



YEAR 9 OPTIONS

2024/25



A community of
inspiration,
excellence and
opportunities
for all to grow

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 encourage the study of a Modern Foreign Language, Social Science and 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 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,

Mrs Lindsey Burgin
Principal

Our Mission Statement

Shirebrook Academy Mission Statement

At Shirebrook Academy we are committed to inspiring **all** members of our academy community to be the best that they can be.

We believe that having the highest ambitions and aspirations for our students will help them to reach their true potential and we understand that this is achieved through a shared focus on excellent standards and expectations each and every day.

Our curriculum enables our learners to build their knowledge, understanding and skills over time and underpinning this is our dedication to high quality learning and teaching.

We work together in a mutually inclusive environment that respects every individual and their contribution. We know that we all have a responsibility to support each other and enable everyone to access their learning opportunities effectively and safely.

Working in partnership with our local and wider communities we aim to empower our young people in successfully taking their place in society. We appreciate that working together makes all the difference.

Shirebrook Academy aims to be: **“A community of inspiration, excellence and opportunities for all to grow”**

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 our students while 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.

What is the EBacc?

The EBacc, or English Baccalaureate to use its full name, is a collection of academic GCSE subjects. These subjects are –

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History OR Geography
- French OR Spanish (at Shirebrook Academy)

What are the benefits of studying the EBacc?

Choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives students access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

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

A broad & balanced range of Ebacc subjects allows more flexibility for future pathways.

Ebacc subjects help to develop better critical thinking & writing skills.

Employers value languages and having language skills will help make students stand out from the crowd and greatly enhances their future opportunities.



Pathways

Guided Choice

There are 3 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:

Navy Pathway (Ebacc)

Blue Pathway (Core/Combined)

Yellow Pathway (Core Booster)

So why do we have different pathways

The pathways are designed to ensure that we are meeting the expectations and 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 Lindsey Burgin, or email enquiries@shirebrookacademy.org explaining your concerns and preferences.

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

Navy Pathway

The Navy pathway is designed for students who have minimum expected grades of Grade 5 or above.

This is the EBacc route, which is explained on the previous page. There is the expectation that most students will study triple science and a MFL.

The choices for this group are slightly more limited to ensure they achieve the full EBacc and give them the best opportunity to progress to A Levels and University. Students will be studying nine qualifications.

Blue Pathway

The Blue pathway is designed for the majority of students who will study for nine qualifications.

Students have an open choice of four subjects, one of which must be either Geography or French and a Social Science – GCSE RE or Citizenship. This gives students TWO further option choices.

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.

It is possible to choose to study for the EBacc

Yellow Pathway

The Yellow pathway is designed for students who need additional support in order to be successful in all of their studies.

They will have two additional lessons in both English & Maths (Core Booster) and gain eight qualifications.

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

Students will also have 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

Separate Sciences

(Only available to eligible students)

Geography

History

Religious Studies

Citizenship Studies

French

Spanish

Computer Science

Enterprise and Marketing

Creative iMedia

Design Technology: Construction & the Built Environment

Hospitality and Catering

Art, Craft & Design

(If you choose this option you CANNOT choose PHOTOGRAPHY)

Photography

(If you choose this option you CANNOT choose ART, CRAFT & DESIGN)

Music

Drama

Physical Education

(If you choose this option you CANNOT choose SPORT)

Sport

(If you choose this option you CANNOT choose PE)

Health & Social Care

Child Development



Pathways Option Choices

Navy Pathway

Core Curriculum including GCSE Spanish or French and option choices as below

Option Choice 1 – Social Science

Religious Studies or Citizenship Studies

Option Allocation 2 – Humanities

Geography or History

Option Choice 3 (if not studying MFL)

Option Subject

Option Choice 4 (if not studying triple science)

Option Subject

Yellow Pathway

Core Curriculum including;

Reading/Literacy

Statistics

Personal Development

and option choices as below

Option Choice 1

Option Subject

Option Choice 2

Option Subject

Blue Pathway

Core Curriculum and option choices as below

Option Choice 1 – Social Science

Religious Studies or Citizenship Studies

Option Choice 2 - Humanities

Geography or History

Option Choice 3

Option Subject

Option Choice 4

Option Subject



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/CNAT 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.

