Park Academy West London

Year 9 Curriculum Guidance

2021 - 2023

Park Academy West London
an Aspirations Academy

Overview

As students approach the middle of Year 9 they are required to make some key decisions regarding their future studies. This is an incredibly exciting time for both parents and students alike, as for the first time students have the opportunity to shape their education, tailoring it towards a particular career, aspiration or passion. At Park Academy West London, we are absolutely committed to providing a curriculum that is broad, balanced and meets the needs of all of our students, whilst also responding to Government policy.

This booklet gives information on our two-year curriculum for our current Year 9 students. Making the most informed decisions on subjects to take through to Year 11 is imperative to ensuring smooth and rapid progress towards gaining high quality and appropriate qualifications. Courses in Years 10 and 11 will not only provide you with qualifications that enable you to study at higher levels, but also prepare you to take your place in society as a responsible adult. Working with others and developing the right dispositions for learning, such as resilience, are a vital part of your learning experience.

This is one of the most important moments in your academic career. Take the time to find out as much as possible about all the courses on offer. Your Academic Mentor will be there to support you through the Options process to ensure you make the best possibly decisions for your future.

We hope that, through partnership with your parents and your teachers, you will arrive at a meaningful programme of study – an important step towards realising your future ambitions.

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The Curriculum

Core Subjects

For all students there is a compulsory part of their curriculum. These are the core subject areas of Mathematics, English Language and English Literature and Combined Science, studied at GCSE level. This adds up to a total of five GCSEs in the core area.

All students will also participate in core PE lessons as part of the compulsory aspect of the curriculum, as well as PSHCE and Careers education through Deep Learning activities.

EBacc Subjects

The EBacc (English Baccalaureate) is an award which supports students to study specific GCSEs. They are recognised by Russell Group Universities as qualifications, which hold a higher academic status.

To achieve this award, students will need to gain 9-5 passes in Geography or History, French, Mathematics, English Language and Science. All students on the Green Pathway will be entered for the EBacc, and will therefore study French at GCSE. Students not on the Green Pathway that study a Home Language can also achieve the EBacc.

Guided Subjects

The remainder of the curriculum is chosen by the students and is accessed through one of three curriculum pathways, green, orange and yellow. It is important for students to consider the courses most suitable for them, taking into account their own strengths and weaknesses. The first part of the process is to find out about the courses and how they are assessed. This booklet contains a great deal of information for students and parents about the courses being offered. Further information is on the Year 9 Google Classroom.

We believe that the curriculum pathway recommended for your child will offer the best route to success at Key Stage 4. This suggestion has been based on the student's performance and aptitude. Students should find that within the recommended pathway they will be able to choose the subjects that are appropriate for them. Further guidance and advice are available from your child's Academic Mentor, or Ms Harris, our Careers Lead.

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Key Stage 4 Pathways

	Green Pathway	Orange Pathway	Yellow Pathway
Core Curriculum	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Maths GCSE Science (Combined) GCSE French GCSE Geography or GCSE History	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Maths GCSE Science (Combined) GCSE Geography or GCSE History	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Maths GCSE Science (Combined) GCSE Geography
Vocational Options	BTEC Sport BTEC Music BTEC Enterprise BTEC Travel and Tourism BTEC Heath & Social OCR Child Development	BTEC Sport BTEC Music BTEC Enterprise BTEC Travel and Tourism BTEC Heath & Social OCR Child Development OCR Information Technologies	BTEC Sport BTEC Music BTEC Enterprise BTEC Travel and Tourism BTEC Heath & Social OCR Child Development OCR Information Technologies
Open Option	*Vocational options plus* GCSE Art GCSE RS GCSE Drama GCSE Computer Science GCSE Design Technology	*Vocational options plus* GCSE Art GCSE RS GCSE Drama GCSE French GCSE Design Technology	*Vocational options plus* GCSE Art GCSE RS GCSE Drama GCSE French GCSE Design Technology

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Beyond Year 11

Whilst the choices students make in the coming weeks will shape their next two years at Park Academy West London, they will also shape their options after Year 11. This may involve staying on at Sixth Form, going to another college or gaining employment with training.

