



**YEAR 9 PATHWAYS 2026 +
A PARENT/CARER GUIDE**

INTRODUCTION	3
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INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE	4
---	----------

OPTIONS TIMELINE	5
-------------------------	----------

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBACC)	6
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KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS 2026 +	7
-----------------------------------	----------

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES	8
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CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE	9
--	----------

OPTIONS	10
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PERSONALISED KEY STAGE 4 EDUCATION

We believe you achieve better if your education is personalised. You have had the opportunity to study all subjects in-depth for 3 years at Key stage 3. Now you will be guided to make the best choices for your Key stage 4 qualifications based on performance and future aspirations.

A CAREFULLY DESIGNED CURRICULUM

In addition to your Core subjects, a Humanities and a Language you will study TWO options subjects. You will be able to choose from a broad range of subjects that meet your needs and interests.

INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE TO HELP YOU CHOOSE WISELY!

This is an exciting time of year for students about to enter Key Stage 4 at Barnhill. We know you are eager and ready to make choices about what you would like to study, and with the right information, advice and guidance, you will choose subjects that fit with your goals and needs. Many of you will study the English Baccalaureate, but you will still be able to study a broad range of option subjects. Having a spread of different subjects across KS4 will help keep your options open for the Sixth Form.



You are about to make some very important decisions about your next two years of school. We hope you and your parents/carers attended the virtual Options Information Evening, but the information in this booklet gives you most, if not all of the information you need to make your option choices during your Key Stage 4 Options meeting. You will have a personal mentor to help you make the right choices.

PREPARING TO MAKE YOUR OPTION CHOICES:

Use the time between now and your Options Interview meeting to think about what you want to study and talk to your teachers about those subjects. If the subject is one you have not studied before, then please speak to the Head of the Department or a teacher within that curriculum area. There are some suggested Dos and Don'ts on page 9 to help you make your choices.

HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR OPTION CHOICES?

Students should choose option subjects that interest them as they will be studying these subjects for three years. We expect students to study a broad range of subjects, and students should also consider the balance of academic and more practical subjects.

You must choose a Humanities subject, a language, TWO option subjects plus two RESERVE subjects. Many students will be selecting a modern foreign language and a humanities subject as two of their four options in order to acquire the English Baccalaureate (see information on page 6).

There are no guarantees about which option subjects you study over the next two years. We will need to decide which you will do, based on what everyone has chosen and what fits. In most cases we recommend carrying on with the Specialist and Professional Options you chose at the end of Year 8 as you have already started preparing for the Key stage 4 courses in these subjects.

CHOOSING A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS:

We have grouped subjects in such a way to support the principle of studying a broad range of subjects, which we expect of all students.

OPTIONS INTERVIEW MEETING

Each student will have a personal options mentor. You will be notified of this by an appointment on Teams. In the meeting, your mentor will talk through what you want to do and why. We will make a note of what you want to do.

When everyone has had their interview and all the choices are in, we will look at what students want to do. We will then need to decide which subjects can run in each year and which subjects you personally will study. New courses will begin at the start of Year 10 although many of you will have started background learning for these courses in Year 9.

OPTION TIMELINE	
OPTIONS STUDENT ASSEMBLIES	April
OPTIONS PARENTS' PRESENTATION	30th April
EACH STUDENT MEETS WITH CURRICULUM TEAM TO CONSOLIDATE PREFERENCES	May
FINAL DEADLINE FOR OPTION SUBMISSION	22nd May

CORE SUBJECTS

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

1. GCSE English Language
2. GCSE English Literature
3. GCSE Mathematics
4. GCSE Sciences (Combined or Triple)
5. ICT & Computing
6. PSHCE

Pupils need to choose 1 Option from each block.

Pupils need to choose a Reserve option from Block C and D also.

A	B	C	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish OR French 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History OR Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triple Science Computer Science Art & Design Music / Music Tech Religious Studies History Hospitality & Catering Digital IT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triple Science Computer Science Religious Studies Business Sociology Sport Science Drama GCSE / BTEC Product Design Photography





- 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.



- 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.

