas about how prices are determined. It will also cover ideas about production, costs, revenue and profit, as well as competitive markets and market failure.</p> <p><u>Paper 2 – How the Economy Works – Content 7-11</u>  1 hour 45 minute exam – 80 marks  50% of the GCSE  This unit will introduce the national economy, government objectives and how the government manages the economy. It will also explore international trade and the global economy, as well as the role of money and financial markets.</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>GCSE Economics will help students to develop a wide range of communication, critical thinking and analytical skills. Students will have the opportunity to debate and discuss different viewpoints, and the course provides an excellent progression route to the A Level Economics course. It is well suited to students who are interested in current affairs.</p> <p>Associated job opportunities are diverse, ranging from data analyst, financial risk analyst and stockbroker. Other potential career paths linked to Economics include roles including those as a statistician, a chartered accountant or an investment analyst.</p>

## **ENTERPRISE (BTEC)**

Exam board	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>Component 1: Exploring Enterprises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand how and why enterprises and entrepreneurs are successful</li> <li>• Understand customer needs and competitor behaviour through market research</li> <li>• Understand how the outcomes of situational analyses may affect enterprises</li> </ul> <p>Component 2: Planning and Presenting a Micro-Enterprise Idea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose an idea and produce a plan for a micro-enterprise idea</li> <li>• Present a plan for the micro-enterprise idea to meet specific requirements</li> <li>• Review the presentation of the micro-enterprise idea to meet specific requirements</li> </ul> <p>Component 3: Marketing and Finance for Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing activities</li> <li>• Financial documents and statements</li> <li>• Financial planning and forecasting</li> </ul> <p>Students will gain knowledge and understanding of business-specific vocational contexts. They will study enterprises, entrepreneurs, customers, competitors, the external environment, business planning, marketing and finance.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>Component 1 internally assesses student work with 3 set tasks and is marked out of 60. It carries 30% weighting of the overall qualification.</p> <p>Component 2 internally assesses student work with 4 set tasks and is marked out of 60. It carries 30% weighting of the overall qualification.</p> <p>Component 3 is an external synoptic exam and is externally marked, out of 60. The length of the assessment is 2 hours and carries 40% weighting of the overall qualification.</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>The Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise qualification enables students to develop their transferable skills, such as researching, planning, making decisions and financial literacy using current as well as practical vocational contexts.</p> <p>Therefore, it will prepare students for entry into employment at trainee level within a business environment.</p> <p>Alternatively, students can progress onto a Level 3 course or A-levels if they achieve this qualification along with grades 9 - 4 in English, Mathematics and meets other requirements for particular subjects.</p>

## FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Exam board	WJEC (Eduqas) GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition.
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>The GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life. The specification is designed to create a balance between practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>By studying Food Preparation and Nutrition, learners will learn these topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.</li> <li>• Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks.</li> <li>• Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health</li> <li>• Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices.</li> <li>• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.</li> <li>• Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.</li> </ul>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p><b>ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS:</b></p> <p><b>1. <u>Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition</u></b> Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of the qualification.</p> <p><b>2. <u>Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action</u></b> Non-examination assessment 50% of the qualification</p> <p><b>Assessment 1:</b> The Food Investigation Assessment 15% of total qualification.</p>



	<b>Assessment 2:</b> The Food Preparation Assessment 35% of total qualification.
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>Nutritional Sciences degree can be the foundation for career opportunities in areas such as:</p> <p>Quality Control Manager (Food); Food Technologist - new product development; Animal nutritionist; Dietitian; Food technologist; Nutritional therapist; Public Health Nutritionist; Product/process development scientist; Technical brewer; Toxicologist; Clinical Dietitian; Food Chemist; Food Scientist; Food and Nutrition Management; Public Health Nutrition; Education and Research Consultant/Private Practice; Related Health Professionals ; Business and Industry; Media; International Food Organizations ; Public Policy/Government; Restaurant Managers; Chef.</p>