Cambridge Nationals (CNAT)

- Cambridge nationals are Level 1/2 qualifications designed specifically for students aged 14-16.
- They provide an excellent start for vocational study, contribute to a broad curriculum offer and enable progressions to A levels, apprenticeships or Level 3 vocational qualifications such as Cambridge Technicals.



Key Staff for Guidance

Your form tutor

Mrs L Burgin

Principal

Mr W Foster

Pastoral & Learning Lead for Year 9

Mrs L Ward

Vice Principal
SEND and Inclusion

Mr D O'Reilly

Vice Principal
Quality of Education

Mr D Smith

Assistant Vice Principal

Mrs K Brown

Personal Development &
Careers Co-ordinator

Mrs A Shirley

Pastoral Support Manager for Year 9

Miss D Evans

Careers Adviser

Options Process Timeline

Thursday 25th January & Friday 26th January

Personal Development (PD) lessons providing information, advice and guidance around options and student choices.

w/c Monday 29th January

Options information posted on website.

w/c Monday 12th February

Option books, options guidance & options forms distributed to students and parents/carers

Monday 12th February

Y9 student progress meeting.

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 1st March

Deadline for options forms to be completed online using GOOGLE FORMS.

w/c Monday 4th March

Consultation with students who have incomplete forms
Discussion re the viability of subjects
Consultation with students who need to choose alternative option choices

STEP
1

STEP
2

STEP
3

IF FEWER THAN 20 STUDENTS
CHOSE 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 do English, Mathematics and Science;
- 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 don't know 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 FOSTER AND HE WILL ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS IN MORE DETAIL.

Core Subjects

Compulsory Core Subjects

English Language13

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Physical education19



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

Anthology

- Section A: Shakespeare
- Section B: The Anthology

Paper 2: Prose, Drama & Unseen Poetry

- Section A: Modern texts
- Section B: Poetry
- 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
- Extract response for Shakespeare (20 minutes)
- Essay response for Shakespeare (40 minutes)
- Single poem analysis (20 minutes)
- Comparison of two poems (40 minutes)

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 120 marks available
- 60% of GCSE
- Essay response on drama text (45 minutes)
- Essay response on prose text (45 minutes)
- Single unseen poem analysis (20 minutes)
- Comparison of two unseen poems (40 minutes)

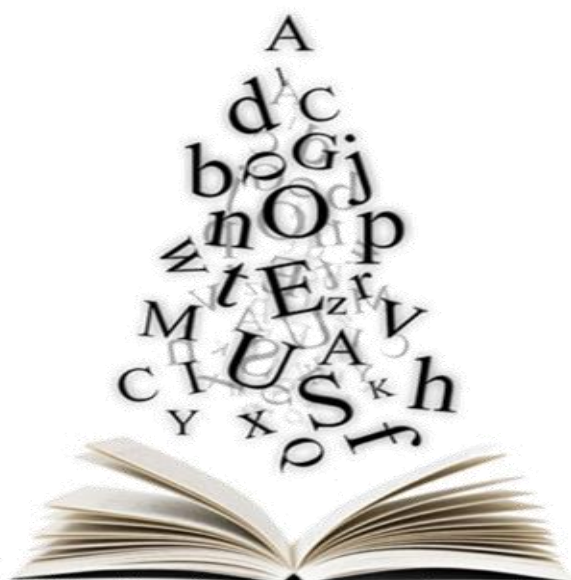
Why do I study this subject?

Skills –

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

Knowledge/understanding – you will learn about plots, characters and themes of the text and the influence of the time in which the texts were written.

Progression/Careers – GCSE English Literature is highly valued by employers, and providers of Further and Higher Education. A strong grade in GCSE English Literature 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



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

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
- Statistics – sampling, averages, measures of spread, interpreting and representing data

During Y11, students will revise all topics previously learned with a focus on developing exam technique.

