

RESPECT | WISDOM | ASPIRATION | COMMUNITY



YEAR 8 Professional Option 2024+
A PARENT/CARER GUIDE

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Broadened KS3 Curriculum Offer

We believe you achieve better if your education is broad, balanced and personalised. You have had the opportunity to study all subjects in-depth for 2 years in year 7 and 8. Now you will be guided to make a choice to broaden your curriculum in year 9 to study a 'professional' option.

INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE TO HELP YOU CHOOSE WISELY!

This is an exciting time of year for students about to enter Year 9 at Barnhill. We know you are eager and ready to make a choice about what you would like to study, and with the right information, advice and guidance, you will choose a subject that fit with your goals and needs.



PROFESSIONAL OPTION TIMELINE	
OPTIIONS VIDEO AND FORM SHARED WITH PARENTS	Tuesday 6th May
STUDENTS WATCH VIIDEO AND DISCUSS WITH TEACHERS IN CLASS	May
FINAL DEADLINE FOR OPTION FORM SUBMISSION	23rd May 2025

CORE SUBJECTS

There are core subjects that all students must study at Barnhill.

1. English Language
2. English Literature
3. Mathematics
4. Science (Combined or triple)
5. Geography
6. History
7. IT
8. Social Sciences—Citizenship, RS and PSHRE
9. PE
10. Art
11. Music

The professional options are a chance for students to broaden their curriculum to have a foundation in a subject which they can go onto study in further depth at KS4 in year 10 and 11 for GCSE study.

Professional Options

- Photography
- Business
- Sociology
- Sport Science
- Drama
- Health and Social Care





CONSIDER

- Think about what interests you and what you are good at.
- Think about what career or job you might want - BE ASPIRATIONAL
- Choose subjects that you have already chosen to study in more depth in Year 9 (from Block C and D)
- Think about what you might want to do in Sixth Form and at University as this might influence your choices at KS4.
- Read the course descriptions carefully and ask your teachers if the course is suitable for you and your plans.

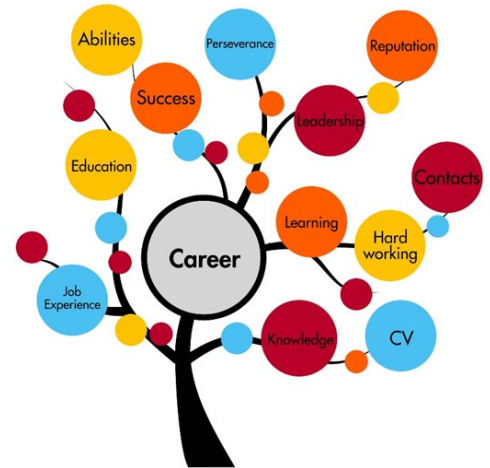


AVOID

- Pick subjects just because you like the teacher – he or she might not be teaching that subject next year.
- Choose a subject because your friends are choosing it - they might not be in the same group as you and what they choose is not necessarily right for you.
- Make choices without fully understanding what the course is about or how you will be assessed.

University, a degree and a career may seem a long way off when you make your professional option choices, but your choices are important because they can directly impact which paths are open to you later down the line, whether this be applying for:

- Sixth form
- An apprenticeship
- A job



To help you with these decisions, you can discuss your option choices with the School Careers Adviser, **Ms E Okoye**

Parents can book an appointment by emailing [***eokoye@barnhill.school***](mailto:eokoye@barnhill.school)

Alternatively, students may call into the office (F27) to book an appointment.

CEIAG PROVIDES SUPPORT IN

PSHE Lessons & Assemblies

Careers Education is fulfilled during weekly PSHE lessons from Year 8 onwards. Sessions include researching different industries, CV writing and interview preparation.

Visits to Local Colleges, Universities and Businesses

Representatives from local further education colleges, training providers and universities are invited into school to speak to students. Also, we offer visits and internal workshops in collaboration with our partner universities (such as University of West London, Oxford University, Brunel University and Cambridge University) and partner businesses (such as FSL Aerospace, Royal Airforce, RBS, Barclays, Price Bailey Accountants and Fladgate law firm).

Practice Interviews

All Year 10 and Year 11 students have the chance to attend a “practice interview” with an internal or external staff member.

Parents’ Evenings

The Careers Adviser is present at Parents’ Evenings to meet any parents who might wish to receive help, guidance and advice for their child

Key Stage 4 Photography is an art course which uses Photography and other light-based media to create original art influenced by artists and photographers. You will benefit from this course if you are interested in art, photography and using computer software to make exciting new images. Consider all the visuals you see on film and television. You will learn about visual literacy; how to read and interpret images and ideas. A Photography qualification is useful when applying to work as a designer of computer games, a fashion photographer, a journalist, an engineer, an architect and many other exciting professions.

Course Title

Photography

What will I learn about?

You will already be interested in taking photographs and using computer software to enhance and change images. The course is designed to develop your skills considering:

- Composition
- Lighting
- Angles
- Manipulation

It is an opportunity for you to be imaginative and produce exciting photographs. It is a chance for you to explore both historical and contemporary artists and photographers. It is a fun and exciting course which can give you many skills for careers such as advertising, media, fashion photography, journalism and game design.