Level of Qualification	General	Vocational	Occupational
3 Advanced	3 Advanced A/As Levels, International Baccalaureate	Applied A Levels, BTEC Diploma, BTEC Nationals Level 3 VRQ / NVQ	Level 3 NVQ and Apprenticeships
2 Intermediate Level	5 GCSEs Grades 4 - 9 and then refer to subject matrix for subjects chosen	BTEC First Awards Level 2 VRQ / NVQ	Level 2 NVQ Trainees and Apprenticeships
1 Foundation Level	5 GCSEs Grades 1 - 4	Level 1 qualifications offered by colleges	Level 1 NVQs First jobs in offices, industry and commerce
Entry Level	Certificate of Educational Achievement		

Level 3

To progress onto A Level courses at Park Academy Sixth Form, students will need to have at least 5 GCSE grades between 5 – 9 and meet individual subject entry requirements. For Level 3 Vocational Courses (e.g. BTEC Diplomas / BTEC Nationals, Level 3 VRQs / NVQs), students will need an average of around grade 4 across all GCSE results, with some courses offered in the Sixth Form whilst others can be studied at colleges.

Level 2

Where students have achieved at least 5 GCSE grades 1 - 4, they will be able to progress onto Level 2 courses (BTEC First Awards, Level 2 VRQ / NVQ, Level 2 NVQ, Trainees & Apprenticeships). These courses will be delivered at a college.

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Important Dates

Below are some important dates to note in the Curriculum Guidance process:

Week beginning Monday 22nd February – Information Released
Students will have their options information posted home, and additional information will be posted on the Year 9 Google Classroom.
The information will explain the Options Process as well as provide opportunities to hear from subject teachers.

Friday 12th March – Deadline for Options Forms

This can either be completed online via Google Forms or the form handed in to the Main Reception.

Important Information

Please note that we will endeavour to offer students their preferred choices of subjects. However, in some cases this may not be possible.

In these cases, we will speak with the student and parent and find the most appropriate solution.

Alternatives will have to be considered if:

- Too many students opt for a particular course.
- Too few students opt for a particular course.
- We wish to advise a better range of courses to meet a student's needs.
- Combinations of courses are chosen which are impossible to timetable.

Core Subjects

AQA GCSE English Language

What will I study?

This course will allow you to read a variety of texts from different time periods and genres in order to consider the language used and how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader. It will also cover a variety of writing techniques for a specified audience, purpose and form in which you will give your own perspective on several themes.

What will I learn?

You be will encouraged to read fluently and write effectively. You will be taught how to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write with grammatically accuracy.

You will be taught how to write accurately and effectively for a variety of genres, creating both fiction and non-fiction texts. You will be taught how to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write with grammatical accuracy.

In addition, you will be taught how to listen and respond appropriately, including to questions and feedback to presentations. You learn how to use spoken Standard English and presentation skills effectively in speeches and presentations.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Batten (Coordinator of English)

How am I assessed?

Paper 1
Explorations in creative reading and writing.

The aim of this paper is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves.

Section A: Reading

One literature fiction text for analysis

Section B: Writing

Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2
Writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

The aim of this paper is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives.

Section A: Reading

One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text for analysis

Section B: Writing

Writing to present a viewpoint

Non-Exam Assessment

The aim of the assessment is to allow you to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills. This will be done by:

- giving a presentation in a formal context
- responding appropriately to questions and to feedback
- using spoken Standard English.

AQA GCSE English Literature

What will I study?

You will be study 5 components:

1. A Shakespeare play.
2. A 19th century novel.
3. A modern prose or drama text.
4. A collection of poems from the AQA Anthology.
5. Unseen poetry.

You will be taught how to create a critical analysis of these texts in order to complete a final exam.

What will I learn?

In studying the set texts you will develop the skills to create a critical analysis of the texts and evaluate a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features. You will able to compare and contrast the texts studied.

