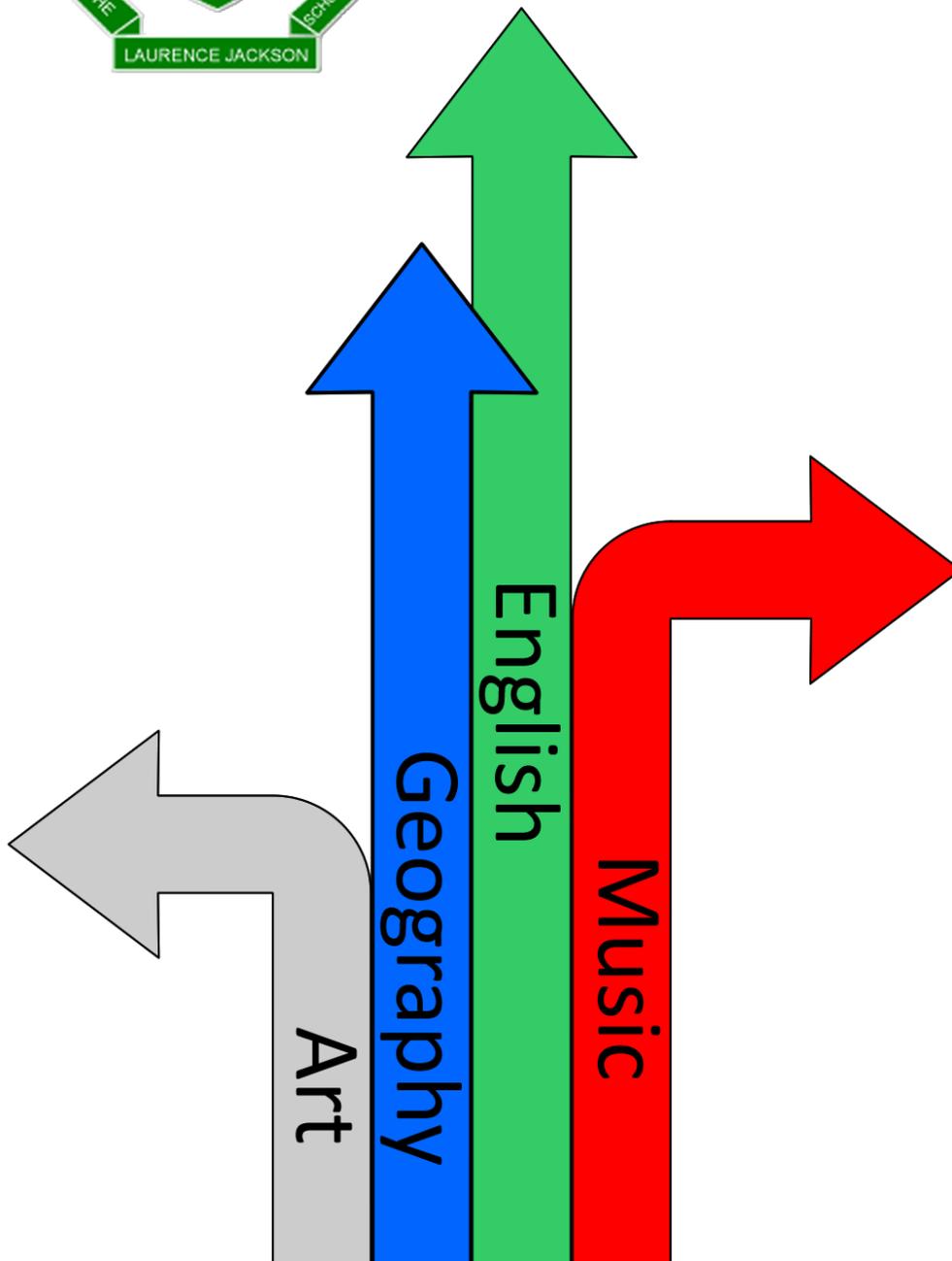




OPTIONS 2020



Laurence Jackson School: Year 9 Options

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum at Laurence Jackson School; Inspiring Excellence.

At Laurence Jackson School we want to inspire our students to be excellent at everything they do. We believe that the inspiration to be excellent begins with providing an education that develops the whole person. We achieve well rounded educational provision through three interlinking elements; Inspiring Excellence by developing character, Inspiring Excellence through a curriculum designed to ensure academic and/or vocational success for all and Inspiring Excellence by looking ahead to the future and out to the wider world.

All students have to take the core subjects required nationally. These are English Language and Literature, Maths, Science, PE and Personal, Social & Health Education. Students also have careers and work-related learning delivered throughout the year in themed days, activities and assemblies.

