

YEAR 10 OPTIONS



Sedgehill Academy

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning



Hard Work | Integrity | Kindness | Excellence

CONTENTS

- Introduction – Letter to Families
- What do I need to know?
- What is the process?
- What are my pathway choices?
- What is the EBacc?
- What types of course are on offer?
- How do I make my options choices?
- What courses are on offer?
- Frequently asked questions



WELCOME

Dear Families,

We are delighted to present to you our Key Stage 4 curriculum. This is a curriculum which will give your child access to the qualifications, knowledge and skills they need to access the best universities in the country should they so wish.

For this reason, the next two years are crucial to your child's future.

In designing our curriculum, we have been guided first and foremost by our school aim "to be exceptional" as well as recognising that, as part of the United Learning Trust, we strive to develop the best in everyone. To meet this aim, we have designed a curriculum offer which:

- is broad and balanced across a range of both academic and vocational qualifications
- allows students to pursue individual learning pathways in areas of particular talent or interest such as the expressive arts or humanities
- provides a level of flexibility to meet the needs of students who might require support
- links clearly to further study and future employment

In the pages that follow, you will find detailed information on all the subjects we offer at GCSE. Please read them thoroughly with your child, discussing with them the options they would like to choose.

In order to ensure your child has the right guidance and support in making such a decision, a number of tutor lessons will be dedicated to learning about personal Interests, strengths and skills, and careers. Each of these things we have found invaluable in supporting a child's decision-making process in the past.

In addition, we will host a Virtual Options Information Evening on 24th March at 4.30-6.30pm, where we will meet with the families of each child, working together to ensure that decisions that have been made are appropriate for every individual. The support and encouragement parents can provide at this important stage of a child's education is critical, and we very much look forward to meeting with you.

We hope you are as excited as we are by the extensive range of course and qualification pathways available at Sedgehill Academy. We believe it offers the breadth, depth and flexibility to bring out "the best in everyone".

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the following people:

- Mr D Alexander, Head of Year 9 dalexander@sedgehillacademy.org.uk
- Mr F Magar, Assistant Principal fmagar@sedgehillacademy.org.uk

Warm wishes

C Cassidy
Principal

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE I START?

At Sedgehill Academy, we want you to be in the best possible position to prepare you for your future. You may have a very clear idea of what you want that future to look like, but most students in Year 9 are not completely sure what direction they want to take yet. This is usual at this stage, so it is important to keep your options open to give you the widest range of opportunities later on.

You will know which subjects you achieve well in, and those you enjoy – these should be the main factors when choosing your options.

You should also be aware that most universities require three or more good A-Level grades. In order to get onto most A-Level courses (or equivalent), you will need five or more good GCSE grades (which means Grade 9-6 under the new grading system), including English, Maths and Science.

You should also take into account that studying a language is highly valued, as are History and Geography. These subjects demonstrate that you are a student with broad interests, and the skills you develop are considered to help your overall learning. They are well-respected qualifications which can open doors and opportunities in the future. These subjects appeal to universities and colleges, and many more students are taking them now.

It is also important to remember that both universities and employers value a range of subjects and that you should seek to balance the courses you study. Practical and arts subjects can help you develop in a wide range of valuable areas and skills.

All the information you need is in this booklet, and staff are available to discuss your decisions and options with you.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

To help you be well-informed, you will receive:

- guidance options lessons in tutor time
- a personal options interview with your families
- the opportunity to learn more about subjects at the Virtual Options Information Evening.

YOU MUST:

- Speak to teachers/course leaders and ask questions to help you choose your options
- Discuss with your parents/carers
- Attend the Options Information Evening on 24th March

WHAT ARE MY PATHWAY CHOICES?

The Academy has designed specific pathways for its students at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11): the **YELLOW** English Baccalaureate Pathway, the **BLUE** English Baccalaureate Option Pathway and the **GREEN** Vocational Pathway. We ensure students take courses that are suitable for them and give them the best possible chance of success, of fulfilling their potential and achieving the best possible results.

On the **EBacc Option Pathway**, students will have the possibility of studying the EBacc pathway; they will study **English, Maths and Science**, will choose three options from a wide range of courses to complete a full timetable.

KEY INFORMATION:

- All students will study **English, Maths, Science and RE** (more information in this booklet)
- All students will have core **PE** lessons
- All students will receive tailored support in tutor time developing the skills needed to become independent and successful learners
-

WHAT IS THE EBACC

The **English Baccalaureate** is not a qualification in itself; it is a group of qualifications in 'facilitating' subjects -these are subjects which develop good learning skills, and which universities consider to be useful for higher education.

Taking the EBacc is about having a wide range of these subjects and keeping your options open for studies at Key Stage 5. Although it is important to be aware that the EBacc is not needed to go to university.

In order to achieve the English Baccalaureate, you will need a good GCSE grade (9-5) in **English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language, and History or Geography.**



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GCSE AND A BTEC OR VOCATIONAL COURSE?

