



Options Booklet
Rushden Academy
2022



OPTIONS - Introduction

Dear Students & Parents/Carers

In this booklet you will find all the information that is relevant to the Year 9 Options & Careers process. In March 2022, you will choose the Key Stage 4 courses that you will study throughout years 10 and 11. The subjects you choose could influence the courses that you then take at Key Stage 5 as well as the next steps you take to an apprenticeship, a university course and employment. It is therefore vitally important that you consider carefully the choices you are about to make.

Please make a note of all the key dates and deadlines and please take advantage of all the opportunities available throughout the options process to help make informed decisions.

Key dates:

Year 9 Options Evening: Wednesday 9th March 2022 - This is an ideal opportunity to find out more about the courses and to talk to staff about whether you are suitable for the subjects that you are thinking about choosing.

Options forms emailed to Students & Parents/Carers: Thursday 10th March

Deadline for Options to be completed online: Friday 18th March.

Students will be informed of the options they have been allocated during the summer term.

This booklet outlines the curriculum offered and the choices open to pupils at Rushden Academy, as well as information about each subject and qualification.

If you have any queries regarding options choices, please speak to the form tutor, subject teacher, Head of Department, Head of Year or myself.

We look forward to welcoming you into Year 10 in September 2022,

Mr Trevor Billam
Vice Principal

Miss Lydia Montgomery
Head of Year 9

The Curriculum Model

Every pupil will study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core PE
- 4 Options subjects that must include at **least one of the subjects in bold print** on the list below. (Please ensure that you check the notes with Triple Science, Art and Graphics.)

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Geography	Geography	History	Triple Science (Check with E Jepson or A Blackshaw)
History	Photography	Photography	Art (Not with Graphics)
German	Child Development	Art (Not with Graphics)	Graphics (Not with Art)
French	Sociology	Health and Social	Sociology
	Performing Arts Acting (Not with Tech)	Sport Studies	Sport Studies
	IT	Performing Arts Tech (Not with Acting)	Dance
	Music	Performing Arts Acting (Not with Tech)	
		Business	

We aim to ensure as many students as possible get the choices they have made. Unfortunately, this is not a guarantee as if numbers are low for a course it may not be able to be offered.

Qualifications

We offer a range of GCSEs and BTECs at Rushden so please talk to the teachers regarding the type of qualification that they offer if you are unsure.

GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education

These are academic qualifications which are required to be followed in order to progress to A Levels, Post 16 vocational courses and apprenticeships. They are graded on 1-9 (9 being the highest). They are assessed by exams only. A standard 5 is considered to be a good pass.

BTEC Qualifications (Tech awards)

Vocational qualifications can lead to a range of Post 16 courses, apprenticeships and employment. They are assessed by coursework and exam. You can gain a Pass, Merit or Distinction, where a pass is equivalent to a standard 4/5 at GCSE.

How to choose your options

Do

- Pick subjects that are your strength. Which subjects are you good at? Read your reports and ask your subject teachers.
- Pick subjects you think you'll enjoy? It is important that you choose subjects that will keep you interested.
- Find out as much information as possible about each course.
- Choose courses in which you are likely to succeed.
- Look carefully at the balance of subjects being considered. Some subjects will require more reading and writing than others whereas some subjects offer a practical element.

Don't

- Don't select subjects just because your friend is - there is no guarantee you will be in the same class.
- Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher. Most subjects have more than one teacher, you are choosing the subject not the teacher.

Staff contacts

Staff Member	Email Address
Miss Lydia Montgomery Head of Year 9	l.montgomery@rushden-academy.net
Miss J Neville Head of English	j.neville@rushden-academy.net
Mrs S Evans Head of Mathematics, Business and IT	s.evans@rushden-academy.net
Miss E Jepson Leader of Science	e.jepson@rushden-academy.net
Mr A Blackshaw Leader of Science	a.blackshaw@rushden-academy.net
Mr S Harris Head of Sport and Child Development	s.harris@rushden-academy.net
Mrs A Owen Head of Creative Arts	a.owen@rushden-academy.net
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Mrs G Bowers Teacher of History	g.bowers@rushden-acaemy.net
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Miss R Burrows Teacher of Health and Social	r.burrows@rushden-academy.net
Miss R Brooks Teacher of Music	r.brooks@rushden-academy.net
Ms R Mcveigh Teacher of Child Development	r.mcveigh@rushden-academy.net

Compulsory Subjects

The following pages give further information about the courses all students will take.