As students move into Key Stage 4, the curriculum they select from is tailored to their ability, however all students are encouraged to study a range of academic and practical subjects at GCSE or equivalent. We have thought carefully about the curriculum we are offering at Key Stage 4 and students will have the opportunity to select from a wide range of subjects. Throughout the option process, there will be a focus on ensuring that the options that students select will lead to them being engaged and enthusiastic about their learning during Years 10 and 11.

Our curriculum pathways are based on prior attainment, academic achievement at Key Stage 3 and potential career direction. However, we recognise that students' ability in some subjects is not related to academic achievement or prior performance and we have created a pathway system that encourages both academic achievement and creativity for our students. Students will be mentored following their option selection to ensure that they are embarking on a Key Stage 4 curriculum that will allow them to be both challenged and successful.

All students will have the opportunity to select 4 options. Within this selection, if students wish to study separate Sciences, they will need to select this as one of their option choices.

Which option subjects?

Students have been organised into 4 pathways to support their option choices.

Blue Pathway is suitable for students who typically have achieved highly at Key Stage 2 and have continued to do so at Key Stage 3. These students will be encouraged to select a range of academic subjects that would support academic A levels and their future application to Oxbridge or Russell Group universities. They will be strongly encouraged to take a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject as part of their option choice. The study of a Modern Foreign Language, a Humanity (History or Geography), English Language and Literature, Maths and Sciences makes up the English Baccalaureate suite of qualifications; a suite of qualifications considered valuable for further academic study at prestigious universities; particularly for academic programmes of study. If students also wish to study the separate Sciences, they will need to select this as one of their option choices. Whilst there is an academic emphasis to this pathway, it also provides students with the opportunities to explore creative and specialist subjects which will allow them to progress to alternative Level 3 and university study if this is where their interests and skills lie. We recommend that students in this pathway take predominately GCSE qualifications with perhaps one vocational qualification.

Green Pathway is the pathway that will best meet the needs of middle ability students. Students on this pathway will be required to select from Geography, History, Triple Science, French or Spanish to ensure that their study at Key Stage 4 is sufficiently academic and they will also be able to select from a mixture of traditional academic GCSEs together with a range of vocational qualifications. Students on this pathway are likely to progress post 16 to a range of predominantly Level 3 courses, including A levels and more vocational qualifications.

Orange and **Yellow** are the pathways for students who would find a full suite of traditional academic GCSE subjects either not engaging or too challenging. Students on these pathways will be offered a range of vocational subjects together with a reduced number of traditional academic GCSEs. Students on these pathways are likely to progress to more vocational courses post 16.

| | Blue Pathway | Green Pathway | Orange Pathway | Yellow Pathway |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Compulsory Core Subjects | GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature | GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature | GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature | GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature |
| | GCSE Maths | GCSE Maths | GCSE Maths | GCSE Maths |
| | Physical Education. (non-accredited) | Physical Education. (non-accredited) | Physical Education. (non-accredited) | Physical Education. (non-accredited) |
| | Personal, Social & Health Education (non accredited) | Personal, Social & Health Education (non accredited) | Personal, Social & Health Education (non accredited) | Personal, Social & Health Education (non accredited) |
| | GCSE Science Combined Award or 3 Single Sciences | GCSE Science Combined Award or 3 Single Sciences | GCSE Science Combined Award or 3 Single Sciences | GCSE Science Combined Award or Single Science |
| Options Subjects | GCSE History | GCSE History | GCSE Geography | GCSE Geography |
| | GCSE Geography | GCSE Geography | | |
| | GCSE French | GCSE French | GCSE History | Level 1/2 Hospitality & Catering |
| | GCSE Spanish | GCSE Hospitality & Catering | | |
| | GCSE Business studies | GCSE Media | | |
| | GCSE Drama | GCSE Drama | Level 1/2 Hospitality & Catering | Level 1/2 Child Development |
| | GCSE Media | Cambridge National in ICT | | |
| | GCSE RS | GCSE RS | BTEC Sport or BTEC Dance | GCSE Art & Design or Level 1/2 Textiles |
| | GCSE Art & Design or Textiles | GCSE Business Studies | GCSE RS | |
| | Level 1/2 Hospitality & Catering | Level 1/2 Engineering or GCSE Design & Technology: Product Design | GCSE Art & Design or Level 1/2 Textiles | BTEC Sport or BTEC Dance |
| | Child Development | | | |
| | Cambridge National in ICT | GCSE Music or BTEC Music Practice | Level 1/2 Child Development | BTEC Enterprise |
| | GCSE Music or BTEC Music Practice | | | |
| | BTEC in Engineering or GCSE Design & Technology: Product Design | GCSE PE or BTEC Sport or BTEC Design | GCSE Music or BTEC Music Practice | |
| | | | | |
| | GCSE PE or BTEC Sport or BTEC Dance | | Business Studies or BTEC Enterprise | |

Qualification Types Explained

GCSE Qualifications

As you may be aware, there has been some significant changes to GCSE courses over the last few years. This involves changes to the way they are examined and the grade that each pupil will receive at the end of the course. Exams will be linear (examined at the end of Year 11) and there will be a limited coursework element. At the end of the course, pupils will not be graded A* - G but will be graded on a scale of 9 – 1. The grades cannot be directly compared to the old GCSE grades as the content and exam style is more difficult, however the exam grades and boundaries are approximately as follows:

- 9 = A**
- 8 = A*
- 7 = A
- 6 = A/B
- 5 = B/C (Strong pass)
- 4 = C (Standard pass)
- 3 = D
- 2 = E/F
- 1 = G

A grade 4 is likely to be the benchmark for entry to a level 3 college course. A grade 5 is the benchmark for international comparisons.

