



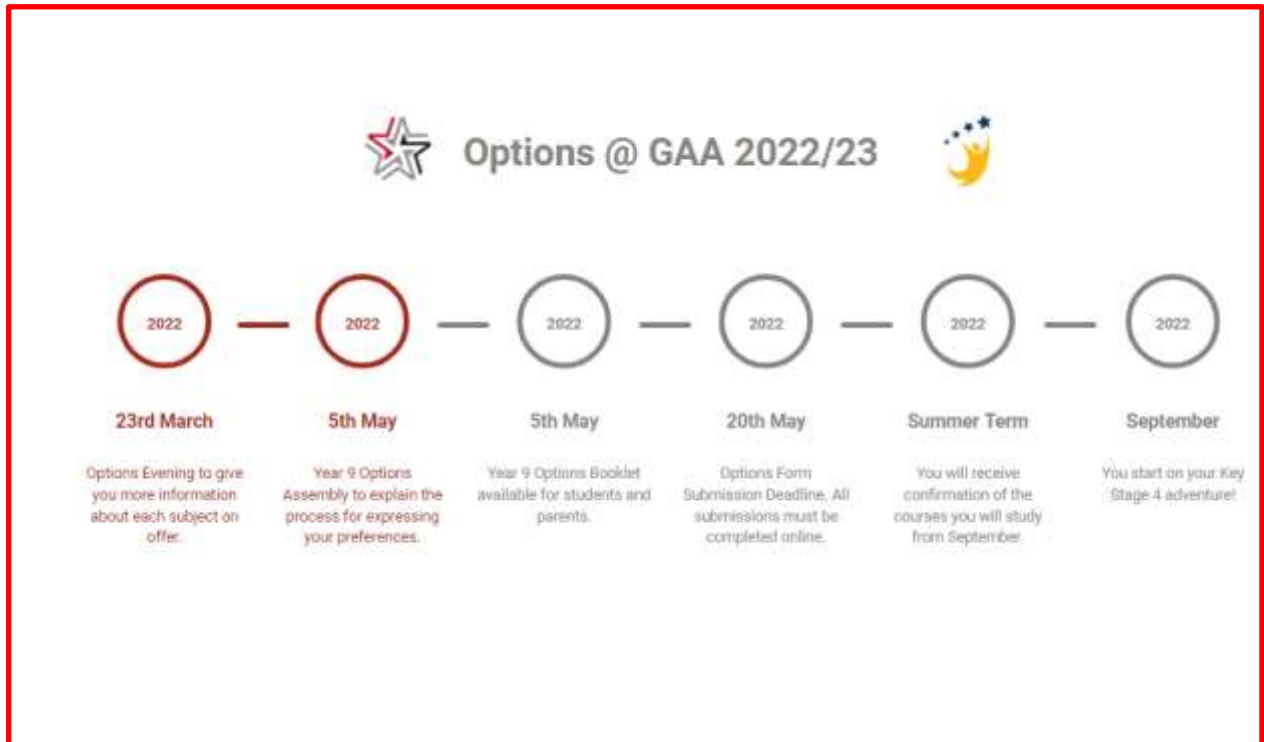
Great Academy Ashton

# Year 9 Options 2022/23



Part of the Great Academies Education Trust

## The Options Timeline



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## 1. Why do I need this booklet?

You are about to make some very important decisions and these will have an effect on your future. This booklet is designed to support and guide you through the process of giving your preferences for some of the subjects you will take for the next two years.

Some subjects are compulsory which means everyone has to do them. However, some subjects are optional and you can suggest a preference as to which ones you want to take.

We give students lots of advice and guidance about which subjects they might choose. This booklet is just one of the things to help you with the decisions you will make. The timeline at the front of this booklet shows you what has happened so far and what will happen next.

The Options Evening included a presentation to you and your parents/carers about the options process. Hopefully, you used the opportunity to discuss your options with your subject teachers.

Please read this booklet carefully. It contains a lot of useful information about:

- courses
- the process of giving your preference for your optional subjects
- careers guidance.

## 2. What are the different types of qualification?

### GCSE

GCSE stands for 'General Certificate of Secondary Education'. These are academic qualifications that are recognised and valued by schools, colleges and employers so they will be useful whatever you are planning to do in the future. GCSEs involve studying the theory of a subject and usually include some investigation work; some may also involve practical work. All GCSEs have examinations although some might have controlled assessments too; controlled assessments must be completed in class under the supervision of teaching staff. When you take your final exams in 2022, all GCSEs will be graded 9-1. In the GCSE grading system, Grade 9 is the highest grade awarded and Grade 1 is the lowest. Some qualifications have different examination papers for students working at different ability levels. These are called 'tiers' and they are Higher and Foundation.

### Vocational Courses

#### BTEC & OCR Nationals

BTEC (Business & Technology Education Council) qualifications are work-related or 'technical (vocational)' courses suitable for a wide range of learners. Like GCSEs these are nationally recognised and have been designed to meet the needs of employers and allow progression to further study. They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning.



