



YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2026



Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
Shaping **Learning**

Principal's Introduction

Dear students and parents/carers,

The aim of this guide is to give further information about the subjects that form our KS4 curriculum at Shirebrook Academy. Our qualification profile enables our curriculum to remain broad and balanced for all of our students and it allows our young people to build their knowledge, understanding and skills in preparation for the next stage of their education, training and employment post 16 – which is integral to our mission statement.

Making informed and considered choices is very important and reading this guide, alongside speaking to subject teachers and conducting further independent research is a crucial part of the options process.

All of our students will study English Literature, English Language and Maths. All students will also study Science and we support the study of a Modern Foreign Language and/or a Humanities subject for the majority of our students. Alongside these core subjects are a range of other subjects at GCSE and BTEC level that students may wish to study. All students will receive an option form where they will be able to make their choices. Option forms have been allocated to students considering a range of learning indicators and to support them in making choices that will help them to achieve their best.

We will be with our students every step of the way, advising and guiding and providing further additional help and support should it be needed. Choosing Key Stage 4 options and thinking about Level 2 qualifications, course requirements and examinations can be daunting, but we endeavour to do all that we can to make the process as positive and reassuring as possible.

We hold an Options Information Event for our students and parents/carers to attend where we give further information about our curriculum subjects and hold personalised conversations to ensure that the specific needs of all children are carefully considered. Our Careers and Personal Development Team speak to our students, asking them to think carefully about longer-term career aspirations and goals and which subjects and qualifications may be useful in supporting them. We are a fully inclusive school, and proud to be so, and our Inclusion Team also speaks specifically to students that may need further support and guidance during our options process.

This coordinated approach means that all of our students receive advice, care and guidance from multiple adults within the academy and are signposted to further support, where required.

We value working in partnership with parents/carers and know that you will be speaking to your children about their preferred subject choices whilst also considering their progress from their monitoring reports and speaking to Shirebrook Academy staff at the Year 9 Options and Consultation Evening. If you have any questions or queries that would support you in having options conversations with your child, please don't hesitate to contact enquiries@shirebrookacademy.org

Working together we will make a difference for our young people and help them to achieve their best.

Kind regards,

Lindsey Burgin

Mrs Lindsey Burgin
Principal

Options Guidance

Guidance

At Shirebrook Academy, we recognise that our students have different skills, different interests and different career pathways. Our curriculum is designed to maximise the potential of all of our students whilst also delivering a broad and balanced education.

In addition to the core curriculum of English, mathematics & science, students will choose up to four additional subjects that they wish to study over the next two years. We are pleased to offer students a large range of option subjects, some GCSE qualifications and some vocational qualifications.

We will guide students onto the pathway that is most suitable to them. We will look at the strengths and interests students have and listen to what they have to say about themselves.

We believe this curriculum will equip students with the skills and qualifications needed for the world of further and higher education, training or employment.

A broad and balanced curriculum

A broad and balanced curriculum includes the study of a range of subjects, with a core focus on:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Humanities
- Languages

What are the benefits of studying a broad and balanced curriculum?

Choosing a range of subjects at GCSE gives students access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the wider knowledge, understanding and skills that employers are looking for.

According to research, students who pursue a full range of subjects at GCSE level have a greater probability of progression to strong post-16 educational outcomes, are more likely to take A-levels and are more thoroughly prepared for Higher Education.

A broad and balanced range of subjects allows more flexibility for future pathways, whilst also helping students to develop improved critical thinking and writing skills.

Employers value languages and students that have studied them have the linguistic skills that can open up future learning and career opportunities.



Pathways

Guided Choice

There are 2 distinct pathways for students at Shirebrook. Students will be guided onto the most appropriate pathway which provides the best opportunity for their future.

The pathways are:

Pathway 1

Core Booster (Additional English and maths)

So why do we have different pathways

The pathways are designed to ensure that we are meeting the legal requirements placed upon schools by the national curriculum and the DfE, whilst providing students with the most suitable range of subjects for their future progression.

If you believe that your child has been placed in an unsuitable pathway please write to the Principal, Mrs Burgin, or email enquires@shirebrookacademy.org explaining your concerns and preferences.

Mrs Burgin will get in touch to discuss the best route forward.

Pathway 1

Pathway 1 is designed for students who have secure levels of literacy and numeracy and who would like to pursue a range of subjects including a modern foreign language. Students will study 9 subjects including Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Science, Core Practical PE, a PE/Triple Science GCSE or a vocational sport/health qualification and Geography or History. They will then choose 2 subjects as first choice options and 2 reserve choice subjects.

Some students will be advised regarding their science and languages choices. Studying triple science and a language is an ambitious pathway that students should carefully consider.

This pathway gives students a good, broad foundation and a wide range of choice to prepare for all post-16 routes including A Levels, Tech Levels, BTECs, apprenticeships and work-based learning.

Core Booster Pathway

The Core Booster Pathway is designed for students who need additional support in order to be successful in all of their studies.

They will have 1 additional lesson in English and maths and gain eight GCSE/equivalent qualifications. They will also be entered for additional foundation qualifications in English and maths.

Students will study Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Science, Core Practical PE, Personal Development, Geography and Functional Skills English and Maths. They will then choose 2 subjects as first choice options and 2 reserve choice subjects.

This pathway also gives students a broad foundation and a wide range of choice to prepare for all post-16 routes.

Options Available

Core Subjects

All students will follow the **Core curriculum subjects**. The core subjects leading to GCSE are

English Language & Literature

Mathematics

Combined Science

PE/Triple Science/Sport/Health (**Pathway 1**)

Geography/History (**Pathway 1**)

Geography (**Core Booster**)

Students will also have the non-examined subjects of Personal Development and Physical Education as part of the Core curriculum.

In addition to the Core curriculum, students will choose up to 4 additional subjects from the list of options subjects provided opposite.

Please take note of some restrictions on the combinations of subjects which students can choose.

Option Subjects

Triple Separate Sciences
(Students will be advised regarding this choice)

French *(Students will be advised regarding this choice)*

Spanish *(Students will be advised regarding this choice)*

Computing/Vocational iMedia

Religious Studies

Vocational Enterprise and Marketing

Design Technology: Construction & the Built Environment

Design Technology: Hospitality and Catering

Art/Photography *(teachers will advise which course is most appropriate for students)*

Drama

Music

Vocational Health and Social Care

Vocational Sport/GCSE PE



Pathways Option Choices

Pathway 1

Core Curriculum and option choices as below

Core

Mathematics
English Literature and English Language
Science
PE
Geography/History
PE/Triple Science/Sport Health

Options

Art/Photography
Construction
Hospitality and Catering
Drama
French/Spanish
Music
Geography (*if History chosen above*)
Religious Studies
Vocational Health and Social Care
Computing
Vocational iMedia
Vocational Enterprise and Marketing
Vocational Sport/GCSE PE (if triple science has been chosen as a part of the Core Curriculum)

Core Booster

Core Curriculum and option choices as below

Core

Mathematics
English Language and Literature
Science
Geography
PE
Personal Development
Functional Skills English and Maths

Options

Art/Photography
Construction
Hospitality and Catering
Vocational Health and Social Care
Vocational Enterprise and Marketing
Vocational iMedia
Vocational Sport



Options Available

At Shirebrook Academy we offer a range of different qualifications for you to study. Some of these qualifications are traditional GCSE courses but we also offer a range of BTEC Vocational courses too.