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Core)
- Physical Education (Core) (non-examined)

In addition to these subjects all students will also gain outstanding personal development through:

- 'Off timetable' lessons and talks
- PSHE education
- Careers advice
- Extra-curricular activities
- Pastoral time activities
- Visits and trips

GCSE English Language

Subject Contact: Miss J Neville

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) English Language 2.0

Website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/english-language-2021.html>

QAN 601/4836/6

What will I learn?

You will be given ample opportunity to develop skills in interpreting and evaluating a diverse range of texts within the reading component of this specification. This will include extracts from 20th and 21st century fiction, literary non-fiction and 19th century non-fiction.

You will also learn to examine the writer's craft and apply your understanding to your own writing. Your teacher will help you develop the skills needed to write effectively for different purposes and audiences; this will include both fiction and non-fiction writing.

In addition, you will develop confidence through spoken language presentations.

What do you need from me?

An enquiring mind - you will need to be ready to make judgements as to whether what you read can be taken at face value.

Attention to detail – accurate writing and use of Standard English is vitally important in this subject.

Creativity and imagination – you need to be ready to develop your ideas in reading, writing and spoken language.

What skills will I develop?

Ability to read critically, expressing personal opinions and evaluative judgements in an academic style. Fluency in both reading and writing. Keen proof-reading and editing skills.

How will I be assessed?

Two examination papers make up 100% of the mark. There is also a spoken language endorsement.

Paper 1 – Non Fiction and Transactional Writing

Paper 2 – Fiction and Creative Writing

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A good pass in GCSE English Language is a requirement for a range of courses. In addition, A-Level English Language and English Literature are on offer at a range of sixth form colleges. The East Northamptonshire College offers two A-Levels:

A Level English Language and Literature

A Level English Literature

Possible careers

Journalist, writer, teacher, editor, advertising, public relations.

Any future career will require a good grounding in English Language

GCSE English Literature

Subject Contact: Miss J Neville

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) English Literature

Website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/english-literature-2015.html>

QAN 601/4789/1

What will I learn?

You will study some of the greatest works in English Literature including a play by William Shakespeare, 19th Century fiction, Post 1914 drama and a collection of poetry.

Throughout the English Literature course, you will explore the importance of context when considering the author's intentions in writing a text as well as developing your ability to critically evaluate what you read.

What do you need from me?

Motivation and interest – you need to be motivated and interested to make the necessary links between context and literary texts.

Precision of expression – it is important that you use words to express your exact opinions and thoughts about what you read.

Critical judgement – you need to be able to evaluate what you read and be critical, explaining why writers are not always successful in their intentions.

What skills will I develop?

Ability to read critically, expressing personal opinions and evaluative judgements in an academic style.

Contextual understanding of how politics and historical events can influence writers and their subject matter.

Ability to make inferences, comparative judgements and analyse literary language precisely.

How will I be assessed?

Two examination papers make up 100% of the mark.

Paper 1 – Shakespeare and Post-1914 Drama

Paper 2 – 19th Century fiction and Poetry (including unseen poetry)

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A-Level English Language and English Literature are on offer at a range of sixth form colleges. The East Northamptonshire College offers two A-Levels:

A Level English Language and Literature

A Level English Literature

Possible careers

Teacher, editor, writer, literary researcher, critic, acting and other stage careers.
Ability to read and interpret text will support a diverse range of future careers.

GCSE Mathematics

Subject Contact: Mrs S Evans

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics

Website:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

QAN 601/4700/3

What will I learn?

There are 5 main topics within the math's curriculum, number, algebra, ratio, proportion, geometry and probability. Not only will you develop your numeracy skills, but will be able to use these skills for problem solving leading to mastery skills.

What do you need from me?

A thirst for learning new things, a willingness to develop personal skills and determination to succeed and achieve.

What skills will I develop?