Level 2 Qualifications are assessed through coursework and examinations. These courses are suitable for students who might not show their full potential in courses assessed through lots of examinations. The Cambridge National Level 2 Certificates are engaging qualifications which can provide a supportive progression route into further learning or employment. These qualifications are designed for learners who wish to develop skills and knowledge and are ideal for learners who excel at coursework. Learners who successfully achieve at Level 2 will be awarded a pass, merit, distinction or distinction\*.

### 3. The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At GAA, we have an expectation that all students study a *rich, deep and ambitious* curriculum. This means that at the heart of the curriculum sits a broad range of GCSEs that **all** students study. This includes English, Maths, Science and *either* a Humanity or Modern Language. We believe that by making this our core examined curriculum offer, our students are prepared for a wider range of options when they leave GAA. A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in our core offer provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying our core examined offer can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths.

Alongside this, students study Core PE and Personal Values, which are non-examined elements of our curriculum offer.

It is important to study a rich and deep curriculum; these subjects are included to give you the opportunity to study a core of diverse subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed to you in terms of future progression.

### 4. Careers information, advice and guidance

The websites below should be helpful in answering these two questions:

- Where can I find out more about different jobs and careers?
- Where can I find information about the qualifications and skills that I might need for the jobs and careers I am interested in?

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

<https://icould.com/>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/>

### 5. Where do I start?

Making Your Preferences



It is important to have a selection of subjects which will keep all career paths open and will also provide variety. Universities and employers are looking to recruit people with a rich and deep education, reflected in a broad set of qualifications.

GAA's aim is to ensure that you engage in subjects in which you can achieve; this is why you should seek advice from your parents/carers, subject teachers, and the careers information sent through Teams. They can help you by giving impartial and specific career advice. There are also a number of on-line resources available and these are described in Section 4.

Things to think about when making your choices:

- Which subjects do you enjoy?
- What are your learning strengths and skills and which subjects do these go well with?
- Which qualifications might you need for a career or courses in higher education that will interest you?
- Does the content and style of learning interest you?
- Does the balance between coursework and examinations suit you?

Do not choose a subject because:

- You like the teacher – they may not be teaching your class next year.
- Your friend is choosing it or wants you to choose it – you may end up in a different class to your friend.

## 6. Selecting your option preferences and completing them online

Step 1 Research

- Learn about the subjects you could choose at GCSE level.
- Read the subject profiles in this booklet. Subjects at GCSE can be very different to what you have been used to in Year 9. Make sure that you know how they differ. Discuss your ideas with your subject teachers, and ask if you are unsure.

Step 2 Complete your Option Preferences Online

Follow the instructions on the online Options Form carefully to make sure you indicate the correct number of preferences for optional courses.

7. Important things that you need to know:

- Preferences are not allocated to people who submit online first so please take your time to consider the options available. However, if you do not complete your online submission by the deadline then it may be difficult to accommodate your preferences.
- Please consider your preferences carefully as often it is not possible to change courses at a later date as many courses will be full.



- Very rarely, it is not possible to allocate all first preferences. This is usually because courses are timetabled at the same time. Every effort will be made to try to give you your preferences; however if this is not possible then you will have a discussion with a member of staff who will explain why and then look with you at the other choices available.
- Please be aware that if there are insufficient numbers of students choosing a course, it may not run. In this case, the reserve subject(s) will be used.

Remember: The final choice must be your own.



## 8. Subject Summary

### Core Offer

English Language	GCSE
English Literature	GCSE
Maths	GCSE
Combined / Triple Science	GCSE
PE	Non Examined
PHSRE	Non Examined

### Option Subjects

Some students will be asked to indicate a preference for **two subjects** from this list. Some students are asked to indicate a preference of **a minimum of one** from:

French	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE

Some students are asked to indicate a preference of **a maximum of two subjects from this list**. Some students are asked to indicate a preference of **a maximum of three subjects** from this list from:

Art & Design - Art, Craft & Design	GCSE
Art & Design - Textile Design	GCSE
Business Studies / Enterprise	GCSE / BTEC
Citizenship	GCSE
Computer Science	GCSE
Design & Technology	GCSE
Drama / Performing Arts	GCSE / BTEC
Film Studies	GCSE
Food Preparation & Nutrition	GCSE
Health & Social Care	Cambridge National Level 2
Music	GCSE / BTEC
Religious Studies	GCSE
Sport Science	Cambridge National Level 2
Sport Studies	Cambridge National Level 2

Please note, you should make a **total of four** option preferences.



## French (GCSE)

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying GCSE French is an excellent choice for you. As well as learning to understand, say and write a lot more French there are many other benefits to taking this GCSE course:

- You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak French
- You will learn about the countries where French is spoken
- You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for
- In lessons you will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public and being able to work productively as a team.