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)

With a GCSE you gain a grade from 9 - 1 (with 9 being the highest grade).

The course consists of mostly examinations but there are some elements of coursework or controlled assessment in some subjects.

BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council award) and other vocational awards.

With a BTEC and other vocational qualifications you learn about a subject in a more practical, work related manner. These courses are for those who prefer to have the chance to be assessed on coursework, and who enjoy independent learning and practical activity. There will also be an examination and you must pass this in order to pass the course.

You can achieve Pass, Merit or Distinction. These courses are the equivalent to one GCSE. All level grades are GCSE equivalent, with Level 2 grades being equivalent to GCSE grades 4-9.

You can find out more about a particular course by reading the page in this booklet or speaking to the teacher leading the course.

How do I make my options choices?

What should you consider when choosing options subjects?

- Which subjects are you successful in?
- Which subjects do you enjoy (as you'll be studying them for the next two years)?
- What skills do you want to learn?
- What might you want to study afterwards? Do you need a GCSE in a subject if you want to take it at A-Level?
- What do you study in the subject, and is it right for you? Can you find out more from the teacher(s)?
- Are there any entry requirements for the subjects you want to study

What are common mistakes made when choosing options subjects?

- Choosing an option because all your friends are doing it
- Choosing based on the teacher(s)
- Choosing because you've never done the subject before, so it must be good
- Deciding without reading this booklet, asking questions, and speaking to teachers
- Deciding without discussing it with your family
- Deciding against a subject because you don't want a career in it.



WHAT COURSES ARE ON OFFER?

Core subjects:

- GCSE Maths
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Science or Triple Science
- GCSE Religious Studies
- Core PE

Option choice subjects:

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE French
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Chinese
- GCSE Art
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Drama and Theatre Studies
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Sociology
- GCSE Business
- GCSE Media Studies
- Cambridge National in Business (Enterprise and Marketing)
- BTEC Performing Arts and GCSE Dance (dependent on numbers)
- BTEC Health and Social Care



TIMETABLE BLOCKING

All students will study these subjects	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
English language GCSE English Literature GCSE Maths GCSE Science GCSE RE GCSE	Geography GCSE History GCSE Spanish GCSE French GCSE Chinese GCSE	Art GCSE Music GCSE Performing Arts BTEC PE GCSE Sociology GCSE Business GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE Drama GCSE H&S BTEC Media Studies GCSE	Art GCSE Music GCSE Performing Arts BTEC PE GCSE Sociology GCSE Business GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE Drama GCSE H&S BTEC Media Studies GCSE

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____



All of you will learn Maths, English Language, English Literature and Triple Science.

Your timetable is divided into the subjects above, and three other choices. You must choose one course to study in each of the three blocks below.

FIRST CHOICE

Please tick only one course you would like to study in each column below.

Option 1 (TICK ONE)	Option 2 (TICK ONE)	Option 3 (TICK ONE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geography GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> History GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> French GCSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Geography GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> History GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Art GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Music GCSE (Must play an instrument) <input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> PE GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Business GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Drama GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Care BTEC <input type="checkbox"/> Media Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Geography GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> History GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Art GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Music GCSE (Must play an instrument) <input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> PE GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Business GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Drama GCSE <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Care BTEC <input type="checkbox"/> Media Studies

