

Dear Year 9 Students (and Parents/Carers)

Welcome to your Guided Options Booklet!

As you near the end of year 9 and the end of Key Stage 3, you get to have some choice in what you study; a huge opportunity and a huge responsibility! It is a time to make important decisions about your own learning and plan what you will be doing for the next two years, then in the sixth form and beyond.

You may think you already know what you want to study in years 10 and 11, key stage 4, but it is very important that you listen to all the advice you are given and ask lots of questions. You have a wide range of courses on offer, and we will guide you towards sensible choices. This booklet has been organised to provide you with all the necessary information to help you in your option choices. There are details for each subject about the courses and the qualifications.

There are many experienced staff at St Regis who can help you in this process: your form tutor, your subject teachers, who will be able to talk to you in depth about their subject at key stage 4, Miss Tatham as your Head of Year and myself.

The best plan is to read all the information in this booklet, talk to as many people as you can and discuss all the possibilities at home with your parents - they too know your strengths and weaknesses.

You have also taken part in a Year 9 Options week with careers advice and taster sessions for subjects you have not experienced before. You will also have received a report on all your subjects – your ATL and progress data will also show your stronger area.

Please remember that in most option subjects we have only one class, where these are oversubscribed we will look at in school progress and behaviour in that subject since Year 7 and also how that subject and general suitability.

All pupils will select their final option choices by Easter half term.

Mr C Green

Vice Principal – Quality of Education



Dear Year 9,

This is a really exciting and important time in your education career. It's the first time you get to have some ownership, responsibility and choice over what you study in Key Stage 4. I feel really grateful that I am getting to support you through this process alongside Mr Green and the rest of the staff here at St Regis.

Some advice I would give you is:

1. Choose subjects for you and not your friends – this should be because YOU are interested in the subject, not because your friend is opting from the subject.
2. What you choose now does define the rest of your life, but it can open doors for you. Consider your aspirations and what subjects they might be linked to, this will help you stay interested.
3. If you are unsure, ask staff for guidance – your Form Tutors should be your 1st port of call for help, but feel free to ask me or any other member of staff if you need some help with working out what will be best for you!

This step is a real opportunity to shape how your next 2 years at St Regis looks, make good choices and this will be a really exciting time for you. I hope you appreciate the chance to make some decisions for your education.

Happy to help wherever possible

Miss Tatham
Head of Year 9



The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is taught in Years 10 & 11. At this stage, students will have some choice in which subjects they study and are guided in the choices they make.

What is GCSE?

GCSE stands for the General Certificate of Secondary Education. The final grades are awarded 1-9, 9 is the highest grade achievable.

What is BTEC /Vocational Tech Award?

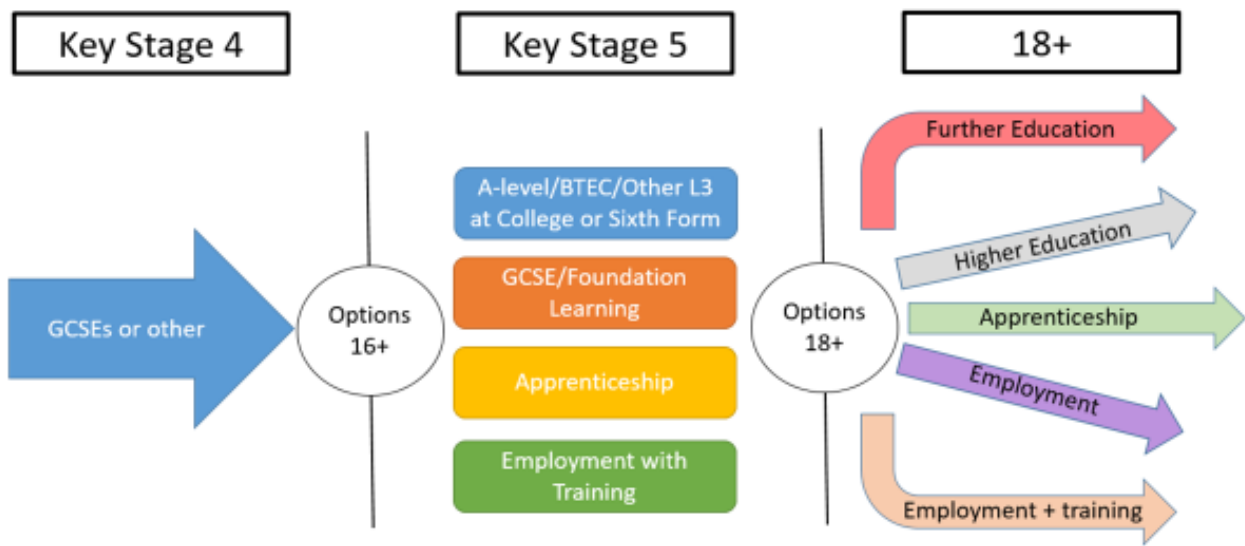
BTEC stands for Business and Technology Education Council. A BTEC Tech Award course is the equivalent to a GCSE. Some subjects at St Regis teach BTEC to enable students to reach their full potential in the subject (exams and coursework spreads over the course rather than just at the end of Year 11). A BTEC Pass grade is the same as level 5, Merit is equivalent to level 7 and Distinction is the same as level 9.

