OLD BUCKENHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

Achieving excellence together

Old Buckenham High School Year 9 Options Information 2018-2020 Route 3

Old Buckenham High School | Curriculum

Year 9 Options 2018-2020

January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

At Old Buckenham High School '*Achieving Excellence Together*' is our core educational objective. We want all our students to secure the highest levels of academic success through a curriculum which is:

- Fully inclusive;
- Broad and balanced;
- Fulfilling national expectations;
- Engaging and challenging;
- Excellent preparation for life beyond school.

The Year 9 options process is a crucially important time in your child's educational journey. It is the first time that they will have some choice in the subjects that they will study at school.

The GCSE examination system has recently undergone a number of significant changes that include:

- Introduction of the English Baccalaureate;
- New GCSEs in all subjects;
- 'Progress 8' measure to replace '5A*-C Inc. English/ Maths' (summer 2016);
- 1-9 GCSE grading system to replace A*- G grades
- The introduction of equivalent Level 2 awards, such as Vocational and Technical Awards.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum at Old Buckenham High School fully meets the new national GCSE framework and will ensure that your child receives a broad and balanced curriculum experience. It will enable your child to secure the subject grades and relevant subject combinations that will maximise their opportunities for progression into further education, higher education as well as into employment and training.

The options process is a time when every student, their teachers and parents/carers must work together. The school will ensure that every student is placed on the correct options route to ensure that they fulfil their academic potential.

I hope that you will find this options booklet both a helpful and informative document when completing the GCSE options process with your child. In addition, further guidance will be provided by your child's Form Tutor, Year Leader, Subject Teachers and the Leadership Team, who will collectively support your child in choosing the right courses.

We have carefully considered your child's academic progress and interests and attach an Options Route Form, which in our professional opinion, will ensure that your child has an appropriate breadth of subjects to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills for the future. We kindly ask that you fill in the form, following the instructions carefully, and hand this in to the School Reception no later than **Friday 9th February 2018**.

Should you require any further help with this process, or have any questions relating to your child's options, then please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

A Fell

Andrew Fell
Head Teacher

Making the right choices

Before making your choices you should ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I enjoy the subject or will I enjoy the new subject?
- Will I be good at the subject?
- Does the way the course is assessed suit my style of learning?
- Will the course help me in the future – with my job or further study?

It is really important that you make the right decision as, after the first few weeks, you will be unable to change to another course.

Beware of choosing a particular subject because your friends have chosen it or purely because you like the teacher. Your friends may not want the same career as you and subject teachers change. Think solely of **your** interests, **your** abilities and **your** future.

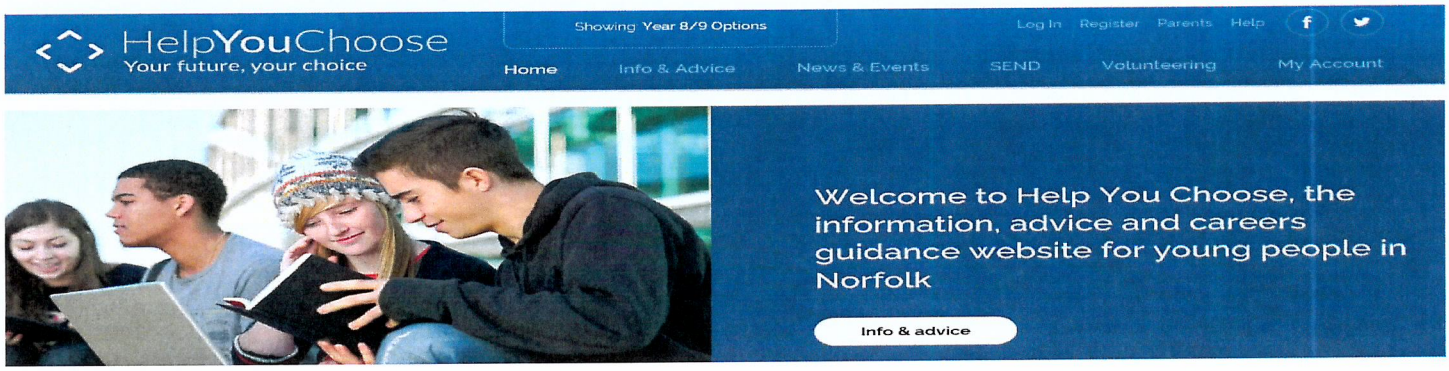
The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a particular combination of GCSEs. It is recognised as a more academic range of GCSEs and is increasingly seen as desirable by some sixth forms and a preferred route into Higher Education. In order for GCSEs to be recognised as an EBacc the choices must include the core subjects, History or Geography as well as a Language. It is worth noting at this point that some sixth forms **require** a Language GCSE.