How will I be assessed?

The exam is divided equally between assessing your skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing the language. Each skill area is worth 25% of your overall grade.

You will sit four different exams. The listening, reading and writing exams will take place at the end of Year 11. Your speaking exam takes place towards the end of Year 11 and is conducted by your class teacher. It lasts about ten minutes.

What will I learn?

GCSE French gives students full access to the complete range of grades 1-9 and covers a wide range of themes and topics. The content of the specification is focused around 3 main themes:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- Current and Future Study and Employment

Anything else I need to know?

We recommend that students purchase a bilingual dictionary to support their work during the course.





## Geography (GCSE)

### Why choose Geography?

Geography literally means, to 'write the world'. Geography investigates the planet that we live on. We discover what lives on it and how it can be managed and protected for future generations. Geography is all around us and is changing all the time. You will study events such as earthquakes, tropical storms and climate change. You will learn to appreciate how other people around the world live and survive and how you could help create a better future for them. We also endeavour to make our teaching of Geography as up to date as possible, consistently using recent examples from around the world. You will learn communication skills such as analysis and evaluation, research and writing which helps when you have to carry out projects at work or college. GCSE Geography includes numeracy and literacy skills, map skills, computer skills, problem solving and decision making. You will be able to work individually and in groups.

Further study can be done at college and university by studying A-Level Geography and then completing a degree in Geography or an alternative branch of Geography such as Geology or Environmental Science.

Geography is a good choice of GCSE that leads to a huge variety of career options in the future. It is an incredibly relevant subject and is valued by employers due to the wide range of skills used. Students who study GCSE Geography will be able to synthesise information from a range of sources, they will be up to date on current world affairs and they can make decisions. Future careers could be: Environmental Lawyer; Disaster and Emergency Planner; Marine Biologist; Doctor; Tourism Officer; Nature Conservation Officer; Scientist; Teacher; Transport Planner; Pollution Specialist or working for the government. Geography equips students with a wide range of skills and allows you to keep your long term options open.

### How will I be assessed?

We teach from the AQA GCSE specification syllabus and students will gain their final grade from three sources:

- 35% Living with the Physical Environment exam: 1hr 30
- 35% Challenge in the Human Environment exam: 1hr 30
- 30% Geographical Applications exam: 1hr 15

### What will I learn?

- Unit 1: Physical Geography: natural hazards, the living world and physical landscapes in the UK
- Unit 2: Human Geography: urban issues and challenges, the economic world, the challenge of managing resources (e.g. food and water)
- Unit 3: A written exam based on two pieces of fieldwork and a pre-release booklet.



- Fieldwork: Learning outside the classroom is an important part of Geography. During the two year course you will complete two fieldwork studies. One to a river to collect data on how the river characteristics change as the river flows downstream and one to Salford Quays to look at urban issues.



## History (GCSE)

### Why choose History?

History GCSE is a fascinating and rewarding subject. You will study events and individuals that have shaped the world that we live in today. You will develop skills that are transferable in all subjects and ones which are highly regarded by universities and employers. There are jobs that use history directly such as museum work, the tourism industry, archaeology and teaching. However, the skills of history are valued by employers in many areas such as law, journalism, politics, the civil service and industry. All of these professions have to study a range of different sources and reach conclusions – studying history can teach you this.

### How will I be assessed?

Students sit 3 exam papers at the end of the course:

- Paper 1: Thematic study and historical environment, 1 hour 15 mins (30%)
- Paper 2: Period study and British depth study, 1 hour 45 mins (40%)
- Paper 3: Modern depth study, 1 hour 20 mins (30%)

### What will I learn about?

History GCSE covers a wide range of topics to suit many areas of interest.

- Paper 1: A thematic study of Crime and Punishment c1000-present day, including an in-depth study of Whitechapel in the nineteenth century and the Jack the Ripper murders.
- Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91.
- Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39.

### Anything else I need to know?

Students who choose GCSE history are given the opportunity to travel abroad. In the past the History department has organised trips to Berlin, the First World War battlefields in France and Belgium, the Normandy beaches and Paris.



## Art and Design - Art, Craft & Design (GCSE)

### Why choose this Art, Craft & Design?

The Art, Craft and Design GCSE is an exciting course giving students the opportunity to participate in intelligent and meaningful making with creative thinking. Painting and drawing skills are taught in a traditional manner and pupils are able to achieve high standards by gradually building their repertoire of skills and confidence.

Art and Design offers a unique means of communication and self-expression. It encourages the ability to observe; feel and understand and select and interpret with imagination.

### How will I be assessed?

The main portion of the GCSE is preparation of coursework in sketchbooks and 3D work - 60%  
A controlled assessment of ten hours is completed over two days in the Spring term of Year 11 and accounts for 40%

Students display 45 hours' worth of their best work and complete a controlled test for assessment.