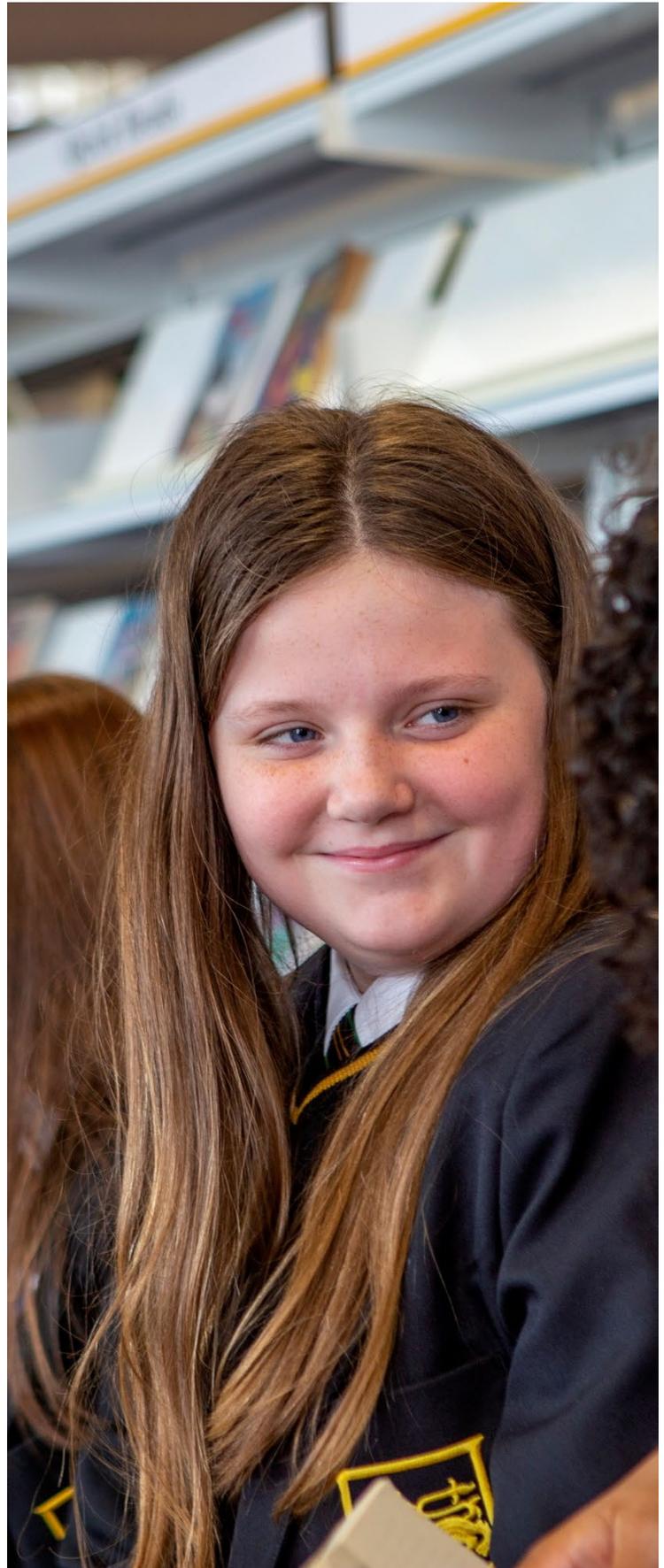
SECOND CHOICE

Now choose ONE subject only as a reserve in case your selections are not possible. This must be different from any of the choices that you have already made.

RESERVE (TICK ONE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geography GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> History GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> French GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> Art GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> Music GCSE (Must play an instrument)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dance
<input type="checkbox"/> Sociology GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> PE GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> Business GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> Drama GCSE
<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Care BTEC
<input type="checkbox"/> Media Studies

***Return your form to _____ by Tuesday 30th March 2021. Return after this date may affect the options you study.**

SUBJECTS



MATHEMATICS

Qualification: GCSE
Edexcel

Exam Board:

Introduction

A fundamental aim of this course is to encourage students to develop a positive attitude to mathematics, and to appreciate the place of mathematics in society. Students will be able to apply mathematical concepts to situations arising in daily life.

Course content

The course builds on the mathematics studied at Key Stage 3. The course content is split into the following six sections:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion & rates of change (now separated from number)
- Geometry and Measure
- Probability
- Statistics

The foundation tier now includes: trigonometry, standard form, vectors, factorising quadratic expressions and equations of straight lines.

Pupils will need to recall more formulae independently and there will be a significant shift to problem solving. This will include questions being more open ended and often set in real life contexts.

Assessment

The GCSE Maths is awarded on the basis of three written examination papers. Two of these papers are calculator and one is non-calculator. All three papers are 1.5 hours long and will be sat during the Summer exam season. There are two tiers – Higher and Foundation. The grades available in each tier are 1 to 5 (Foundation) and 4 to 9 (Higher).

Why study Mathematics

Opportunities for further study and career pathways:

A GCSE in mathematics provides an essential basis for further study in the subject and will help students who wish to study other subjects such as the sciences, economics, and music. Anyone who studies mathematics seriously will find themselves developing transferable skills such as the ability to think clearly and logically, and most importantly, the ability to make connections and see relationships.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Burtonshaw, Subject Leader for Maths

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Introduction

- 100% Examination
- Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
- Paper 2: Writer's viewpoints and Perspectives
- 50% of the marks awarded for each paper will be for reading and 50% will be for writing.

Summary of the course:

The course prepares students for using their skills in English in the wider-world. The Reading portion explores a wide range of unseen texts of both fiction and non-fiction. Students develop a wide understanding of how writers convey their viewpoints, ideas and perspectives on human nature through their writing and an appreciation for how these are constructed. In particular, the skill of being able to analyse and approach unseen texts unaided prepares students for the workplace. The Writing section of the course aims to develop and strengthen students' ability to employ their own writing to convey ideas with a particular purpose for the writing and allows them to creatively express their ideas.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes)

- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes)

- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Why study English Language?

This course is truly preparation for the future. No matter what job you want to go on to do, GCSE English Language is really about giving you the ability to read, understand and form an opinion on something as well as express your ideas in writing. You'll enjoy the course if you are interested in the world around us and how different people share their views on it.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

- 100% Examination
- 2 Papers

Set Texts:

- Prose: Jekyll and Hyde
- Poetry: AQA Anthology Power and Conflict
- Drama: An Inspector Calls
- A Shakespearean text

Summary of the course:

This is a skills-based approach to exploring range of texts, including poetry, drama and prose from different social, political and historical contexts. The course aims to develop an understanding and appreciation of British literature and develop personal responses to texts.