#### **FRENCH\* (French counts as a Language)**

Exam board	Edexcel GCSE French
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics.</p> <p>The five themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identity and culture</li> <li>● Local area, holiday and travel</li> <li>● School</li> <li>● Future aspirations, study and work</li> <li>● International and global dimension.</li> </ul> <p>All themes and topics must be studied in the context of both the students' home country and that of countries and communities where French is spoken. For listening and reading assessments, the majority of contexts are based on the culture and countries where the assessed language is spoken. Students may also refer to the culture of the assessed language country/countries or communities in the speaking and writing papers. It is, therefore, important that students are exposed to materials relating to French-speaking countries throughout the course.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	<p>There are two tiers of entry for this course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Higher: Grades 3 to 9 available</li> <li>● Foundation: Grades 1 to 5 available</li> </ul>

<p>How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)</p>	<p>The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in French consists of four externally examined papers based on the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students must complete their speaking assessment in April/May and all other assessments in May/June in any single year.</p> <p>Paper 1: Listening and understanding in French *(Paper code: 1FR0/1F and 1H) 25% of the total qualification</p> <p>Paper 2: Speaking in French *(Paper code: 1FR0/2F and 2H) 25% of the total qualification</p> <p>Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French *(Paper code: 1FR0/3F and 3H) 25% of the total qualification</p> <p>Written examination 25% of the total qualification</p> <p>Paper 4: Writing in French *(Paper code: 1FR0/4F and 4H) Written examination 25% of the total qualification</p>
<p>Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?</p>	<p>Nearly 300 million people speak French on the five continents. The OIF, an international organisation of French-speaking countries, comprises 88 member States and governments. French is the 5th most widely learned foreign language, and the 4th most widely spoken language in the world. French is also the only language, alongside English, that is taught in every country in the world. France operates the biggest international network of cultural institutes, which run French-language courses for close on a million learners. The ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market. A knowledge of French opens the doors of French companies in France and other French-speaking parts of the world. As one of the world's largest economies and a leading destination for foreign investment, France is a key economic partner. Job opportunities include: Translator; Interpreter; Publishing (editor); Resort staff; Flight attendant; Diplomat; Canadian government; French teacher</p>

## GEOGRAPHY\*\* (Geography counts as a Humanity)

Exam board	Edexcel - Geography A (1GA1)
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>The course is divided into three sections:</p> <p>Component 1 - The Physical Environment - including Coasts, Rivers, Landscapes, Weather and Climate and Ecosystems (37.5% of the course).</p> <p>Component 2 - The Human Environment - including British and Global Cities, Global Development, Industry and Energy Management (37.5% of the course).</p> <p>Component 3 - Geographical Investigations - Fieldwork and UK Challenges - including Physical and Human Geography fieldwork, Climate Change, Sustainability, Migration and Settlement (25% of the course).</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	Students will complete three examinations at the end of the course; each examination lasts for 90 minutes. Students will complete two fieldwork assignments, but these are assessed within the Component 3 examination.
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	Geography as a GCSE subject compliments Mathematics, English Language and Science, utilising key skills gained through these subjects. Geography is a traditional, well-respected subject that can be used to support applications for all scientific A-Levels and degree courses. A range of employment areas, such as Law, Engineering and Scientific Research also use the skills developed within a Geographical education.

## HISTORY\*\* (History counts as a Humanity)

Exam board	Edexcel - History GCSE
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>The course is divided into three sections:</p> <p>Component 1 - Thematic Study - Crime and Punishment c.1000 to Present and Whitechapel c.1870-1900 (30% of the course)</p> <p>Component 2 - British Depth Study and Period Study - Early Elizabethan Society c.1558-1588, and Superpower relations c. 1941-1991 (40% of the course).</p> <p>Component 3 - Modern Depth Study - Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919-1939 (30% of the course).</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	Students will complete three examinations - Component 1 (1 hour and 15 minutes), Component 2 (1 hour and 45 minutes), Component 3 (1 hour and 20 minutes). There is no coursework requirement in the GCSE.
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	History is a well-respected, traditional subject that relates well to the abilities developed in English Language and Literature. It will help to build analytical skills, with extensive written comprehension and source analysis. GCSE History is accepted as a qualifying subject for a wide range of A-Level and degree options, including Law, Modern History, Philosophy and Politics.