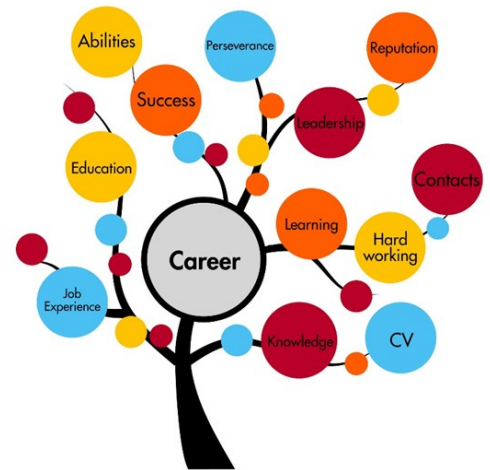


THINGS TO NOTE

- You must think about having a spread of different subjects across KS4
- You may want to study certain subjects in KS4 if you are considering them for Sixth Form study.
- Some options require you to have achieved a certain level in your Year 9 studies (eg. Science and ICT courses).
- When you have chosen your subjects, we will look at how well you have done this year and what sort of learner you are. Then we will put you on a course in that subject that we think best suits you

University, a degree and a career may seem a long way off when you make your GCSE 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 ekoye@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 COURSES

1. AQA GCSE English Language (8702)
2. AQA GCSE English Literature (8700)

WHY DO WE STUDY ENGLISH?

English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others, and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them.

Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; pupils who do not learn to speak, read and write fluently and confidently are effectively disenfranchised.



THE ENGLISH PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Key Stage 4 – Years 9, 10 and 11

Year 9

Autumn Term 1 : John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* or Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Autumn Term 2: Genre Studies: Dystopia and the Gothic

Spring Term 1: Women in Shakespeare'

Spring Term 2: Reading non-fiction (STEM themed)

Summer Term 1: Literary Shorts' (fiction)

Summer Term 2: Explorations of Poetry'

Year 10

Autumn 1: Modern Fiction (Play): J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*

Autumn 2: 19th Century Novel: Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

Spring Term 1 William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Spring Term 2: GCSE English Language Paper 2

Summer Term 1: Power and Conflict Poetry

Summer Term 2: Power and Conflict Poetry: Comparative writing and Unseen Poetry

Year 11

Autumn 1: GCSE English Language Paper 1

Autumn 2: Revision: *A Christmas Carol* and *An Inspector Calls*

Spring 1: Revision: *Macbeth*

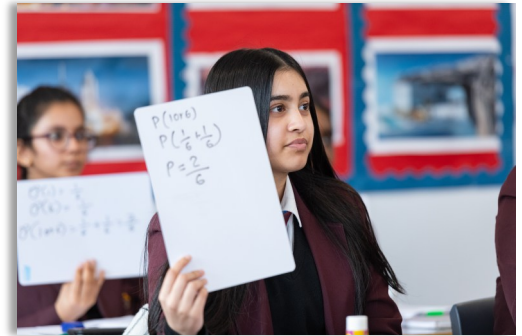
Spring 2: Revision: Poetry and Language Paper 2

Summer Term: Revision (topics to be decided by individual teachers to suit the needs of their students)

What will I learn about?

The aim and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel Level 1 / Level 2 GCSE (9—1) in Mathematics is to enable students to:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and The aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel Level 1 / Level 2 GCSE (9 -1) in Mathematics is to enable students to:
- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.



The table illustrates the topic areas covered in this qualification and the weightings for the assessment of the Foundation tier and the assessment of the Higher tier.

OUTLINE OF UNITS		
TIER	TOPIC AREA	WEIGHTING
FOUNDATION	Number	22 - 28%
	Algebra	17 - 23%
	Ratio, Proportion & Rates of change	22 - 28%
	Geometry & Measures	12 - 18%
	Statistics & probability	12 - 18%
HIGHER	Number	12 - 18%
	Algebra	27 - 33%
	Ratio, Proportion & Rates of change	17 - 23%
	Geometry & Measures	17 - 23%
	Statistics & probability	12 - 18%

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1 / Level 2 GCSE (9 - 1) in Mathematics is a tiered qualification. There are two tiers:

- Foundation tier - grades 1 to 5 available
- Higher tier - grade 4 to 9 available (grade 3 allowed)

The assessment for each tier entry consists of 3 externally examined paper, all three must be from the same tier of entry.

Students must complete all three papers in the same assessment series.

- Paper 1: 1MA1/1F or 1MA1/1H = 33.33% of the total GCSE.
No calculator is allowed – 1 hour & 30 minutes (80 marks).
- Paper 2: 1MA1/2F or 1MA1/2H = 33.33% of the total GCSE.
Calculator is allowed – 1 hour & 30 minutes (80 marks).
- Paper 3: 1MA1/3F or 1MA1/3H = 33.33% of the total GCSE.
Calculator is allowed – 1 hour & 30 minutes (80 marks).



Science at KS4 helps you to understand and explain how our lives and environment are governed by basic scientific principles. You will continue to develop your practical skills safely, and further develop your skills in experimental design and communication of ideas. It is important that all students study science, since it allows us to understand and give an informed view on the application of science in modern technological life.

What will I learn about?