You will be taught how to produce clear and coherent text in order to write effectively about literature for a range of purposes. Your will be taught how to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write with grammatical accuracy.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Batten (Coordinator of English)

How am I assessed?

Paper 1
Shakespeare and 19th century novel

What is assessed?

- Shakespeare
- The 19th-century novel

You will answer one question on each text. You will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and the novel and then to write about the play and the novel as a whole.

Paper 2
Modern texts and Poetry

What is assessed?

- Modern texts - you will answer one essay question from a choice of two on your studied modern prose or drama text.
- Poetry - you will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from your anthology cluster.
- Unseen poetry - you will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics

What will I study?

The aim of GCSE Mathematics is to improve students' numerical skills to enable them to progress to further studies in mathematics or related subjects.

What will I learn?

During the course you will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical skills and concepts, including

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio
- Proportion and Rates of Change
- Geometry and Measures
- Statistics
- Probability

You will also learn how to use this knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts and apply functional elements of mathematics in everyday and real-life situations.

The course has been designed to encourage you to:

- Develop a positive and confident attitude towards mathematics
- Consolidate basic mathematical skills
- Apply knowledge and understanding to solve problems

How am I assessed?

The Scheme of Assessment is linear with three question papers at each tier to be taken in the same examination series as detailed below. All exam papers are worth 80 marks and each exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Paper 1 Written paper (Non-Calculator)

Paper 2 Written paper (Calculator)

Paper 3 Written paper (Calculator)

Foundation Tier grades 5-1 available
Higher Tier grades 9-4 available

This specification is designed to reflect the change of emphasis in mathematics teaching set out in the revised Programme of Study for Key Stage 4. This means an increased focus on:

- Applying mathematics in context
- Problem solving
- Reasoning
- The functional elements of mathematics

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Kumar (Coordinator of Maths)

AQA GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy)

What will I study?

You will learn scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Within these disciplines you will:

- Develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.
- Develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments.
- Develop your ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

What will I learn?

Key concepts across chemistry, physics and biology are studied on this course. They include:

Biology
Cell biology • Organisation •
Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response •
Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology

Chemistry
Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding, structure, and properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes • Organic chemistry •
The rate and extent of chemical change • Chemical analysis • Using resources • Chemistry of the atmosphere •

Physics
Energy • Electricity • Atomic structure • Particle model of matter • Forces • Waves •
Magnetism and electromagnetism •

How am I assessed?

This qualification is linear. 'Linear' means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

There are six examinations at the end of the course, consisting of two in each science discipline.

- 6 x Written exams: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation or Higher Tier
- 70 marks each
- Each exam is worth 16.7 % of the final combined grade awarded.

For more information on this course please contact:

Mr. Khan (Coordinator of Science)

Guided Subjects

AQA GCSE Art and Design

About the course

GCSE Art and Design is a diverse course that enables you to creatively explore different materials and processes, as well as developing practical skills in drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. In addition, you will learn about different artists, styles and movements through insightful research and experimentation.

You will get the opportunity to effectively develop ambitious and exciting projects that result in an inspired outcome.

What could this qualification be applied to?

The GSCE Art and Design course is structured so that you become equipped with the core skills to develop as an independent, distinctly motivated individual that can produce artworks of high quality and impact.

You will be able to apply many features of the course to further study in areas of the creative industries.

Career options: Artist, Designer, Architecture, Graphic Designer, Product Designer, Web design, Photographer, Film and Television, Fashion designer, illustrator, Art Director, Art Direction, Documentary Maker, Jewelry Designer, Art Teacher, Art Historian, Art Auctioneer, Gallerist, Curator, Art lecturer, Art therapist, Conservator, Arts Admin & Fundraising, Theatre design, Scenic Artist, Camera Operator, Costume designer, Visual effects, Cinematography and landscape Architects

You will develop their self-confidence, commitment and learn how to be resilient and overcome challenges.

How am I assessed?

Assessment Objective (AO)

- AO1: Development
- AO2: Refinement
- AO3: Recording
- AO4: Presentation

Portfolio

Personal portfolio of art, marked internally and moderated externally.