WHAT IS A BTEC?

BTECs are high quality, career-focused qualifications grounded in the real world of work.

BTEC courses focus on skills-based learning and are designed around themed units. Rather than testing everything together at the end, BTECs are tested throughout the course using assessments based on real-life scenarios. This practical approach allows BTEC learners to develop and apply the knowledge and skills that employers and universities are looking for.

And that means there are plenty of opportunities to learn, improve and succeed.

A BTEC is so much more than just a qualification – former BTEC-qualified students often say how they continue to apply what they learned on their BTEC course when they progressed on to further study, started a job, and as they advance throughout their career.

BTEC WORKS ALONGSIDE GCSES

When choosing your subjects for Years 10 and 11, it's good to keep your options open. Studying BTECs alongside your GCSEs opens up new subject areas, and starts building the skills you need after you leave school.

You can study BTEC Tech Awards or Firsts alongside your GCSEs to explore different subject areas that really interest you. You will also learn by doing, equipping yourself with skills that you will use throughout your future education and career. Completing your level 2 BTEC will open options to study at level 3 with BTEC Nationals, A levels and Apprenticeships.

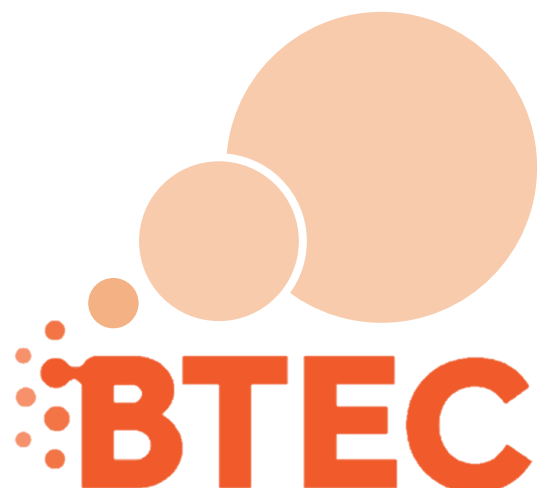
Alongside your GCSEs you could study:

BTEC Tech Awards (Level 1/2):

- Give you a glimpse into a professional sector whilst teaching you transferable skills for life.
- Offer a broader view of the sector.
- Have a mixture of practical assignments and internal assessments, with an external assessment worth 40% of your grade.

BTEC Firsts (Level 1/2):

- Give you a practical learning style that provides you with the opportunity to develop skills to draw upon throughout your career.
- Work through themed units exploring an industry sector.
- Have a mixture of practical assignments and internal assessments, with an external assessment worth 25% of your grade.



Key Staff for Guidance

Your form tutor

Mrs L Burgin

Principal

Mr A Dalby

Pastoral & Learning Lead for Year 9

Mrs L Ward

Vice Principal
Year 9 Associate

Mr D O'Reilly

Vice Principal
Quality of Education

Mrs K Brown

Personal Development &
Careers Co-ordinator

Miss D Evans

Careers Adviser

Mrs H Loxley

Pastoral Support Manager for Year 9



Options Process Timeline

Monday 19th January

Schoolcloud OPEN for booking appointments

Friday 30th January

Schoolcloud CLOSED for booking appointments

w/c 2nd February

Options booklets issued to students

Tuesday 3rd February

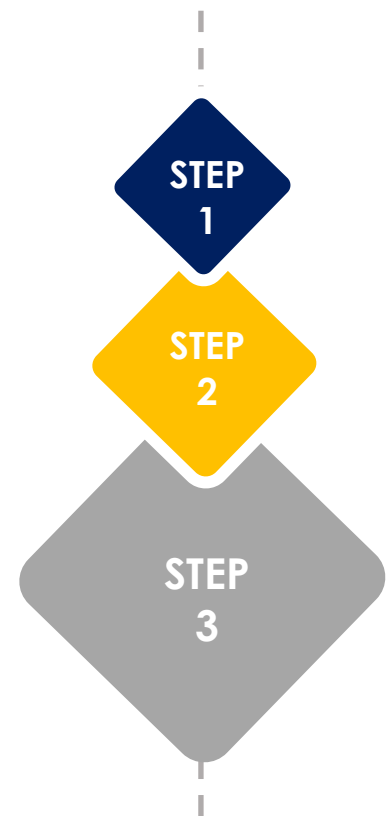
Options assembly for students

Monday 9th February

Y9 Consultation and Options Evening (3:30pm – 6:00pm)
 This will be an opportunity for parents to meet teachers in all core subjects PLUS the teachers of the subjects they are considering for their options. This is an ideal opportunity to discuss current progress and hold a more personalised conversation regarding their option choice and KS4.

Friday 13th February

Deadline for option forms to be completed



IF FEWER THAN 25 STUDENTS CHOOSE AN OPTION IT IS NORMALLY NOT POSSIBLE TO RUN THIS COURSE AND STUDENTS WILL BE ALLOCATED THEIR RESERVE OPTION

Do and Don't

Do

- make a balanced choice of subjects;
- choose subjects which YOU like, perform well in and interest YOU;
- discuss your strengths and weaknesses with your SUBJECT TEACHERS;
- discuss options with your TUTOR and your PARENTS;
- go to the careers staff and careers information in the library for advice;
- realise that all courses lead to a certificate qualification;
- understand that there are equal opportunities for boys and girls in ALL subjects;
- realise that the decisions you will be making are vital;
- try to be sure that you are happy with your choice. You are the one who is going to follow it through.



Don't

- assume you can drop subjects. You MUST follow your pathway allocation;
- make your mind up before you know ALL the facts;
- set your heart on one future career;
- think you can switch subjects once you have started the course;
- choose a course because your friends have done so. Their skills and interests may be different to yours;
- let like or dislike of a teacher influence your choice. It is more often than not impossible to say which teacher you will get at the time you make your choice;
- choose (or ignore) a subject because of your elder brother or sister;
- think any subjects are 'soft options'. You will have to work hard for ALL of them;
- choose a subject you know nothing about. Find out about it;
- listen to advice from people who know nothing about courses at this school;
- think some subjects are just for boys or just for girls. ALL are available to both on an even footing!
- make any decision hastily or lightly;
- panic, there are lots of people who are willing to help you.