Numeracy skills, problem solving, logically thinking.
These numeracy skills will help in other subjects across curriculum, for example Geography, Science, Computer Science and Business.

How will I be assessed?

There will be 3 exam papers, 1 non calculator and 2 calculator papers.
All papers are 1 hour and 30 mins long and will be worth 80 marks each.

There are 2 tiers, foundation and higher:

Higher – Edexcel exam board – 3 exam papers, 80 marks each, 1 non calculator and 2 calculator papers, each 1 hour and 30 mins

Foundation – OCR exam board - 3 exam papers, 100 marks each, 1 non calculator and 2 calculator papers, each 1 hour and 30 mins

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A level maths students who achieve a standard 7
Further maths students who achieve a standard 8 or 9

Possible careers

All college courses and employers will be looking for at least a grade 4 in mathematics at GCSE. Possible careers – here are just a few examples of jobs that would need a good grade at GCSE in mathematics, Accountant, Data Analyst, Teachers, Financial Traders, Insurance underwriter, working in ICT.

GCSE Science (Core) Subject Contact: Miss E Jepson / Mr A Blackshaw

Official Course Name Combined Science

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>

Course student Book:

AQA GCSE (9-1) Biology for Combined Science ISBN 0008175047

AQA GCSE (9-1) Physics for Combined Science ISBN 0008175063

AQA GCSE (9-1) Chemistry for Combined Science ISBN 0008175055

QAN 601/8758/X

What will I learn? CORE Science is taught as combined Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs. You will explore living things, natural resources and the way we use them. You will apply this knowledge and understanding to ethical issues. You are encouraged to consider how science may affect you in everyday life and to explore and research these topics in great depth. There is a higher demand for strong Math skills in this new course. Watching the news and keeping up to date with scientific issues will really help improve your understanding of some of the key issues in science.

What do you need from me?

Hard work, everyone has to do this course if they don't do separate science.

A passion and enthusiasm for Science

Good attendance, the content is large and required practical tasks account for 15% of the marks in the exams.

A determination to try and not be afraid of getting it correct first time. Learning is a journey!

What skills will I develop?

To analyse and evaluate scientific issues.

Development of practical skills.

Debating science issues and formulating ideas.

Formulate opinions on ethical issues.

Additional reading on contemporary science issues.

How will I be assessed? 100% Examination (15% will be questions about the required practical tasks, 30% of the physics paper will be maths).

Potential progression at Sixth Form if you complete the higher tier exams:

A Level Biology. A Level Chemistry. A Level Physics.

Possible careers

Medical Research, Medicine or Dentistry.

Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industry.

Physics research, Computing and electronics

Psychology

Physical Education (Core) Subject Contact: Mr S Harris

What will I learn?

Students in Key Stage 4 elect a pathway in which they would like to follow based on one of the ME in PE's in which we have covered within Key Stage 3. Within each ME students participate in a variety of sports, with an element of choice given to the students. Each strand has a specific objective over the course of the 6 week unit of work with the area in which the lesson is delivered changing throughout to provide students with an opportunity to participate in a range of different sports whilst their focus remains on the ME in PE. These include:

PHYSICAL ME – A focus on developing skills and techniques.

HEALTHY ME – A focus on promoting physically active lifestyles.

LEADERSHIP ME – A focus on developing leadership skills and qualities

What do you need from me?

Students must take part in core PE and it is an expectation that students have correct kit and are "Ready to Present" for each lesson.

A positive attitude to taking part is essential, we aim to make PE as enjoyable as possible, and being prepared to do anything is an important part of this.

What skills will I develop?

This depends on the focus pathway in which you choose Physical, Healthy or Leadership. As well as the core skills and tactics of the activities you choose:

PHYSICAL ME – A focus on developing skills and techniques.

HEALTHY ME – A focus on promoting physically active lifestyles.

LEADERSHIP ME – A focus on developing leadership skills and quality

How will I be assessed?

There is no exam or assignments in core PE, however, you will still be assessed by your teacher. This assessment is ongoing and geared to making improvements in your performance in every single lesson.

Optional GCSE & Vocational Subjects

The following pages give further information about the courses students can choose as an option.