### What will I learn?

Experience and understanding are gained through participation in practical activities and the study of theory. An understanding of the work of artists, designers and craftsmen is developed.

At Great Academy Ashton we study painting, surface manipulation, drawing, photography, ceramics and multimedia work. We use the art of Andrea Joseph, Peter Arkle, Angela Schwer, Diane Lublinski, and Ernst Haeckel amongst others, for inspiration.

Work of a consistently high standard is encouraged. Students must have enthusiasm for Art and Design and a willingness to improve their standards. Homework preparation and research will be set regularly and a personal sketchbook is essential.

This course requires a high level of commitment to homework and self-study in order to complete the required volume of work needed for GCSE examination entry. It is also desirable that students have access to a camera for research purposes.



## Art and Design - Textile Design (GCSE)

### Why choose this Textile design?

The Textile design GCSE is an exciting course delivering the opportunity to participate in intelligent and meaningful making with creative thinking. Skills such as weaving, stitching, applique, printing and construction methods are taught and pupils are able to achieve high standards by gradually building their repertoire of skills and confidence.

Textile design offers a unique means of communication and self-expression. It is used to develop the creation of designs that might have a functional or non-functional purpose.

### How will I be assessed?

The main portion of the GCSE is preparation of coursework, in sketchbooks and sample pieces through to final outcomes - 60%

A controlled assessment of ten hours is completed over two days in the Spring term of Year 11 and accounts for 40%

Students display 45 hours' worth of their best work and complete a controlled test for assessment.

### What will I learn?

Experience and understanding are gained through participation in practical activities and the study of theory. An understanding of the work of artists, designers and craftsmen is developed.

At Great Academy Ashton we study a range of techniques such as hand stitching, free embroidery using a sewing machine, printing, weaving, constructed textiles and shibori. We use the art of Michael Brennand-Wood, Georgina Luck, Kate Talbot, Lucy Sparrow, Sayuri Sasaki Hermann and Kate Bingaman Burt amongst others, for inspiration. Students will explore use of media and materials such as threads, fabrics, textile materials and paper pulp.

To encourage work of a consistently high standard, students must have enthusiasm for Art, craft and textile design and a willingness to improve their standards. Homework preparation and research will be set regularly and a personal sketchbook is essential.

This course requires a high level of commitment to homework and self-study in order to complete the required volume of work needed for GCSE examination entry. It is also desirable that students have access to a camera for research purposes.



## Business Studies (GCSE)

### Why choose Business?

GCSE Business Studies encourages students to gain an understanding of how small businesses and larger corporations are managed and how decisions are made based on numerous factors such as competition, target markets and the economy. You will be exposed to a number of real-life case studies where we explore companies you all know and buy from like Apple, JD Sports, Coca-Cola, EasyJet, Marks and Spencer, Primark, L'Oréal, Lush, McDonalds, Nike and Dre Beats. Business is a useful subject for anyone to choose. Whether you wish to one day start up your own business or work for another organisation, the understanding will help you in any future career.

### How will I be assessed?

There are two ninety minute exams, made up of multiple choice, short and long-answer questions.

### What will I learn?

- 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
  - 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
  - 1.3 Putting the business idea into practice
  - 1.4 Making the business effective
  - 1.5 Understanding external influences
- 
- 2.1 Growing the business
  - 2.2 Making marketing decisions
  - 2.3 Making operational decisions
  - 2.4 Making financial decisions
  - 2.5 Making human resource decisions

### Careers and the future

- A-Levels: Students can progress from this qualification to a number of different academic and vocational qualifications at Level 3, including GCEs in Business, Sociology, Economics and Psychology.
- BTEC L3: As well as A-levels, Business GCSE will also help students gain access to L3 BTEC Nationals in Business, where you can study and complete assignments, to gain qualifications.
- Apprenticeships: There are many apprenticeships in business, accounting and financial services. vocational qualifications which focus on more specialised business areas.
- Future jobs: Accountancy, Banking, Sales, Product Management, Event Planning, Management, Teaching, Advertising, Social Media Marketing, Retail Buying, Clothes Designer, Distribution and Logistics, Market Research, HR officer, Public Relations, Retail Management.



## Enterprise (BTEC)

### Why choose Business?

BTEC Business encourages students to gain an understanding of how businesses are managed in a vocational way. The BTEC in Business provides an introduction to the world of business. The course covers topics such as business organisations, marketing, enterprise and finance. Students opting for a BTEC in Business will be well prepared for further study of business or employment.

### How will I be assessed?

The final grade students will achieve is mainly taken from internally assessed units worth 75% of the mark and the remaining 25% is taken from an online financial management examination.

### Internally Assessed Units

Students will complete three internally assessed units. Students will complete assignments using various forms of ICT software and each assignment will be based on a real life business scenario. Each project that students undertake form the basis of their unit results which are graded as a Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, a Merit, a Distinction or a Distinction \*. The projects will be based on scenarios within the business environment.