Students will be challenged to become critical readers, exploring the methods that writers use to engage, intrigue, and convey messages to their readers.

The exams will be closed book exams so students will be expected to memorise key quotations.

Why study English Literature?

You will enjoy this course if you like reading, but also if you enjoy learning about great characters and plots. You will enjoy it if you like working out the meaning behind language and how writers get across their ideas to have an impact on you - the reader - or an audience.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Kendall, Subject Leader for English

SCIENCE

Qualification: GCSE Science

Exam Board: AQA

Introduction

During the course, you will study many of the major theories of science in a way that enables you to appreciate their importance to everyday life and how this information helps society to make important decisions.

What is Triple and Combined Science?

There are two possible routes that you will be on for your GCSE course in Science; you will either follow the Triple or Combined Science route. Triple Science means you will study towards a separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE. For Combined Science you will study towards two GCSE grades, which will cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics content.

Selection of the triple pathway will take place in June/July and will be based on the student's attainment.

How many exams will you sit?

For the Triple Science course you will sit 2 papers for each subject (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), each exam paper is out of 100 marks and count for 50% of your final grade.

For the Combined Science (Double Award) you will sit 6 papers, each exam paper is out of 70 marks and count for 16.7% of your final grade. If you are following the Triple Science route you will have to carry out eight required practical's for each subject (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), and if you are following the Combined Science route you will have to carry out 16 required practicals across all specialisms. This will make up at least 15% of the marks coming from questions relating to the practical element.

Why study Science?

GCSE science is essential for studying Science at A Level. The analytical skills provide a good foundation for continued study in A Level Maths and Psychology. Students develop key skills needed for employment with possible careers in Engineering, Medicine (and other health-related jobs), Banking and Pharmacy, to name just a few.

For further information contact:

Mr. Okojie, Subject Leader for Science.

CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Introduction

Core PE enables students to become increasingly physically competent through being actively engaged in a range of physical activities, and to become increasingly effective in their performance in different types of physical activity and roles such as player/participant, leader and official.

It encourages creativity and decision-making skills to enable students to plan effectively for performances and to respond to changing situations and to develop their ability to engage independently and successfully in different types of physical activity. By doing so we hope to make certain they experience lifelong participation in sport and maintain of a healthy lifestyle.

Course Content

Students will experience practical based material. They will be assessed in each module on their ability to perform in at least two different physical activities throughout the year.

Students can also opt to follow a Level 2 Sports Leadership course.

Assessment

This will be assessed internally throughout Year 10. The marks come from a minimum of two different sports and students can also be assessed in the role of leader, coach or official. Students will be assessed using KS4 KPI Criteria for the area of performance they choose to participate in.

Why participate in Physical Education?

Physical education allows you to develop a wide range of personal skills through involvement in physical activity. It not only also gives you the opportunity to improve different areas of your physical activity and fitness but also helps develop confidence, self-esteem and self-worth.

For further information, contact:

Miss. Howe, Subject Leaders for PE.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Qualification: GCSE **Exam Board:** Eduqas Route A

Introduction

WJEC Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies provides opportunities for learners to understand more about the world, the religious challenges it faces and their place within it. This course will deepen understanding of religions and their effect on society. It will develop learners' competence in a wide range of skills and approaches and enable young people to become religiously informed and thoughtful, engaged citizens.

Course Content

Paper 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World

- Issues of Relationships, Life and Death, Good and Evil and Human Rights.

Paper 2: Study of Christianity

- Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity

Paper 3: Study of a World Faith

- Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam

Assessment

Paper 1 – 2 hour written paper (50% of qualification)

Paper 2 – 1 hour written paper (25% of qualification)

Paper 3 – 1 hour written paper (25% of qualification)

Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies can also help pupils to reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in light of their learning and enhance their spiritual and moral development, as well as contribute to their health and wellbeing. It can lead to careers in areas such as:

- National and local government
- Schools, colleges and universities (for teaching and research positions)
- Charities, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations
- Social services and other caring professions
- The church and other religious organisations
- The National Health Service (NHS)
- PR, advertising, sales and marketing companies
- Media companies.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Green, Subject Leader for Humanities.

OPTION CHOICE SUBJECTS



GEOGRAPHY

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel Specification B

Introduction

Geography is about the world around us and the impact we have on it. Students will gain an understanding of a number of key concepts and physical processes, which explain the impact that we have on the world; uneven development; interdependence; future of the planet and sustainability.

Topic 1: Physical Geography

Topic 2: Human Geography

Assessment

Paper 1: How it is assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 37.5% of GCSE

Paper 2: How it is assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 37.5% of GCSE

Paper 3: How it is assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 25% of GCSE

Why study Geography?