Combined Science offers a balance across the three science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

It is suitable for students who may consider studying a science at A-level or beyond. Combined Science offers a balance of theoretical and practical learning with subject specialist teachers and exploring interesting and relevant areas of modern science

Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology



Chemistry

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Energy changes
5. The rate and extent of chemical change
6. Organic chemistry
7. Chemical analysis
8. Chemistry of the atmosphere
9. Using resources

Physics

- 1. Energy
- 2. Electricity
- 3. Particle model of matter
- 4. Atomic structure
- 5. Forces
- 6. Waves
- 7. Magnetism and Electromagnetism

QUALIFICATION	Double GCSE (Worth 2 GCSEs)
EXAM BOARD	AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy

EXAM PAPERS, EACH WORTH 16.7%

Two papers for each of Biology, Chemistry, Physics. Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes long and will assess knowledge and understanding distinct topic areas. Higher and foundation tiers are available students will be entered for the correct tier as judged by their outcomes.



TRIPLE SCIENCE

It is important that all students study Science, since it allows us to understand and give an informed view on the application of science in modern technological life. The study of science helps all become informed citizens, but for those who continue to study science, it enables students to shape our everyday and future lives.

What will I learn about?

A GCSE in Biology will allow you to study the key concepts in the subject to greater detail. It is perfect for students with a keen interest in and passion for science and for those are planning to pursue a career in the scientific industry. Learning will be theoretical and practical, with assessment including multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses.

Outline of Units

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostatic and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

QUALIFICATION	Triple GCSE (Worth 3 GCSEs)
EXAM BOARD	AQA

How will I be assessed ?

Two 1hour 45 minute exam papers, each worth 50% of the GCSE qualification. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. Higher and foundation tiers are available, and students will be entered for the correct tier as judged by their teachers.

What will I learn about?

A GCSE in Chemistry will allow you to study the key concepts in the subject to greater detail. It is perfect for students with a keen interest in and passion for science and for those planning to pursue a career in the scientific industry. Learning will be theoretical and practical with assessment including multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses

Outline of Units

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure and properties of matter"
3. Quantitative chemistry Energy changes
4. Energy Changes

5. The rate and extent of chemical change
6. Organic chemistry
7. Chemical analysis
8. Chemistry of the atmosphere
9. Using resources

How will I be assessed ?

Two 1hour 45 minute exam papers, each worth 50% of the GCSE qualification . Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. Higher and foundation tiers are available, and students will be entered for the correct tier as judged by their teachers.

COURSE TITLE

Physics

What will I learn about?

A GCSE in Physics will allow you to study the key concepts in the subject to greater detail, including space physics, which is completely unique to GCSE Physics. Learning will be theoretical and practical, with assessment including multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses. It is perfect for students with a keen interest in and passion for science and for those planning to pursue a career in the scientific industry

Outline of Units

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and Electromagnetism
8. Space physics

How will I be assessed ?

Two 1hour 45 minute exam papers, each worth 50% of the GCSE qualification . Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Higher and foundation tiers are available, and students will be entered for the correct tier as judged by their teachers.

GCSE Art and Design provides the opportunity to develop an adventurous, creative and inquisitive approach to your learning. Through studying both historical and contemporary art practice you will develop the skills to formulate and express your own ideas and make some exceptional artwork as a result. You will produce personal responses which embrace a range of ideas devised from your inspiration and imagination.

Due to the fast-paced nature of the course your skills and knowledge will develop quickly, and staff always endeavor to make your projects varied and exciting. Through the support of your teacher you will develop a working knowledge of the materials, practices and techniques used within the creative industries.

The GCSE in Fine Art follows on from what you have been doing at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9). The emphasis in this GCSE is on the process of developing your own ideas and work. Central to this is your sketchbook where you will record your artistic journey.

Course Title

Fine Arts

What will I learn about?

You will enjoy drawing and painting and learning about different styles and ways of recording your ideas and your observations of the world around you. The course is designed to develop your skills in a range of techniques:

1. Drawing with different mediums
2. Painting in various styles
3. Sculpture in a range of materials

It is an opportunity for you to be imaginative and to produce exciting pieces of artwork. It is a chance for you to explore other artists and styles of working such as:

1. Abstract
2. Expressive
3. Representational
4. Modern Art
5. Traditional Art

It is a fun and exciting course, an ideal chance for you to be imaginative and experiment!

How will I be assessed?

There are two units:

1. Coursework - 60% of the final grade
2. External Assessment - 40% of the final grade



QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAM BOARD	AQA

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 studying the subject. 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: The department will check whether you will be able to cope successfully with the demands of GCSE Business Studies. It is 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 throughout the course.



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 to become multinational. 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, takeovers and mergers. Theme 2 considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows, such as ethics and the environment

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 case study scenarios that are given in the paper.

- The assessment is 1 hour and 45 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 case study scenarios that are given in the paper

- The assessment is 1 hour and 45minutes.
- The assessment is out of 90 marks.