FOR STUDENTS WHO STILL NEED HELP SEE MR DALBY AND HE WILL ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS IN MORE DETAIL.

Core Subjects

Compulsory Core Subjects

English Language	13
English Literature	14
Mathematics	15
Science	16
Personal development	17
Careers education and guidance	18
Physical education	19



English Language

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

All vocations and college courses require a GCSE in English Language. This course will develop students' skills in reading and writing in a variety of fiction and non-fiction contexts.

Paper 1:

20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Section A: Reading

- One literature fiction text and 5 questions

Section B: Writing

- One piece of narrative writing (choice of 4 titles)

Paper 2:

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A: Reading

- Two non-fiction texts and 6 questions
- One text is post-2000 and the other is pre-1900

Section B: Writing

- Two pieces of transactional writing which can include letters, speeches, articles and reviews.

Writing to present a viewpoint

Non-examination Assessment:

Spoken Language

Paper 2:

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks available
- 60% of GCSE

Non-examination Assessment:

Spoken Language

- Teacher set throughout course
- Marked by teacher
- Separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)

Why do I study this subject?

Skills – you will learn how to investigate and analyse language and how to use language creatively.

Knowledge/understanding – you will learn how to deconstruct a text and recognise how to interpret its meaning.

Progression/Careers – All vocations and college courses require a GCSE in English Language. It is highly valued by employers, and providers of Further and Higher Education. A strong grade in English Language offers excellent preparation for A-Level study. Specific careers linked to English include Journalism, Marketing, and Publishing. For further information, see www.prospects.ac.uk – Careers Advice section

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1:

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks available
- 40% of GCSE

PLEASE NOTE: Employers, training providers as well as further and higher education all now recognise that GCSE English and English Literature are equally weighted.

English Literature

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: Eduqas

What will I study?

English Literature allows students to experience a range of literature with a wide variety of appeal drawn from contemporary and modern texts, texts from across the globe and texts which have had a significant influence on our English literary and cultural heritage.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Poetry Anthology

- Section A: Shakespeare
- Section B: The Anthology

Paper 2: Prose, Drama & Unseen Poetry

- Section A: Post-1914 Prose/Drama
- Section B: 19th Century Prose
- Section C: Unseen poetry

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Poetry Anthology

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks available
- 40% of GCSE
- Response for Shakespeare (20 minutes)
- Poem analysis and comparison

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 120 marks available
- 60% of GCSE
- Essay response on drama and prose
- Unseen poem analysis and comparison

Why do I study this subject?

Skills –

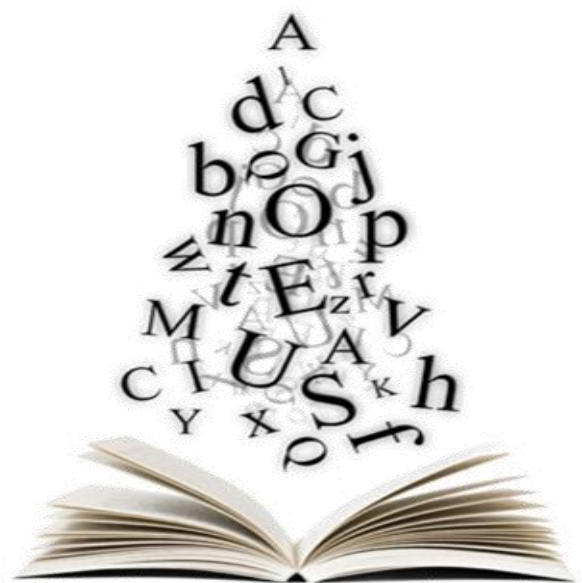
You will learn how to write analytical essays about the texts you have studied.

Knowledge/ understanding –

You will learn about the language devices employed by writers, the influence of the time in which the texts were written and the thoughts and feelings within each text.

Progression/ Careers-

GCSE English is highly valued by employers, and providers of Further and Higher Education. A strong grade in GCSE English offers excellent preparation for A level study. Specific careers linked to English include Journalism, Marketing, and Publishing. For further information, see www.prospects.ac.uk – Careers Advice section



Mathematics

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: OCR

What will I study?

The complete programme of study covers the following topics, all of which are taught simultaneously over two years in Y9 and Y10 and builds on prior knowledge and skills learned in Y7 and Y8:

- Number – calculations, number theory, arithmetic operations, fractions, decimals, percentages, indices, surds, approximation
- Algebra – expressions, formulae, equations, inequalities, functions, sequences, linear graphs, curves
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change – ratio calculations, direct and inverse proportion, growth and decay
- Geometry and measures – angles, properties of polygons, circles, 3-D shapes, perimeter, area, volume, surface area, triangle calculations, transformations, congruence, similarity, constructions, units
- Probability – basic probability, relative frequency, combined events, probability diagrams

During Y11, students will revise all topics previously learned with a focus on developing exam technique and closing any gaps in knowledge.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE mathematics is assessed by examination. All students will sit 3 papers in the summer of year 11, with 100 marks awarded for each (300 in total).

Each paper will be 1 hour 30 minutes long. In paper 1 and paper 3 calculators are allowed, with paper 2 being non calculator. Students must sit all 3 papers to be awarded the GCSE qualification.

There are two tiers of entry, Foundation and Higher, and students will be entered for whichever tier is the most appropriate for them. Foundation tier covers grades 5 to 1 and Higher tier covers grades 9 to 4.

Why do I study this subject?

Skills –

By studying Maths students will develop a range of skills that are not only sought after by employers but that will also help them throughout their day-to-day life. For example, Maths encourages logical thinking, decision-making and problem-solving. Maths is a vital skill to help students to learn how to budget with money.

Knowledge/ understanding –

GCSE Mathematics focuses on not only teaching mathematical skills to students but also enabling students to become fluent in their understanding of mathematical knowledge and concepts. It helps students apply mathematical techniques to real-world problems.

Progression/ Careers –

Mathematics GCSE is an essential qualification for future studies and work life. It provides a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study and for employment, providing students with appropriate mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding. For students with a talent for Maths, careers in Finance, Computing and Engineering may be of interest. For many more ideas see

<http://www.mathscareers.org.uk/>

Science (Combined Science)

Qualification Obtained: GCSE (2 GCSE's)

Specification: AQA (Trilogy specification)

What will I study?