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 in order 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 GCSEs)

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. In order 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: NONE

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 if on the appropriate pathway. 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.

In addition, students in Key Stage 4 have a tutor period every week dedicated to debate and discussion of various topics related to the Philosophy and Ethics curriculum.

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: NONE

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, she 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: NONE

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 both on and off site. 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.

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.

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



Options Subjects

Subjects

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Hospitality & Catering	30
Enterprise & Marketing	31
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Photography	33
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Drama	35
Physical Education	36
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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 definitely 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 15 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 –

Migration to Britain

1 hour 15 mins – 30%

Paper 2 –

American West and Anglo Saxon and Norman England – 1 hour 45 mins – 40%

Paper 3 –

Weimar and Nazi Germany –

1 hour 20 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 Medicine through time, 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, though it is true that history lends itself more easily to reading/writing/research-based careers like law and journalism, but history is generally an academic option – all colleges and universities believe that it develops excellent skills which are necessary for all careers.

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?

In this subject you will study

Paper 1. The Study of Religions

Christianity: beliefs, teachings, and practices

Islam: beliefs, teachings, and practices

Paper 2. Thematic Studies

Relationships and Families

Religion and Life

Peace and Conflict

Crime and Punishment

How will I be assessed?

2 written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes each

Each worth 50% of GCSE

Why should I study this subject?

Religious Studies makes a significant contribution to pupils' academic and personal development. It also plays a key role in promoting social cohesion and the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society. GCSE Religious Studies provides a broad understanding of the beliefs and practices of both Christianity and Islam, as well as promoting religious literacy and the contemplation of ultimate questions. Students will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes whilst considering a range of relevant and contemporary themes and modern-world issues.

Skills –

Research, analysis and presentation skills.

Critical thinking skills and the ability to interpret information, formulate questions and solve problems.

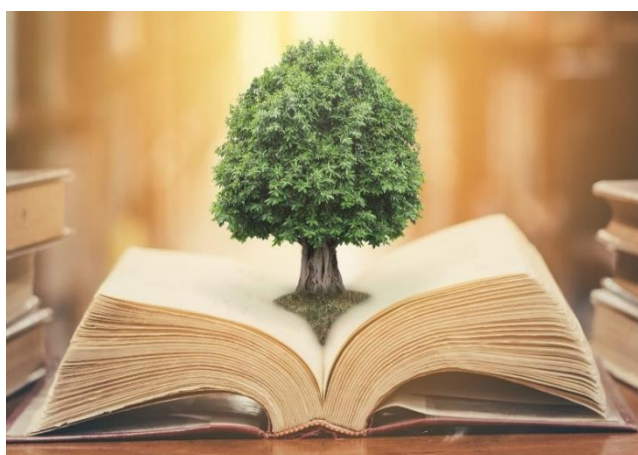
Ability to think philosophically and evaluate faith and culture.

Organisational and time management skills.

Team-working and communication skills.

Progression/ Careers –

A GCSE in Religious Studies can lead to A Levels in Religious Studies or Philosophy. It can also be useful in careers such as; education, the armed forces, health care, social work, public services, journalism, and the law.



Citizenship Studies

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: AQA

What will I study?

Citizenship Studies investigates how the citizen is enabled by society to play a full and active part and how citizens are empowered to effect change within society. Citizenship understanding develops through the knowledge of how a society operates and functions and its underlying values.

The overarching theme of this specification is 'How citizens can try to make a difference'. This aim is supported by three content themes: Life in modern Britain, Rights and responsibilities and Politics and participation. The skills, processes and methods underpin the specification.

Topics will include:

- **Citizenship skills, processes and methods**
- **Life in modern Britain**
- **Rights and responsibilities**
- **Politics and participation**
- **Active citizenship**

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed through performance in two papers:

Paper 1: 1hr 45 mins. Section A: Active Citizenship and Section B: Politics and Participation. 80 marks. 50% of GCSE.