The Level 2 BTEC Tech Award in Child Development at KS4 is designed to provide focused and specialist work-related qualifications in a range of sectors. On successful completion of this course, students may progress to study level 3 Health and Social Care where upon completion they can gain employment or continue their study in University. The essential skills learnt in this subject area are communication, problem solving, ICT and people skills.



Why study this course?

There is a demand for people to work with children in this country, whether it be Foster Care or as Nanny, Nursery Nurse or Child Minder. The sky is the limit as to the number of occupations that can be had from studying this course or progression to higher levels such as Diploma or Degree.

Course Title

BTEC Level 1/ 2 Tech Award in Child Development

What will I learn about?

This qualification is built on the two core units that form the fundamental knowledge and understanding of child development through play. This qualification also contains two mandatory units which explore children's growth and development. (2) Learning through play. (3) external unit Supporting children to play, learn and develop. This course will enable the student to gain a better understanding of early years sectors, including health and safety, supporting children's language and literacy development, nutrition for children, as well as roles, responsibilities and career pathways in the sector.

How will I be assessed?

In this course there are 2 internally assessed and 1 externally assessed units. Centre assessment will be externally verified through the national standard sampling process. The purpose of assessment is to ensure that effective learning of the content of each unit has taken place.

- 75% coursework
- 25% exam

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.

QUALIFICATION	BTEC
EXAM BOARD	AQA

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH). There are 3 mandatory components.

Students must complete component 1, 2 and 3 to reach a total of 120 GLH. This BTEC First Award has units that your school assesses (internal) and one unit that Edexcel sets and marks externally

Course Title

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology ICT

What will I learn about?

By studying this course, you will learn to:

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology				
COMPONENT NUMBER	COMPONENT TITLE	GLH	LEVEL	Assessment
1	Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques	36	1/2	Internal
2	Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	36	1/2	Internal
3	Effective Digital Working Practices	48	1/2	External Synoptic

Assessment

The three components in the qualification give learners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the digital sector and specialist skills and techniques in project planning, designing user interfaces and manipulating and interpreting data at Levels 1 and 2.

Internal assessment

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. Internal assessment for these components has been designed to relate to achievement of application of the conceptual underpinning for the sector through realistic tasks and activities. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice. The components focus on:

- The development of core knowledge and understanding of different types of user interfaces, how user interface design principles are used to meet the needs of different users, and how organisations collect, manipulate and interpret data to draw conclusions and make decisions
- The development and application of skills such as project planning, iterative design of a user interface, using data manipulation tools to create a dashboard, interpreting and drawing conclusions from data
- Reflective practice through the development of skills and techniques that allow learners to respond to feedback on their design for a user interface and to identify areas for improvement.

External synoptic assessment

There is one external assessment, Component 3, it provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation. Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices requires learners to apply performance skills and techniques in response to a brief and stimulus developing group performance workshop for a selected audience.

After BTEC L1/2

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology provides the skills, knowledge and understanding for level 2 learners to progress to:

- Other level 2 vocational qualifications
- Level 3 digital qualifications, such as the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Nationals in IT or an IT/ Creative Media apprenticeship.
- Employment within the information technology and/or areas within the creative industries, such as electronic publishing or multimedia production.
- Learners who achieve the qualification at Level 1 may progress on to the Level 2 Award or onto academic or other vocational Level 2 qualifications.



Course Title

OCR GCSE Computer Science (9-1) J277

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Computer Science will encourage you to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- 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
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

What will I learn about?

- Computer systems
- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Assessment

Two written exam papers at the end of the course in year 11

Assessment

Two written exam papers at the end of the course in year 11

COMPONENT	MARKS	DURATION	WEIGHTING	Calculators not allowed
Computer systems (01)	80	1 hour 30 mins	50%	
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (02)	80	1 hour 30 mins	50%	

After GCSE Computer science

You could continue to study or gain an apprenticeship

- Academic qualifications, A Level in computer science and then University
- Apprenticeship level 3



Knowing a language increases your chances of communicating in a non-English speaking country.

Language training develops many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public, using problem-solving strategies, etc.

Having studied a language at KS3, you are well prepared to do a GCSE course. You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people. Finally, you will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and universities will be looking for.

Course Title

French

What will | learn about?

The GCSE French course will build on the language skills and knowledge at key stage 3 and introduce you to a wider range of language structures and vocabulary. It will give you the opportunity to develop skills in listening, reading speaking and writing. You will also develop a greater awareness of culture of French-speaking communities and countries.