The combined science course is designed to allow students to study a wide range of science. Through biology, chemistry and physics they will discover the ways in which scientific knowledge impacts upon the world around them. Combined science is made up of theory work and practical work. Students will complete required practicals to help them to develop the skills needed. To understand and evaluate scientific information, students need to develop good language and maths skills.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of Y11 there are six exam papers: x2 Biology, x2 Chemistry and x2 Physics. Questions are a combination of multiple choice, closed short answer, and open extended response questions.

Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from the course and include assessment of practical and investigative skills. Each of the six combined science papers will be 1 hour 15 minutes, 70 Marks, 16.7% of the final GCSE grade per paper.

Students can sit **Higher Tier (Grades 4-9)** or **Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5)**

This is a dual award, and students will receive 2 GCSE grades.

In addition, students will have to complete 21 required practicals over the 2 years within their lessons.

There is a large maths element within lessons and exams, especially in the physics component.

Why do I study this subject?

Skills –

Develop practical and investigative skills to enable you to understand science. Use maths skills in context and language skills to get to grips with the scientific terminology you will come across.

Knowledge/ understanding –

Learn about the world around you. How your body works, what everything is made of and how things work.

Progression/ Careers –

Good grades in combined science enable progression to a wide range of careers from nursing to sound engineering to construction. People with qualifications in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) are in demand in today's workplace. See

www.wherestemcantakeyou.co.uk for inspiration. You will be able to progress to a science A Level and other level 3 science courses from combined science, although some students may prefer to take separate sciences in order to study each subject in even greater depth.



Personal Development

Qualification Obtained: Compulsory non-assessed

What will I study?

All students will take part in a programme of personal development activities, through Personal Development days and one lesson per week on the timetable in Y10. The aim of the programme is to increase the self-esteem, self-awareness and confidence of each student so that he/she will be able to make reasoned decisions about the direction of their lives, personal values and standards, and cope with the variety of circumstances which they may meet in early adulthood,

The Y10 PD lessons cover Government and Politics, Local Community, Personal Health, Relationships/Sex education, Study Skills and Personal Finance. PD days cover other Citizenship topics such as Crime and Punishment, along with Careers and health topics. All PD in Y10 and Y11 builds on the topics covered in KS3. Many of these themes are also covered through other subjects to give a broad base of knowledge and skills.

The programme will be delivered by form tutors, other staff and a wide range of visitors from specialist agencies, such as the police, health service, and colleges.

Assemblies, form time and visits for example to employers, colleges and universities also help students with their personal development.

How will I be assessed?

Students will receive comments from form tutors regarding their involvement in personal development activities, but this is not a formally assessed course. There may be opportunities for students to gain some short qualifications linked to specific activities, for example First Aid.

Supporting your son/daughter

Conversations at home can really help students to think through what they have learnt in personal development, and to feel confident in the decisions they make.

Keep yourself informed – there is a Health section on the Academy website (under ‘Parents’) with lots of links to information about drugs/alcohol, sexual health and relationships, emotional wellbeing. The ‘Careers’ section also has links to a range of recommended careers websites.

Contact the academy if you have any concerns or questions.



Careers Education and Guidance

Qualification Obtained: Compulsory non-assessed

What will I study?

The Careers Education programme forms part of the personal development programme. Through careers days and lessons, we aim to widen students' horizons and give them a broad basis of skills from which they can plan their future careers. Students research a range of occupations and learn how to use action planning.

In addition to the taught careers programme, there are opportunities for students to explore their ideas:

- We have an excellent careers library and IT resources for students to research careers and courses in Further and Higher education. This is available to students with support on Wednesday lunchtimes, IT resources are accessible around the school.
- Danielle Evans, our Careers Adviser, is a regular visitor to school and works with students in small groups or individually to progress their career plans. She is also available to parents at progress meetings.
- Y10 Mock interviews – all Y10 students will have the opportunity to practice their interview skills with an employer. This can help students to build confidence towards their work experience and future progression from Y11.
- The Personal Development co-ordinator is Mrs Brown – with a background in careers guidance, Mrs Brown is available in school to support students in making decisions and progressing on from KS4.

- Students will be expected to complete a two-week work experience placement at the end of Year 10. Students are encouraged to contact employers and find a placement that will help them gain experience and skills for their futures. Additional support will be available from school in finding placements.
- College and University visits will be offered to students to help them prepare for transition to post-16 education.

How will I be assessed?

The careers education programme is not formally assessed, but students will be given written feedback on their work experience placements which will contribute to references written for college and job applications during Y11.

Supporting your son/daughter

Find out what is available – use the National Careers Service to find out about local employment opportunities, different career options and qualifications routes –

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

Help your son/daughter keep a record of their skills and achievements – this will really help when they apply for work experience, college or employment

Physical Education

Qualification Obtained: Compulsory non-assessed

What will I study?

All students in Year 10 and 11 receive one period of physical education per week.

During Year 10 students will follow the National Curriculum by refining and further developing a number of skills which they acquired in Key Stage 3. Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills across a wide range of activities and sports. This will continue into the first half of Year 11.

During the second half of Year 11 students select from a variety of activities. There will be some emphasis on providing students with the knowledge and enthusiasm to continue lifelong participation in sport and physical activity when they leave the Academy.

How will I be assessed?

All students continue to be assessed against National Curriculum criteria based on the following –

- Practical Performance
- Knowledge of rules, regulations and scoring systems of activities completed
- Knowledge and use of tactics within chosen activities
- Use of leadership skills within activities

Why do I study this subject?

Shirebrook Academy Physical Education department aims to provide ALL students with the knowledge and enthusiasm to continue in their sporting pathway. Whether this be in a practical nature, simply by encouraging students and giving them the opportunity to participate in sport for life within the community facilities, or whether it be by continuing to enhance their sporting qualifications at College or University.



Options Subjects

Subjects

Separate Sciences	21
Geography.....	22
History.....	23
Religious Studies	24
French/Spanish	25
Computer Science	26
Creative iMedia.....	27
Enterprise & Marketing.....	28
Design Technology: Construction	29
Hospitality & Catering	30
Art, Craft & Design	31
Photography.....	32
Music.....	33
Drama.....	34
Physical Education	35
Sport.....	36
Health & Social Care.....	37
Notes.....	38



Separate Sciences

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: AQA

What will I study?

Essentially you will study some of the same units as GCSE Combined Science, but you will go into more breadth and depth, as well as covering extra content and skill. You will find you're better prepared if you want to take Science A Levels.

If you love Science and consistently achieving above age related expectations in school Science and Maths assessments, then you should consider the Triple Award. Everyone does their best in subjects they enjoy, and you might find that there's a certain area of Science you excel in.

How will I be assessed?

For each individual GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, students sit two exams for EACH qualification as outlined below:

Two papers: each paper (2x Biology, 2x Chemistry, 2X Physics) will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics.