GCSE FINE ART **Subject Contact:** Mrs A Owen

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel Level1/Level2 GCSE (9-1) in Fine Art

Website:

<https://ocr.org.uk/Images/220463-specification-accredited-gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176.pdf>

QAN 601/8069/9

What will I learn?

You will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of media and processes both 3D and 2D. You will have the opportunity to explore working in different media by producing work using: pencils, paints, photography, printmaking, as well as completing large and small scale work. Exploration of art through investigation and experimentation is documented in a portfolio of work which you will create whilst on the GCSE course.

Alongside your practical work, you will undertake research into a range of artists and artistic practices to help inform your own progress.

What do you need from me?

An ability to draw from first hand observation.
Strong and sound motor skills.
Reasonable level of literacy.
Ability to keep up to date with the coursework.
Enthusiasm for the subject.

What skills will I develop?

Creative and imaginative ability and practical skills.
Investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretative capabilities.
Cultural understanding of art and design and of the media and technologies used.

How will I be assessed?

60% Coursework 40% Practical Examination

Both elements are assessed on 4 assessment objectives:

AO1: Develop
AO2: Refine
AO3: Observe
AO4: Present

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A Level Art and Textiles Graphic Design

Possible careers

Architecture	Games Designers	Teacher	Fashion Design
Jewellery Design	Graphic Designer	Interior Designer	Art Therapist

GCSE Business

Subject Contact: Mrs S. Evans

GCSE Business

What will I learn?

This course covers the essential knowledge and skills required in the business sector such as, branding and promotion, customer service, sales, retail business, recruitment and career development, and business support. It will provide you with the opportunity to develop materials and activities to meet the needs of both local and national employers.

What do you need from me?

Learners will be required to reflect on the learning experiences they have encountered throughout their course of study. They will be assessed on their knowledge, skills and understanding of key areas of the Business sector and also on how they have applied this knowledge and understanding to their own work.

What skills will I develop?

You will have opportunities to develop the communication skills needed for working in the business sector, as you progress through the course. This can be achieved through presentations and in discussions where you have the opportunity to express your opinions.

How will I be assessed? 2 external exams, paper 1 covers units 1 – 4 and paper 2 covers units 5 and 6

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Level 3 BTEC Business Certificate/Extended Certificate A Level Business

Possible careers

We live in a corporate world and the markets operate around us constantly. Because of this, business is a universal subject. There are few, if any, careers for which an understanding of business would not be of some benefit.

Child Development **Subject Contact: Mr S Harris**

What will I learn?

This course will give students the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of Child Development and growth up to the age of five. You will explore how children learn through play and how play promotes children's learning and development with the support of an adult. We look at the importance of supporting children to learn and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially and adapting to support children play learning and development

What do you need from me?

An interest in learning about children's development and working with children.
To be able to work independently to complete tasks.
To be able to meet deadlines consistently.

What skills will I develop?

Communication skills

Critical skills of analysis, team working, planning, working from a prescribed brief.
Working to deadlines, presenting information effectively, accurately completing tasks and processes.

Study skills such as research and time management.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by both external examinations and assignments that are marked by your class teacher.

Component 1- Children's Growth and Development (Internal)

Component 2- learning through Play (interbal)

Component 3 - Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop (external)

Potential progression at Sixth Form

BTEC Nationals in Children's Play, Learning and Development.

Possible careers

Early Years Educator, Child psychologist, Nursery Nurse, all careers which involve contact with children.

Vocational Dance

Subject Contact: Miss C Pilgrim

Official Course Name: BTEC Tech Awards Level 2 Performing Arts (Dance)

Website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts.html>

What will I learn?

The BTEC Level 1/2 TECH Award is an intensive and exciting 2 year course, which covers different aspects of the Performing Arts Dance programme through the teaching of expressive and technical skills. The Dance Pathway is a practical course enabling students to develop and extend their dance technique, choreographic and performance skills, as well as their understanding of the dance world. This specialist programme is aimed at students who are passionate about developing their dance skills, knowledge and understanding. Students will specialise in developing their dance technique in a range of dance styles, as well as extensively developing their choreographic and performance skills. In addition, students will also learn about working in the performing arts industry, and the jobs and opportunities available in this sector. Students have the opportunity to perform in shows, professional tutor workshops and many more exciting opportunities.