### What will I learn?

#### Core Units

#### Component 1 – Exploring Enterprises (Internally Assessed)

- 3 pieces of coursework based on a small business scenario

#### Component 2 – Planning and pitching an enterprise (Internally Assessed)

- Students create and write a business plan for their own enterprise and then pitch this to teachers.

#### Component 3 - Finance (Externally Assessed – Online Examination)

### Careers & The Future:

- A-Levels: Students can progress from this qualification to a number of different academic and vocational qualifications at Level 3, including GCEs in Business, Sociology, Economics and Psychology.
- BTEC Level 3: As well as A-levels, Business GCSE will also help students gain access to Level 3 BTEC Nationals in Business, where you can study and complete assignments, to gain qualifications.
- Apprenticeships: there are many apprenticeships in business, accounting and financial services.
- Future jobs: Accountancy, Banking, Sales, Product Management, Event Planning, Management, Teaching, Advertising, Social Media Marketing, Retail Buying for companies, Clothes Designer, Distribution and Logistics, Market Research, HR officer, Public Relations, Retail Management.



## Citizenship (GCSE)

### Why choose Citizenship?

Citizenship Studies is an exciting course to take for GCSE. Citizenship Studies is about how people take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally. Our GCSE gives students the opportunity to learn about power, democracy, the operation of government and the legal system, and the role of the UK in the wider world. Citizenship is not just about sitting in classrooms; this subject gets you out and about, involved in community activity. Through group work you will explore an issue you really care about; you'll plan to interview people in authority and organise a campaign for action to raise awareness and make a difference.

### How will I be assessed?

The final grade students will achieve will be based on two final exams, each taking 1hr 45mins each. The course is 100% exam. 15% of the questions in the exam will be based upon a practical element, this is where students do something to make a difference.

### What will I learn?

There are five main themes of Citizenship which are:

#### Year 10

- Theme A: Living together in the UK
- Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK
- Theme C: Law and justice

#### Year 11

- Theme D: Power and influence
- Theme E: Taking citizenship action

Students must carry out a critical investigation leading to citizenship action.

### Careers & The Future:

- A-Levels: Students can progress from this qualification to a number of different academic subjects including GCEs in Sociology, Government and Politics and Psychology.
- BTEC Level 3: As well as A-levels, Business GCSE will also help students gain access to Level 3 BTEC Nationals in Public Services / Nursing and other subjects.
- Future jobs: Teaching, Journalist, Police, Fire Service, Politician, MP, Councillor, Local Government, Working with the local council, Lawyer, Barrister, Solicitor, Judge, Equality and Diversity Officer, Religious Leader, Charity Organiser, Economist, Trade Union Officer, Environmental Worker, Human Rights Advisor.





## Computer Science (GCSE)

### Why choose Computer Science?

Technology plays a key role in everything we do and come across in life. Computer Science has become a very high-profile subject over the last few years. The ability to program computers is a very valuable skill. Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across Science and Engineering is growing rapidly. Computer technology continues to advance and the way that technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and computer based industries.

### How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1 – Computer Systems – 50% written examination
- Paper 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming – 50% written exam
- Programming project \*\* - mandatory (all students are required to complete this to pass the course).

### What will I learn?

#### Computer Systems

- Systems Architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

#### Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms\*
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation



## Design and Technology (GCSE)

The Eduqas GCSE in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, learners will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

### What will I learn about?

The course enables learners to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise, in order to:

- demonstrate their understanding that all design and technological activity takes place within contexts that influence the outcomes of design practice
- develop realistic design proposals as a result of the exploration of design opportunities and users' needs, wants and values
- use imagination, experimentation and combine ideas when designing
- develop the skills to critique and refine their own ideas whilst designing and making
- communicate their design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques, as appropriate for different audiences at key points in their designing
- develop decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing their own project work
- develop a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies and practical skills to develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes
- be ambitious and open to explore and take design risks in order to stretch the development of design proposals, avoiding clichéd or stereotypical responses
- consider the costs, commercial viability and marketing of products
- demonstrate safe working practices in design and technology
- use key design and technology terminology including those related to: designing, innovation and communication; materials and technologies; making, manufacture and production; critiquing, values and ethics
- Jobs / career opportunities include: Engineering, Product Design, Construction, Architecture, Manufacturing, other STEM careers.

### How will I be assessed?

- Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century written examination: 2 hours (50% of the qualification). A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of:
  - technical principles
  - designing and making principles along with their ability to
  - analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.



- Component 2: Design and make task: non-examined assessment: approximately 35 hours (50% of the qualification. A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by Eduqas, assessing candidates' ability to:
  - identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
  - design and make prototypes
  - analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.