Duration: both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Tier: Foundation and Higher although it expected that all students will sit the higher tier (grades 4-9).

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Question types: multiple choice, closed short answer and open extended response. There is a heavy focus on application of knowledge and working scientifically.

Practical work

Students will do eight practicals for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will be assessed on their practical skills in their exams with at least 40% of the marks coming from questions relating to practicals.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills-

Develop practical and investigative skills to enable you to understand science. Use maths skills in context and language skills to get to grips with the scientific terminology you will come across.

Knowledge/ Understanding -

Learn about the world around you. How your body works, what everything is made of and how things work. Develop an understanding of the environmental and ethical issues in science. Develop a high level of understanding of complex science.

Progression/ Careers –

This course provides a sound foundation for students intending taking A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics and would like to study a science subject at university. Separate sciences would be recommended for students who wish to study:

- Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmaceuticals or Veterinary Sciences.
- Engineering such as chemical, structural or mechanical that require a degree.
- Science with the view to a career in research in that field

Criteria - Due to the high demands of chemistry, physics and biology the entry criteria are to be working at above age expected levels in Science and Maths. You must also have effort grades of 1 or 2. There will be at least one class of separate scientists. If more students apply than there is space for then students will be selected based on the above criteria.

Geography

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: AQA

What will I study?

The course has been designed to allow a large number of topics to be studied over the 2 years and to provide an insight into some of the most important and topical issues that will shape your life from climate change to resource depletion, from the destruction of rainforests to trade wars between countries. GCSE Geography gives you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which will shape and change your world. Topics that you will study include: natural hazards looking at volcanoes, hurricanes, extreme weather events and climate change, living world studying tropical rainforests and deserts. Urban issues and challenges, the topics range from shanty towns/slums in the poor countries to building new green carbon neutral cities. The changing economic world, looking at why some countries are richer than others and how international companies are changing the world in which we live.

How will I be assessed?

3 exams. There is no coursework element.

Paper 1 –

Living with the physical environment –
1 hour 30 mins – 35%

Paper 2 –

Challenges in the human environment –
1 hour 30 mins – 35%

Paper 3 –

Geographical applications –
1 hour 30 mins – 30%

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

The ability to analyse case studies, to write structured and informed answers, to ask questions about how and why our world is as it is and show the ability to make informed judgements on human and physical issues.

Knowledge / Understanding –

A combination of human geography, physical geography, economic geography and geographical skills.

Progression / Careers –

Anything at all. Studying GCSE Geography provides students with a variety of valuable skills that can be transferred and used across other subject areas and later in working life, these practical and transferable skills include looking at issues differently, teamwork, geographical argument, evaluation and data handling. Geography is a well-respected academic GCSE because of the breadth of content covered and the analytical skills developed, this is why employers and colleges value the subject so highly.



History

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: EDEXCEL

What will I study?

Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-c1088 –

How England was governed under the Saxons, how and why the Normans invaded in 1066 and what life was like in the new Norman England.

Medicine through time, c1250 – C1900 - at the

change and continuity of medicine through British history. You will study the main people, events and developments, as well as the significant features of the different ages, from medieval to modern times. In studying the Western Front during the First World War, you will investigate a historic environment that was significant to the development of medicine.

American West c1835-c1895 – How and why settlers moved west, how life changed for American Indians, law and order in the west and the destruction of the Plains Indian's way of life.

Weimar and Nazi Germany c1918-c1939 – Germany's state at the end of WWI, life in Weimar Germany, how the Nazis rose to power and life in Nazi Germany.

How will I be assessed?

3 exams. There is no coursework element.

Paper 1 –

Medicine through time
1 hour 20 mins – 30%

Paper 2 –

American West and Anglo Saxon and Norman England – 1 hour 50 mins – 40%

Paper 3 –

Weimar and Nazi Germany –
1 hour 30 mins – 30%

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

The ability to analyse sources and interpretations, to write structured answers, to ask questions about how our world has been created and show the ability to make informed judgements

Knowledge / Understanding –

The history of Crime and Punishment, how modern USA began to be formed in the 'old west', how the Normans transformed England and studying one of the 'great dictators' in Adolf Hitler.

Progression / Careers –

Anything at all. History shows that you are a rounded and analytical citizen. In the past, Prime Ministers, lawyers, authors and of course History teachers have studied History at GCSE and beyond.



Religious Studies

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: AQA

What will I study?

The study of two different religions: beliefs, teaching and practices. The combination for this is Christianity and Islam. This is the religious element of the GCSE course.

Thematic studies: the ethics that are integral to theology; looking at relationships and families; religion and life; religion, peace and conflict; religion and crime and punishment.

How will I be assessed?

2 exams. There is no coursework element.

Paper 1

Beliefs, teachings and practices –
1 hour 45 mins – 50%

Paper 2

Thematic Studies – 1 hour 45 mins – 50%

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

The ability to analyse a range of religious texts and ethical arguments, to write structured answers, to ask questions about how our world has been created, and the morality of our world, and show the ability to make well-considered judgements.

Knowledge/ Understanding –

The theology behind two key religions: Christianity and Islam; and the key ethical and moral dilemmas of the modern world.

Progression/ Careers –

Anything at all. Religious Studies shows that you are a well-rounded and analytical human being. The study of religion is the oldest subject in the world, so people have been debating key issues and using this to inform their careers since the ancient world.



French or Spanish

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: EDEXCEL

What will I study?

The two-year GCSE course will build perfectly on the skills you learnt in Year 7-9 and provide you with the opportunity to develop into skilled linguists ready to use your language skills in real life situations. The topics you will study at GCSE French/Spanish have a much cooler, modern, current and up to date feel, making language learning more relevant than ever before. The topics you will study include:

Thematic Context 1 – My Personal World

Relationships with family and friends, marriage/partnership, sports, hobbies and past & future personal celebrations.

Thematic Context 2 – Media & Technology

Social media and gaming, TV programmes, films & Francophone/Hispanic cinema and music.

Thematic Context 3 – Studying & Future

Life at school, future pathways, apprenticeships/university & future careers.

Thematic Context 4 – Lifestyle & Wellbeing

Healthy living, mental and physical wellbeing, sports, and food/drink across the Francophone/Hispanic world.

Thematic Context 5 – My Neighbourhood

Where you live, places in town and the environment

Thematic Context 6 – Travel & Tourism

Holiday destinations, countries, accommodation & tourist attractions

How will I be assessed?

Students will be entered for the higher paper or the foundation paper.