Paper 2: 1hr and 45 mins. Section A: Life in modern Britain and Section B: Rights and responsibilities. 80 marks. 50% of GCSE.

Questions are a mix of multiple choice, short answer, source-based and extended answer responses across both papers.

Why should I study this subject?

Citizenship Studies is about how people take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally.

A qualification in Citizenship enables students to deepen their knowledge of democracy and government, the law, rights and responsibilities and how we live together in society.

Citizenship is a qualification for you if:

- You are able to speak out and share your views
- You have an interest in local and global affairs
- You are able to think creatively
- You are keen to work with others

Citizenship is an ideal preparation for A level subjects like Law, Health and Social Care, Philosophy, Government and Politics and History. Careers in Law, the Public Sector, Politics, Diplomacy, Social Work, the Police and Local and National Government would all be well served by Citizenship Studies.



French or Spanish

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: AQA

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 in to 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, which makes language learning more relevant than ever before. The topics you will study include:

Topics will include:

- **My personal world**
- **Lifestyle and well being**
- **My neighbourhood**
- **Media and technology**
- **Studying and My future**
- **Travel and Tourism**

All topics will cover cultural elements of the Spanish and French speaking world opening up opportunities to understand the world and different traditions, celebrations and beliefs.

How will I be assessed?

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

HIGHER:

- 25% - Speaking exam – Reading aloud, Role Play and Picture Task with conversations. (10-12 minutes + 15 minutes preparation Time)
- 25% - Writing exam (1 hour 20 minutes)
- 25% - Reading and translation exam (1 hour)
- 25% - Listening and Dictation exam (1 hour)

FOUNDATION:

- 25% - Speaking exam – Reading aloud, Role Play and Picture Task with conversations. (7-9 minutes + 15 minutes preparation Time)
- 25% - Writing exam (1 hour 15 minutes)
- 25% - Reading and translation exam (45 minutes)
- 25% - Listening and Dictation exam (45 minutes)

REMEMBER – IF YOU ONLY STUDIED ONE LANGUAGE IN YEAR 9, THIS IS THE LANGUAGE YOU NEED TO CHOOSE.

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: VOCATIONAL

Specification: OCR

What will I study?

- The modules offered include:
- Pre-Production Skills
- Creative Digital Graphics
- Interactive Multimedia Products

How will I be assessed?

- 66% of the qualification is tested by coursework that's set and marked by the class teacher. The coursework involves students to plan and create. The remaining 33% is an external assessment where two sittings can be taken to really maximise the potential of the final grade you could achieve. This involves assessing pre-production materials such as Mind Maps and Mood boards in a 1 hour and 15 minute examination.

Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

- Organisation skills
- Innovative and creative skills
- IT skills although most of these skills are developed through the course
- Attention to detail
- Ability to be flexible and adaptable
- Written skills
- Planning skills
- Strong resilience skills

Knowledge / Understanding –

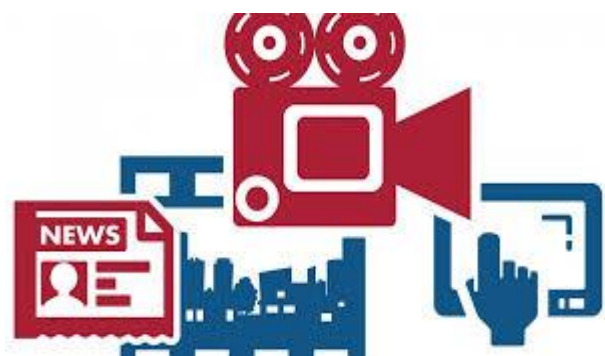
Cambridge National in Creative iMedia lets students gain knowledge in a number of key areas in the Computing field, from pre-production skills to digital animation to digital graphics, and offers a hands-on approach to learning. The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia will also provide opportunities to develop useful transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, along with developing attributes such as working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. A vast array of software packages will be used throughout the qualification.

Progression / Careers –

Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia is excellent preparation for any student wanting to move onto further education.