These courses consist of coursework, online tests and in some cases a final exam. It is vital to read the specifications in this booklet to understand each course.

BTEC GRADE	NEW GCSE GRADE
LEVEL 1	1
	2
	3
	4
PASS	5
	6
	7
DISTINCTION DISTINCTION*	8
	9

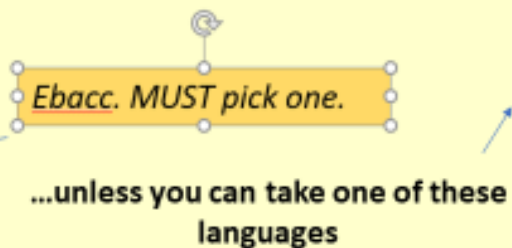


You are about to enter Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and Y11) which is a very important step in your educational journey.



Could you take an extra GCSE in Year 11 without needing lessons on your timetable?

- Spanish
- Geography
- History



- GCSE Biblical Hebrew
- GCSE Classical Greek
- GCSE Dutch
- GCSE French
- GCSE German
- GCSE Gujarati
- GCSE Latin
- GCSE Persian
- GCSE Portuguese
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Turkish

- Russian
- Arabic
- Urdu
- Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese)
- Japanese
- Italian
- Polish
- Panjabi
- Bengali

Many of our students can know a second (or third language) **fluently**.

We are able to enter students into GCSE exams in the subject above, **without the need for any lessons on their timetable**.

Pupils will be asked to indicate this on their options form and, once assessed to ensure they are suitable, will NOT need to take Geography/History/Spanish, although they still can if they wish.



The Core Subjects

At Key Stage 4 you will all study **Core** subjects and then be guided to follow a **pathway** which will allow you to choose some of the subjects you study.

At The King's CE school, the CORE subjects which all students will study and be entered for the GCSE exams are:

- **English Language and Literature** (2 GCSEs)
- **Mathematics** (1 GCSE)
- **Science**—either combined (2 GCSEs) or triple (3 GCSEs – which takes one option)
- **RE** – as a Church of England school this is compulsory (1 GCSE)
-

All students will also study core PE and PSHE but students will not sit an exam in these subjects.

The Optional Subjects – YOU WILL SELECT THREE OPTIONS

You must select Geography OR History OR take a language

There are a number of optional subjects available to select. These consist of a mixture of GCSE and BTEC Level 2 qualifications.

- Art and Design GCSE
- Business Studies – GCSE
- Design and Technology – GCSE
- Digital Information Technology – BTEC Tech Award
- Food - Preparation and Nutrition – GCSE
- Geography – GCSE
- Music – Vocational Tech Award (Performing arts)
- History – GCSE
- Health and Social Care – Eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Health & Social Care
- Drama – Vocational Tech Award (Performing Arts)
- Photography – GCSE
- Psychology – GCSE (*advised if in set 1 or 2 for English only*)
- Science – Triple Award – GCSE
- Spanish GCSE
- Sport – CNAT/GCSE

As an extra GCSE, delivered after school, we offer GCSE Statistics.

How to make good subject choices!

When selecting your option pathways, you should think about the following points:

- **How do you like to learn?**

Do you like English and Drama because you get to talk and listen? Do you enjoy the discussions and opinions you are able to express in History or Geography? Or PE because you enjoy practical subjects? Working out how you like to learn can help your options choice.

- **Where could they take you?**

Do you know what you want to do when you leave school? Picking the right subjects could help you get there. Similarly, if you are unsure which career path you want to take, keep your options open if you haven't decided.

- **What subjects do you enjoy?**

You're more likely to get better marks in subjects that you find interesting. Does time fly by in some subjects and go at a snail's pace in others?

- **What subjects are you good at?**

Are there particular subjects in which you are achieving your predicted grades or above? When completing class work, extended learning and exams are you achieving positive grades and good feedback? There may be some you've never studied before, but would do well in.

- **What do others think you're good at?**

Talk to your parents, friends, family and teachers. What do they think would suit you and why? Ask for their opinions and see how they weigh up with your own thoughts.

Your future employer may be more interested in the GRADE you achieve rather than the actual subject studied, with the exceptions of English, Maths and Science.

How to make bad subject choices!

- Because my friend is doing it!

Your choices need to be your own as they need to suit your ability and prepare you for the future.

- Because I dislike the teacher

Your teacher may change and you may find that you are in different groups in Year 10 and 11.