HIGHER:

- 25% - Speaking exam (10-12 minutes + 15 minutes preparation time)
- 25% - Writing exam (1 hour 20 minutes)
- 25% - Reading exam (1 hour)
- 25% - Listening exam (1 hour)

FOUNDATION:

- 25% - Speaking exam (7-9 minutes + 15 minutes' preparation time)
- 25% - Writing exam (1 hour 15 minutes)
- 25% - Reading exam (45 minutes)
- 25% - Listening exam (45 minutes)

You can only choose the language that you have been studying over the last 3 years, for example if you have studied FRENCH in Y8 and Y9 you CANNOT study SPANISH at GCSE and vice versa.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

Not only will you learn communication skills & adaptability, you will also develop cultural awareness, appreciation of other ways of life and increased confidence. You will overcome challenges and learn amazing techniques to boost your memory. Believe it or not, you will also learn skills which make you better at maths and English (boosting your grades in these two important GCSE subjects) On top of all that, you'll also learn how to be more outgoing, sociable and creative. What more could you want?

Knowledge / Understanding –

You will learn how to speak and write to a high level, translate confidently and accurately and develop the skills to read and listen to real life French and Spanish in a range of settings. If you have the right mind-set and attitude, you really can develop into an outstanding French/Spanish speaker – as proven by lots of our recent GCSE students.

Progression / Careers –

In today's multicultural society the ability to use and understand a foreign language will continue to grow in importance and a good pass at GCSE will be impressive and useful in a range of careers, such as travel and tourism, hotel catering, management, business, leisure, education and translation/interpreting. Many universities across the country request a GCSE language, meaning you could already be one step ahead of your peers by choosing a language, and the complex skills involved with learning languages will give you the edge in the job market. Languages combine well with virtually any other subject for further study and give you exciting opportunities to travel, work abroad and meet new people. Imagine taking a holiday to Spain and understanding everything everyone says or working in the beautiful south of France, spending your summer evenings on the beach. Imagine how impressed your friends and family will be when you speak confidently with your new French and Spanish friends. What could be better than learning a language?

Computer Science

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: OCR

What will I study?

- How processors work.
- Investigate computer memory and storage.
- Explore modern network layouts and how they function.
- Build skills in the ever-important realm of cyber security.
- Investigate how types of software are used within computer systems.
- Stretch wider comprehension of how computers and computing affect ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues
- Build a firm foundation in programming techniques.
- Produce programs through diagrams.
- Thoroughly test programs and make them resistant to misuse.
- Explore Boolean algebra (AND, OR, NOT) including logic gates and subsequent truth tables.
- Understand how we store data within computers in binary form.
- Complete practical programming tasks to solve problems using a high-level programming language
- Understand standard sorting and searching algorithms.

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1 – Computer Systems
80 marks, 1.5hrs – 50%
- Paper 2 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming
80 marks, 1.5hrs – 50%

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

- Valuable thinking, problem solving and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.

Knowledge / Understanding –

- A deep understanding of problem solving and experience in creating logical and efficient solutions.
- Ability to write down solutions to problems for other people to understand.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.

Progression / Careers –

- A Level Computer Science.
- Cambridge Technicals – IT Level 3 or Digital Media Level
- It also provides a good grounding for other subject areas that require problem solving and analytical skills

Careers could include:

- Network Manager
- Software Architect
- Data Analyst



Creative iMedia

Qualification Obtained: Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Specification: OCR

What will I study?

Creative iMedia is a practical, vocational qualification that focuses on creating digital media products for the creative industry. You will learn how media is planned, designed and produced for real-world audiences such as businesses, charities and online platforms. It is ideal for students who enjoy creative work, technology, and practical design projects.

Creative iMedia is perfect if you:

- Enjoy creative subjects like Art, DT or Computer Science
- Like working on projects rather than lots of exams
- Are interested in media, design, or technology
- Want practical skills for the future

You will learn about:

- Digital graphic design
- Creating logos, posters, and marketing materials
- Pre-production planning (ideas, storyboards, mood boards)
- Understanding media audiences and purpose
- Using industry-standard software such as Photoshop
- Evaluating and improving your own work

How will I be assessed?

- **Unit 1 Creative iMedia in the Media Industry (40%)** - Written exam
- **Unit 2 Visual identity and digital graphics (25%)** - NEA assessment
- **Unit 3 An optional unit (35%) to be selected from the following:**
 - - Characters and Comics
 - - Animation with Audio
 - - Interactive Digital Media
 - - Visual Imaging
 - - Digital Games

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

- Creativity and imagination
- Problem-solving
- Time management
- Independent working
- Communication and presentation skills
- Confidence using digital tools

It also helps build transferable skills valued by colleges, employers, and sixth forms.

Progression / Careers –

Creative iMedia can support progression to:

- Media Studies
- Creative Digital Media
- IT or Computing
- Art & Design
- Apprenticeships in creative or digital industries

Careers could include:

- Graphic Designer
- Web Designer
- Digital Marketer
- Game Designer
- Media Producer
- Content Creator
- Advertising and Branding Roles



Enterprise & Marketing

Qualification Obtained: Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Enterprise & Marketing

Specification: OCR

What will I study?

Enterprise & Marketing is a practical, vocational qualification that helps you understand how real businesses operate. You will learn how products are developed, marketed and sold, and how entrepreneurs identify opportunities and manage risk.

This course is ideal for students who are interested in business, advertising, selling ideas, and real-world problem solving.

Enterprise and Marketing is a great choice if you:

- Are interested in business or entrepreneurship
- Enjoy presenting ideas and persuading others
- Like learning through real-life examples
- Want skills that are useful in any career
- Prefer a mix of coursework and exams

You will learn about:

- How businesses are started and run
- Identifying customer needs and market gaps
- Creating and promoting products and services
- Marketing methods (digital, social media, advertising)
- Understanding costs, profit and pricing
- Planning and pitching business ideas

How will I be assessed?

- **Unit 1**
Enterprise & Marketing concepts (40%)
Written exam
- **Unit 2 Design a business proposal (30%)**
NEA assessment
- **Unit 3**
Market and pitch a business proposal (30%)
NEA assessment

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

- Communication and presentation skills
- Teamwork and leadership
- Problem-solving and decision-making
- Financial awareness
- Creativity and innovation

It also develops skills valued by colleges, employers, and sixth forms.

Progression / Careers –

This course can support progression to:

- Business Studies
- Marketing
- Economics
- Finance
- Apprenticeships in business-related sectors

Careers could include:

- Marketing Executive
- Business Owner / Entrepreneur
- Sales Manager
- Digital Marketer
- Advertising and PR Roles
- Retail and Management Careers



Design & Technology: Construction and the built environment

Qualification Obtained: LEVEL 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment

(completed by all students)

Be introduced to the principles of the built environment and have the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment. Explore a range of professional and trade roles. Explore some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment.

Unit 2 OR Unit 3 will be chosen

Unit 2: Designing the Built Environment (option 1)

Building on the skills, knowledge and understanding you will develop through Unit 1, our Designing the Built Environment unit will offer you the opportunity to interpret and produce drafts, drawings, and models of design plans.

Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment (option 2)

You will study three construction trade areas of the built environment, including planning, undertaking and evaluating construction tasks.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Written exam 1 hour 30 mins – 40%. Short & extended response questions

Unit 2: Project work – 60%.

You will be given a client brief, and will be asked to produce design drawings and develop 3D models.

Unit 3: Project work – 60%.

Prepare and complete three trade-based tasks e.g. creating a simple lighting circuit, building a brick structure and making a wooden planter

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities.

Progression/ Careers –

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.



Hospitality & Catering

Qualification Obtained: LEVEL 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

This qualification is made up of 2 units

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering industry

Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry. Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food related causes of ill health.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action

Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact on nutritional value. Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learning how to review your work effectively.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a written examination and an assignment. Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification. In Unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take 12 hours.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills:

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Confidence
- Learning independently
- Organisation
- Problem solving
- Research
- Self-discipline
- Stamina
- Taking on responsibility
- Time management

Progression/ Careers –

The hospitality industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities which includes:

- Chef de partie
- Commis chef
- Concierge
- Executive chef
- Front of house manager
- Head waiter
- Housekeeper
- Maître d'hôte
- Pastry chef
- Receptionist
- Sous chef



Art, Craft & Design

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

In this exciting Art course, you will look at Artists, Craftpeople and Designers and use these to inspire your work. You will work with a variety of materials to produce traditional drawings through to large scale paintings. You will also experiment with printmaking and clay sculpture. Two educational visits form a valuable part of the course, with other exciting extra-curricular opportunities available.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1

Portfolio 60%

Component 2

Exam 40%

Students will be assessed on their ability to do the following:

- Research artists / photographers giving their own opinions.
- Experiment with different materials and techniques.
- Record ideas through drawings and photographs.
- Produce imaginative final pieces of work.

Students are expected to support all visual work with detailed written notes explaining their thinking.

To produce quality artwork takes time. Students are expected to put in the extra time of 1-2 hours per week to fulfil their potential. Extra support is always available at lunchtimes and after school by arrangement.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

Students will develop thinking skills alongside their practical skill base. They will gain expertise in using a variety of materials, techniques and processes.

Knowledge / Understanding –

Students will look at a range of artists and their work across the history of art and begin to understand the different ways that artists can make us think and feel about something we see, touch, or explore.

Progression / Careers –

This course opens an opportunity to progress onto a 2-year A Level course or alternatively a Diploma Level 3 course in Art & Design. Just a few of the many careers available with a qualification in Art and Design, e.g. Fashion Design, Digital Media, Jewellery Design, Architecture, and Product Design can be found at:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

**IF YOU CHOOSE THIS OPTION
YOU CANNOT CHOOSE PHOTOGRAPHY.**



Photography

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

In this exciting Photography course, you will look at Photographers, Artists and Designers and use these to inspire your work. You will work with a range of digital cameras and technology to produce thought provoking work. You will experiment with Photoshop and some traditional techniques like printmaking to produce creative images. Two educational visits form a valuable part of the course, with other exciting extra-curricular opportunities available.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1

Portfolio 60%

Component 2

Exam 40%

Students will be assessed on their ability to do the following:

- Research artists / photographers giving their own opinions.
- Experiment with different materials and techniques.
- Record ideas through drawings and photographs.
- Produce imaginative final pieces of work.

Students are expected to support all visual work with detailed written notes explaining their thinking. Students are expected to support digital work with some drawing for purpose, e.g. planning sketches.

To produce quality artwork takes time. Students are expected to put in the extra time of 1-2 hours per week to fulfil their potential. Extra support is always available at lunchtimes and after school by arrangement.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

Students will develop thinking skills alongside their practical skill base. They will gain expertise in using a variety of materials, digital techniques and processes.

Knowledge / Understanding –

Students will look at a range of photographers and their work across the history of photography and begin to understand the different ways that an image can make us think and feel.

Progression / Careers –

This course opens an opportunity to progress onto a 2-year A Level course or alternatively a Diploma Level 3 course in Art & Design (Photography). Just a few of the many careers available with a qualification in Art and Design (Photography), e.g. Filmmaking, Fashion Design, Digital Media, Architecture, and Product Design can be found at:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

**IF YOU CHOOSE THIS OPTION
YOU CANNOT CHOOSE ART, CRAFT & DESIGN**



Music

Qualification Obtained: Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

Specification: Pearson

What will I study?

The **Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice** is a practical, hands-on course designed for students who enjoy making and performing music. Students will study three main areas: **music performance, music creation, and music production**. They will develop skills on their chosen instrument or voice, learn how to compose and arrange music, and explore how music is recorded and produced using technology. The course encourages creativity, teamwork, and independent practice while building confidence and technical ability. Assessment is mainly coursework-based, with one external assessment. This qualification prepares students for further study in music or related creative subjects.

How will I be assessed?

The **course** is assessed through a combination of internal coursework and one external assessment.

- **Internal assessment (coursework):** Students complete practical assignments in performance, music creation, and music production.
- **External assessment:** Students complete a task set and marked by Pearson under controlled conditions

Why should I study this subject?

The **Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice** is ideal for students who enjoy learning through practical, creative activities. It develops valuable skills including musical performance, creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, and effective use of music technology. Students should be motivated, organised, and willing to practise independently. An interest in performing, composing, or producing music is essential. The course builds confidence and transferable skills that support progression into further education, apprenticeships, or careers within the music and wider creative industries.

Progression and Future Careers

Successful completion of the **Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice** supports progression to Level 3 music qualifications, including BTEC Nationals, A Levels, or music apprenticeships. The practical and transferable skills developed prepare students for future careers such as performer, composer, producer, sound engineer, music technician, or roles within the wider creative industries, as well as supporting pathways into further and higher education.



Drama

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

Component 1: Devising Theatre
Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated
40% of qualification

Learners will be assessed on **either** acting **or** design.

Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using **either** the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner **or** a genre, in response to a stimulus set by WJEC. Learners must produce:

- a realisation of their piece of devised theatre
- a portfolio of supporting evidence
- an evaluation of the final performance or design.

Component 2: Performing from a Text
Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner
20% of qualification

Learners will be assessed on **either** acting **or** design.

Learners study **two** extracts from the **same** performance text chosen by the centre.

Learners participate in **one** performance using sections of text from **both** extracts.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
40% of qualification

Section A: Set Text for assessment from 2024 onwards

A series of questions on **one** set text from a choice of seven:

1. *Macbeth* William Shakespeare
2. *An Inspector Calls* J.B. Priestley
3. *Find Me* Olwen Wymark
4. *Noughts & Crosses* Malorie Blackman, adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz
5. *Refugee Boy* Benjamin Zephaniah
6. *I Love You Mum – I Promise I Won't Die* Mark Wheeler
7. *The IT* Vivienne Franzmann.