## MEDIA STUDIES

Exam board	WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9-1) in MEDIA STUDIES
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>Learners study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework, which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.</p> <p>The aims of the course are to enable the students to develop investigative, critical thinking and decision-making skills through consideration of issues that are important, real and relevant to learners and to the world in which they live, through media. We encourage the students to develop their practical and creative skills through opportunities for personal engagement and creativity and understand how to use media concepts and ideas to analyse media productions in their various contexts.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p><b>Component 1, Exploring the Media</b>, Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 40% of qualification - 80 marks</p> <p><b>Overview:</b> This component provides a foundation for analysing media products, introducing learners to media language and representation through the study of print media forms.</p>

	<p><b>Component 2, Understanding Media Forms and Products.</b> Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. 30% of qualification - 60 marks</p> <p><b>Overview.</b> This component builds on the introduction to key areas of the theoretical framework provided in Component 1. In Component 2, learners will gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of media language and representation, as well as extending their appreciation of these areas through the study of <b>media industries</b> and <b>audiences</b>.</p> <p><b>Component 3. Creating Media Products</b> Non-exam assessment: internally assessed and externally moderated by WJEC. 30% of qualification. 60 marks</p> <p><b>Overview.</b> This component draws together knowledge and understanding of the media theoretical framework gained throughout the course by requiring learners to apply their knowledge and understanding of the media synoptically (<b>Component 1 &amp; 2</b>) through practical production (<b>you get to plan and create a website</b>).</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>This qualification is designed to give learners a good understanding of media production. Learners gain knowledge and skills in areas such as single camera techniques, lighting, sound recording and editing.</p> <p>This qualification would enable further study at level 2 and 3, providing the theoretical basis for working at these levels and for pursuing further development in media and arts based subjects at university, apprenticeships and employment.</p>

## MUSIC

Exam board	Edexcel
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>In GCSE Music, students investigate, analyse and evaluate music and its features. Building on this, and by using practical methods, students are encouraged to take a more holistic view of their knowledge, performance and compositional skills. Students will learn to perform, compose and appreciate different types of music, developing critical and creative thinking, cultural, aesthetic and emotional awareness, and the ability to make music individually and as part of a group. The set works enable students to conduct in-depth studies into different musical styles and genres, and put them in a wider context.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No

<p>How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)</p>	<p>The GCSE is split across the two years, with students completing mock versions of the individual GCSE components while also developing the vital skills needed for the completion of the GCSE. The GCSE is split into three individual components:</p> <p><u>Component 1: Performing</u></p> <p>Non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated</p> <p>30% of the qualification - 60 marks</p> <p>Content overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solo performing</li> <li>• Ensemble performing</li> <li>• Approaches to performing</li> </ul> <p><u>Component 2: Composing</u></p> <p>Non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated</p> <p>30% of the qualification - 60 marks</p> <p>Content overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing musical ideas</li> <li>• Compositional techniques and strategies</li> <li>• Ensuring technical control and coherence</li> <li>• Methods of notating composition scores</li> </ul> <p><u>Component 3: Appraising</u></p> <p>Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes</p> <p>40% of the qualification - 80 marks</p> <p>Content overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.</li> </ul> <p>Areas of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instrumental Music 1700–1820</li> <li>• Vocal Music</li> <li>• Music for Stage and Screen</li> <li>• Fusions.</li> </ul>
<p>Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?</p>	<p>GCSE Music is both creative and academic. Not only could it lead to industry careers within music, but a number of careers require the skills and attributes that GCSE music promotes: Performing, confidence, team-work, resilience, creativity, problem solving, analysing and critical thinking. Due to the analysis and critical thinking skills in particular, GCSE music often sits well alongside Maths. It is also partnered well with Drama due to the performing and creative aspects.</p>