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

1. Who | am?
2. Daily life
3. Cultural life

Theme 2: Local area, holiday and travel

1. Holidays
2. Travel and tourist transactions
3. Town, region and country

Theme 3: School

1. What school is like
2. School activities

Theme 4: Future aspirations, study and work

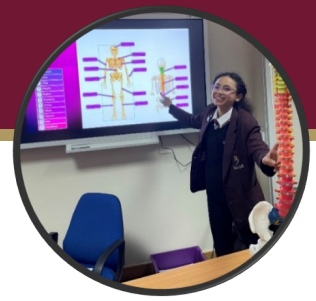
1. Using languages beyond the classroom
2. Ambitions
3. Work

Theme 5: International and global dimension

1. Bringing the world together
2. Environmental issues
3. Qualification GCSE
4. Exam Board Edexcel

How will | be assessed?

Paper 1 — Listening and understanding - 25% Students are assessed on their understanding of standard spoken French by one or more speakers in a range of public and social settings. Students will respond to multiple response and short-answer open response questions based on a recording featuring male and female French speakers. Students must answer all questions in both sections.



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.

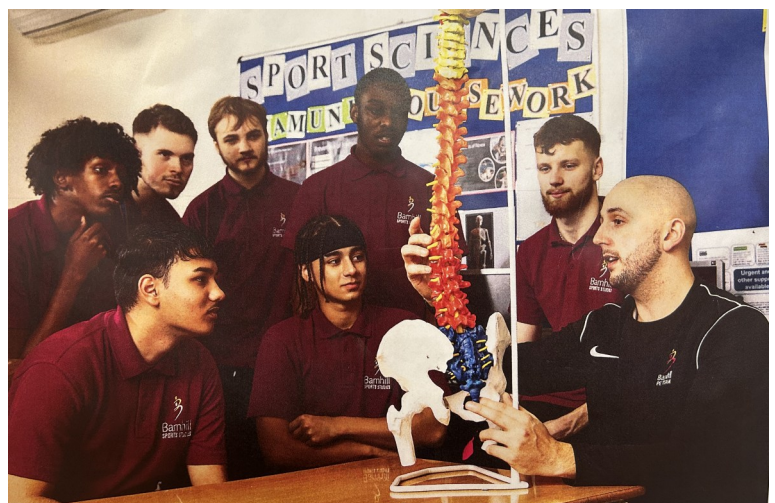
Components of Study

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



Paper 2 — Speaking in French - 25% Internally conducted and externally assessed. Students are assessed on their ability to communicate and interact effectively through speaking in French for different purposes and in different settings. There are three tasks which must be conducted in the following order:

Task 1: a role play based on one topic that is allocated by Edexcel.

Task 2: questions based on a picture stimulus based on one topic that is allocated by Edexcel

Task 3: conversation based on two themes. The first theme is based on the topic chosen by the student in advance of the assessment. The second theme is allocated by Edexcel.

Paper 3 — Reading and understanding - 25% Students are required to respond to multiple responses and short answers questions based on a range of texts.

There are three sections:

Section A is set in English. The instructions to students are in English.

Section B is set in French. The instructions to students are in French.

Section C includes a translation passage from French into English with instructions in English.

Paper 4 — Writing - 25% Students are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively through writing in French for different purposes and audiences. Students are required to produce extended responses of varying lengths and types to express ideas and opinions in French.

The instructions to students are in French. Word counts are specified for each question. Students must answer all questions.

Foundation tier — three extended response questions and one translation into French.

Higher tier — two extended response questions and one translation into French.

QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAM BOARD	EDEXCEL

Knowing a language increases your chances of communicating in a non-English speaking country. Language training develops many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public, using problem-solving strategies, etc. Having studied a language at KS3, you are well prepared to do a GCSE course. You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people. Finally, you will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and universities will be looking for.

What will | learn about?

The GCSE French course will build on the language skills and knowledge at key stage 3 and introduce you to a wider range of language structures and vocabulary. It will give you the opportunity to develop skills in listening, reading speaking and writing. You will also develop a greater awareness of culture of French-speaking communities and countries. Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

1. Who | am?
2. Daily life
3. Cultural life

Theme 2: Local area, holiday and travel

1. Holidays
2. Travel and tourist transactions
3. Town, region and country

Theme 3: School

1. What school is like
2. School activities

Theme 4: Future aspirations, study and work

1. Using languages beyond the classroom
2. Ambitions
3. Work

Theme 5: International and global dimension

1. Bringing the world together
2. Environmental issues
3. Qualification GCSE
4. Exam Board Edexcel
5. How will | be assessed?

Paper 1 — Listening and understanding - 25% Students are assessed on their understanding of standard spoken French by one or more speakers in a range of public and social settings. Students will respond to multiple response and short-answer open response questions based on a recording featuring male and female French speakers. Students must answer all questions in both sections.