Opportunities for further study and career pathways:

Students studying GCSE Geography often benefit from the links with the Sciences and can often use the skills and knowledge gained for a foundation to A-levels such as Philosophy, Economics, Leisure and Tourism, Politics and Sociology as well as the more obvious Geology and Geography.

Geography develops many valuable, transferable employment skills such as the ability to investigate, analyse and evaluate issues. These skills are particularly valued in journalism and media, the law, engineering, business management, teaching, economic planning, marketing, leisure, recreation and tourism.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Perry, Subject Leader for Geography

HISTORY

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA Specification B

Introduction

GCSE History gives students an opportunity to explore the twentieth century and discuss how major world events have shaped our lives. The Modern World History course carefully combines subject knowledge with subject skills to ensure students know about key events but can also put forward their views about them in a reasoned and thoughtful way.

Course content

Unit 1: Understanding the Modern World

Students will study two sections; one will be a period study and a wider world depth study

The topics studied are:

America 1920-1973 (Period study)

Conflict and tension, 1894-1918 (Wider world depth study)

Unit 2: Shaping the Nation

Students will study a thematic study and a British depth study, which includes a historic environment. The topics studied are:

Health and the people, c1000 to the present day

Elizabethan England, c1568-1603

Assessment

100% examination, Paper 1 and Paper 2 will be 1 hour 45 minutes and the marks will be both out of 84.

Why study History?

Opportunities for further study and career pathways:

Students with GCSE History have a solid foundation for AS and A2 Level History, Geography, Philosophy, Government and Politics, Sociology and English Literature. The knowledge and skills gained through completing the History course are valuable in the world of work. History is a good general subject for students because many professional careers, including law, medicine, education, journalism and business value history as an academic subject. It is one of the most sought-after A-level subjects by Russell Group Universities.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Green, Subject Leader for History

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French and Spanish

Qualification: GCSE Exam Exam Board: AQA

Introduction

In our ever changing, global world, studying a language is essential for success in the world of work. The GCSE course provides each student with the opportunity to develop language skills already learnt in Key Stage 3, as well as opportunities for further study and career pathways.

Students with GCSE MFL can go to A Levels in MFL and are more likely to be accepted onto higher education courses across all subjects, especially if you are hoping to continue on to university. Recent studies show that employers prefer candidates who have language qualifications. In today's world, where about 75% of the population do not speak English, it is absolutely vital to be able to communicate with people outside the UK.

GCSE courses

Students are encouraged to continue studying their KS3 language(s) to GCSE level. This is one of these:

- French GCSE
- Mandarin GCSE
- Spanish GCSE

Course content

The 3 topic units covered revisit and expand upon Key Stage 3 themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture: Me, my family and friends. Technology in everyday life. Free-time activities. Customs and festivals in the target language-speaking countries/communities

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest: Home, town, neighbourhood and region. Social issues. Global issues. Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment: My studies. Life at school/college. Education post-16. Career choices and ambitions

Assessment

Four skills are assessed at the end of the course: Listening (25%), Speaking (25%) Reading (25%), Writing (25%).

For further information, contact:

Ms. Paolillo (Subject Leader for French), Ms. Labastida (Subject Leader for Spanish)

CHINESE

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course content

The 4 topic units covered revisit and expand upon Key Stage 3 themes:

Lifestyle: Healthy and unhealthy lifestyles and their consequences; relationships with family and friends; future plans regarding marriage/partnership, social issues, equality.

Leisure: Free time activities; shopping, money, fashion and trends; (dis)advantages of new technology; holiday plans, preferences, experiences; what to see and getting around.

Home and Environment: Home, town, neighbourhood and region, where it is and what it is like; environmental problems facing the planet; being environmentally friendly within the home and local area.

Work and Education: School, college and future plans; pressures and problems; current and future Jobs; looking for and applying; (dis)advantages of different jobs.

Assessment

Four skills are assessed: Listening (20%), Speaking (30%), Reading (20%) and Writing (30%). Both the speaking and writing elements consist of two pieces of the students' best work whilst the listening and reading components are assessed through written examinations in Year 11.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Wang, Subject Leader for Chinese

ART AND DESIGN

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Introduction

The GCSE in Art and Design is a broad and flexible course that requires students to develop an appreciation of the creative process through a practical response, using a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, materials, techniques and processes. Students should explore critically how artists, craftspeople and designers from diverse cultures, times and societies have arrived at solutions and communicated meaning using the formal elements. Students should use this knowledge when developing new ideas, recording observations and creating outcomes, which fully realise their personal intentions.

Assessment

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (internally set) 60% of final grade. Students will develop a portfolio of work demonstrating a range of skills, techniques, processes and techniques.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% of final grade. Students will produce a project in response to an externally set question paper. Following the preparatory period, students must complete 10 hours of unaided, supervised time to produce an outcome linked to their theme.