There are a range of courses students can move onto such as Cambridge Technical Level 3 in IT.

Students have gone on to university to study Game Development, Games Design, IT with Business Studies, IT Management and so on.



Construction and the built environment

Qualification Obtained: LEVEL 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD

Specification: EDUQAS

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.

Why should I study this subject?

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP? You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

CAREERS WITH CONSTRUCTING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT? 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.

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



Hospitality & Catering

Qualification Obtained: VOCATIONAL

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

The course comprises of two key units of study. Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry and Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action.

Whilst working towards completion of both units, students will be given the opportunity to research, plan, prepare and develop their own dishes. Students will develop their practical making and presentation skills and will be challenged to create restaurant quality food. Students will study functional elements of the Hospitality and Catering industry including health and safety, job roles, food nutrition and much more.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment for this course is covered across 2 units.

This comprises of a practical assessment which gives students the opportunity to research, plan and make dishes for a Hospitality and Catering scenario.

Students will also sit a 90 min theory exam which covers a wide range of elements of the Hospitality and Catering industry



Why should I study this subject?

Skills & Knowledge –

Although practical making skills are an asset on this course, successful students will also be able to apply their time management and problem solving skills to practical and theoretical scenarios.

The qualification has been designed to build on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired at Key Stage 3, particularly skills related to literacy, numeracy, creativity, problem solving and enterprise. Organisation skills are a must as students will research and provide ingredients for their own practical lessons.

This qualification enables learners to gain knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the hospitality and catering sector. In addition to development of sector specific knowledge and understanding, this qualification also supports learners to develop the essential employability skills that are valued by employers, further and higher education.

Progression / Careers –

This course could lead onto further study including

WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition (certificate and diploma)

Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery

Level 3 Advanced Diploma in Food Preparation and Cookery Supervision

Enterprise & Marketing - Business

Qualification Obtained: VOCATIONAL

Specification: OCR

What will I study?

Students will study
Enterprise and Marketing concepts
Design a business proposal
Market and pitch a business proposal

Students will learn about:

How to advertise, price and raise awareness of products.

Setup up a business, selling products and setting certain pricing strategies.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification is divided into 3 units, two units assessed by coursework and one unit assessed by an external examination.

The two coursework units are both worth 25%, totally 50% of the final grade (both out of 60 marks) while the examination unit is worth 50%, total marks being 80; therefore this is really beneficial for those who are effective at coursework.



Why should I study this subject?

Skills –

- Innovative and creative skills
- Good attention to detail
- Ability to assess graphs/charts
- Working with numbers
- Basic mathematic skills
- Organisation skills

Knowledge / Understanding –

The qualification allows students to select different ideas in business-related scenarios to efficiently setup and run their own business/organisation. Within business you will learn about factors which can affect businesses, such as Finance, Marketing and Human Resources aspects. You will look at the functional areas and job roles in businesses, as well as gaining knowledge regarding external factors. The subject explores real life businesses in different dynamic environments; for example, Sony, Nando's, Microsoft and Coca-Cola are some of the many different businesses we assess, monitor and evaluate throughout.

Progression / Careers –

Many students who have completed the course have successfully completed Business at A Level, thus leading to many individuals going on to study Business at university which is a stunning achievement. Business can lead into careers such as Game Development, becoming a director in many fields, go on to run a successful business themselves. At university, students can study courses such as Business Management, Business & IT, Business and Game Design and many more.

Art, Craft & Design

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

In this exciting Art course, you will look at Artists, Craftspeople 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. Three educational visits form a valuable part of the course, with lots of other exciting extra-curricular opportunities along the way.

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, and every piece of work counts towards final grades. Students are expected to put in extra time 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 up the 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:

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

**IF YOU CHOOSE THIS OPTION
YOU CANNOT CHOOSE TEXTILE DESIGN
OR PHOTOGRAPHY.**



Photography

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

In this exciting Photography course, you will look at Artists, Craftspeople 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. Three educational visits form a valuable part of the course, with lots of other exciting extra-curricular opportunities along the way.