Who can help me decide?

- Your parents/carers and others with experience in particular areas of work
- Your Form Tutor
- Your subject teachers
- Your Head of Year
- School Careers Advisor

Where can I get extra information?

- The "helpyouchoose" website – www.helpyouchoose.org
- The government website – www.direct.gov.uk



Timetable

Week beginning 22nd January: *Options Assembly and Options Booklet issued*
Thursday 31st January: *Year 9 Progress / Options Evening at school*
Week beginning 5th February: *Opportunity for guidance 'surgeries'*
Friday 9th February: *Deadline for Option Form return. After this date there may be further Options conversations with your child if required.*

Notification of allocations

We estimate that students will be informed just prior to the May half-term break of their final subject choices.

Route 3 (English Baccalaureate)

This is an academic route that is a nationally recognised combination of GCSE subjects. In order to achieve the English Baccalaureate students will need to achieve a grade 4 (equivalent to an old GCSE grade C) or higher in each EBacc subject (English, Maths, Science, a Language and Geography or History).

Core Subjects

These are the subjects that Route 3 students at Old Buckenham High School will study:

GCSE Subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science

Non-GCSE Subjects:

- Physical Education
- Citizenship

Baccalaureate Subjects

In addition to the Core GCSE subjects, students will be required to study:

- French or German: You can't pick a new one; it must be the one you have been studying in Year 9. If you have studied both French and German, you may choose, but we recommend that you speak to your languages teacher to ascertain which one would be most suitable for you
- Geography or History

Options Choices

All Route 3 students will have the choice of a further **two** GCSE or Technical or Vocational Award subjects from the subjects listed below:

- Art and Design
- Computer Science
- Creative iMedia (Vocational Award)
- Creative Studies—Craft (Technical Award)
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Enterprise and Marketing (Business Studies)
- Food and Cookery (Technical Award)
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- P.E.
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Statistics

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

ENGLISH

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

All students will follow AQA's English Language (8700) and English Literature (8702) syllabuses.

What will I be doing?

The Language course will examine your ability to analyse and evaluate both fiction and literary non-fiction texts. We will also develop your skills as a creative writer, considering carefully appropriate choices of vocabulary and sentences to appropriately target your intended audience and achieve your purpose.

The Literature course will see you study a Shakespeare play ('Romeo and Juliet' or 'Macbeth', for example), a 19th Century novel (Stevenson's 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'), modern drama or prose ('An Inspector Calls' by J. B. Priestley), a collection of poems under the theme of 'love and relationships' provided by the exam board, and prepare for a question on unseen poetry.

How will my work be assessed?

Both courses are 100% exam assessed.