Careers at St Regis

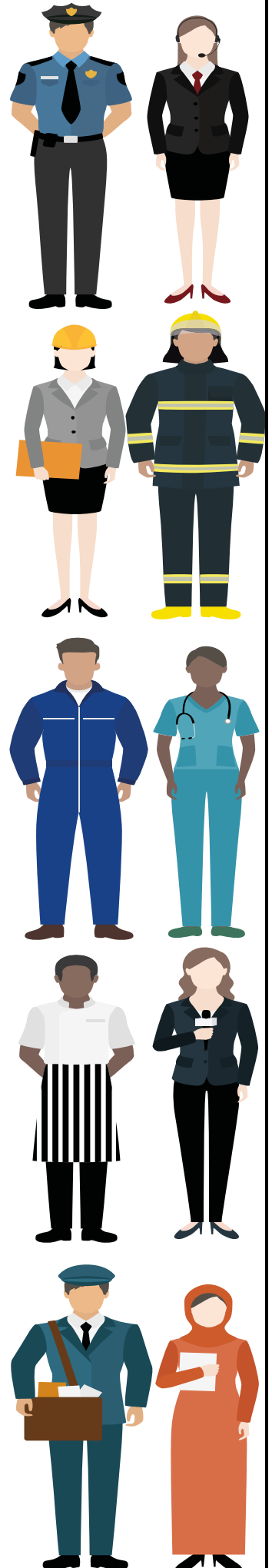
Life is a series of choices and decisions... the ones you are about to make are important so take your time and read this guided options booklet carefully. Your choices as you move into Key Stage 4 will start to shape your future. I am here, as Careers leader, alongside all staff here at St Regis to support you and guide you along this journey. Our careers programme is designed to educate and inform you about different pathways available to you as you move through your school career. We also have an independent careers advisor working alongside us to provide advice and guidance to all students and to help you make the right decisions for you.

Details of our careers programme, resources and information is available on the Careers pages of the school website. As you move forward, as you make your choices and decisions, you will be able to find resources and support that specifically meet your needs. There is information on studies at KS5, work experience and apprenticeships; all information is updated regularly, it is a one-stop shop for all things careers related. Go and take a look!

If I can be of any help and assistance, please don't hesitate to ask. Good luck!

Mrs Thomas

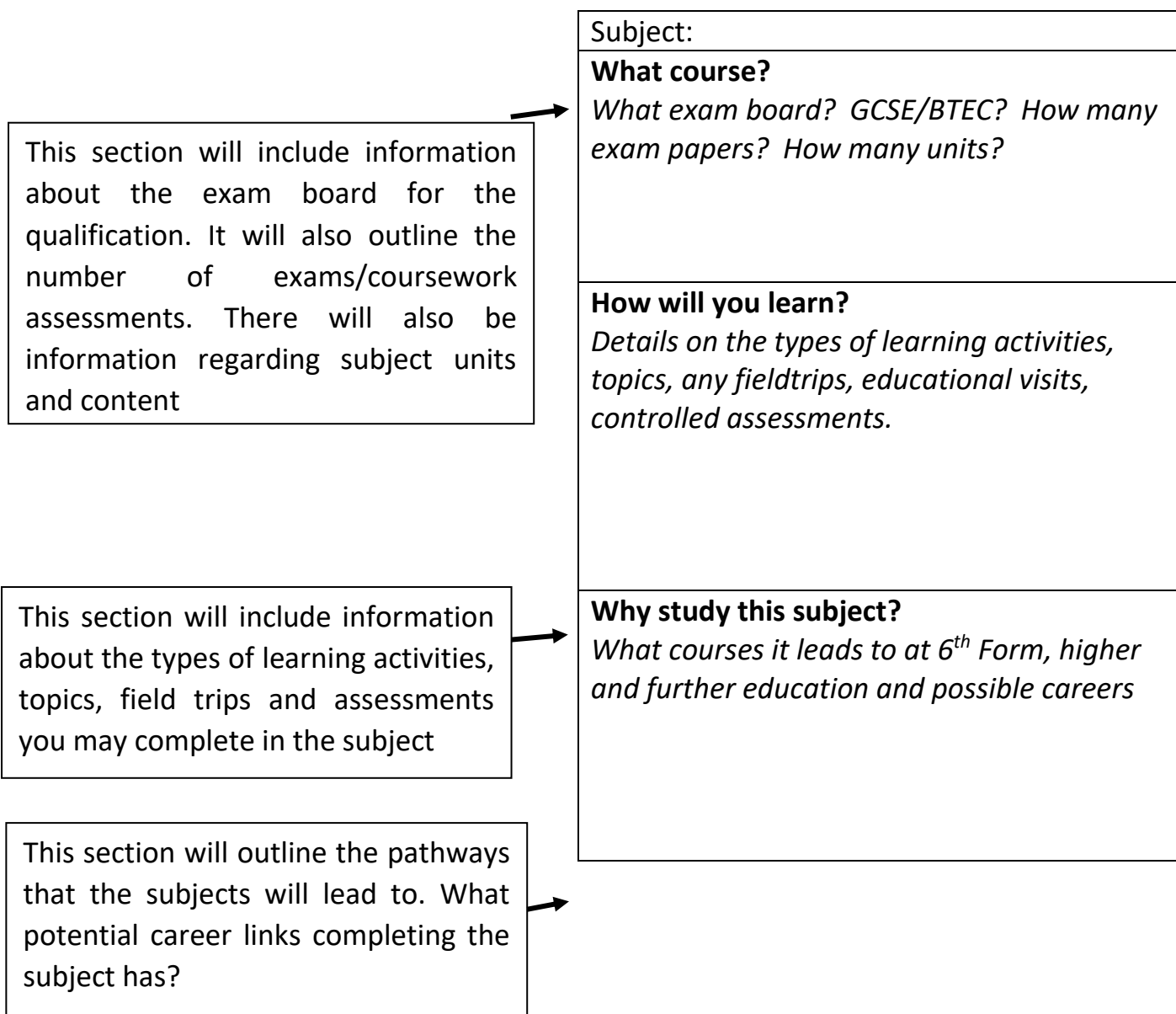
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How to use the information in this booklet

Each subject will have its own information page. The guide will include information about what qualification you will complete, the different topics and units you will cover and why you should consider studying the subject.