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, and every piece of work counts towards final grades. Students are expected to put in extra time 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 up the 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. Film-making, Fashion Design, Digital Media, Architecture, and Product Design can be found at:

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

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



Music

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: EDUQAS

What will I study?

This qualification is made up of three components: Composition, Performance and Appraising.

Through completing these units, you will learn about a wide variety of genres including pop, rock, hip-hop, classical, jazz, film and world music. You will also gain a deeper understanding of music theory and how the music industry operates.

You will also develop your skills as a performer, and composer through completing a series of compositional based projects in years 10 and 11.

During this course in Years 10 and 11 you will be shown how to use industry standard music software in order to compose a wide range of musical styles/genres using computers.

In order to succeed in GCSE music, we recommend that you dedicate at least 20 minutes a day to practicing your instrument alongside your lesson time.

How will I be assessed?

60% of the course is coursework based. The coursework is 30% performance based and 30% composition based.

The remaining 40% of the assessment is gained through a listening examination (1 hour 15mins in duration).

Why should I study this subject?

Skills-

You will be able to develop your musical performance and composition skills and build your knowledge of music theory and musical analysis across a range of genres and traditions. You will also develop your team-working skills, time-management, self-discipline, confidence and independence.

Knowledge / Understanding-

Performance, composition and understanding of a variety of musical genres, styles, music theory, music industry.

Progression / Careers-

A Level (Music or Music Technology) or BTEC Level three courses in Performing Arts/ Music/ Music Technology

Careers in music or performing arts, sound, lighting, recording engineering, teaching, armed forces, theatre and performing arts administration, music/performing arts linked distribution and retail.



Drama

Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Specification: AQA

What will I study?

Component 1 – Devising Theatre

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.

Component 2 – Performing from a text

Learner's 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

Students will study a set text of 'An Inspector Calls', and complete a review of a Live Theatre Performance that they have been the audience for.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 - Devising Theatre

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 40% of qualification

Component 2 - Performing from a Text

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner 20% of qualification

Component 3 - Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification

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.**

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.

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.



Sport

Qualification Obtained: BTEC FIRST 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.

40 % External online 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 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 (30 % in February of Y10 and 30% in October of Y11), 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.



Child Development

Qualification Obtained: Child Development - Level 2

Specification: Cambridge Nationals (OCR)

What will I study?

You will study key knowledge, understanding and skills that relate to working in the Child Development sector. You will also have the opportunity to apply what you learn by completing practical activities. This qualification has three mandatory units:

- Unit R057: Health and well-being for child development This is assessed by an exam.
- Unit R058: Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years This is assessed by a set assignment.
- Unit R059: Understand the development of a child from one to five years This is assessed by a set assignment.

Topics include:

- Pre-conception health and reproduction
- Antenatal care and preparation for birth
- Postnatal checks, postnatal care and the conditions for development
- Childhood illnesses and a child safe environment
- Creating a safe environment in a childcare setting
- Choosing suitable equipment for a childcare setting
- Nutritional needs of children from birth to five years.
- Physical, intellectual and social developmental norms from one to five years
- Stages and types of play and how play benefits development
- Observe the development of a child aged one to five years
- Plan and evaluate play activities for a child aged one to five years for a chosen area of development

Why should I study this subject?

Working as a childcare professional needs an understanding of the care needs for children of all ages. **This qualification will help you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills that will allow you to help and support those in your care, starting from preconception through to children aged birth to five years.**

It is important that childcare settings provide a safe and nurturing environment to care for babies and young children, as well as providing activities and support to help them develop. This qualification will allow you to gain knowledge and skills to help provide such an environment for children in your care.

The knowledge and skills you develop will help you to progress onto further study in the care sector. This may be other vocational qualifications, such as the Level 2 or Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care; the T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Childcare or the Early Years Educator Apprenticeship.

The qualification also helps to develop other transferable skills, such as research and communication skills that will be valuable in other life and work situations.





Notes



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