Language:

1. Creative reading and Writing – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks – 50%
2. Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks – 50%

Literature:

1. Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel – 1 hour 45 minutes – 64 marks – 40%
2. Modern Texts and Poetry – 2hours 15 minutes – 96 marks – 60%

Spoken Language (speaking and listening) – additional qualification:

Teacher assessment of presenting skills, ability to respond to questions and use of Standard English.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

As has been widely publicised, the new English courses require students to have a broad understanding of English Literature – students who make the most progress will be those who read actively and with engagement outside the classroom. Students who show a willingness to tackle texts from our Literary Heritage (in addition to those studied) will put themselves in the optimum position for success. The engagement with sophisticated non-fiction texts (as style models for their own writing) will also be hugely beneficial.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

English is very much a facilitating subject for most careers. Employers and educational establishments will use English GCSEs as a way of gauging a students' ability to communicate effectively. Beyond this, there are many specific careers which would rely on GCSE English as a starting point: Journalism and media-based careers, teaching, careers in Politics, acting...the list is endless!

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Speak to one of the English teachers if you would like more information.

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

Mathematics GCSE

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

AQA/8300

What will I be doing?

Studying a range of topics from these 6 key areas:

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

How will my work be assessed?

GCSE Mathematics has a foundation tier (for those likely to get grades 1 to 5) and a higher tier (for those likely to get grades 4 to 9). There are three papers and each is 1.5 hours long, one is a non-calculator paper and two are calculator papers. Each paper is worth 80 marks and each one contributes equally to the overall maths grade awarded.

The questions on the paper are a mix of questions styles, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as students progress through the paper.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

It is a requirement that all students study mathematics to GCSE level.

It is essential that all students bring a scientific calculator to every maths lesson.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Courses: A good GCSE maths grade is essential for students that wish to study a range of subjects at A Level and some vocational subjects including; maths, sciences, social sciences, ICT and computing, financial subjects, engineering and design and some humanities.

Careers: Almost all careers involve some element of maths. Careers that use lot of maths include those in the financial and banking industry, careers in medicine, the construction industry, research and data analysis and IT and computing.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs Hanson or your maths teacher

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

Combined science (Trilogy)

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

You will follow the AQA specification; Combined science (Trilogy) (8464)

What will I be doing?

Throughout the course you will be enhancing the scientific skills and knowledge that you learnt about in KS3. You will use a mixture of Practical activities, project and discussion work to explore a variety of topics.

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

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

Physics; Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and electromagnetism.

How will my work be assessed?

Each course is split into units, which are individually assessed and reviewed. The progress from these unit assessments is used as a cumulative score to assess progress over the year. There will be end of year assessments in year 9 and year 10 so that the cumulative judgements made during the year can be validated.

In June of Year 11 you will undertake 6 exams of 1hour 15 minutes each; a paper 1 and a paper 2 for each subject. Each subject is assessed separately, with an outcome of two GCSE results which is the score across all three subjects.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

All students will study science, and your outcomes in year 8 in English, Maths and Science will help us to find the right course for you. Let us know if you would like any extra support in science as this will help you to make a good start in your new course.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Aspects of Science (like team working, problem solving and planning) are in all future careers and job roles. The transferable skills you learn in this GCSE will help you no matter what career or further education course you choose to study.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Ask your science teacher for more information about the combined science course and how to ensure you are fully prepared for the start of the new year.

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

GEOGRAPHY

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

The course we do is the Edexcel Geography A specification

What will I be doing?

The Edexcel Geography A specification is an engaging, relevant and up to date course which helps to develop a variety of skills. Whilst carrying out fieldwork investigations students will devise and carry out a variety of surveys and they will evaluate the methods used and they will also analyse the data obtained. Geographical skills (e.g. map interpretation, the use of statistical techniques and data analysis) are also used and developed throughout the course.

How will my work be assessed?

The course consists of three main components:

Component 1: The Physical Environment

Topic 1: The Changing Landscapes of the UK. This will include coastal landscapes and processes and river landscapes and processes.

Topic 2: Weather Hazards and Climate Change. This looks at the causes and impacts of weather hazards such as tropical cyclones and droughts.

Topic 3: Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management. This looks at the characteristics of and the changes occurring in different ecosystems e.g. tropical rainforests.