How will I be assessed?

- Coursework - 60% of the final grade
- External Assessment- 10 hr (exam) 40% of the final grade



QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAM BOARD	AQA

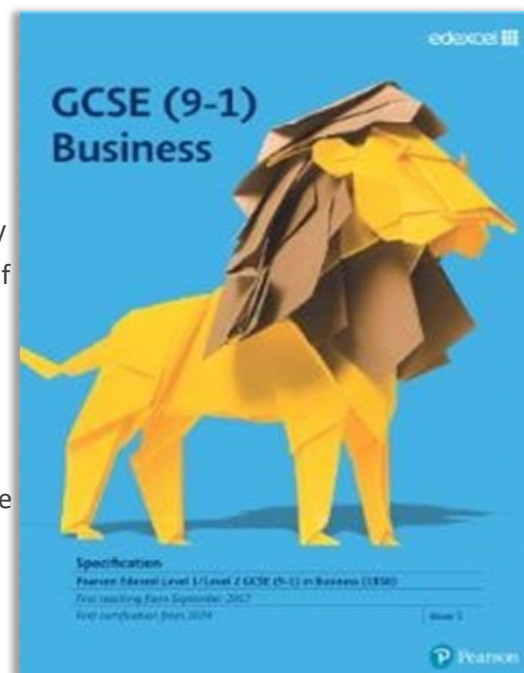
Why study Business Studies?

If you are interested in the way that businesses work and what to expect when you eventually begin working for a business or are interested in setting up your own business, then GCSE Business would be a great subject choice for you. Business has always been a popular choice of subject for Barnhill students and those who choose it do enjoy it. You should be aware that this subject involves a significant amount of written work and subject content which you need to learn in preparation for the exams.

Important: We will judge whether you will be able to cope successfully with the demands of GCSE Business Studies. It is only suitable for students who have a good level of written English and Maths. This is due to the extensive amount of written work and calculations which needs to be done

COURSE TITLE

Pearson Edexcel Level1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Business (1BS0) Business



What will I learn about?

Theme 1: Investigating small business

In Theme 1 you will learn about entrepreneurs and enterprise, you will understand what it takes for someone to run their own business and the risks and rewards associated with starting your own business. You will study marketing, business plans and business finance, including break-even and cash flow forecasting. You will also study the external economic environment that all businesses need to operate within.

Theme 2: Building a business - In Theme 2 you will examine how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. You will focus on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

How will I be assessed?

Theme 1: Investigating small business 50% of the qualification

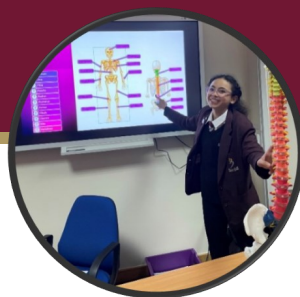
The paper is split up into 3 sections and consists of multiple choice, short answer and extended-writing questions. Sections B and C will be based on small business contexts that are given in the paper.

- The assessment is 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- The assessment is out of 90 marks.

Theme 2: Building a business 50 % of the qualification

The paper is split up into 3 sections and consists of multiple choice, short answer and extended-writing questions. Sections B and C will be based on large business contexts that are given in the paper

- The assessment is 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- The assessment is out of 90 marks.



What will I learn about?

Taking up study in our official Sport Sciences course will prove to be a fascinating insight into the science behind successful performance in sport. Through a scientific and practical approach you will gain a deep understanding of anatomy and physiology, and the bodies responses to exercise, how it can be trained for improved fitness and how technology is used to support training for fitness and recovery from exercise. You will also learn about sports injuries, allowing students to explore a series of first aid and treatment methods. This subject is perfect for students with a potential interest in future careers linked with first aid, physiotherapy, rehab or even medicine.

At the end of the course you will have successfully applied many of the things you learn in biology, as the course works symbiotically with the sciences to support you cross-curricular. Sport Science will give you a better understanding of scientific principles and allow you to apply science to sport, something you experience day to day.

You will study three compulsory units. One component is in the form of an examination while the other two components are internally assessed. You will be asked to present your knowledge in a variety of interesting and unusual ways: write reports; make oral presentations; conduct interviews and produce pamphlets. As a result, you will develop a diverse set of skills you will be able to benefit from in the future.