BTEC and Vocational Qualifications

BTEC qualifications have been in place for 16 – 19 year old pupils for over 25 years and are extremely successful and popular courses. The key difference with BTEC and other vocational subjects is that the majority of the assessment is coursework. Your child's work will form a portfolio which will then be graded. This can help pupils organise their workload over Years 10 and 11 rather than being assessed only at the end of the course. Pupils achieve excellent results on BTEC courses. Some BTEC courses are in the process of being converted to BTEC Technical Awards. These qualifications still have large coursework components (60%) along with a final controlled assessment (40%).

All vocational courses are offered as a Level 2 qualification. The grades given will be:

At Level 2:

Distinction* = 8/9

Distinction = 7

Merit = 6

Pass = 4/5

At Level 1:

Distinction = 3

Merit = 2

Pass = 1

Progression Routes - All BTEC and other vocational courses form a firm foundation for progression to college and work. Employers and colleges are familiar with the benefits of BTEC qualifications. For employers, BTEC qualifications show that pupils are capable of organising their own workload. Post 16 Providers offer a range of BTEC qualifications at Level 2 and 3. This allows students to continue studying a subject when they leave school. Universities accept BTEC Level 3 as an entry requirement for a number of degree level courses.

Students in Year 9 will be the third-year group to sit the new style GCSEs in all subjects that accredit with GCSE, leading to a grade between 9 and 1, replacing A* - G, where 9 is the highest grade.

Please be aware that due to government changes to secondary education some of the qualifications offered in this booklet are still being finalised for accreditation and may be subject to change before September when the courses begin. Please refer to individual subject information for more guidance regarding this.

English and English Literature

All students will study 8 hours of English per fortnight leading to 2 GCSE qualifications – one in AQA English Language and one in AQA English Literature. 100% of the marks will be based upon terminal (external) exams at the end of the two-year course. English Language will be assessed with 2 exams, (1 hour 45 minutes each). English Literature consists of two exams Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes) and Paper 2 (2 hours 15 minutes). Students will be required to purchase their own copies of the Literature texts for the English Literature GCSE (A Shakespeare text, a novel and a drama or prose text).

Maths

All students will study 7 hours of Mathematics per fortnight, leading to a full GCSE (Level 2 equivalent). The maths course is linear and as such 100% of the grade comes from final examinations at the end of the two-year course. There are three exam papers, which are all 90 minutes long. The first is a non-calculator paper, papers 2 & 3 are to be taken with the use of a scientific calculator (students need to have their own). Students can be entered for either Higher tier (grades 9-4) or Foundation tier (grades 5-1).

Science

Separate Sciences

Studying Separate Sciences involves GCSE physics, GCSE chemistry and GCSE biology as 3 distinct subjects which means the students will cover more content than GCSE Combined Science. This pathway will provide great preparation for AS and A-level, and will result in three separate qualifications studied over 15 periods per fortnight.

Exams

Two papers per subject: each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics. The questions will use clear and simple language to assess students only on their scientific ability.

- **Duration:** each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes.
- **Tier:** Foundation and Higher.
- **Weighting:** the papers are equally weighted, each is worth 50% of the grade.
- **Question types:** multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions, along with extended written answers for Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Combined Sciences

This award is equivalent to two GCSE's but still covers physics, chemistry and biology disciplines together and is studied over 10 periods per fortnight.

Exams

Two papers per subject: each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics. The questions will use clear and simple language to assess students only on their scientific ability.

- **Duration:** each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes
- **Tier:** Foundation and Higher
- **Weighting:** the papers are equally weighted, each is worth 16.7%
- **Question types:** multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response. Combined Science will have a 17-point grading scale, from 9-9, 9-8 through to 2-1, 1-1.

Physical Education

PE remains a strength of the school and all students have access to at least 4 hours of high-quality PE per fortnight. All KS4 students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities during their core PE lessons.