If you have any questions about the subject, potential pathways and careers, you should speak to your teacher, form teacher, Miss Tatham (Head of Year) or Mr Green (Vice Principal).



It is important you take your time to read through the information provided!

ART AND DESIGN

What course?

GCSE AQA

- Component 1- Coursework 60%

The coursework element is two projects across the 2 years of studying Art and Design and it is internally assessed

- Component 2 – Externally set exam 40%

The examination project involves 6 weeks of examination preparation and then 10 hours across two days in examination conditions to produce a final exam piece.



How will you learn?



- The majority of the lessons are practical, with students expected to complete research and further practical work outside of lessons.
- Students will complete 3D pieces of work as well as drawing, painting, etc – to demonstrate a range of skills.
- Feedback will be given every lesson during coursework and the examination preparation to ensure that students are reaching their full potential.
- The students will be invited to attend Art Galleries and other useful research opportunities to help develop their skills further.

Why study this subject?

- This course is suitable for anybody that enjoys Art work whether that is drawing, working with clay, or using Apple Macs, etc
- Students will be expected to demonstrate skills using different materials and will be able to develop their confidence in areas that they have not invested time into during KS3 lessons.
- Studying Art and Design at KS4 level students can then go on to complete A Level at St Regis 6th form, and then go on to complete Art or Design courses at University Level.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

What course?

AQA GCSE Design and Technology

How will you learn?

Paper 1 (100 marks):

Examination paper, 50% of the final grade and will include:

- **Core Technical Principles** - A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.
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- **Specialist Technical Principles** - Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.
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- **Designing and Making Principles** - A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.



Non-exam Assessment (100 marks):

Assessment criteria Tasks:

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



These 6 tasks will form 50% of the final grade that assesses the practical application of:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

A mixture of examination and practical creative work. The NEA projects allow for freedom and allow students to creatively respond to one of three contexts provided.

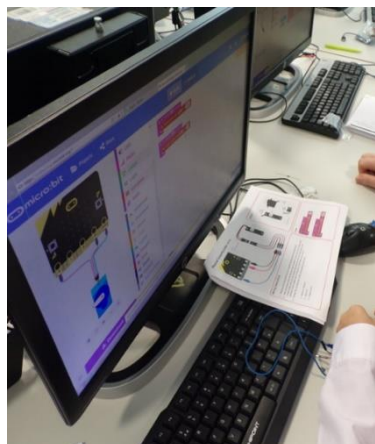
Why study this subject?

- Level 3 studies in Product Design at the St Regis CE Sixth Form.
- Further study of Design and Technology at University.
- Jobs or careers in engineering or Design & Technology

DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

What course?

Digital Information Technology is a BTEC *Tech Award* which is a Level 1 and Level 2 qualification. The course is made up of **three components**: two that are internally assessed and one that is externally assessed.



Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques

Aim: how to project plan the design and development of a user interface

Assessment: internally assessed assignment(s)

Weighting: 30% of total course

You will:

- Explore user interface design and development principles
- Investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project
- Discover how to develop and review a digital user interface.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

Aim: process and interpret data and draw conclusions

Assessment: internally assessed assignment(s)

Weighting: 30% of total course

You will:

- Explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations
- Draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence
- Develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices

Aim: explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use

Assessment: scenario-based external 1hr 30 min written exam

Weighting: 40% of total course

You will:

- Explore how modern information technology is evolving
- Consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing
- Understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.

How will you learn?

BTEC *Tech Award* in Digital Information Technology is a vocational qualification designed to help pupils succeed, especially if their strength is coursework. They will develop knowledge and understanding through applying your learning to work-related contexts and scenarios, and gain the skills needed for further study and employment.

For example, in **Component 1** pupils will look at different USER INTERFACES that are all around us in this digital age. They will research a range of digital user interfaces considering how they meet user needs and will then investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project before developing a digital user interface.

Why study this subject?

After completing a *BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology*, students will be in a great position to continue in the digital information technology sector. This qualification prepares students for both technical and academic routes. They may choose to continue in 6th form and study BTEC L3 in IT or other A 'level qualifications. Alternatively, students may choose to look for an apprenticeship.

DRAMA

What course?

This Level 1/2 Vocational qualification and is the equivalent of one **GCSE**. Students can gain a Pass (4), Merit (6), Distinction (8) and Distinction *(9).

This exciting course offered by WJEC/EDUCAS focuses on the skills needed within the performing arts profession with a pathway that is specifically focuses on the actor and acting.

How will you learn?

Unit 1 Internally Assessed/Externally Verified. Students rehearse and perform a short extract of an existing play and write in the form of briefs, blogs and evaluations and is worth 30%. They will work on developing a performance which has to be an existing play or extract from a play. It could be a solo piece or a group performance. Pupils rehearse, perform and evaluate it.



Unit 2 Internally Assessed/Externally Verified. Students devise and perform a short play developed from a brief given by the exam board. Students present the work and write in the form of briefs, logs and evaluations and is worth 30%. They will work on developing a solo piece or a group performance. Pupils rehearse, perform and evaluate it.