## Drama (GCSE)

### Why choose this subject?

The GCSE qualification explores the world of performance and play texts both practically and theoretically. For some students, taking Drama GCSE would be for their love of performing, for others their love for literature and for some they want to build their confidence in communication. This course will appeal to you if you enjoy exploring new issues and ideas in a practical way and devising your own pieces of performance. If you enjoy watching and talking about live performances and want to know more about how drama is created, then the GCSE Drama is for you. Maybe you are really imaginative and creative and want to be able to express your ideas to others or perhaps you're interested in how lighting, sound, music, costume and make-up are used in drama to enhance performance, if any of these are of interest to you then opt for Drama GCSE.

If you opt for either Drama qualification you must have a keen interest in performing and are not afraid to perform in front of an audience. The Performing Arts industry is the third biggest industry in the UK. These qualifications can lead into subject specific careers, not just in performance, Acting & Directing, but in many backstage and Front of House roles. Furthermore, Drama also prepares you with transferable life skills that are sought after by employers: confidence; co-operation; leadership; communication; empathy and public speaking are just some of the skills learnt in Drama that you could carry forward into your working life.

### How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Devising (40% internally assessed, externally moderated). There are 3 areas of focus for this component:

- Creating and developing a devised piece from stimuli
- Group performance/design realisation of the devised piece
- Analysing and evaluating the creative process and group devised performance

There is a portfolio to keep which is in the form of a logbook and is used to document the practical creation and development of ideas, along with the analysis and evaluation of this process. This has a maximum word count of 2000 words.

Component 2: Performance from Text (20% externally assessed by visiting Examiner). There are two areas of focus for this component:

- Interpreting and exploring two key extracts from a chosen performance text
- Performing of two key extracts from this text

Component 3: Theatre Makers (40% practice externally assessed written paper). There are two areas of focus for this component:

- Study of one complete performance text
- A live theatre evaluation



## Film Studies (GCSE)

Why choose Film Studies?

Would you like to watch films like:

- The Lost Boys
- The Hate You Give
- Attack The Block

Would you like to be able to:

- Analyse a range of films?
- Explore film techniques such as cinematography, mise en scene?
- Understand film in relation to narrative, representation and aesthetics?
- Shoot and edit your own opening film sequence?
- Work independently

If so, Film Studies could be for you.

Film plays an important role in our society. It provides us with a diverse and interesting “look” at the world, gratifying us on many levels through the construction of the narrative. Evoking a multitude of feelings and responses, it can challenge us, entertain us, make us question what we see.

How will I be assessed?

Candidates are required to submit:

- A Film Production Assessment plus evaluation (30%)
- Two written examination papers (using 6 films 70%)

Film Studies is an exciting and challenging subject which can lead to further study in either academic or vocational areas. As a subject it complements further study in English Literature, Psychology, Sociology, Art, Drama, and IT.

What will I learn?

This course offers students opportunities to develop an understanding of film through explanation of key concepts, such as: codes and conventions of film; genre and narrative; mise-en-scène; cinematography; context; aesthetics; representation; use industry standard IT software (iMovie or Final Cut).

Please note that there is an expectation that students can complete extended written assessments for this course, therefore a good standard in English is essential above a band 3.



## Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)

Why choose this GCSE qualification in Food?

This course is for students who enjoy working with food and the chemical/biological science of nutrition/diet. The subject requires students to show evidence of knowledge and understanding of food processes and properties and develop competent practical skills in a wide range of categories and food groups. Students will also study food provenance and food choice as well as having opportunities to develop practical food preparation skills. This course could lead to further education in health and nutrition and/ or career opportunities in the catering/ restaurant industries.

Areas of study/ subject content:

- Food Commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from ( food Provenance )
- Cooking and food preparation

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 - 50% of grade = Written paper (100 marks)

This is a 1 hour 45min written paper. This component consists of two sections both containing compulsory questions. Section A: questions based on stimulus material. Section B: structured, short and extended response questions to assess content related to food preparation and nutrition. Students are tested on six areas: Food commodities, principles of nutrition, diet and good health, the science of food, where food comes from and cooking and food preparation.

Unit 2 - 50% of grade = Non-exam Assessment (NEA)

Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment (15% of total qualification)

A scientific food investigation which will assess the students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment (35% of total qualification)

This includes a 3 hour Practical Test (planned in advance) to create 3 dishes, and a folio of planning, research, practise and evaluations (9 hours). Unit 2 is marked internally and moderated externally. Task themes are set by the exam board.

Anything else I need to know?

Skills must be demonstrated across 20 skills and techniques. Examples are: in Knife Skills students must show abilities in areas such as portioning / filleting fish and meat or alternatives. In Sauce Making, students must show understanding in manipulating liquids to alter viscosity. An interest in analysing and applying nutritional content across food groups is essential.



## Music (BTEC)

### Why choose BTEC Music?

The qualification will provide you with a broad foundation which will help enable you to proceed into further training or education, or to consider employment in the Music Industry. The course aims to give you a practical understanding of what a career in the Music Industry can entail, from business to performance, and it has a specific focus on being creative musicians.