Why study Art and Design?

You can continue your art and design studies at A-level, where the same titles are available. If you don't want to take your art and design studies any further, the transferable skills you gain will still be valuable. You'll develop problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Smyth, Subject Leader for Art.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Introduction

Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sport science by developing an understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical activity. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activity and sport by learning the theory and applying their knowledge to their practical performance. Two of the 3 lessons per week will be classroom-based learning the theory involved in physical education.

Course Content

Theoretical content now worth 60% and assessed through written examinations on the anatomy of the human body and health and lifestyle choices. Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) is worth 40%, comprising practical performance and performance analysis. Practical sports are now 30% of the final grade and candidates must be assessed in three activities - one team activity, one individual activity and a free choice from the list published by the exam board.

Assessment

Component 1: Fitness and body systems

Component 2: Health and Performance

Component 3: Practical Performance (30%)

Component 4: Personal Exercise Plan (Coursework 10%)

Why study Physical Education?

Physical education allows you to develop a wide range of personal skills through involvement in physical activity. The analysis of performance will often involve using ICT as a basis for studying and reviewing different performances.

Opportunities for further study and career pathways

Employment opportunities where PE skills will be particularly valued include the sport and leisure industry, travel and tourism, sports coaching, teaching work within various sporting establishments such as sports journalism, sport physiotherapist, sport psychology, nutritionist etc. Alternatively, students may wish to follow this course for its own sake because they are interested in fitness and health and enjoy physical activities.

For further information, contact:

Miss. Howe Subject Leaders for PE

BTEC SPORT

Qualification: GCSE

Exam board: Edexcel

Introduction

BTECs are vocationally related qualifications, where learners develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context. This course teaches students the knowledge required to pursue a career in sport. Students will also develop the skills for a range of sport-related pathways from sports coaching to gym management. Students can choose to study sport at university and many more possible routes.

Course Content:

You will study a total of four units in Year 10 and 11. Unit 1 is assessed in an exam with all other units assessed throughout the course by the submission of coursework.

Assessment

Students will receive a grade for each individual unit (Distinction, Merit, Pass).

You will study four units, covering the underpinning knowledge and skills required for the sports sector:

- Fitness for sport and exercise - Externally Assessed Exam (25%)
- Practical performance in sport - Internally Assessed (25%)
- Applying the principles of personal training - Internally Assessed (25%)
- Leading sports activities - Internally Assessed (25%)

Opportunities for further study and career pathways

There is a clear progression route to Level 3 BTEC Sport in our Sixth Form. Employment opportunities where PE skills will be particularly valued include the sport and leisure industry, travel and tourism, sports coaching, teaching work within various sporting establishments such as sports journalism, sport physiotherapist, sport psychology, nutritionist etc. Alternatively, students may wish to follow this course for its own sake because they are interested in fitness and health and enjoy physical activities.

For further information, contact:

Miss. Howe Subject Leaders for PE

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Qualification: GCSE

Exam board: Edexcel

Introduction

The GCSE Drama course will be made up of activities, including a number of theatre trips and workshops, designed to build up your range of dramatic and theatrical skills in preparation for the devising coursework and the performance and written examinations.

Component One 40% - Devising – marked internally, moderated externally

You will take part in creating and developing a devised piece of theatre using a stimulus as a starting point. The two parts of the assessment are:

1. A portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process. (75% of marks)
2. A devised performance. (25% of marks)

Component Two 20% - Performance from Text – examined externally

You will take part in lessons and workshops to develop and hone your skills of interpreting plays and bringing a performance text from “page to stage”. This will culminate in your preparing a performance of two key extracts from one play text: a visiting examiner from the Board will assess you in your performance exam.

Component Three 40% - Theatre Makers in Practice – examined externally

In this unit you will work towards a 90-minute written exam for which you will study a set performance text through practical exploration; and you will see a play at the theatre and analyse the performance (writing some evaluation notes to take into the exam). You will answer questions on both plays in the exam.

Why study Drama?

Drama is not just for actors. Drama offers fantastic opportunities for developing social skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and team working abilities. It is a great confidence builder and develops analytical and problem solving skills.

For further information, contact:

Mr. Wignall, Subject Leader for Drama

MUSIC

Qualification: GCSE Music

Exam board: OCR

Introduction

The GCSE Music course is designed to give learners a broad understanding of the musical concepts and techniques used in a wide variety of musical styles throughout different historical periods and World cultures. If you have a passion for performing (either as an instrumentalist or a vocalist), creating music both as an individual and in groups using industry standard technology and understanding more about how music is composed, this is the course for you.

Course Content

Students will focus their learning on five areas of study:

1. My Music
2. The Concerto through Time
3. Rhythms of the World
4. Film Music
5. The Conventions of Pop

Assessment

- Performance (30%)
- Composition (30%)
- Appraising (40%)

Why study GCSE Music?