## PE

Exam board	Eduqas
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>The P.E department run the GCSE Eduqas P.E Course. This course involves a range of theoretical content regarding: Healthy active Lifestyles; Anatomy &amp; Physiology; Social Issues; Sports Psychology; Biomechanics.</p> <p>The theoretical content makes up 60% of the overall grade. A further 30% of their overall grade will be based on their practical performance across 3 sports.</p> <p>The final 10% is made up from a coursework element where students look into fitness test results and create a training plan.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>Students will sit one written exam paper. This exam paper will be a synoptic paper that incorporates learned information from all 5 topics of the GCSE. The written exam will take place in the second year of the course, allowing students to fully develop their understanding of the key concepts associated with GCSE P.E. Coursework units are assessed internally.</p> <p>Students will then be selected to perform in 3 of their best sports. They must demonstrate skills in both a team and individual sport. Each sport has a raw mark of 20.</p> <p>The Coursework element of the course is also marked out of a raw score of 20. This element is externally moderated.</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>One of the main reasons to study Sport is because of the vast nature of the sports industry. It is one of the most employed industries worldwide and offers a wide variety of jobs and potential career pathways. If you select this course you have the potential to study the following subjects at university:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BA (Hons) in Sports Development and Management</li><li>• BSc (Hons) Sports Business Management</li><li>• BSc (Hons) Sport and Leisure Management</li><li>• BSc (Hons) Sports Science (Outdoor Activities)</li><li>• BSc (Hons) in Exercise, Health and Fitness</li><li>• BSc (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Psychology.</li></ul> <p>Selecting this sport course can also help you achieve the following career pathways listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sport Psychologist; PE teacher; Sports Coach; First team fitness coach; Sport science lecturer; Physiotherapist; Personal trainer; Sport scientist; Play leader; Competition manager</li></ul> <p>Sport is an incredibly diverse industry that can be linked with a number of other subjects such as: Business, Media &amp; Science. On top of that it encourages students to maintain a healthy lifestyle, develop core skills, improve leadership and confidence and develops positive role models.</p>

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam board	AQA GCSE Art and Design: Photography
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>At TFA we have a creative approach to photography. As such, you will explore photography through traditional and post contemporary mediums. You will gain skills in image taking and making, including digital and analogue film, traditional darkroom processes, digital and manual manipulations and photographic studio techniques etc.</p> <p>As well as exploring and gaining technical skills, you will also explore the nature of the photograph and its importance today; this will include exploring a number of photographic genres in order to develop your way of seeing.</p> <p>You will work in several areas of light and lens based media, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portraiture</li> <li>• Landscape photography (working from the built or natural environment)</li> <li>• Still Life photography (working from natural or manufactured objects)</li> <li>• Documentary photography, photo journalism, narrative photography, reportage</li> <li>• Fine Art photography, photographic installation</li> <li>• New media practice such as computer manipulated photography and photographic projections</li> </ul>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>The course is made up of two components as set out below:</p> <p>Component 1: Coursework</p> <p>Students will produce 2 process books containing 2 sustained projects and 1 small introduction journal.</p> <p>This component is worth 60% of the overall grade.</p> <p>Component 2: Externally set exam paper</p> <p>Student will select a question from an externally set paper and produce a sustained investigation resulting in 1 process book and a final piece.</p> <p>Students will also complete a 10 hour set examination at the conclusion of this project.</p> <p>At the end of the course all candidates' work is marked by the art department to receive a final grade, which is checked for fairness and accuracy by a moderator from the examining board.</p>

Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>Studying photography will allow you to expand your skills and immerse yourself in a new subject that you have previously not been able to study. You will work independently and as a peer group to produce and explore photography through experimental and traditional practices.</p> <p>You will learn valuable skills such as image editing, darkroom processes, studio lighting techniques, understanding images, use of professional photographic equipment etc. that will enable you to progress in many different creative fields for study or employment. These include the magazine, TV, music and social media industries, as well as commercial photography, art photography, medical photography, teaching etc.</p>
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### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RS)**

Exam board	Edexcel - GCSE Religious Studies
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>The course is divided into four main components, selected by staff within the Religious Studies department as being most suitable for our students:</p> <p>Component 1 - Islam - Islamic Beliefs, Marriage and Family Life, Living the Muslim Life</p> <p>Component 2 - Ethics - Matters of Life and Death</p> <p>Component 3 - Christianity - Christian Beliefs, Religious Experiences, Living the Christian Life</p> <p>Component 4 - Philosophy - Equality</p>
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	Students will complete two 1 hour 45 minute examinations - Paper 1 covers Components 1 and 2, and Paper 2 covers Components 3 and 4.
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	Religious Studies is a good GCSE option for all students who work well in English Language, English Literature and the other Humanities subjects. Students who enjoy reading and written comprehension, research tasks and debating current affairs will enjoy the subject. Religious Studies relates well to Sociology, Politics and Philosophy at A-Level, and can be a sought-after option for careers in Law, Local Government and Education.