(60% of overall grade)

Exam

10 hour examination comprising of one unit of work. Externally set assignment.

(40% of overall grade)

Requirements

To have an ability to work hard and to enjoy creative subject.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Mattis (Coordinator of Design)

OCR Cambridge National in Child Development

What will I study?

As part of this course, you will be given the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

What will I learn?

- Reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, care,
- Conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety.
- Students are appointed as Nursery managers and design their own nurseries. They will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children as well as an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all these needs. They will also gain knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices and will create actual meals suitable for toddlers in a nursery setting.
- Students are appointed as nursery works or hospital play therapists. They will gain knowledge and skills to help them observe development norms in children up to the age of five. Students will use this research to plan and carry out activities with a child and evaluate how their tasks helped the child develop.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Whitcomb (Teacher of Health & Social Care and Child Development)

How am I assessed?

Internal assessment

RO19: Understanding the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years (25% of final mark)

RO20: Understanding the development of a child from birth to five years

These components will involve you completing several assignments that are marked and verified.

External Assessment

RO18: Health and well-being for Child Development

In this component, you will be able to build on the knowledge and skills you gained in components 1 and 2 and apply it to a real-life situation. You will be assessed on your knowledge of how a child develops from preconception all the way through to a child turning 5.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable if you have an interest in child development and working with children. It will also prepare you for entry into higher education in a range of subjects, as well as preparing you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in aspects of child development. There are a variety of careers that you can explore.

You may wish to build on an interest in child development but take it in a different direction (at either Level 2 or Level 3) by studying for qualifications in Early Years education.

AQA GCSE Computer Science

What will I study?

In Computer Science students explore topics such as the internet of things, advances in technology to help patients with dementia or the impact of new developments on the environment whilst also discussing ethical and legal issues. Students study how computers work, for example, the role of the CPU, registers and buses, they learn to write algorithms, find out about network topologies and protocols and use abstraction and decomposition as well as learn to program in Python.

What will I learn?

You will learn a range of topics including:

- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Programming
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Computer systems
- Fundamentals of cyber security
- Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wide society, including issues of privacy
- Aspects of software development
- Programming project

How am I assessed?

In this qualification, you be assessed in three different ways:

Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving – 1 hour 30 minute exam

Paper 2: Written assessment – 1 hour 30 minute exam

Programming project designed to develop a student's ability to use knowledge and skills caking to solve a problem.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course will provide you valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace.

This course is only available to students on the green pathway.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Basharat (Coordinator of Business)

AQA GCSE Design and Technology

About the course

Everything in the 'made' world has been designed, to solve problems, work reliably, and, in most cases, look good.

Design and Technology teaches students to think in terms of design. Students will learn how to design, make and test products and systems that will contribute practically to peoples' lives, on a small, and large scale.

Resistant materials, textiles, computer-aided design and manufacture, electronics…

The first year of the course allows for the development of practical and theory skills, such as understanding material properties, engineering and forces. In the second year, students will produce a portfolio of work, and sit a final exam.

What could this qualification be applied to?

Of course you can progress onto A-levels and degrees, as well as a range of apprenticeships. Design and Technology will also open doors in both the STEM subjects, and the creative subjects.

Career options: Product designer, graphic designer, engineer, architect, fashion designer, set designer, Furniture designer, app developer, carpenter, sculptor, vehicle designer, UX designer, photographer, teacher.

An education in Design and Technology will develop a myriad of skills: from resilience, to problem solving; from analytical skills to self-criticism.

How am I assessed?

In this qualification, you be assessed in two areas:

Paper 1: Written exam (50% of final grade):
This is broken into three areas:
Section A: Core technical principles
Section B: Specialist technical principles
Section C: Designing and making principles

Non-Exam Assessment (50% of final grade):
Section A: Identifying and investigating design possibilities
Section B: Proposing a design brief and specification
Section C: Generating design ideas
Section D: Developing design ideas
Section E: Realising design ideas
Section F: Analysing and evaluating

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Mattis (Coordinator of Design)

OCR GCSE Drama

What will I study?