If you want to build on your practical music skills as well as learning more about the different musical styles that continue to shape the music we listen to today. You will be given the opportunity to harness your creative skills, composing and performing music using industry standard equipment and develop your ability to read scores and understand music theory.

Opportunities for further study and career pathways

This course can lead to A Level Music, Music Technology or the Level 3 Music BTEC. These courses can help support your progression to a career within the music industry (including performing, composing, song writing, producing, editing, sound engineer or music management). Performance skills are also advisable for a career on stage.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Haworth, Subject Leader for Music

PERFORMING ARTS: DANCE

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 Technical Award in Performing Arts – Dance

Exam board:

Edexcel

Introduction

A key feature of the Technical Award is that it provides learners with the opportunity to study Dance within a vocational setting. This provides learners with the essential experience of Dance as a profession and, across the two years, learners engage in a variety of exciting opportunities to work alongside professional choreographers, dance companies and the opportunity to perform in key venues across London. The course is crafted to introduce learners to a wide variety of Dance styles and allows learners to develop their technical and performance skills, as well as, their creative skills as a choreographer.

Component 1 – Exploring the Performing Arts – 30% Internally Assessed

Component 2 - Developing Skills and Techniques – 30% Internally Assessed

Component 3 – Performing to a Brief – 40% Externally Assessed

Why study BTEC First Performing Arts?

Opportunities for further study and career pathways

BTEC Performing Arts - Dance provides extended routes of study into Dance and the Performing Arts. There are many exciting career opportunities, including: professional dancer, choreographer, teacher, arts administration, community dance leader, musical theatre, and many more.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Peers, Dance Teacher

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 First Award / Tech Award
Exam Board: Edexcel

Introduction

The course is for those who wish to follow a career in the health or social care services. It provides initial knowledge for students who want to work in health and social care or to go on to a more advanced work-related qualification. The course will develop the skills, understanding, personal qualities and attitudes essential for success in working life. A BTEC Tech Award is equivalent to 1 GCSE Grade 9–4.

Course Content

Students complete both creative and research-based projects as well as assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations and activities within the health and social care industry.

Typical content will include:

Human Lifespan Development investigating factors that influence our growth and development across life stages. Health & Social Care Values investigating how to implement health and social care services in the best interest of patients. Effective Communication in Health & Social Care exploring to best communicate with service users. Social influences on health and wellbeing. The impact of nutrition on health and wellbeing. Physiological disorders and their impact on health.

Assessment:

BTEC HSC is largely assessed through a variety of vocational, coursework-based activities. There will also be one unit, which is externally assessed through a one-hour assessment. Students are awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction on completion of the course.

Why study Health and Social Care?

The type of person who will enjoy this course will be someone who wants to work in a hands-on way through completion of individual projects. There is a lot of individual research to do and for anyone who is interested in the world of health or social care this will be a rewarding course to follow. Following this course, you will be able to go into further training or study in careers such as; early years' provision, nursing, therapy, social work and residential care management.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Anderson, Subject Leader for Health and Social Care.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Qualification: Business Studies GCSE
Exam Board: Edexcel

Introduction

The GCSE Business Studies course will give students the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. The clear and straightforward structure to our new specification will support your teaching and students' learning.

Course Content

Students will study two themes in business which will include:

Theme 1: Investigating small business

- 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
- 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice
- 1.4 Making the business effective
- 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2: Building a business

- 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

Assessment

This will consist of external assessments. The GCSE is awarded on the basis of 2 written exams. The exams last for 1 hour and 30 minutes and both papers are worth 50% each.

Why study Business?

Opportunities for further study and career pathways. Also, students are able to develop real life skills that they can take into their next phase of studies or work.

The Business GCSE will aid progression to further study and prepare learners to enter the workplace. In the business sector, learners would aim to move into entry-level roles, such as assistants in business administration, marketing, finance, human resources, sales and customer service. It has a clear progression route to an A level course or to an apprenticeship.

For further information, contact:

Mr. Falana, Subject Leader for Business Studies

BUSINESS: ENTERPRISE & MARKETING

Qualification: Cambridge National
Exam Board: OCR

Introduction

The Enterprise and Marketing course will give students the opportunity to explore business issues and how businesses use entrepreneurial skills to develop and market a business idea. The structure of the course will allow the students to access essential knowledge and an understanding of enterprise and marketing concepts.

Course Content

Students will study 3 units which include:

- Unit 1: Enterprise and marketing concepts
- Unit 2: Design a business proposal
- Unit 3 Market and pitch a business proposal

Assessment

This will consist of one external exam and 2 internal coursework assessments. The Cambridge National is awarded on the basis of passing both internal assessments and the external written exam. The exam lasts for one hour and 30 minutes.

Why study Business?