How is the course structured and assessed?

The BTEC TECH Award consists of 3 Components:

- *Component 1: Exploring The Performing Arts (Internally assessed)
- *Component 2: Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts (Internally Assessed)
- *Component 3: Performing to a Brief (Externally Assessed 3 Hour assessment)

What do you need from me?

Good level of artistic ability.
Enthusiasm and willingness to learn.
Willingness to perform in front of an audience.
Desire to explore and try new styles.
Commitment and teamwork.

What skills will I develop?

Physical, Expressive, Technical Communication, Chorography, Presentation, Analysis and Evaluation

How will I be assessed?

60% Assessment 40% Examination

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Dance A-Level, Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts

Possible careers

Dancer performer, Choreographer, Dance Teacher, Physical Therapist, Arts Administrator

Vocational Drama - Acting Pathway

Subject Contact: Mrs J Ede

What will I learn?

This is a practical, engaging and creative subject to study and it provides opportunities to understand and create drama as a practical art form. You will explore a range of texts and create original devised performances and showcase your work regularly in front of an audience. You will work in a number of different styles, including physical theatre and also have an opportunity to visit theatres to watch live theatre by professionals in the industry.

What do you need from me?

Willingness to perform in front of an audience.
 Willingness to explore and try new styles.
 Commitment and team work.
 Good level of literacy.
 The ability to give and receive constructive criticism.
 Determination to produce work to the highest standards.

What skills will I develop?

Performance.
 Communication.
 Devising.
 Team work.
 Text analysis.
 Social awareness.
 Presentation.
 Organisation.

How will I be assessed?

60% Internal Assessment 40% External set task

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts (Acting) & A-Level Drama

Possible careers

Actor	Director	Performer	Theatre in Education	Drama Therapist	Drama
Teacher					
Primary School Teacher	Entertainer	Practitioner		Events Coordinator	
Stage Manager					

Vocational Drama - Production Pathway

Subject Contact: Mrs H Taylor

What will I learn?

This is a practical, exciting and creative pathway to study and it provides opportunities to understand and create drama and theatre. You will explore a range of technical theatre disciplines and create original designs for performance by working with performers and directors. You will develop technical and design skills in a range of disciplines including lighting, sound, set and costume.

What do you need from me?

Willingness to explore a range of technical theatre disciplines
Willingness to explore and try new styles.
Commitment and team work.
Good level of literacy.
The ability to give and receive constructive criticism.
Determination to produce work to the highest standards.
Willingness to present work practically to a high standard

What skills will I develop?

Design
Communication.
Technical
Team work.
Text analysis.

Social awareness.
Presentation.
Organisation.

How will I be assessed?

60% Internal Assessment 40% External set task

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Level 3 BTEC Production Arts Practise & A-Level Drama

Possible careers

Lighting Designer, Stage Manager, Fashion designer, Sound engineer, Interior design, Theatre Designer, Venue technician, Architect, Artist, Illustrator, Scenic artist, Scenic construction

GCSE French or German

Subject Contact: Mrs G Brainwood

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel Level1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in French

Course student Book:

Studio for Edexcel (9-1) French Higher ISBN 978 1292 117836

Studio for Edexcel (9-1) French Foundation ISBN 978 1292 117829

Website:

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.htm](https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.html)
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QAN 601/87086/5650

What will I learn?

GCSE French/German is an engaging and inspiring course which enables students to manipulate and use the target language effectively, independently and creatively. The course covers many familiar topics across five themes: Identity and Culture; Local Area, Holiday and Travel; School; Future aspirations, Study and Work; International and Global Dimension. The authentic resources enable students to see language in context and learn about the culture of the French/German speaking worlds.

What do you need from me?

Enthusiasm for languages and learning about the cultures of other countries.

Good levels of literacy.

A Growth Mindset – the willingness to keep trying and practicing.

Regular learning of vocabulary.

What skills will I develop?

To be able to understand and respond to a variety of texts, questions and real-life scenarios in a foreign language.