## SOCIOLOGY

Exam board	Qualification Type: GCSE Exam Board: AQA Specification Number: 8192
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	Sociology is the study of human behaviour. It examines how people shape and are shaped by institutions around us (such as the education system, family and the criminal justice system). Sociology is literacy-based subject, which will complement the skills gained during your GCSE English and English Literature courses. You will get a lot of essay-writing and source-analysis practice, which will be useful for both subjects.
Are there tiered exams?	No
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>100% exam at the end of Year 11 (two papers).</p> <p>The topics/ papers to be covered are:</p> <p>Taught in Year 10: Paper 1: (50% of the GCSE – 100 marks) 1 hour 45 mins Topics include: - The sociology of families - The sociology of education - Relevant areas of social theory and methodology</p> <p>Taught in Year 11: Paper 2: (50 % of the GCSE - 100 marks) 1 hour 45 mins Topics include: - The sociology of crime and deviance - The sociology of social stratification - Relevant areas of social theory and methodology</p> <p>Formative assessment takes place throughout the course (students complete end of unit tests for each unit covered for year 10 and 11).</p> <p>Example exam question: Discuss how far sociologists agree that roles and relationships within the family are symmetrical (12 marks).</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>Students at GCSE can go on to take an A level in Sociology and pursue careers such as law, journalism, politics, social and policy research and health fields. The subject allows students to enhance their communication and analytical skills through class debates and the examination of different theoretical perspectives on social issues.</p> <p>Students are able to develop their literacy skills through in depth essay writing and become independent learners by carrying out sociological research projects.</p>

## SPANISH\* (Spanish counts as a Language)

Exam board	Edexcel GCSE Spanish
Course description (what is this subject about / key topics and themes)?	<p>Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics.</p> <p>The five themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity and culture</li> <li>• Local area, holiday and travel</li> <li>• School</li> <li>• Future aspirations, study and work</li> <li>• International and global dimension.</li> </ul> <p>For listening and reading assessments, the majority of contexts are based on the culture and countries where the assessed language is spoken. Students may also refer to the culture of the assessed language country/countries or communities in the speaking and writing papers. It is, therefore, important that students are exposed to materials relating to Spanish-speaking countries throughout the course.</p>
Are there tiered exams?	<p>There are two tiers of entry for this course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher: Grades 3 to 9 available</li> <li>• Foundation: Grades 1 to 5 available</li> </ul>
How is the course assessed? (including details of practical work / controlled assessment)	<p>Paper 1: Listening and understanding in Spanish *(Paper code: 1SP0/1F and 1H) 25% of the total qualification</p> <p>Paper 2: Speaking in Spanish *(Paper code: 1SP0/2F and 2H) 25% of the total qualification</p> <p>Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Spanish *(Paper code: 1SP0/3F and 3H) 25% of the total qualification</p> <p>Paper 4: Writing in Spanish *(Paper code: 1SP0/4F and 4H) Written examination 25% of the total qualification</p>
Why should I study this subject / what areas of study could this subject lead to in the future?	<p>Spoken by over 500 million people worldwide, Spanish is currently the 3rd most spoken language in the world. There are 21 countries in the world that have Spanish as an official language. In the USA, many states are bi-lingual, speaking English and Spanish. Knowing the language will make your travel experiences in beautiful Spain and Latin America much easier. A good grasp of the Spanish language will be a valuable window into helping you learn about the true culture of the areas you visit, which will truly enhance your travel experience. Knowledge of a foreign language can help open doors to job opportunities that you might not have had access to before. There are a number of jobs that require a basic proficiency in another language. In this global world, the more people that you can communicate with, the more valuable you are as an employee. Job opportunities include: Teacher; Interpreter/Translator; Medical Professional; Writer</p>