Unit 3 Externally Assessed. Students will develop and pitch an event based on a given stimuli from the exam board. Students must create a pitch for their event, including its development and review it under controlled conditions. The pitch will also include snippets of performances which may be included in the event. This unit is worth 40% of the overall marks. In this unit students can also explore makeup, costume and set design as part of their pitch for their event.

Why study this subject?

After completing this course, pupils may study Level 3 Drama courses at 6th form and then go on to study drama/ theatre studies at university. There may also be opportunities to work in the theatre or performance industry.

Of course not everyone who does Drama wants to pursue it as a profession. It can help with confidence, build co-operation and enterprise, and develop pupils' self- esteem. It also develops presentation skills. Past students have also moved on to study IT, Law, English and History.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE (compulsory subject)

What course? All pupils will study two GCSEs in English; English Language and English Literature.

GCSE English Language- AQA

There are two exam papers.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Non-exam assessment: Students perform a presentation to the class based on a theme set by the teacher. They must be able to answer questions from the audience and use spoken language in an appropriate form.

GCSE English Literature – AQA

- **Paper 1:** Shakespeare and the 19th century novel
- **Paper 2:** Modern texts and poetry

How will you learn?



Students will develop their skills as critical readers by studying a variety of both fiction and non-fiction texts in class, including texts such as A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls, a variety of poetry and a Shakespeare play. This will involve class discussions, contextual research, watching productions of plays and completing timed responses in class.

Students will gain extensive experience in writing for a variety of purposes. This will include descriptive and narrative writing, as well as producing responses to a specified audience, purpose and form.

Additionally, students will also perform a presentation to the class based on a theme set by the teacher.

Why study this subject?

These courses are of a huge benefit for all future studies and careers. As well as developing students' abilities to communicate both through their writing and verbally, it also helps students to become more critical in their thinking.

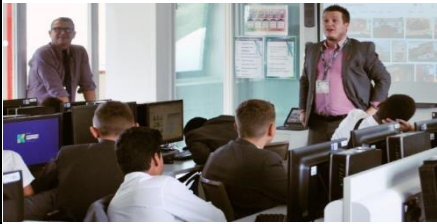
BUSINESS

What is the course about?

The Edexcel GCSE Business course consists of two key themes: **Theme 1: Investigating Small Business** and **Theme 2: Building a Business**. Both themes are externally assessed through a 1 hour and 30-minute exam.

How will you learn?

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business



In this theme, students dive into the exciting world of entrepreneurship, exploring the key concepts, challenges, and skills involved in starting and running a small business. Through real-world examples and hands-on learning, you'll gain insight into the journey of an entrepreneur from idea to launch.

Students will have the opportunity to research and visit actual businesses, hear from successful entrepreneurs through guest talks and presentations, and explore the dynamic process of turning a vision into a thriving enterprise. It's all about understanding the practical side of business through active engagement and firsthand experiences.

Theme 2: Building a Business

In this theme, students explore what it takes to grow a business beyond its startup phase and into a thriving, sustainable enterprise. You'll dive into the key strategies and decisions that drive business growth, focusing on crucial areas like marketing, operations, finance, and human resources.



You'll also explore how external factors—such as market trends, global events, and economic shifts—impact the decisions businesses make as they expand. Through engaging case studies and real-world examples, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that come with scaling a business in a constantly evolving world.

Why Study This Subject?

Studying Business as part of your Key Stage 4 journey equips you with valuable skills and knowledge that will shape your future decisions, whether you're considering further education or stepping into the world of work. This course provides a strong foundation for

your next steps, opening doors to a variety of exciting pathways based on your interests and achievements.

For students achieving a grade 4 or above:

- **A Levels:** If you're aiming for higher education, Business is a great choice to prepare you for a range of university degrees across various subjects.
- **Vocational Qualifications:** If you're more focused on entering the workforce, you might consider progressing to a **Level 3 qualification** like a BTEC National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, which can set you up for apprenticeships, employment, or a business-related degree.

For students achieving a grade 3 or below:

- **Level 2 Study:** You may explore post-16 technical routes, where you'll gain the practical skills needed for a successful career. Whether aiming for apprenticeships or further study, the business concepts you'll learn will help build strong communication and problem-solving skills.
- **Technical Certificates:** Another great option is continuing your studies in **Enterprise**, which can lead directly into employment in the dynamic and fast-growing business sector.
- No matter where your strengths lie, studying Business helps you develop critical skills—like decision-making, problem-solving, and communication—that are highly valued in both further study and the workplace.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

What course?

EDUQAS – GCSE

Component 1 – Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

Written exam – 1hour 45mins taken in Year 11 at end of course – 50% of qualification

This component has two sections all containing compulsory questions and will access the six areas studied as part of the course.

- **Section A** – questions based on stimulus material
- **Section B** structured short and extended response questions to access content related to food preparation and nutrition.

Component 2 – Food Preparation and Nutrition in action, non – examination assessment – Internally assessed, externally moderated.

- **Assessment 1 : 8 hours**
 - **Assessment 2: 12hours**
- (Both assessments are worth 50 % of qualification)**

Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment



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

Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food

How will you learn?