GCSE Drama is an extension from what you have learnt in Year 7 and 8. You will gain a practical understanding of drama, and apply this knowledge to your performances as your practical skills develop.

You will be required to perform in most lessons; this is because two units (equaling 60% of the final GCSE) are practical in nature, with some written work.

In Year 10, you will study a broad range of GCSE techniques in preparation for your first examination in Year 10.

You will also study a wide range of practitioners, scripts and stimulus to expand your subject knowledge and skills. It is important that you are exposed to live theatre, and the Academy will run a number of theatre visits which are a compulsory element of the course.

What will I learn?

You will learn how to perform in many types of theatre styles. In the first year of the course, you will learn the key skills needed to succeed at GCSE Drama including practitioner work, reading and performing scripts, as well as using stimulus as a starting point.

You will learn how to effectively analyse and evaluate live theatre in preparation for a written exam in Year 11.

You will also develop softer skills, which can be used across all subject areas, including team work, confidence, communication and critical thinking.

How am I assessed?

Devising drama

You will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create your own devised drama. Alongside this, you will complete a portfolio of evidence, give a final performance and write an evaluation of your work.

Presenting and performing texts

You will develop and apply theatrical skills by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text. The chosen extracts will explore character, dialogue and plot.

Drama: Performance and response

You will explore practically a whole performance text, and demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed, performed and responded to. You will also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for anyone who is interested in theatre and performing, or who have a real passion for Drama as well as for those who really loved Drama at Key Stage 3, and can perform confidently on stage. This course is suitable for students who would be interested in working in the Arts industry, or for those who need to develop softer skills for other careers such as a lawyer, teacher, police officer or many others.

For more information on this course please contact:

Mr. Taylor (Assistant Principal) or Mrs. Bellamy (Assistant Principal)

BTEC Level 2 Award in Enterprise

What will I study?

The BTEC Level 2 Award in Enterprise course consists of three units and these will contain information and practice for skills relating to the following topics in business.

Exploring Enterprise

You will have the opportunity to develop essential knowledge and understanding of marketing and enterprise, different types of enterprise and their ownership, looking at the characteristics of small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs with reasons for levels of success.

Planning and Pitching an Enterprise Activity

You will use the research knowledge gained from Component 1 to consider a number of ideas before developing a plan for a realistic micro-enterprise activity. You will plan how best to set up the chosen enterprise and how to fund it.

Promotion and Finance for Enterprise

You will explore different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how enterprises identify and target their market, financial documents and how to use them to monitor and improve the performance of an enterprise in order to make decisions and recommend strategies for success.

What will I learn?

- Reading and understanding financial documents
- Understanding decisions made by businesses
- Promotional methods used
- Factors which affect businesses
- Different market

How am I assessed?

In this qualification, you be assessed in three different ways:

- Component 1 - Coursework (30%)
- Component 2 - Coursework (30%
- Component 3 - Formal written exam (40%)

Who is this course suitable for?

This course will provide you with an introduction to marketing and enterprise that includes a vocational and hands-on element. It has been developed to enthuse and inspire you about a career in business and enterprise.

It is recommended that to select this course you will be working towards, a grade 4 or above in Mathematics and English GCSE.

This qualification will help you to set up your own business, move into employment or progress onto further study.

The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to either set up their own business, move into employment, or progress onto further study

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Basharat (Coordinator of Business)

AQA GCSE French

What will I study?

Students studying GCSE French will have the chance to:

- Develop their understanding of French through communicating effectively with their Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing skills.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of the grammar of the language, and the ability to apply it.
- Enhance their knowledge and understanding of other French speaking countries from across the globe through a variety of interactive methods.

What will I learn?

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

Theme 1: Identity and culture

- Relationships with family and friends
- Marriage/partnership
- Social media
- Mobile technology
- Music
- Cinema and TV
- Food and eating out
- Sport

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

- Home and area
- Charity/voluntary work
- Healthy/unhealthy living
- The environment
- Poverty/homelessness
- Holidays

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

- My studies
- Life at school/college
- Education post-16
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

How will I be assessed?