ART

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Art is an active two-year course in which students can expect to develop their creative and practical skills and increase their knowledge and appreciation of artistic achievements which is delivered through well-structured projects and assignments. The GCSE Art and Design course is designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, no matter what their level of ability. In Year 10 a rotational system operates to provide students opportunities to work with different tutors in specialist areas eg sculpture, printmaking, photography, textiles, painting and drawing. Often these early stages of the course are quite prescriptive in order to learn new knowledge and skills. As the course progresses and enquiry and making skills improve students are encouraged to work more independently.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will produce a portfolio of coursework throughout Y10/Y11 which has a 60% assessment weighting. The other 40% is derived from the examination which is preceded by a period of preparation.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

GCSE Art and Design is regarded as an essential foundation for progression to Art and Design related courses in further and higher education and gives a strong foundation to students with a chosen vocational career path. Students working towards other fields of study and employment will also choose the course because they enjoy exercising their imagination and design sense and are mindful of constructing a balanced curriculum. Interest in Art tends to continue into adulthood and becomes a beneficial source of enrichment for life in general.

BUSINESS

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Business is not aimed at students that want to run their own business – it's for everyone! All of you will be in the world of work in the not too distant future, that job will be in a business! Where are jobs advertised? How do you apply for jobs? What will the selection process be? What training will you get? How will you be paid? All of these topics are covered in the Human Resources unit. Other topics that we cover include: Why would an entrepreneur want to start their own business? The difference between the public and private sector, how does a business market their goods or service? What production methods are used? How does a business calculate whether it is making a profit (or loss)? You will also learn about all the external factors that affect a business but over which they have no control. For example, how will Brexit affect British businesses? What does an increase in interest rates mean for businesses and consumers?

This course is suitable for all students as it will provide invaluable information to help you in the world of work.

This course requires students to draw on their knowledge and understanding to:

- Apply business terminology and explain business activity
- Develop problem solving and decision-making skills relevant to business
- Investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues
- Make justified decisions using both qualitative and quantitative data including its selection, interpretation, analysis and evaluation, and the appropriate application of appropriate quantitative skills

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

100% final Examination – 2 papers

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

After GCSE Business the door is wide open for further opportunities. There is a high uptake of Business at both Further and Higher Education. Whatever job you wish to take will be in a business. This course will provide a solid foundation in whatever decision you wish to make.

CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Qualification: Level 1/2 Exam Board: OCR

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The new Cambridge National Level 1/2 Certificate in Information Technology qualification will allow students to achieve their potential and progress to the next stage of their lives, whether it be Further Education, an apprenticeship or employment within the IT industry. Good use of Information Technology is an essential part of any successful business. It enables creative and collaborative working, solving of problems and use of the best techniques and technologies to communicate meaningful information which meets customers' needs. OCR have created a challenging qualification which will raise students' confidence in using IT and plugging potential gaps in digital skills and knowledge not covered by studying computing. This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE in both size and rigour. There is one centre assessed unit offering practical task-based assessment opportunities in database, spreadsheet, presentation and publication software, alongside the examined unit of assessment, which contains underpinning knowledge and understanding. If choosing this subject, Students should be confident in their Mathematics to aid with their understanding of data manipulation and analysis using spreadsheets, and a confidence within English is also essential for creating the written project document which students will be assessed on as part of their coursework.

Students will study:

- project initiation, planning and review
- activities such as creating project plans, creative idea generation, carrying out research and online surveys and keeping their projects on track through using online project tools
- collecting, manipulating and storing data across several software packages to an in-depth understanding
- technology, from a wearable fitness tracker recording how many steps you have taken, to your mobile phone provider recording your usage to create your bill
- how to use different technologies (hardware and software applications), and tools and techniques used to select, store and manipulate data
- how to use a range of information technology that is currently available, as well as being adaptable and resilient enough to deal with its rapid advances
- an awareness of the importance of legal, moral, ethical and security factors
- the skills to stay safe when completing their future activities using information technologies, be that for personal, education or working for an employer.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

50% coursework & 50% Final Examination.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Students will develop skills, knowledge and understanding through this qualification which are relevant to both work and further study. It will support students in a range of subject areas such as A Levels in Business, or Cambridge Technical in IT or Further Education. It will also support progression into employment through Apprenticeships in areas such as Digital Marketer or Business Administrator.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Qualification: Level 2 Exam Board: NCFE

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Our Child Development course is designed to give students an understanding of the needs and care of children from birth - 5 years. Through a mixture of practical and formal classwork, the course covers all aspects of a child's development and allows students the opportunity to study independently.

Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care

This is a qualification for anyone wanting to work with children. The vocational course explores the development and well-being of children from birth to 5 years. The qualification will support the development of skills required to work in a variety of child care settings.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

50% Coursework and 50% Exam.