Problem solving & Analytical skills

Appreciation of other cultures

An understanding of how languages work

Communication skills

How will I be assessed?

100% exam across four skills/papers: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (25% per paper)

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A Level French and A Level German

Possible careers

Military, police force, teaching, Translator/ Interpreter, Leisure/ Travel / Tourism, working for international companies, journalism, sport, sales, diplomacy, aid work, computing, finance.

GCSE Geography

Subject Contact: Mr T Duffell

Official Course Name AQA Level1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Geography

Course student Book:

AQA GCSE 9-1 Geography ISBN 978-1-5992-2

GCSE Geography AQA ISBN 978-0-19-836661-4

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

QAN 601/8410/3

What will I learn?

GCSE Geography is an inspiring course which allows you to explore your place in the world, your values and responsibilities to other people and to the environment. The course includes a good mix of topics including those relating to challenges in both human and physical environments. Physical topics include; Natural hazards, Living world and Physical landscapes in the UK (Coasts and rivers). Human topics include; Urban issues and challenges (the growth of cities), Changing economic world (countries wealth and development) and resource management. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect, shape and change our world and will enable you to access a huge range of important life skills. This course will also involve several opportunities to carry out exciting fieldwork investigations in places outside of your local area!

What do you need from me?

The ability to discuss and ask questions about the world around you, interested in the way our world works (at a global, national and local scale), good extended writing skills, basic understanding of mathematics, ability to carry out research and to argue / debate using evidence.

What skills will I develop?

Communication and presentation skills. Independent research. Constructing evidence-based arguments (both verbal and written). Statistical and numeracy skills Effective teamwork. Time management.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam spread across three papers:

Paper 1 – Living with the Physical environment 35%

Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human environment 35%

Paper 3 – Geographical Applications 30%

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A Level Geography A Level Sociology A Level Government and Politics.

A Level Citizenship Studies.

Possible careers

Conservation and wildlife protection, City/town planning, Geographical information systems (GIS), politics, Tourism Officer, Meteorologist, Teaching / education, Land and water management, Geologist, environmental science, environmental researcher, marine geography, architecture and many more!

GCSE Graphic Design

Subject Contact: Mrs A Owen

Official Course Name OCR GCSE Art & Design – Graphic Communication

Website:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/220463-specification-accredited-gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176>

What will I learn?

GCSE Graphic communication is part of the creative suite of subjects under art and design. It has been designed to link aspects of art and photography and includes You will work creatively with processes and techniques such as: computer aided design, letterforms, digital manipulation, Photoshop, typography, drawing, book illustration, print and photography.

What do you need from me?

The ability to write critically about art and design
An interest in graphic design and illustration both historical and contemporary
Ability to research, investigate and develop ideas
A good level of written English and written communication
To be creative, good art-based skills and a good imagination
Creative and neat presentation skills

What skills will I develop?

Multimedia skills
Illustration skills
Photoshop skills
Photographic skills
Communication and presentation skills
Independent research and analysis
Your understanding of the history of photography and how to critique images
Time management

How will I be assessed?

60% Coursework – unit 1
40% Exam (10 hours) - unit 2

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A-level Photography and 'A' Level Art

Possible careers

Graphic designer, illustrator, web designer, book illustrator, gaming designer, artist, sign writer, designer, print maker, production designer in TV and film, animator, artworker, stylist, advertising artist.

Health and Social Care

Subject Contact: Miss R Burrows

Official Course Name: Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care

Website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care.html>

What will I learn?

Development of Health and Social knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on key skills to include interpreting data and lifestyle factors to assess an individual's health and wellbeing. You will gain an understanding of what skills underpin effective ways of working in health and social care services, such as designing a plan to improve an individual's health and wellbeing. This will include looking at both physical and mental health. You will also consider the support and occupations involved in supporting individuals to respond to life events such as bereavement, childbirth, trauma and or injury.

What do you need from me?

A desire to want to learn about care values and apply them to a real-life scenario
A want to take on practical tasks
To be able to work independently to complete tasks and assignments
To be able to meet deadlines consistently

What skills will I develop?