There are four assessment sections:

Listening (25% of the course)

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language. You will complete a written exam paper at either Foundation or Higher level.

Speaking (25% of the course)

You will complete a task which could involve a role play and a conversation based around one of the topic areas. This assessment will be carried out in Year 11.

Reading (25% of the course)

Understanding and responding to different types of written language. You will sit a reading exam paper at either Foundation or Higher level.

Writing: (25% of the course)

You will complete a written task from any of the topics studied; these assessments will be carried out at the end of the course and submitted to be marked externally. You will be required to complete two translations; into English and into French.

Who is this course suitable for?

In an increasingly globalised world, learning a language has never been more important. The advantage of knowing another language opens doors in business and gives a competitive edge in careers in Britain and abroad. With the tool of an extra language, travel is made easier: allowing the opportunity to explore other cultures from France to Canada to the Seychelles.

Students studying French at Park Academy will build on their knowledge of different cultures, develop their grammatical skills as well enhance their confidence

For more information on this course please contact:

Mr. West (Coordinator of MFL)

AQA GCSE Geography

What will I study?

Living with the physical environment

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical Landscape

Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork

Geographical skills

- Maps
- Data gathering and analysis
- Studying real life cases

What will I learn?

You will explore the world from your classroom looking at case studies, real-world examples, fieldwork. Learn relevant issues and events for now and in the future. Through considering different viewpoints and empathising with the challenges that people face you will understand your values, attitudes and role in relation to the environment.

You will develop your skills in forming opinions and suggesting solutions to issues. You will learn about how your world works and be more aware of our place as humans in it as well as thinking about the impacts of our behaviour on the planet. You will learn how to become a global citizen and make links between the interdependence of people and place. In addition to this you will develop your analytical skills, literacy through report writing, decision making during teamwork and self-evaluating abilities.

How am I assessed?

Two exam papers (1hour 30 minute each):

Living in a Physical Environment and Challenges in the Human Environment

There is a mixture of question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose.

One 1 hour 15 minute paper on the project they have carried out and Geographical skills from a pre-release paper

Who is this course suitable for?

If you have an interest in your place on the planet and ‘how it all works’ then choose Geography. This course requires a person with focus and drive. This is because there will be plenty of written work, reading, use of data and diagrams, map skills and group discussion/ decision making. Studying Geography can also help with certain careers in the future, such as:

- Environmental Insurance specialist
- Geologist
- Meteorologist
- Climatologist
- GIS Consultant
- Planning Surveyor
- Teacher or University lecturer
- Government policy advisor
- International aid worker
- Catastrophe Modeler.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Flaherty (Head of Geography)

BTEC Level 2 in Health and Social Care

What will I study?

As part of this course, you will be given the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The course focuses on many aspects of Health and Social Care, as well as details surrounding careers within the sector.

What will I learn?

The focus is on three areas, which cover:

- skills and processes, such as interpreting data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing
- attitudes, namely the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them
- knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Whitcomb (Teacher of Health & Social Care and Child Development)

How am I assessed?

Internal assessment

Component 1: Health Lifespan and Development

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

These components will involve you completing several assignments that are marked and verified.

External Assessment

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

In this component, you will be able to build on the knowledge and skills you gained in components 1 and 2 and apply it to a real-life situation. You will assess an individual's health and wellbeing and use this assessment to create a health and wellbeing improvement plan.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable if you have an interest in health and social care and working with others. It will also prepare you for entry into higher education in a range of subjects, as well as preparing you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in aspects of health or social care. There are a variety of careers that you can explore.

You may wish to build on an interest in human growth and development but take it in a different direction (at either Level 2 or Level 3) by studying for qualifications in Early Years education.

AQA GCSE History

What will I study?