As part of the course the topics below will be covered through a variety of theory/ practical sessions:

Content of course

1. Food commodities
2. Principle of Nutrition
3. Diet and good health
4. The science of food
5. Where food comes from
6. Cooking and food preparation

Why study this subject?

Careers working in the food industry, basic cooking and food preparation skills throughout life. Students could go on to study food at 6th form or University and then develop a career within nutrition or the food industry.

Spanish

What course?

GCSE Edexcel

Foundation and Higher papers for four skills Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

How will you learn?

There are five topics that are covered over the two years:

- Identity and Culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimensions



The four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be assessed at the end of the course by examination with 25% of the final marks being awarded for each skill.

Why study this subject?

Languages qualifications can open a myriad of doors with both direct application such as translators, teachers, interpreters, medical professions, politicians, historians, travel and tourism, sales, management, as well as complimenting other skills especially if working for larger multi-national organisations.

GEOGRAPHY

What course?

The exam board used in Geography is Edexcel B – GCSE.

There are three key exam papers all students are assessed by:

- *Paper 1 – Global Investigation paper - 1 hour 30 min (94 marks)*
- *Paper 2 – UK investigation paper - 1 hour 30 min paper (94 marks)*
- *Paper 3 – Decision Making Investigation Paper - 1 hour 30 min paper (64 marks).*

How will you learn?



Students will be taught 13 main topics which include environmental, physical and human Geography.

There is no longer any controlled assessment (coursework) in the subject.

Students will take part in 2 days of field work activities. During this field work, data will be gathered from a river environment and an urban area. Paper 2 will test students on their fieldwork activities/results/knowledge.

Why study this subject?

Geography supports pupils with their understanding of the physical and human aspects of the planet. The course content offered at GCSE Geography includes Tectonics, Coasts, Economics and Migration etc.

There are several different options offered by most universities to study Geography including Climate Studies, Weather, Human aspects, physical aspects, Geology and more.

Careers around flood defence, town planning, meteorology, geology, migrations patterns, cartography (creating digital maps), transport links/issues are all available. Notably the British Geological Society and the Environment Agency are two large bodies that specifically deal with jobs/careers associated with Geographical Ideas.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

What course?

Eduqas Level 2 Vocational Award in Health & Social Care

How will you learn?

Unit 1-external assessment – 40% of final grade

Unit 2- internal controlled assessment- 60% of final grade.

Unit 1: Health, well-being and development throughout the lifespan

This unit introduces students to different ways that individuals grow and develop during the life stages, including the different factors that can affect growth and development. Students will gain an understanding of how self-concept is developed and how health and well-being is promoted.

Unit 2: Outcome-focused and person-centred practice in health and social care

This unit introduces students to the value of person-centred practice, through application of how provision and practitioners' roles meet the needs of individuals, and how practice is underpinned by legislation and standards. Students will also gain an understanding of safeguarding and types of abuse. They will apply their knowledge of modern-day challenges to health and well-being which individuals face, and the impact of these on the health and social care sector.

Typical lessons include group work, extended writing tasks, quizzes, case studies, research on local health and social care provision.

Why study this subject?

There is a natural pathway leading to BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care at post 16 level. This can also progress through to various different degrees and career pathways.

Careers include; nursing, midwifery, paramedic science, social work, teaching, art therapy, music therapy, drama therapy, physiotherapy, counselling, occupational therapy, youth work.

HISTORY

What course?

Edexcel GCSE History

How will you learn?



Course Overview

Students will study a varied range of history from the Anglo-Saxon era to the present day. The course aims to develop higher order thinking skills with a focus on knowledge, analysis and evaluation of historical evidence.

There are **three exam papers** to be completed.

The History GCSE includes the following units:

- *Crime and Punishment*
- *Weimar and Nazi Germany*
- *Early Elizabethan England*
- *The American West*

Enrichment opportunities include:

- *Nottingham Justice Museum visit*
- *Tower of London visit*
- *Shrewsbury Prison visit*



Why study this subject?

History has made our world what it is today, and it also sets the foundations for our future. The subject helps us to understand past and present societies, systems, ideologies, governments, cultures and technologies and teaches us vital skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and communication.

History is a traditional academic subject that is highly respected academically and professionally. It can therefore lead to careers in law, politics, media, education, journalism and many more.



MATHEMATICS (compulsory subject)

What course?

Students are following the specification set by EDEXCEL.

In June of Year 11, students will sit 3 x 90-minute examinations. Paper 1 is non-calculator, while in Papers 2 & 3 calculators may be used. Foundation tier papers are designed for students covering the ability ranges 1-5, while Higher tier papers cover the ability ranges of 4-9.

How will you learn?

We further develop independent skills, group work and self-study through the online platform Hegarty Maths. Students will cover material encompassing the key areas of mathematics: number, algebra, geometry, probability, ratio & proportion and statistics.

The **Algebra** section covers: Writing expressions and equations, Factorising, Solving Equations, Travel Graphs, Algebraic Fractions, Equation of a Straight Line, Simultaneous Equations, Inequalities, Indices, Quadratic Equations and Functions.

The **Number** section covers: Decimals, Fractions, Directed Numbers, Number Sequences, Surds, Percentages and Standard Form.