For the award, you must pass units 1, 2 and 3

Unit 1: An introduction to working with children aged 0-5 years. (25%)

Unit 2: The development and well-being of children aged 0-5 years. (25%)

Unit 3: Written examination (50%)

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Nursery assistant

Pre-school assistant

Creche assistant

Parent/toddlers group assistant

Mother's help/au pair

Continue with NCFE/Cache Level 3 course

Toy Library worker

BTEC DANCE

Qualification: Level 1/2 **Exam Board:** Pearson

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts (Dance) is a qualification designed to give you knowledge and skills which you could use to progress onto a Post-16 Level 3 Performing Arts / Dance course. This course suits students with a keen interest and commitment to dance and for those who have a competent dance skill level. Students will be expected to fully participate in all practical lessons and workshops in full correct dance kit.

As well as taking part in practical lessons where they will be assessed, students will also attend classroom-based lessons studying the theoretical aspects of the course. Therefore, all students taking this option must have a positive attitude towards this part of the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Students explore the processes used to create a performance (30% of total course)

Component 2: Students develop performance skills and techniques by reproducing existing performances (30% of total course)

Component 3: Students pull together all they have learned and apply their knowledge in a performance (40% of total course submitted in May/June of the second year)

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

You will learn to improve and apply your dance skills to variety of dance performances. You will learn how to follow a teacher or choreographer to learn new material during classes, rehearsals and performances. You will learn to review your performances and reflect on how you could improve your performances. You will apply your skills to create a final assessment piece, gaining experience of performing in front of an audience.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: WJEC

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course will be designed for students with an interest in any aspect of design, researching and using tools and materials to make products, and have a desire for independent learning.

You will learn:

- How to research ideas and use various sources
- How to explore and use a range of media and materials
- The effectiveness of building a portfolio of ideas
- How to respond to a brief or theme
- The effectiveness of experimentation
- Knowledge of the work sector
- The design process

You will develop skills:

- In using different tools and equipment.
- In adapting your own ideas and responding to feedback when applying safe working practices.
- In evaluating their own work in literacy, numeracy and ICT that are essential for the modern workplace, such as team working, presentation skills, independent working, working to deadlines and efficient use of resources.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

50% Coursework and 50% Final Examination

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century.

Written exam: 2 hours, 50% of qualification.

A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions.

Component 2: Design and make task.

Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours, 50% of the qualification

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Further opportunities include work in the design technology sector, manufacturing, building, engineering, apprenticeships and A level or Level 3 courses.

DRAMA

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** Edexcel

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This GCSE qualification has a straightforward structure with three components: devising, performing from a text and a practical understanding of a performance text. You will also discover that Drama is not just about acting but alongside this you will develop many transferable skills that will be useful in your future such as; communication, group leadership, problem solving and an ability to work towards a deadline – everything needed in today's society. This course will also be suitable for those interested in culture or social issues.

Content will include:

- Developing practical performance skills
- Devising a drama performance from a given stimulus
- Written portfolio/analyse and evaluate the devising process
- Perform two extracts from a performance text
- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text - including written exam
- Live Theatre evaluation/written exam
- Developing confidence in communicating with an audience and peers
- Team work and mutual support
- Using problem-solving skills in a practical context
- Reviewing performance
- Theatre in education

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Component 1: Devising 40%
- Component 2: Performance from Text 20%
- Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice 40%

Assessment will include:

- Practical performance
- Written portfolio
- Written examination

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

You will be able to access opportunities to audition for Drama Schools, take Performing Arts Drama as an A level or BTEC in Musical Theatre, Study Theatre Practice at University or Technical Courses that explore backstage management. This is also an excellent course for those wishing to work in the community either Teaching or Social Care.

BTEC ENTERPRISE

Qualification: Level 1/2 Exam Board: Pearson

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Enterprise skills are not just for those people who want to start their own business - all businesses need enterprising employees. Enterprising employees drive their organisations forward, they have ideas that instigate growth and help to ensure that businesses survive in this fast paced and ever changing world.

BTEC Enterprise is for students who wish to follow a more vocational course. The course will develop skills and knowledge in a number of areas including – researching, planning, pitching and reviewing an enterprise idea as well as building technical skills in time management and problem solving.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is split into three components:

Component 1: Exploring Enterprises. This is an internally assessed component. Students will learn about the different types of enterprise and their ownership, as well as what makes an enterprise successful. Students will also need to consider internal and external factors in an enterprise's success (or failure).

Component 2: Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity. This is an internally assessed component. Students will select an idea for an enterprise activity to plan and pitch. Students will pitch their idea to an audience and use feedback to review their plan.

Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise. This is an externally assessed component. Students will explore the factors that enterprises use to identify their target market as well as the different promotional methods used by enterprises. Students will also explore financial documents and how to use them to monitor the performance of an enterprise.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Students who achieve a Level 2 might consider progression into:

- A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects;
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, which prepares for entry into employment or apprenticeships.

Students who achieve a Level 1 might consider progression into:

- Study at Level 2, post-16 in a range of technical routes.
- Study of enterprise post-16 through the study of a Technical Certificate.