This course focuses on History from three different eras and aims to give students a greater understanding of the world that we live in. The three areas are:

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

Section A – Period studies

Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

Section B – Wider world depth studies

Conflict and tension: The inter-war years, 1918–1939

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

Section A – Thematic studies

Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day

Section B – British depth studies including the historic environment

Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

What will I learn?

You will learn the causes and consequences of major events, look at how society has changed over time and consider the significance of key individuals from the past. You will engage in historical enquiry developing as an independent learner and as critical and reflective thinkers. Through extended writing your literacy will develop and through presentation and teamwork you will learn to communicate successfully in a range of situations.

The course explores exciting and interesting new topics for today's world that will resonate with students, helping you to gain new insights into the world around you!

How am I assessed?

Through three examinations with short and extended writing questions. Some questions require you to interact with a variety of sources.

Paper 1 – Understanding the modern world

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 84 marks (including marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 84 marks (including marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar
- 50% of GCSE

Who is this course suitable for?

History is for anyone who has an enquiring mind and wants to find out why the world is the way it is. Are you interested in finding out more about the past, as well as how it has helped to shape the future? History is fascinating and there is so much to explore in preparation for further study and any career that uses History as a basis.

To be successful in History, you need to be dedicated and hardworking, and ready to learn about the past!

Just some of the career paths that a GCSE in History are useful for:

- Law
- Politics
- Public sector
- Business
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Economics
- Teaching

For more information on this course please contact:

Mrs. Sheegow (Head of History)

OCR Cambridge National Information Technologies

What will I study?

This qualification will teach you what different technologies could be used, why they should be used and how to make best use of them.

You will also learn to follow a project life cycle of initiation, planning, execution and evaluation to complete a data management task and use your skills, knowledge and understanding of technology to complete each of the phases of the project life cycle.

Unit R012: Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions

This component will assess you on a range of skills and will allow you to understand the different risks associated with the collection, storage and use of data and how the legal, moral, ethical and security issues can have an impact on organisations and individuals.

Unit R013: Developing technological solutions

This component involves a 20 hour controlled assessment where you will be given a project to develop a technological solution that processes data and communicates information.

What will I learn?

You will learn a range of topics including:

- Software
- Planning tools
- Spreadsheets
- Word processors
- Desktop publishing
- Gantt
- Security

How am I assessed?

In this qualification, you be assessed in two different ways:

- RO12: Exam (50%)
- RO13: Controlled assessment (50%)

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students who want to progress onto other related study, such as qualifications in IT, Digital Media, Computer Science.

This course is only available to students on the orange and yellow pathways.

For more information on this course please contact:

Miss. Basharat (Coordinator of Business)

BTEC Level 2 Music

What will I study?

This course is designed to inspire and encourage you to consider a career in the music industry, as well as to continue participation in music recreationally. You will gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the music industry, e.g. the live sound industry, solo or group professional performance, or music promotion and publishing.

What will I learn?

Unit 1: The Music Industry

This will give you an overview of the industry, particularly focusing on the shape of the modern industry and covering the emergence of the role of the self-employed producer, performer and promoter.

Unit 2: Managing a Music Product

In this unit, you will look at the development a music product. As well as providing a vehicle for demonstrating skills and learning, it will also introduce you to the role of planning and promotion in the management of a music product.

Unit 5: Introducing Music Performance

This unit will give you the opportunity to develop your skills as a performer, as well as developing their technique and reflective practice.

Unit 7: Introducing Music Sequencing

In this unit, you will learn how to use ICT for music making.

How am I assessed?

Unit 1: The Music Industry– Assessed in a one hour exam

Unit 2: Managing a Music Product – Internally assessed

Unit 5: Introducing Music Performance – Internally assessed

Unit 7: Introducing Music Sequencing – Internally assessed

Who is this course suitable for?

If you have an interest in music and enjoy performing, this qualification will provide you with an insight into the music industry. It will provide a good foundation for further study as well as entering the workplace in roles such as runner, roadie (backline technical support), stage crew, venue staff, music promotion, and retail and sales roles.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Simon (Coordinator of Expressive Arts)

BTEC Level 2 in Sport

What will I study?