Interpreting data to assess an individual's health
Processes that underpin effective ways of working in health and social care
Care values that are vitally important in the sector and the opportunity to apply these practically
Study skills such as research, time management, highlighting and key note taking
Communication skills to include both verbal and non-verbal

How will I be assessed?

The course is made up of three components: Two of which are internally assessed (assignments) and one that is externally assessed (exam).

Potential progression at Sixth Form

BTEC Nationals in Health and Social Care, A Level Sociology

Possible careers

Approximately 3 million people are currently employed in the sector. In 2019, it was estimated that by 2035 approximately 2.17 million health and social care job vacancies will need to be filled. Health care careers include: pharmacists, nurses, midwives, and healthcare assistants, paramedics, doctors, physiotherapists. Social care careers include: care assistants, youth workers, probation officers, occupational therapists, counselors and health administrators. Together, they account for nearly one in ten of all paid jobs in the UK

Vocational ICT

Subject Contact: Mrs S Evans

Vocational Course Information Communication Technology

What will I learn?

We use computers all the time, but what do we need them for? How do they make our lives easier? What is an IT system? How are IT systems created? Vocational ICT will allow learners to investigate these questions and find answers to them. Learners will find out how to make IT systems secure from the common threats that affect so many systems these days. They'll also learn how use IT to solve problems in the most efficient way.

What do you need from me?

Learners will be required to reflect on the learning experiences they have encountered throughout their course of study. They will be assessed on their knowledge, skills and understanding of key areas of the IT industry and also on how they have applied this knowledge and understanding to their own work.

What skills will I develop?

During this course you will further develop your digital literacy skills vital in most careers in today's world and gain and understanding how computer systems work to solve problems.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by a mixture of both internal and external assessments.

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Level 3 BTEC IT Extended Certificate

Five possible careers

Network Manager, Computer Systems Engineering, Network Technician, Web designer, Office based IT work.

Vocational Music

Subject Contact: Mrs R Brooks

What will I learn?

As an industry, music covers and includes a phenomenal amount of different jobs. This course is a practical based course that appeals to a wide range of interests and you will learn and develop the skills in all areas of performing, composing and music production. Within the course you will explore the development of music across a wide range of styles and genres, through the completion of practical tasks and workshops. You will have the opportunity to specialise in an area of study within this course and look at developing the skills required, whether that be in the form of performing, composing or music production. The course allows for working collaboratively as well as independently opening up the music making possibilities.

What do you need from me?

To be enthusiastic about music.
Willingness to explore and try new styles.
Willingness for regular focused practice.
Commitment and teamwork.
Have an interest in all elements of music and its production.
The ability to share your work in front of your peers.
Determination to produce work to the highest standards.

What skills will I develop?

Solo performance
Ensemble performance
Music theory
General musicianship
Composition
Music production
Communication
Teamwork
Organisation

How will I be assessed?

60% Internal Assessment 40% External set task

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A-Level Music, A-Level Music Technology, BTEC Level 3 Music, RSL Music

Possible careers

Performer, Composer, Songwriter, Music producer, Manager, Promoter, Music therapist, Music journalist, Instrumental technician, Teacher, Events coordinator, Tour manager, Radio presenter, Studio sound engineer, Live sound technician

GCSE Photography

Subject Contact: Mrs A Owen

Official Course Name OCR GCSE Art & Design – Photography

Website:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/220463-specification-accredited-gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176>

What will I learn?

GCSE Photography is part of the creative suite of subjects under art and design. It will be taught from a creative, fine art perspective and encourage you to analyse, critique and understand composition alongside learning how to use Photoshop and how to take inspiring photographs.

What do you need from me?

The ability to write critically about photographs
An interest in photographers both historical and contemporary
Ability to research, investigate and develop ideas
A good level of written English and written communication
To be creative, good art based skills and a good imagination
Creative and neat presentation skills

What skills will I develop?

Photographic skills
Photoshop skills
Communication and presentation skills
Independent research and analysis
Your understanding of the history of photography and how to critique images
Time management

How will I be assessed?