### How will I be assessed?

Students study real-life, work-based case studies and complete projects and assessments, which contribute to achieving each unit studied. In order to complete each unit, students must achieve against a set of outcomes. The assessment criteria address theory with practical exercises. The assessment process is on-going, so it allows the student to analyse and improve their own performance through their course in much the same way as they would in a real workplace. The projects that students undertake form the basis of their unit results which are graded as a Pass, a Merit, a Distinction or a Distinction\*.

Students will study the following units:

- The Music Industry: Written exam about the jobs roles within the Music Industry
- Managing a music product: Students produce their own concert or cd to a professional standard.
- Introducing Music Composition: Students use various music software to create their own songs and music.
- Introducing Music Performance: Students log their practical ability and how performance skills develop through practice to a final performance.



## Music (GCSE)

### Why choose GCSE Music?

You have already gained many of the basic skills required for this GCSE course in your Music lessons at secondary school. You have been introduced to creating Music of your own in class and this is developed on the GCSE course as you choose two topics for composition. You have already listened to a variety of Music in class and these skills are developed as you study a wide range of pieces taken from the Classical, 20th and 21st centuries and World Music strands.

If you enjoy making music, either as a soloist or in a group then the GCSE course encourages you to perform music of your own choosing and in any style, as a soloist and also in a group. To take this course, you must be able to offer some recent performing experience in at least one instrument or voice.

Are you a student who enjoys:

- Composing and performing music?
- Learning an instrument or singing?
- Creating music on computers or in a recording studio?
- Learning about various types of music, including classical, popular and world music?

Then GCSE Music is the ideal subject for you.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed across the 3 areas of: performing, composing, listening and appraising.

Unit 1 – Understanding Music (40% of overall GCSE). The exam in Music is a listening exam concentrating on a whole range of musical styles and genres. The exam is 1 hour 30 minutes.

Unit 2 – Performance (30% of overall GCSE) - For this requirement, performance skills are essential, whether it be instrumental or vocal. You are required to perform 2 pieces of music, one solo performance and one ensemble performance

Unit 3 – Composition (30% of overall GCSE) To compose 2 pieces of music, consisting of a combination of two chosen areas of study. One piece will be your own choice in style and the other will be composing to a set brief sent by the exam board.

### What will I learn?

You will learn how:

- To improve your performing skills and composing skills
- How music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product
- To analyse music in a variety of styles and develop a greater understanding of the language of music.





## Performing Arts (BTEC)

### Why choose this subject?

This qualification will provide you with a broad foundation which will help enable you to proceed into further training or education, or to consider employment in the Performing Arts. The course aims to give you a practical understanding of what a career in the performing arts world can entail, from business to performance, and it has a specific focus on acting.

### BTEC in Performing Arts: Acting

- Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts (30% internally assessed)
- Component 2 - Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (30% internally assessed)
- Component 3 - Performing to a Brief (40% externally assessed)

### What will I learn about?

#### You will learn to:

- Express your creative and imaginative ideas and analyse the work of yourself and others
- Work productively in a team with the ability to incorporate other students' ideas and feelings
- Perform with confidence and energy in front of audiences
- Think independently
- Lead and direct drama work
- How to use the technical elements of drama (Lighting, costume, set and sound) to enhance your performance
- Be able to analyse a play text and write extended answers
- Write critical evaluations and analysis of live performances you have seen

### Anything else I need to know?

It is an essential part of the course for students to see as much Live Theatre as possible. Students who opt for GCSE and Technical Award will be taken to at least two professional productions each year, with parents incurring a small cost. Workshops can also be held in school time, by professionals from the industry to enhance your practical skills. You will be expected to attend extra-curricular rehearsals in addition to your time table lessons. For GCSE students it would be of benefit to read 'The Crucible' set text prior to starting the course. Copies can be obtained from the Drama Department.



## GCSE Religious Studies

### Why choose Religious Studies?

RS is a subject which incorporates skills which link to a variety of other subjects including interpretation of texts (English) and writing in an evaluative manner (History). It also includes skills in reason, analysis, speaking and listening. It is a subject which is held in high regard by colleges and universities because students who study RS are not worried about having opinions and defending them whilst remaining calm and respectful.

Careers in RS are not just being a vicar! People who study RS go on to a variety of professions including the care sector, counselling, social work, journalism, medicine and law.

TV presenter and former England Cricketer Andrew (Freddie) Flintoff once said about RS 'probably the one [GCSE] I've used most since leaving school. It was learning about the way in which different people live... Essentially, it's all about being a better person and showing respect.'

### How will I be assessed?

There are 2 exams worth 50% each. An exam on Christianity and one on Islam.

Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes.

All exams take place in the summer of year eleven.

### What will I learn about?

We study Edexcel Specification B which incorporates both religious and ethical content. This specification includes key tenants of both Christian and Muslim beliefs and practices such as prayer, pilgrimage, judgement, festivals, worship and different views within those religions.