ENGINEERING

Qualification: Level 1/2 Exam Board: NCFE

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A broad understanding of Engineering including the following:

The engineering disciplines:

- how Science and mathematics is applied in Engineering
- how to read and produce Engineering drawings
- properties and characteristics of engineering materials and know why specific materials are selected for engineering applications
- engineering tools, equipment and machines
- production planning techniques
- processing skills and techniques applied to materials for a manufacturing task

The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering is designed to provide pupils with the skills, knowledge and understanding of the applied study of good engineering practices and an understanding of working in the sector.

The course is designed for learners with interest in designing, researching and making. The course comprises of practical elements and a written portfolio.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

60% Coursework and 40% Exam

Unit 1: Understanding the Engineering World. 40% exam – 1.5 hours, externally assessed.

Unit 2: Skills and Techniques in Engineering. 60% portfolio – comprising of research, design development, extended writing tasks and a practical element (internally assessed, externally moderated)

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

This course is suitable for learners interested in careers within Engineering which could include aerospace, automotive mechanical, electrical, oil and gas and renewable energies.

FRENCH

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This is a full GCSE course which aims to extend the content and complexity of the language studied. It is divided into three different themes through which students develop the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Course content:

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. **Each is worth 25% of your final grade.**

Paper 1: Listening (Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language)

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

Paper 2: Speaking (Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes)

Exam assessment with teacher 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier). 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier)

Paper 3: Reading (Understanding and responding to different types of written language)

Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)

Paper 4: Writing: (Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes)

Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher)

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

AS Modern Foreign Languages

A2 Modern Foreign Languages

Access to a different MFL at AS University degrees in Law & MFL, Business & MFL, Tourism & MFL, Interpreting, Translation, Teaching, Lecturing.

Jobs - Leisure & Tourism, International Holiday Camp, Nanny/Au Pair, Hospital Interpreter, Social Work Interpreter, Industry (International Business Links), Communications (including writing subtitles, film industry), Internet Site Translation, Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, Teaching abroad, Charity Work.

GEOGRAPHY

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

We study Geography because it is a broad and varied subject which allows students to develop a range of skills, such as those linked to analysis and interpretation of data, literacy, mapping and enquiry. The subject encourages students to be inquisitive, ask questions, be inspired by learning about new places and be appreciative of different cultures. Geography combines the analysis of social questions, environmental issues, and modern real-world solutions in order to gain awareness of the world around us and become better global citizens. Geographers investigate interactions between the human and physical environments such as the causes and impacts of climate change. Using practical fieldwork and research skills, we investigate problems on variety of scales from local (e.g. conservation of the rainforest) to global (e.g. energy shortages). You will study the AQA specification which is assessed by 3 examinations at the end of Year 11.

The GCSE will be examined in the following components:

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (worth 35% of the GCSE)

Section A: The Challenge of Natural Hazards (tectonics, weather and climate)

Section B: The Living World (rainforests and deserts)

Section C: Physical Landscapes in the UK (coasts and rivers)

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (worth 35% of the GCSE)

Section A: Urban Issues and Challenges (cities in developed and developing countries)

Section B: The Changing Economic World (development)

Section C: The Challenges of Resource Management (energy, food and water)

Paper 3: Geographical Applications (worth 30% of the GCSE)

Section A: Issue Evaluation (pre-released booklet)

Section B: Fieldwork

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

100% final examination

Students are required to complete **two compulsory days** of fieldwork in two contrasting environments. One will be a physical geography investigation of the river in Danby, and the human investigation will be of the city of Newcastle. The fieldwork will be assessed in section B of the paper 3 examination.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Geography at GCSE level could lead to further study of Geography at A Level or degree level, or even subjects like Science, Geology, Sociology, Law and Politics, and Business. In terms of career progression, Geography is a subject which allows students to develop a wide range of key skills which are attractive to many employers. Qualifications in Geography are highly thought of and career paths could take students into sectors focused on travel, tourism and leisure; the physical and natural environment; business and finance; town planning and surveying; government and politics; Geography based IT technology and systems; teaching and education. In fact, Geography can assist with many jobs, even those that are not Geography specific.

HISTORY

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Understanding the actions of individuals and societies from the past can help you to make sense of the present. Many problems in the world today are caused because people have a misguided or incomplete knowledge of past events. The study of GCSE History addresses these issues along with many more.

Within this course there is now an increased focus upon literacy, meaning a high level of written content. Students should be willing to complete additional independent research to support their studies.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will study the AQA specification which is a linear course, assessed by two examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

Written exam: 2 hour exam - 50% of grade

Section A: Period study - America 1920 – 1973 Opportunity and inequality

Section B: Wider world depth study - Conflict and tension 1918 - 1939

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

Written exam: 2 hour exam - 50% of grade

Section A: Thematic study – Britain: health and the people c1000 to present day

Section B: British depth study – Norman England c1066 – c1100

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Historians not only work as archaeologists, conservationists, curators and teachers; but as architects, bankers, barristers, civil servants, economists, journalists, personnel officers, police officers, publishers, social workers, solicitors to name but a few.