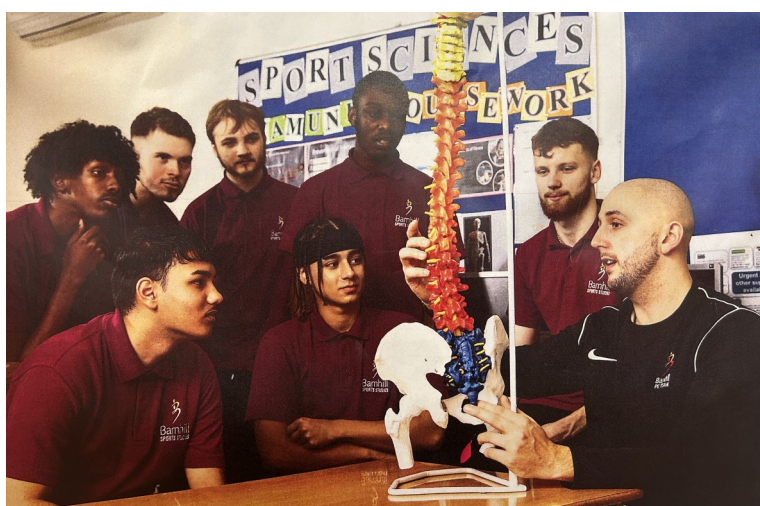
Components of Study

1. R180 - Exam - Injuries, First Aid, Physiotherapy and Medicine (40%)
2. R181 - Coursework - Fitness and Developing a Training Programme (40%)
3. R182 - Coursework - Anatomy and Physiology: Responding to Exercise (20%)

How will I be assessed?

There are a variety of tasks designed to be vocational in character and assessed as Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. You will collect marks through two coursework units, adding them to the summative examination unit, resulting in your final grade.

QUALIFICATION	CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL
GCSE VALUE	1 GCSE
EXAM BOARD	OCR



These courses will give you an opportunity to develop all the major key skills, techniques, personal qualities and attributes necessary for working in the health or child care sectors. The essential skills learnt in this subject area are communication, problem solving, ICT and people skills.

The demand for health workers and careers has increased tremendously, creating an excellent job market for those seeking to enter in this field as the Government has placed a high

emphasis on health and social care in this country. There is always a demand for people to work with children in this country, whether it is Foster Carer, Nanny, Nursery Nurse or Child Minder.

Jobs in the health care field include professional and private carers, nursing, working at all levels in the NHS - all medical assistance, social worker and nutritional therapist. The sky is the limit as to the number of occupations that can follow on from studying this course or you can progress to higher levels such as Diplomas or Degrees.

Course Title

BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care

What will | learn about?

As part of the BTEC First Award you will be studying the following units.

There will be one externally assessed exam and two other coursework assignments internally assessed.

How will | be assessed?

There will be 1 core unit and mandatory unit, internal and external assessment. Two hours exam for each unit consisting of short and long answer questions, with an opportunity for extended writing within the exam. Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. This means that you receive an assignment brief and it state the deadline that it is due to be handed in. The assignment covers all that you have been taught in class, your teacher will mark it and feed back to you both verbal and written.

Once you are prepared to work hard then this is the course for you there are lots of job opportunities and | will also have speakers coming to talk to you and lots of group work.

All work is assessed at either Pass (equivalent to C at GCSE), Merit, Distinction or Distinction* A Level 1 award is available for students who do not achieve one of the above grades.

1. 75% coursework
2. 25% exam



Course: BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

1. Development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire or responding to stimulus
2. Process that underpins effective ways of working in the performing arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance
3. Attitudes that are considered most important in the performing arts, including personal management and communication
4. Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.

This Award complements the learning in other GCSE programmes such as GCSE Drama and GCSE Dance by broadening experience and skills participation in different types of performance activities, with the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills practically, through project work such as developing ideas and performing for specific audiences.

Extra-Curricular opportunities:

As a Performing Arts department we aim to provide students with as many opportunities as possible to watch live performances and perform outside of the school environment. Therefore as a department we offer many extra-curricular activities throughout the year.

Examples of these include:

1. Rock Challenge (a Dance and Drama competition in Stevenage).
2. Performing Arts Showcases run every half term.
3. Theatre trips have included trips to the West End to see a variety of productions.
4. Barnhill's Got Talent

QUALIFICATION	Drama BTEC
EXAM BOARD	EDEXCEL

Sociology is the study of social behaviour or society, including its origins, development, organisation, networks, and institutions. It is a social science that uses various methods of investigation and critical analysis to develop a body of knowledge about social order, disorder, and change.

COURSE TITLE

Sociology

The topics and assessment:

Paper 1	Paper 2
The sociology of families and education	The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification
What's assessed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sociology of families 2. The sociology of education 3. Relevant areas of social theory and Methodology 	What's assessed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sociology of crime and deviance 2. The sociology of social stratification 3. Relevant areas of social theory and Methodology
How it's assessed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 2. 100 marks 3. 50% of GCSE 	How it's assessed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 2. 100 marks 3. 50% of GCSE



"Sociology will teach you to see things that happen round you every day in a new light"

Sociology has an excellent track record at GCSE and A Level. The subject has above 75% pass rate every year. This is testament of all the hard work put in by both students and teachers. Sociology has an excellent track record at GCSE and A Level. The subject has above 75% pass rate every year. This is testament of all the hard work put in by both students and teachers

QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAM BOARD	EDEXCEL

Requirements:

Students must have a level 5 or above in both English and Maths in order to take the subject at GCSE.

Sociology is a written based subject. Students will be assessed on their ability to apply knowledge but also how well they evaluate and analyse concepts.

The subject requires students to do work outside lesson, this often involves internet research and answering exam style questions.