Section B: Live Theatre Review

One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Devising Theatre (40%) - Non-Exam Assessment

Internally assessed, externally moderated.

Creation, development, and performance of a devised piece based on a stimulus and a practitioner/genre.

Requires a portfolio of supporting evidence (1,200–1,500 words or 7–10-minute recording) and a final performance.

Component 2: Performing from a Text (20%) - Non-Exam Assessment

Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Performance of two extracts from a chosen performance text.

Assessed on acting or design.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (40%) - Written Exam (1h 30m)

Section A: Set Text (45 marks): Questions on one set text from a list including *Macbeth*, *An Inspector Calls*, or *DNA*. Focuses on acting/design, character motivation, and staging.

Section B: Live Theatre Review (15 marks): Analysis and evaluation of a live theatre production seen during the course.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills – Candidates studying GCSE drama will develop the ability to:

- use improvisation skills in a range of drama contexts.
- acquire reflective and evaluative skills in response to a range of dramatic texts.
- work collaboratively and creatively with others.
- have confidence in themselves and interact skilfully with other people.

Knowledge/ Understanding –

Drama at GCSE aims to encourage students to be inspired, motivated and confident learners, and prepare them for learning beyond the school walls, where social interaction is fast becoming a required skill. It will give students a chance to study historical and contemporary texts, as well as perform a selection of plays as part of a group. Students will also be given the chance to expand their understanding of theatre with visits to live performances, as well as studying some of the world's most famous practitioners.

It will also help to develop students' spoken language, helping them to express themselves in a sophisticated and informative way. The course will teach them how to engage an audience and to respond in appropriate way.

Progression/ Careers –

Drama GCSE can lead to A level or BTEC courses in Performing Arts/Theatre Studies/Drama, which in turn can lead to degree level study. Careers directly related to drama include acting, theatre production, sound, lighting, teaching, theatre administration. See www.prospects.ac.uk – Careers Advice section for more information.

Drama can also help to build skills and confidence for careers requiring presentations or interactions with the public, including retail, sales, marketing, law, teaching.



Physical Education

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: AQA

What will I study?

The course is assessed based on both academic and practical performance, and whilst there will be occasions where the course is delivered practically, the majority of lessons will be theory based (in a classroom).

The theory aspect of the course is based around topics such as –

- Health and Fitness and Training
- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Movement analysis
- Diet
- Education and school
- Cultural and social factors
- Media, sponsorship, and technology in sport

The practical element will be assessed on their ability to perform in 3 different activities as well as their ability to evaluate their performances. This will include games activities, athletic activities, fitness activities and gymnastic activities. It is strongly advised that you are playing or taking part in at least one sport outside of school and performing regularly at a high level.

How will I be assessed?

Written paper - 60% of the final marks.

Two 1 hour 15 min exams based around 'The human and movement in physical activity and sport' and 'Social-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport'.

Controlled assessment - 40% of the final marks.

Students will be assessed on their practical performance in three different sports. Students will also complete an analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

The course will enable students to develop their practical ability in their chosen sports whilst analysing and evaluating their performances.

Knowledge/ Understanding –

The content of this GCSE Physical Education specification is designed to enable students to enjoy and understand the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle.

Progression/ Careers –

This course provides a route to further study in Further Education awards, such as A levels and/or BTEC level 3 courses and to Higher Education in PE as well as to related career opportunities. www.careers-in-sport.co.uk is a great place to start for career ideas.



Sport

Qualification Obtained: BTEC TECH AWARD

Specification: EDEXCEL / PEARSON

What will I study?

Students can choose to further develop their sporting skills and knowledge of exercise and fitness.

The course will be delivered through both practical and theory based lessons.

Components will include -

- Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity. This will look at types of participation, potential barriers and ways to overcome them to increase physical activity. In addition to technological advances. (Internal assessed and then externally moderated)
- Taking Part and Improving Practical Sports Students will investigate the component of fitness, role of official and learning methods to improve performance. (Internal assessed and then externally moderated)
- Developing Fitness to improve other participants' performance (externally assessed). This component will introduce students the importance of fitness, different types of fitness and fitness testing.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed via a combination of assessed coursework and practical work, with an external online exam.

60% Internal coursework which will be externally moderated will include a leading parts of exercise session, video evidence and written tasks. You will be recording leading peers and KS3 students.

40 % External written exam comprising of multiple choice and short answer questions to assess their knowledge of fitness and exercise.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills-

Students will learn new sports skills whilst developing their leadership skills and improving their practical ability.

Knowledge/ Understanding -

Sport is designed to enable students to develop a greater understanding of fitness and exercise.

Progression/ Careers –

The course provides a route to further study in Further Education, such as Level 3 BTEC Sports and Sport Science, and to Higher Education in PE. Career opportunities include coaching, health and fitness promotion, sports performance, managing sports facilities, and sports journalism.

www.careers-in-sport.co.uk is a great place to start for career ideas.

IF YOU CHOOSE THIS OPTION
YOU CANNOT CHOOSE PE



Health & Social Care

Qualification Obtained: BTEC TECH AWARD

Specification: EDEXCEL / PEARSON

What will I study?

Our Health and Social Care tech award course is a study programme which provides an introduction to the Health and Social Care sector. You will study three core components giving you the knowledge and understanding to work in this area. The course also aims to provide you with skills used by health care professionals on a daily basis. You will also learn about health care services and the importance of care values. These skills will be applied to realistic and local area scenarios.

If you are interested in working with people, or want to care for and help others, Health and Social Care could be for you.

Throughout the course you will learn through investigation, develop knowledge and understanding about health, social care and early years.

Students will complete practical work, learn about and understand the world we live in.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills-

The course aims to provide you with skills used by health care professionals on a daily basis which can be transferred and applied to everyday realistic situations.

Knowledge/ Understanding –

The course will enable you to learn and develop your knowledge and understanding of the health & social care and early years system.

Progression/ Careers –

This course opens up the opportunity to continue your studies in directly related courses such as Health and Social Care and Childcare as well as opportunities such as A level. Students can also progress into apprenticeships. To research the full range of opportunities in this growing sector, see www.skillsforcare.org.uk and www.healthcareers.nhs.uk.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed via a combination of assessed coursework and practical work, with an external online exam.

60% Coursework which includes students producing both written and verbal assignments on Human Lifespan Development and Services and Care values

40% 2-hour external exam to assess their knowledge of health and well-being.



Notes

Notes



Shirebrook

ACADEMY



Shirebrook Academy

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