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Qualification: Level 1/2 Exam Board: WJEC

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course will be designed for students with an interest in, and enjoyment of, food preparation and presentation, nutrition, healthy eating and working in the food sector.

This course involves both practical and written elements which both count towards the final GCSE results.

Students must take part in all practical lessons.

The qualification shows learners how:

- to prepare self and environment for cooking
- food functions in the body and in recipes
- to modify recipes for health and for balanced diets
- to assess a diet and make recommendations
- to plan and produce dishes for a purpose in the food industry
- to understand the hospitality and catering industry including legislation, working conditions and operations

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----|
| Practical tasks | } | 60% |
| Written Portfolio tasks | | |
| Written examination paper – 40% | | |

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Vocational opportunities include work in the hospitality and catering industries.

Further study at 16+ includes NVQ Level 2/3 and BTEC courses in Hospitality/Professional Cookery and Modern Apprenticeships

MEDIA

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Are you interested in film and television? Do you enjoy computer games and magazines? Can you watch programmes or music videos and think about what messages they might be trying to show you? If you have answered 'yes' to any of these questions then Media Studies might be the course for you.

This course is for you if:

- You are creative.
- You like creating your own product.
- You can express your own opinions.
- You can think about why a product might be designed in a particular way.
- You want to learn a new topic, with transferable skills which will help you in other subjects.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE Media Studies is divided into two exams and a coursework component.

Paper 1: Exploring the Media 40% of total marks

Paper 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products 40% of total marks.

Coursework: Producing a Product 20% of total marks

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Study A levels or BTECs in Media Studies and related subjects. Jobs include: Media marketing, advertising, journalism, music production, video production, film editing, radio production, computer games design and marketing, website development.

MUSIC

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** Edexcel

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Learn how to write your own songs, how to compose your own music in any style of your choice, how to use music technology and become a more confident performer. You will also learn about different musical styles including Rock, Dance, Musicals, Classical and Film.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

60% Coursework

Performing: You will need to play one solo piece and one ensemble piece.

Composing: You will need to create two compositions.

Listening & Appraising

You will sit a 90-minute written paper with questions on your prescribed set works.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

If you enjoyed the GCSE Music course then you can consider:

AS and A2 in Music

AS and A2 in Music Technology

AS and A2 in Performing Arts

You could also access a wide range of jobs and roles within the music industry and related areas including teaching, entertainment law, music therapy, musical theatre, journalism and the media.

Musical training helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning. Students of music learn to think creatively. Music study enhances teamwork skills and discipline and develops skills that are necessary in the workplace. It focuses on “doing,” as opposed to observing, and teaches students how to perform, literally, anywhere in the world.

BTEC MUSIC PRACTICE

Qualification: Level 1/2 Exam Board: Pearson

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This course is aimed at all students who enjoy a more hands-on approach to music making. Through vocational contexts students get the opportunity to develop musical knowledge and acquire skills in preparation for a potential career in the music industry.

Component 1 – Exploring Music Products and Styles

Component 2 – Music Skills Development

Component 3 – Responding to a Commercial Music Brief

The BTEC Music course is accessible to all students with an interest in music. Students should be able to sing, or be learning a musical instrument, but this can be at any standard as the performance aspect is about the *development* of performance skills rather than the outcome.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Components 1 and 2 – internally assessed course work

Component 3 – examination

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects

Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Music or a BTEC National in Music Technology, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a music-related degree.

Study of music post-16 through the study of a BTEC Level 2 Technical Certificate in Music. (Learners who perform well in the BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice should consider this progression route as it can lead to employment in the music industry).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: Edexcel

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE PE is a qualification designed to give you knowledge and skills which you could use to progress onto a Post-16 sports course or use when working in the sports industry. This course suits students with a keen interest in sport and physical activity and for those who have a competent skill level in a variety of sports. As well as taking part in practical lessons where you will be assessed, you will also attend classroom-based lessons studying the theoretical aspects of sport and physical activity. Therefore, you must have a positive attitude towards this part of the course.

You will learn to improve your physical skills and understanding in a variety of different sporting activities. You will learn how to analyse your own performance in sport and think strategically on how you can improve and develop your skill level. You will study the theoretical aspects underpinning sport and physical activity by learning about healthy active lifestyles and your healthy, active body.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Coursework - You will be assessed on your performance as a participant within 3 different sporting activities; this must be at least one team and one individual activity. You will complete one piece of written coursework in which you must design, carry out and evaluate a 6-week physical training programme. These aspects of the course combined will be worth 40% of your final grade.

Exam - You will sit two written exams on the theoretical content of the syllabus at the end of the course. These marks will be combined and will be worth 60% of your final grade.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

The course provides a strong foundation for students wishing to study Sport in post-16 education. Students can access higher levels of Level 2 Sport courses or complete a Level 3 Sport course at College such as 'A'-Level PE or BTEC Sport (with supporting GCSE grades from the core subjects).