Alongside this we cover many different ethical issues including:

- Marriage, sexual relationships, contraception, equality of men and women and gender prejudice
- Origins of life, life after death, abortion, euthanasia and global warming
- War, Pacifism, Terrorism, Peace-making and Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Reasons for crime, theories of punishment, the death penalty, treatment of criminals and forgiveness.

### Anything else I need to know?

Revision Guides will be available, we sometimes have outside speakers into school and we hope to start to run trips in the future.



## Sports Science

### Why choose Sports Science?

Sport has evolved over the past few decades, elite sport now must consider every little detail of an athlete's training programme; e.g. rest time, environment and psychology in the pursuit of excellence. If you want to find out how athletes improve their fitness levels, avoid injuries and make the most of their abilities then Sports Science is the course for you.

You will get the opportunity to study key areas of Sports Science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness; health; injury and performance; the science of training; application of training principles as well as the impact of sports nutrition on sports performance.

### How will I be assessed?

You will complete three different units of work on three different topics, each making up  $\frac{1}{3}$  of your overall grade. You will be assessed in two different ways:

- One unit is assessed by examination, the other two units are assessed internally through either practical controlled assessment or written controlled assessments.

We try and ensure that as much of the course as possible is assessed practically.

### What will I learn?

- Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions - examined
- Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance
- The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this

This is an excellent choice of subject in many ways. Not only will you learn and experience the content outlined above but you will also develop functional skills such as speaking, listening, reading and writing. You will develop the ability to analyse and interpret information as well as improve your use of ICT.

### Further education and careers.

Choosing Sports Science could lead to further education in subjects such as Sports Science (Level 3), BTEC Sport, A-level Physical Education, Biology and many more.

A qualification in Sports Science could lead you to a career as an exercise physiologist, personal trainer, PE teacher, nutritionist or sports therapist to name just a few.



## Sports Studies

### Why choose Sports Studies?

You will have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to your own practical performance. You will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models.

You will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally and discover the different ways of being involved in sport.

### How will I be assessed?

You will complete three different units of work on three different topics, each making up  $\frac{1}{3}$  of your overall grade. You will be assessed in two different ways:

- One unit is assessed by examination, the other two units are assessed internally through either practical controlled assessment or written controlled assessments.

We try and ensure that as much of the course as possible is assessed practically.

### What will I learn?

- Contemporary issues in sport - examined
- Performance and leadership in sports activities
- Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

\*During the Developing Sports Skills unit, you will be assessed on your ability in an individual sport, a team sport and as an official.

This is an excellent choice of subject in many ways. Not only will you learn and experience the content outlined above but you will also develop functional skills such as speaking, listening, reading and writing. You will develop the ability to analyse and interpret information as well as improve your use of ICT.

### Further education and careers.

Choosing Sports Studies could lead to further education in subjects such as Sports Studies (Level 3), BTEC Sport and A-level Physical Education.

A qualification in Sports Studies could lead you to a career as an exercise physiologist, personal trainer, PE teacher, nutritionist or sports therapist to name just a few.



## Health and Social Care

### Why choose Health and Social Care?

If you are considering a career in the health and social care industry this is a brilliant introduction to that world and will give you a real insight into the kind of opportunities that you will get as well enhance your employability when you leave education.

The range of units available will allow you the freedom to explore more deeply the things that interest you as well as providing good opportunities to enhance your learning in a range of curriculum areas.

### How will I be assessed?

You will complete three different units of work on three different topics, each making up  $\frac{1}{3}$  of your overall grade. You will be assessed in two different ways:

- One unit is assessed by examination, the other two units are assessed internally through either practical controlled assessment or written controlled assessments.

We try and ensure that as much of the course as possible is assessed practically.

### What will I learn?

- Principles of care in health and social care settings
- Supporting individuals through life event
- Health promotion campaigns

A Cambridge National in Health and Social Care will encourage independence and creativity whilst providing tasks that engage with the most taxing aspects of the National Curriculum. The qualification will assess the application of Health and Social Care through practical use wherever possible.

You will develop essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to help improve your learning in other subjects.

### Further education and careers.

Choosing Health and Social Care could lead to level three qualifications in the same subject and eventually career choices such as health trainer, pharmacist, healthcare worker, care support worker, paramedic, nurse and social care worker to name just a few.



## 9. Additional Information

### Subject Costs

We cover the cost of course materials as far as possible. However, there may be some costs associated with some courses. The cost of materials should not stop you from taking a subject. If there is any financial difficulty please contact the Principal at the Academy.

### Who can help?

Your subject teachers and pastoral team can advise you, or sign post a good place to look.

Your families can help you, but remember; it should be your choice and not theirs!

Online sources of information, search 'careers advice', or go to the websites listed earlier in this booklet.

If you have older siblings or friends, ask them about their option choices and subjects.

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