Opportunities for further study and career pathways. Also, students are able to develop real life skills that they can take into their next phase of studies or work. The Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing will aid progression to further study and prepare learners to enter the workplace. In the business sector, learners would aim to move into entry-level roles, such as assistants in business administration, marketing, finance, human resources, sales and customer service. It has a clear progression route to a level 3 BTEC course, an A level course, or to an apprenticeship.

For further information, contact:

Mr. Falana, Subject Leader for Business Studies

SOCIOLOGY

Qualification: GCSE

Exam board: AQA

Introduction

Sociology is the study of people in society. It focuses on topics such as families, education, crime and deviance and social inequality. By doing so, it enables students to ask fundamental questions such as why do men commit more crimes than women do, what is the best family type in the UK and does going to private school mean you will achieve more academically than in other schools? These questions will be discussed using sociological perspectives such as Marxism, functionalism, feminism and interactionism as well as their own thoughts and opinions in a reasonable way.

Assessment

Paper 1: The Sociology of Families and Education

- 1 hour 45 minutes
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

- 1 hour 45 minutes
- 50% of GCSE

Why study Sociology?

Opportunities for further study and career pathways: Sociology opens up a broad spectrum of career pathways. Students further their learning into A Level Sociology and often use their skills in other Social Science subjects such as Psychology, Law, Economics, Religious Studies and Health and Social Care. Sociology is a fantastic subject for students who want to have a career in law, education, policy making for the government, journalism, advertising, nursing and civil service.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Todorovac, Subject Leader for Sociology

MEDIA STUDIES

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Introduction

From television to cinema, radio to podcasts, social media to blogs and vlogs, and everything in between – media studies plays a big part of our every day. Through studying Media Studies, you will view, evaluate and analyse a variety of media products develop practical industry skills spanning a range of media forms.

Assessment:

Paper 1: How it is assessed?

- Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: How it is assessed?

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 35% of GCSE

Non-Exam Assessment: How it is assessed?

- Creating a media product - A choice of one of five annually changing briefs, set by AQA.
- 30% of GCSE

Why study Media Studies?

Media studies explores more than one branch of knowledge. You may be studying corporate structures of how mass media operate and in doing so you would be looking at media from a business perspective. You may also turn to fields such as psychology and sociology when studying about media messages and how media communicate ideas to the public.

This course will enable students to become media literate and persistently ask questions such as who created this? Why did they make it? Who is the target audience? What techniques are being used to make this message believable?

Many students of media will likely develop a career in television, film, animation, game design, visual effects, web design and more!

For further information, contact:

Mr. Haliti, Teacher of Media Studies.



FAQ OF THE OPTION PROCESS

QUALIFICATIONS

How many BTECs can a student take?

You can choose to take one BTEC qualification as one of your option choices

What about Universities and BTECs?

BTECs are vocational, work-related qualifications and are recognised qualifications by universities for vocational, work-related courses. If you are thinking of working in Health and Social Care, Business or any area within the Performing Arts Industry, studying the BTEC First followed by the BTEC National Diploma (equivalent to 3 A-levels) is one route to studying these at university. You do not have to take a BTEC First in a subject to take the BTEC National Diploma in the Sixth Form.

What is the difference between EBacc and GCSE? What will students get at the end?

GCSEs are individual qualifications that are available in many subjects. The EBacc is a group of 5 specific GCSEs that are recognised by employers and universities as giving a broad and balanced curriculum. You do not get a separate qualification or certificate to say you have the EBacc but you will be able to say you have this award if you achieve a grade C or above in the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, MFL (French or Spanish or Chinese or a community language) and a Humanities subject from Geography or History

How long do GCSEs take to complete?

GCSE courses are designed to be taught over 2 years (Years 10 and 11) with final exams in May/June of the second year.

How does science contribute to the EBacc?

You need to achieve a grade 5 or above in Combined Science (both GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science) or a grade 5 or above in two of the three separate Sciences if you take Triple Science.

How many options can you choose? How many are compulsory?

You can choose 3 options – one from each block. The core curriculum that every student studies includes all the compulsory subjects.

If you want the EBacc, what will this mean for your choices?

This means that you need to choose French or Spanish or Chinese and Geography or History as two of your options. It is possible to choose to study both Geography and History if you wish. Your third option can be your own choice from any in the remaining option block.

Are my A-Level choices affected by the choices I have now?

If there is a subject you know you definitely want to study for A-levels, then we would advise you to take it for GCSE. Please speak to your subject teachers for further advice before making your options choices.

How many GCSEs from English Literature/Language?

You will study for two separate GCSEs in your English lessons. One GCSE in English Language and one GCSE in English Literature.

When you have made your choices, can you change your mind after the deadline?

Every student has the opportunity to change courses, they will have a two-week window at the start of September. The student will need to speak with their Head of Year and the Subject Leader of the two subjects they wish to move between. They will, in the first instance need to discuss the move with their tutor, who will liaise with their Head of Year.