Paper 2 — Speaking in French - 25% Internally conducted and externally assessed. Students are assessed on their ability to communicate and interact effectively through speaking in French for different purposes and in different settings. There are three tasks which must be conducted in the following order:

Task 1: a role play based on one topic that is allocated by Edexcel.

Task 2: questions based on a picture stimulus based on one topic that is allocated by Edexcel

Task 3: conversation based on two themes. The first theme is based on the topic chosen by the student in advance of the assessment. The second theme is allocated by Edexcel.

Paper 3 — Reading and understanding - 25% Students are required to respond to multiple responses and short answers questions based on a range of texts. There are three sections:

Section A is set in English. The instructions to students are in English.

Section B is set in French. The instructions to students are in French.

Section C includes a translation passage from French into English with instructions in English.

Paper 4 — Writing - 25% Students are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively through writing in French for different purposes and audiences. Students are required to produce extended responses of varying lengths and types to express ideas and opinions in French.

The instructions to students are in French. Word counts are specified for each question. Students must answer all questions.

Foundation tier — three extended response questions and one translation into French.

Higher tier — two extended response questions and one translation into French.

QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAM BOARD	EDEXCEL

You will study a range of topics which will equip you to have a better understanding of the world.

Course Title

Geography

Geographers can:

1. Complete graphs
2. Handle data
3. Carry out investigations
4. Make decisions about an issue
5. Analyse material
6. Manage themselves
7. Solve problems

Geographers are:

1. Good communicators
2. Spatially aware
3. Socially and environmentally aware
4. Problem solvers
5. Well rounded, flexible thinkers

What will I learn?

Living with the physical environment

- The challenges of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical environments in the UK

Challenges of the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges
- Changing Economic World
- Resource Management

Geographical Applications

1. Issues Evaluation
2. Fieldwork Skills

How will I be assessed?

Three examinations:



QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAM BOARD	AQA

Living with Physical Environment Examination (worth 35%) (88 marks in total; 90mins)	Challenges in human environment: Examination (worth 35%) (88 marks in total; 90 mins)	Geographical Applications Examination (worth 30%) 76marks; 90mins
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Studying History helps you to understand the modern world. All universities and employers regard History as a respected academic discipline. History is THE qualification for budding journalists, accountants, TV researchers, police and lawyers, among many others. It arms you with fundamental important communication and analytical skills, preparing you for future success in your chosen career.

GCSE History will cover the time period 1060 – 1939. We will be looking at a number of different themes and topics which will allow the students to understand the Medieval and modern world. History gives students important communication and written skills, arming them with analytical tools through dealing with historical evidence. Top universities and employers view History as a respected academic qualification. It is THE qualification for many career paths, notably journalists, accountants, TV researchers, police and lawyers, to name but a few!

What will I learn about?

Migrants in Britain, c800–present and Notting Hill c1948–c1970 This unit looks in detail at migration to Britain from the 9th century to the present day. Topics include the divergent experiences of Viking, Norman and Jewish migrants. There is a strong focus on the experiences of migrants from the former British empire after the end of World War 2, for example a case study is on Asian migration to Leicester after 1945. As part of this thematic study we examine in depth Notting Hill after World War 2 and the development of a Caribbean culture along with the work of individuals like Claudia Jones.

The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189-1216 This unit examines the tumultuous reigns of Richard ‘the Lionheart’ and his brother John. This was a time of the Crusades in the Holy Land, pogroms in England, the loss of Normandy, rebellious barons and the Magna Carta document. Richard is regarded as one of the greatest monarchs. John is seen as a disastrous king. How valid are those reputations?

The American West, c1835–c1895 this unit examines the beliefs and way of life of the indigenous peoples on the Great Plains, and their subsequent conflict with white settlers; this resulted in the destruction of the Indian way of life, as they were forced into reservations after wars and the mass slaughter of the buffalo by white hunter.

How will I be assessed?

Three examinations:

Paper 1: Migrants in Britain c800-present (worth 30%) (52 marks, 75 mins)

Paper 2: The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189-1216, The American West c1835-c1895 (worth 40%) (48 marks, 1 hour 45 mins)



QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAM BOARD	EDEXCEL

“ The past is never dead. It’s not even past”
William Faulkner

PERFORMING ARTS - MUSIC

Choosing music is an enriching experience. Below is some important information that will help you understand the course to check that it is right for you.

What does the course involve?

We follow the **Eduqas Music** specification. The course is made up of three components:

- 2 performances (30%, coursework)
- 2 compositions (30%, coursework)
- 1 listening & appraising exam (40%)



Areas of Study: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music, Popular Music

How will GCSE Music help me in the future?

In the future, creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (*World Economic Forum*) This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing, both independently and as part of a wider community.

What skills will I gain?