The **Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change** section covers: Ratios, Proportion, Rates of Change, Compound Measures, Conversions for Area and Volume, Gradients and Graphs, Measurements, Scale Diagrams, Scale Factors and Simple and Compound Interest.

The **Geometry and Measures** section covers: Constructions, Bearings, Loci, Angle and Angles Theorems, Properties of Polygons, Quadrilaterals, Transformations, Circle Theorem and Definitions, Properties of 3D Shapes, Area, Perimeter, Volume and Vectors.

The **Statistics and Probability** section covers: Probability, Averages, Tables and Charts, Sampling, Cumulative Frequency Graphs, Representing Data and Histograms.

Why study this subject?

Maths is used in everyday life and the mathematical skills you learn in GCSE level Mathematics are of great benefit in other subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, computing, geography, psychology, economics and business studies. It is important because it allows people to take complex processes and make them more manageable, by applying structure, patterns and rules. This is a skill that transfers to many situations in both jobs and careers and in daily life.

The reason why so many employers highly value mathematics qualifications is mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically.

GCSE maths allows pupils to move onto A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, which are versatile qualifications, well-respected by employers and are both “facilitating” subjects for entry to higher education. Careers for men and women with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also often interesting and rewarding. People who have studied mathematics are in the fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career. Whilst the number of young people studying A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics is increasing there is still a huge demand from science, engineering and manufacturing employers.

MUSIC

What course?

This Level 1/2 Vocation qualification and is the equivalent of one **GCSE**. This Level 1/2 Vocational qualification and is the equivalent of one GCSE. Students can gain a Pass (4), Merit (6), Distinction (8) and Distinction *(9).

This exciting course offered by WJEC/EDUCAS focuses on the skills needed within the performing arts profession with a pathway that is specifically focuses on musical performance and composition

How will you learn?

This will be a mixture of practical performances and compositional work

Unit 1 Internally Assessed/Externally Verified. Students rehearse and perform a song of their choice on their chosen instrument. Students will write in the form of briefs, blogs and evaluations about their performance piece and is worth 30%. They will work on developing a performance which could be a solo piece or a group performance. Pupils rehearse, perform and evaluate it.



Unit 2 Internally Assessed/Externally Verified. Students will compose a piece of music, developed from a brief given by the exam board. Students can use live instruments or must software such as garageband to present the work and will write in the form of briefs, logs and evaluations and is worth 30%. They will work on developing a solo piece or a group performance. Pupils rehearse, perform and evaluate it.

Unit 3 Externally Assessed. Students will develop and pitch an event based on a given stimuli from the exam board. Students must create a pitch for their event, including its development and review it under controlled conditions. The pitch will also include snippets of performances which may be included in the event. This unit is worth 40% of the overall marks. In this unit students can also explore makeup, costume and set design as part of their pitch for their event.

During the course students will:

Inspire creativity – Students are encouraged to broaden their musical horizons through study of a wide range of topics that caters for a wide range of interests, instruments, personalities and directions.

Combine the traditional and modern – There are exciting opportunities for pupils to study diverse genres, as well as develop interest in all aspects of your musical heritage.

Be assessed largely through practical coursework – There are plenty of opportunities for pupils to develop their performing and composing, alongside listening skills

Why study this subject?

The course is an exciting and engaging opportunity for students to develop their knowledge of composing music, along with improving their practical music skills. Students then have the potential to progress on to study a level 3 music course at 6th form, progressing on to study music at University.

This course is suitable for any students who are vocalists or can play an instrument, working towards grade 2 performance standard or higher.

PHOTOGRAPHY

What course?

GCSE AQA

The photography course is an endorsement under the art and design umbrella. You will be expected to develop projects and themes in a similar way to the Art GCSE but will have the opportunity to do these using photography and ICT software, such as Photoshop.

How will you learn?

The majority of the lessons are practical, with students expected to complete research and further practical work outside of lessons. Students will develop a range of skills, including: basic IT skills, design work, annotation and photography skills. Feedback will be given every lesson during coursework and the examination preparation to ensure that students are reaching their full potential.



The course is broken down into two components:



- Component 1- Coursework 60%
The coursework element is two projects across the 2 years of studying Photography and design, and it is internally assessed
- Component 2 – Externally set exam 40%
The examination project involved 6 weeks of examination preparation and then 10 hours across two days in examination conditions to produce a final exam piece.

Why study this subject?

This course is suitable for anybody that is interested in Photography and design work. Students will be expected to demonstrate skills with lighting, different cameras and relevant IT programmes. After studying Photography at key stage 4, students can then go on to complete A Levels at St Regis 6th form and then go on to study Photography courses at university.

Psychology

What course?

GCSE Psychology is a brand-new option for you to consider, you will not have studied psychology before so it is very important to find out as much as you can before opting for it as one of your choices. We will be studying the OCR specification. Psychology aims to understand people, the way they behave and how their brain affects their behaviour.

Course content -



Criminal Psychology
Development
Psychological Problems
Social Influence
Memory
Sleep and Dreaming
Research Methods

How will you be assessed?

There are 2 aspects to assessment on this course; 2 externally assessed exam papers which are both worth 50% of your overall grade.

Both papers are worth 90 marks and are 1 hr 30 min in length.