BTEC SPORT

Qualification: Level 1/2 Exam Board: Pearson

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This vocational course provides an engaging and relevant introduction to the world of sport. It incorporates important aspects of the industry such as fitness testing and training for sport and exercise, the psychology of sport, practical sports performance and sports leadership. It enables you to develop and apply your knowledge, while also developing a range of relevant practical, communication and technical skills. Students will be expected to fully participate in all practical lesson in full correct kit.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students be assessed with performance-based tasks and assignments where they will be photographed and filmed, as well as one on-screen examination. The following units are assignment based:

Unit 1: Fitness for Sport & Exercise. On screen test externally marked 1 hour 15 minutes for a 60-mark test

Unit 2: Practical Performance in Sport.

Unit 3: Applying the Principles of Personal Training.

Unit 4: Leading Sports Activities.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

You will learn about fitness, how to measure it and how to improve it. You will learn to identify the different components of fitness and their importance in a range of sports and activities. You will learn new skills and further develop your existing skills in a range of sports as well as looking at different ways of training to improve them. You will also learn to lead a sporting session and the necessary qualities of leading a session and reviewing the success of it.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: Edexcel

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Religious Studies gives students an opportunity to explore their own views, Christianity and those of at least one other religion. As well as learning from religion and learning about religion, students also study a wide range of social and moral issues relevant to twenty first century society. Studying Religious Studies allows you to explore how religious beliefs and practices shape and influence the world we live in.

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 - Religion and Ethics (Christianity)

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 50% of the qualification

Paper 2: Area of Study 2 - Religion, Peace and Conflict (Islam)

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of the qualification

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

100% Final examination

- The studied religion must be different for each area of study chosen.
- The assessments consist of four questions.
- Students must answer all questions.
- The paper will include short open, response and extended writing questions.
- The paper will assess spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) and use of specialist terminology and this will contribute a maximum of 5% of marks towards the overall weighting for this paper.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Further and Higher Education Courses – Theology and Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics, Citizenship, Psychology, Sociology.

Job options – Further Education Teacher, Higher Education Lecturer, Primary School Teacher, Secondary School Teacher, Advice Worker, Charity Officer, Civil Service Administrator, Community Development Worker, Editorial Assistant, Newspaper Journalist, Police Officer, Social Worker, Youth Worker.

SPANISH

Qualification: GCSE Exam Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This is a full GCSE course which aims to extend the content and complexity of the language studied. It is divided into three different themes, through which students develop the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Course content

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Each is worth 25% of your final grade.

Paper 1: Listening (Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language)

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

Paper 2: Speaking (Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes)

Exam assessment with teacher 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier), 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier)

Paper 3: Reading (Understanding and responding to different types of written language)

Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)

Paper 4: Writing: (Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes)

Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

AS Modern Foreign Languages

A2 Modern Foreign Languages

Access to a different MFL at AS University degrees - Law & MFL, Business & MFL, Tourism & MFL, Interpreting, Translation, Teaching, Lecturing.

Jobs - Leisure & Tourism, International Holiday Camp, Nanny/Au Pair, Hospital Interpreter, Social Work Interpreter, Industry (international business links), Communications (including writing subtitles, film industry), Internet Site Translation, Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, Teaching abroad, Charity Work.

STATISTICS

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** Edexcel

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Statistics introduces students to statistical enquiry, building on the Data Handling section from the mathematics GCSE. It is available at both Higher and Foundation tier. It incorporates all of the standard graphs, tables and techniques for processing, representing and analysing data and probability from mathematics and also introduces new ones; students are required to make in depth comparisons between data sets and interpret survey results in some of the longer questions.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The examination is linear and comprises two written exam papers which assess all areas, both of which are calculator papers.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

Statistics supports skills development for progression to a range of subjects and develops an awareness of statistics beyond the classroom.

TEXTILES

Qualification: Level 1/2 Exam Board: NCFE

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This course will give you the chance to demonstrate creativity through fashion and textile design. You will also learn:

- Art movements, making skills, materials and components, design and market influences.
- Social, cultural, moral, health and safety and environmental issues.
- Processes and manufacture.
- Production planning.
- Information and communication technology, communication and teamwork.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----|
| A synoptic project | } | 60% |
| Written portfolio tasks | | |
| Written examination | | 40% |

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER I COMPLETE THE COURSE?

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Fashion Designer | Textile Designer | Teaching | Self Employment |
| Fashion Buyer | Textile Manufacturing | Interior Design | |
| Fashion stylist | | | |
| Fashion Illustrator | | | |
| Fashion Photographer | | | |

Personal Notes from the Options Convention Evening

*All information in this booklet is correct at the time of printing.
Some subjects have yet to be ratified and may be subject to change.*