Your practical skills of composing music and performing will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and presentation skills. Studying music will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too. You will gain a deep understanding of several transferable skills and practice applying these to new situations, developing analytical and problem-solving skills. Through studying music, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.

Reasons to choose Music

If you already play an instrument or sing, you can develop your skills and get a GCSE out of it! If you don't already play an instrument or sing, you can take the opportunity to learn new skills which could stay with you for life. If you already enjoy writing your own music or songs, you can use this ability and experience towards your GCSE. If you are a creative person who wants to learn to make music, this course will give you that chance. If you love listening to music, and can spot all the details, sing every riff and "air-drum" every beat you have already developed some of the abilities you need.

If you have any questions or concerns about GCSE Music, please contact the head of music, Mrs Arnold, by email: rarnold@barnhill.school

QUALIFICATION	Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology
EXAM BOARD	NCFE

PERFORMING ARTS - MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Music Technology is an exciting subject that combines creativity with practical, real-world skills. It allows students to compose, record, and produce music using modern software and equipment, developing both musical understanding and technical confidence. The subject builds valuable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and digital literacy, which are highly relevant across many careers. It's ideal for students who enjoy music but also want hands-on, contemporary learning that reflects how music is made today.



Course Description:

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology is designed for learners who want an introduction to the music technology industry that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification is for those who wish to pursue a career in the music technology industry or progress onto further study.

The qualification is graded at level 1 pass, merit, distinction and level 2 pass, merit, distinction and distinction (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5 to 1). There is an externally marked **exam** in year 11 which counts **40%** toward the final grade, and the internally assessed NEA **Coursework** component counts **60%** toward the final grade.

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- A Level Music (this will support progression to higher education)
- Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Music Technology
- Level 3 Certificate in Music Technology

Learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the industry through a variety of occupations that are available within the industry such as producer, technician and arranger.

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 5 content areas of this qualification:

Content area 1: Introduction to music technology and the music business

Content area 2: The digital audio workstation (DAW)

Content area 3: Musical elements, musical style and music technology

Content area 4: Sound creation

Content area 5: Multitrack recording

QUALIFICATION	Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology
EXAM BOARD	NCFE

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

PERFORMING ARTS - DRAMA

Course: Edexcel GCSE Drama

The Award is a practical and creative qualification that blends performance and design with analytical study. It is designed to build confidence, teamwork, and critical thinking skills, preparing students for further education in performing arts or any career requiring presentation and communication skills. There is a focus on the development of key skills that support learners' aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire or responding to stimulus and analyzing live theatre.

What You Will Learn

- Performance : Learning how to advance ability as an actor.
- Creative Devising: Learning how to build a production from scratch, using stimuli like music, art, or news stories to develop themes and characters.
- Text Analysis: Studying how playwrights use language and structure to create meaning and how to interpret these for an audience.
- Live Theatre Evaluation: Attending professional theatre productions and learning to critically analyse the choices made by actors and directors.

This qualification is ideal for transferable skills such as develops public speaking, collaborative problem-solving, and emotional intelligence. It is also very good for students who enjoy learning through practical exploration.

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. Theatre trips have included trips to the West End to see a variety of productions.
2. Barnhill's Got Talent
3. Yearly School Production

QUALIFICATION	Drama GCSE
EXAM BOARD	EDEXCEL

RE is the study of Christianity plus one other religion as well as non-religious views. Essential Skills learnt in RE are to:

1. Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
2. Explore religions and beliefs, reflect on fundamental questions, engage with them intellectually and respond personally
3. Enhance your spiritual and moral development, and contribute to your health and wellbeing
4. Enhance your personal, social and cultural development, your understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world, and contribute to social and community cohesion
5. Develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for, the study of religion, and relate it to the wider world
6. Reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in light of their learning.

Religious Education is one of the 'Reading Subjects' and gives you opportunities to learn how to analyse, evaluate and develop new ideas. These skills are transferable to other subjects and are used well beyond your GCSE.

What will I learn about?

You will be learning about the beliefs and teachings, practices, sources of wisdom and authority, forms of expression, and ways of life in Christianity and one other Religion – Islam.

Students will study two of the following three units:

Unit One – Religion and Ethics:

Belief in God in Christianity and Islam.

Section 1 – Beliefs

Section 2 – Marriage and the Family

Section 3 – Living the Christian & Muslim Life

Section 4 – Matters of Life and Death

Unit Two- Religion Peace and Conflict: Living the Religious Life in Christianity and Islam

Section 1 – Beliefs

Section 2 – Crime and Punishment

Section 3 – Living the Christian & Muslim Life

Section 4 – Peace and Conflict

Unit Three - Religion, Philosophy and Social Justice in Christianity and Islam

Section 1 – Beliefs

Section 2 – Religious Experience

Section 3 – Living the Christian and Islamic Life

Section 4 – Equality

How will I be assessed?