As part of this course, you will develop your abilities in sport and leisure through different parts of the qualification.

Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise

- Know about the components of fitness and the principles of training
- Explore different fitness training methods
- Investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels

Unit 2: Practical Sports Performance

- Understand the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports
- Practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports
- Be able to review sports performance

Unit 3: Applying the Principles of Training

- Design and review a personal fitness training programme
- Know about the musculoskeletal system and cardiorespiratory system and the effects on the body during fitness training
- Implement a self-designed personal fitness training programme to achieve own goals and objectives
- Review a personal fitness training programme.

Unit 6: Leading Sports Activities

- Know the attributes needed for successful sports leadership
- Undertake the planning and leading of sports activities
- Review the planning and leading of sports activities

How will I be assessed?

The assessment for the BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport consists of two types of assessment:

Internal assessment:

A portfolio of evidence will be graded by centre staff and externally moderated by Edexcel.

External assessment

An online exam, designed by Edexcel.

Who is this course suitable for?

If you have an interest in sport and exercise this course is appropriate for you. You will have a varied learning experience including using different training techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. The course will be taught through a variety of practical and theory lessons.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Simon (Coordinator of Expressive Arts)

Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies

What will I study?

Students will study Philosophical and Ethical studies in the Modern World. Students will also study beliefs, practices and teaching of Christianity and Islam.

Paper 1: Component 1: Philosophical and Ethical studies in the Modern World

Paper 2: Component 2**:** Study of Christianity

Paper 3: Component 3**:** Study of World Faith - Islam

What will I learn?

For Paper 1: Candidates will study the following four themes. All questions are compulsory.

Theme 1: Issues of Relationships

Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death

Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil

Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights

This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focusing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the identified themes.

For Paper 2: Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity. This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focusing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the subject content.

For Paper 3: Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of one world faith -Islam. This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focusing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the subject content.

How am I assessed?

Paper 1: Written examination - 2 hours
50% of qualification.

Paper 2: Written examination: 1 hours
25% of qualification.

Paper 3: Written examination: 1 hours
25% of qualification.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students who want to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism
- develop knowledge and understanding of philosophical views, religious beliefs, teachings, practices, and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of the religions they are studying
- develop the ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject
- have opportunities to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life
- challenge themselves to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contributes to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Bimson (Assistant Principal)

BTEC Level 2 Travel and Tourism

What will I study?

This course is equivalent to a GCSE. It will give you the opportunity to learn about the travel and tourism industry and its purpose to the UK, Europe and Worldwide.

The UK travel and Tourism Sector

You will learn about one of the UK's largest sectors. This unit looks at the different types of tourism and their impact on the UK economy. It will focus on the travel, tourism, leisure and business as well as the changing technologies and the impact they have on shaping how tourists and travellers engage with the sector.

UK travel and tourism destinations

This unit gives you an understanding of what the UK travel and tourism industry has to offer tourists. It will enable students to identify and locate tourist destinations, major UK airports and seaport, as well as the routes in and out of the UK.

International Travel and Tourism Destinations

This until will allow you to explore different international destinations and locate numerous destinations and their gateways. You will investigate a range of different destinations and be expected to design holiday packages for give customers.

The Travel and Tourism Customer Service Experience

This unit will look at customer service and individual customer needs. You will be expected to investigate products and services for different types of customers and the impact of getting it right.

What will I learn?

By the end of the course you will know about different travel and tourism organisations and their importance to the industry. The importance of putting the customer at the heart of the decision and the range of destinations available in the UK and internationally.

How am I assessed?

You will be assessed in two different ways. Three of the units are internally assessed coursework which is completed over the duration of the course.

The final unit is externally assessed in the form of a written exam.

Each unit will be individually graded to ensure that you have met the criteria. You will then be given an overall grade of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction.

Who is this course suitable for?

If you would like an introduction to the travel and tourism industry that is hands-on, this course is for you. It has been developed to enthuse and inspire you about a career in travel and tourism.

For more information on this course please contact:

Ms. Basharat (Coordinator of Business)