60% Coursework – unit 1
40% Exam (10 hours) - unit 2

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A-level Photography and 'A' Level Art

Possible careers

Wildlife photographer, teacher, photojournalist, wedding photographer, forensic/scenes of crime photographer, photographer in forces (Army, Navy, RAF), sport photographer, events photographer, gallery curator, PR photographer, scientific photographer

GCSE Sociology

Subject Contact: Miss M Ridley

Official Course Name: AQA GCSE in Sociology

Course student Book:

AQA GCSE 9-1 Sociology ISBN: 9781510403116

Website: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>

QAN 603/0798/5

What will I learn?

GCSE Sociology is an eye-opening course which allows you to explore your place in our world and how your day to day lives could be predetermined by our own society. The course includes an exciting range of topics from exploring our education system, to the family, to why society is so separated and to lastly who and why do people commit crime and deviance. The course will allow you to explore your part to play in the world and will allow you to view people differently and to be more understanding of people's positions in the world.

What do you need from me?

The ability to ask questions about our society.

Good extended writing skills and discussion skills.

Ability to research and to criticise sociological research.

Staying up to date with current news stories and the media to show sociology's place in everyday life.

What skills will I develop?

Communication and presentation skills.

Independent Sociological research.

Combining information from a variety of research sources

Critical thinking.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam spread across two papers:

Paper 1 – Families and Education 50%

Paper 2 – Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification 50%

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A Level Sociology A Level Psychology A Level Government and Politics.

BTEC Health and Social Care

Sport

Subject Contact: Mr S Harris

What will I learn?

This course will provide you with an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of sport and PE through various units of work. You will explore the fitness required for excellence in sport, the practical elements of performance and analysis to succeed in sport, the effects of exercise on the sports performer in action and how to lead a sporting activity. You will also look at the historical and social contexts of sport and PE.

What do you need from me?

An interest and desire to study and take part in sport and PE.
An understanding that the course is significantly theory based, however this is taught through practical sessions wherever possible.
To be able to work independently to complete tasks.
To be able to meet deadlines consistently.

What skills will I develop?

To plan and carry out research on different topics.
To explore various aspects of sport, looking at current and past issues.
To use extended writing to complete assessment tasks.
To develop your practical, leadership and organisational skills.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by both internal and external examination set by awarding bodies and assignments that are marked by your class teacher.
Component 1- Preparing participants to take part in sport and Physical activity (internal)
Component 2- Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance (internal)
Component 3 - Developing fitness to improve other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (external)

Potential progression at Sixth Form

BTEC Nationals in Sport.
A-Level Physical Education

Possible careers

PE teacher	Physiotherapy	Sports Coaching	Occupational
Therapy			
Sports Journalism and Photography			

Official Course Name Biology Chemistry and Physics

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>

Course student Book:

AQA GCSE Chemistry ISBN 0008158762

AQA GCSE Biology ISBN 0008158754

AQA GCSE Physics ISBN 0008158770

QAN 601/8752/9 601/8757/8 601/8751/7

What will I learn?

Triple Science is taught as separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs. You will explore living things, natural resources and the way we use them. You will apply this knowledge and understanding to ethical issues. You are encouraged to consider how science may affect you in everyday life and to explore and research these topics in great depth. There is a higher demand for strong Math's in this new course.

What do you need from me?

High grades in Science and maths (30% of the physics GCSE is maths)

A passion and enthusiasm for Science, you are aware of science in the news already.

A commitment to an extremely demanding course.

Excellent mathematics and English skills.

The aspiration to pursue a career in Science or the associated industries.

What skills will I develop?

To analyse and evaluate scientific issues.

Development of practical skills.

Debating science issues and formulating ideas.

Formulate opinions on ethical issues.

Additional reading on contemporary science issues.

How will I be assessed?

100% Examination (*Each science is taught, examined and awarded separately*)

Potential progression at Sixth Form A Level Biology. A Level Chemistry. A Level Physics.

Possible careers

Medical Research, Medicine or Dentistry.

Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industry.

Physics research and Computing and electronics

Psychology

AS THIS COURSE REQUIRES A HIGH LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC AND MATHEMATICAL SKILLS,
YOU WILL NEED TO SPEAK TO MISS JEPSON OR MR BLACKSHAW BEFORE BEING ABLE
TO SELECT THIS COURSE.