They are made up of a mixture of short and medium length questions as well as one longer essay style question per paper.

Why study this subject?

If you are interested in people and enjoying digging deeper and asking difficult questions, you will benefit from studying psychology. After completing the GCSE in Psychology pupils will be in a great position to continue onto the A-Level in Psychology. If you choose not to continue to study psychology, you will still find it will help in any area of work or life where you will be interacting with people. This qualification gives students a deeper understanding into how and why we behave in the ways we do. It allows students to focus and learn in-depth information about a range of real-world relevant areas, including mental health, behaviour management and criminal psychology. Psychology is also one of the most popular degree courses!

What jobs can you do with psychology?



RELIGIOUS STUDIES (compulsory subject)

What course?

Edexcel exam board.

2 papers:

- Religion and Ethics – Christianity (1 hour and 45 minutes paper)
- Religion, Peace and Conflict – Islam (1 hour and 45 minutes paper)

How will you learn?



Paper 1: Christian belief and what it means to live a religious life. (This will cover about God/creation/who Jesus is and why He is important/the Fall/problem of evil /salvation/life after death) and practices (worship /prayer /pilgrimage /mission/ festivals/sacraments). Ethics will focus on Christian views on marriage and family and how Christians view matters regarding life after death.

Paper 2: Islam beliefs and practices: Key beliefs of Sunni and Shia Muslims/ beliefs about God/holy books/beliefs about life after death/five pillars/ten obligatory acts/ worship/festivals). Ethics will focus on Islamic views on crime and punishment and war, conflict and peace.

All final assessment is exam based. Internal assessments will support your learning and prepare you for the final exams.



Why study this subject?

A level Religious Studies (Christianity/Philosophy and Ethics)

Religion is all around us. It affects the laws that we follow, some of the holidays we have, what people eat and drink, in some way It affects most people's lives.

Religious Studies is a useful stepping-stone to many careers where it helps to understand what people believe and how it affects their lives.

- For example, **medicine, social work, law, the armed services, police force, journalism, teaching, Broadcast, film, video and interactive media sector, politics, diplomatic service** and many more

SCIENCES BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS – Combined / Triple AWARD (compulsory subject)

What course? AQA Biology, AQA Chemistry, AQA Physics, AQA Trilogy

GCSE AQA Biology –

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

GCSE AQA Chemistry –

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

GCSE AQA Physics –

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space (GCSE Physics only)

For each subject students will sit two exam papers worth 100 marks and 105 minutes in length for triple science and 70 marks and 75 minutes for combined science. Students will receive two/three GCSE qualifications dependent on which route you take. One route is not more difficult than the other. Triple science is for students who love the subject as they learn more content.



How will you learn?

Science is a practical subject and the importance of understanding the 'scientific method' and collecting valid data is highlighted in the new curriculum. Learning will entail many practical investigations and demonstrations to consolidate students' knowledge. Theory lessons will be expanded upon through extended learning tasks. At the end of each topic, students will undertake a key assessment piece to check their knowledge and understanding and time will be regularly set aside for pupils to review their work.

Why study this subject?

The three sciences are known as 'facilitating subjects' and as such are highly sought by universities and colleges. Achieving a grade 6 or above in the three sciences at GCSE will enable pupils to continue their studies in science at A level. Science students are considered to have excellent problem solving and critical thinking abilities and these are key skills for many careers. Studying the three sciences will help pupils to think differently about themselves and the world we live in, and can open the door to the following career sectors:

Biology – Scientific research, Forensics, Medicine and healthcare, Agriculture, Ecology, Sport and Fitness, Engineering, Emergency services

Chemistry – Research chemist, Pharmaceuticals, Food scientist, Energy and Utilities, Engineering, Manufacturing

Physics – Engineering, IT and the Internet, Energy and Power, Transport and Logistics, Construction, Research physicist

SPORT

What course?

Cambridge National in Sports Studies



How will you learn?

The course involves a mix of theory and practice, relating to sport, recreation, leisure and physical education.

The units of academic study include:

- R185-Performance and Leadership in Sport
- R184- Contemporary Issues in Sport
- R187- Outdoor Adventurous Activities

The R184 assessment is the only examination, and this will take place in the Autumn term of year 11. The remaining 2 units are coursework based.

1ST YEAR – One units will be completed in year 10

R185- Performance and Leadership in Sport. This includes:

- Written Assignments
- Practical Performance Analysis
- Leadership

2ND YEAR – Two units will be completed.

R187- Outdoor Adventurous Activities. This includes:

- Increasing Awareness of Outdoor Adventurous Activities
- Evaluate participation in Outdoor Adventurous Activities

R184- Contemporary Issues in Sport

- Examination (Spring term 1) – Students will gain knowledge for this unit through practical and theory lessons

Why study this subject?

This course is suitable for those interested in sport, coaching or fitness, as well as those wanting to work in the health and leisure industry. It will develop their knowledge of the theory behind leadership, fitness and sport along with developing their practical performance participating in sport. Students that want to study this course should play at least 2 sports to a strong level (school team member, or club level out of school in at least one sport). Students can progress on to study Level 3 BTEC Sport at St Regis. This could then lead to coaching opportunities, personal training qualifications or continuing into higher education by studying Sport, Sports Science or Physical Education Degrees at University.