Two exam papers, one for each unit.

Each exam is worth 50% of the course.

Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes.



*“ Learn how to analyse, evaluate and develop
new ideas ”*

QUALIFICATION	GCSE
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: 1. The sociology of families 2. The sociology of education 3. Relevant areas of social theory and Methodology	What's assessed: 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: 1. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 2. 100 marks 3. 50% of GCSE	How it's assessed: 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. This is testament of all the hard work put in by both students and teachers

QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAM BOARD	EDEXCEL

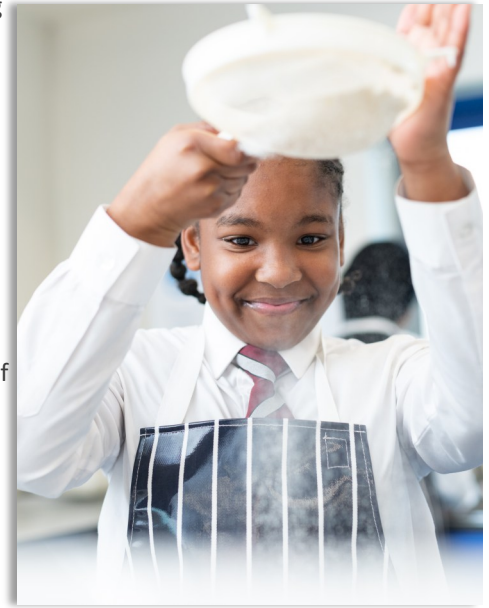
Requirements:

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.

Food Technology is an exciting and creative course that focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. Food technology nurtures students' practical skills to give them a strong understanding of all aspects of food and nutrition. This subject encourages students to develop communication, fine motor skills, and spatial awareness and promote teamwork. Students study the Hospitality and Catering Course level 1/2 offered by the WJEC Board. This course provides learners with a core depth of knowledge and a range of specialist and general skills in the hospitality and catering industry. For their final assessment in Year 11 Learners will: plan, prepare and serve a 2 course meal based on a given brief along with course work and written an exam paper. This is a 2 year Level 1/2 Award that supports learners in a vocational career for later life.



Course Title

Hospitality & Catering

What will I learn about?

You will learn about all aspects of the hospitality and catering industry, including the different employment roles. You will experience all aspects of catering and enjoy many practical cooking experiences, refining them to produce a successful three-course outcome. The course will develop your skills in a range of cooking techniques:

1. Slicing, dicing and julienne
2. Sauté, boiling and gelatinisation
3. Baking and blind baking
4. External Assessment - 50% of the final grade

Food Technology is an exciting and creative course that focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. Food It is an opportunity for you to be imaginative and produce an exciting menu, responding to a brief.

You also have the opportunity to explore the catering industry and gain experience

of various roles:

1. Chef
2. Front of house
3. Nutritionist
4. Critic

It is a fun and creative course, combining elements of practical and theoretical learning.

How will I be assessed?

1. There are two units:
2. Coursework/practical - 50% of the final grade
3. External Assessment - 50% of the final grade



QUALIFICATION	BTEC
EXAM BOARD	WJEC

GCSE Design and Technology is purposeful, as well as being fun and exciting!

Studying GCSE Design and Technology will build on skills that you learnt during your lessons in Key Stage 3. You will use prior knowledge and skills to design and make new and better solutions to real problems - on your own and with others - working with materials you choose.

- Are you enthused and challenged by a range of practical activities?
- Do you have a passion for the product design world?
- Do you like to learn about how things work?
- Do you have good visual communication skills?

Are you interested in developing an understanding of the broad perspectives of design, development and manufacturing?

What will I learn?

You will explore a range of materials and processes to develop an understanding of the way the world is made. You will learn about woods, plastics and metals and get to experiment with tools, machines and techniques in order to create new and exciting 3 dimensional useable products.

The course encourages students to solve problems, describe their work both verbally and graphically and create accurately made design solutions. You will be combining materials with practical skills to create products such as lighting, jewellery and storage solutions.

How will I be assessed?

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities;
- Producing a design brief and specification;
- Generating design ideas;
- Developing design ideas;
- Realising design ideas;
- Analysing & evaluating.

How will I be assessed?

UNIT 1: Written Paper 50% of total marks

UNIT 2: Design and Making Practice - 50% of total marks

Non exam assessment (NEA). Is a single design-and-make activity from a set design brief. You will design and make your own product in keeping with a design task, set by the exam board and the teacher. You will also produce a design portfolio, demonstrating research, designing, development, modeling, manufacturing processes, testing and quality control and evaluation.

Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.



QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAM BOARD	AQA