Assessment is by a written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes which worth 37.5% of the GCSE.

Component 2: The Human Environment

Topic 1: Changing Cities: This looks at the growth of cities and how they are changing in the UK, and in other countries.

Topic 2: Global Development: This looks at why some countries are more developed than others.

Topic 3: Resources Management. This looks at the location and use of different natural resources such as food, coal and water.

Assessment is by a written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes which is worth 37.5% of the GCSE.

Component 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

This component consists of three sections.

Section A: Geographical Investigations – Physical Environments. This will involve compulsory fieldwork to investigate coasts or rivers.

Section B: Geographical Investigations – Human Environments. This will involve compulsory fieldwork to investigate urban areas (e.g. a local town or city) or rural settlements.

Section C: UK Challenges. This topic investigates challenges faced by the UK. These include: the impacts of population growth, reasons for differences in wealth in the UK, how the landscape can be protected and the impacts of climate change on the UK.

Assessment is by a written examination of 1 hour and 30 minutes which is worth 25% of the GCSE.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

The Geography GCSE is a challenging and content heavy course. Students will need to be able to work independently on homework and revision in order to successfully complete the course.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Geography is very relevant to a wide variety of career paths such as surveying, planning, estate agency, environmental management and journalism. The Edexcel A course also provides a sound foundation for the further study of Geography at A level.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr. C. Sarmezey and Miss S. Jones

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

HISTORY

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel 9-1 GCSE History

What will I be doing?

The GCSE History syllabus spans over 700 years of history, covering the Medieval, Early Modern and Modern periods. It focuses on the key events, issues and people that have helped shape the world we live in today. It provides students with the opportunity to study both British and world history through a combination of thematic studies and in-depth studies, encompassing social, political, economic and cultural themes.

How will my work be assessed?

Exam Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment—30% of the GCSE

- Medicine in Britain, 1250 to the present day.
- The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

Exam Paper 2: Period study and British depth study—40% of the GCSE

- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588.
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991.

Exam Paper 3: Modern depth study—30% of the GCSE

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

History at GCSE level is a challenging option. Students are examined purely on their ability to communicate their knowledge and understanding in written form in three exams at the end of Year 11 (often in extended answers). Therefore, certain standards of literacy are recommended. GCSE History is very content-heavy. As such, we cover the syllabus at a brisk pace and there is a large amount to learn for the exams. Students should be prepared to dedicate significant time to homework and revision in order to succeed.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

History is a subject well-respected by employers as it equips students with a range of transferable skills. For example, gathering and analysing data; assessing sources for bias or propaganda; formulating arguments and communicating clearly.
History is relevant to a variety of careers, including Law, Journalism, TV and Radio, Politics and Local Government. Those considering a career in medicine or science will find the thematic study of particular interest.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Miss P. Dawson
Mrs H. Brockington
Mrs K. Ward
Mr P. Johnson

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

Modern Foreign Languages: French or German

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

AQA GCSE in French or German

What will I be doing?

Studying a language is more than just a GCSE; it's a life skill which can open up possibilities for work and travel in the future. At GCSE we continue to study grammar, translation to and from English to the foreign language, speaking and extended writing. You will be expected to learn all new language by heart and take an active interest in the language, people and culture of the language you are studying. Learning a foreign language will also help develop your communication skills in English.

How will my work be assessed?

All assessment is exam based at the end of the course.

Paper	Type of exam	Weighting
Listening	Comprehension paper	25%
Speaking	Oral Exam on all topics	25%
Reading	Comprehension paper	25%
Writing	Essay paper on all topics and translation to foreign language.	25%

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

Students must have studied their chosen language in Year 9. For example, if you are currently studying French you can choose French GCSE but not German; if you are currently studying German you can choose German GCSE but not French.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

- Travel and tourism
- Media
- Sales
- Any university course or future career requiring excellent communication skills

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs Barrett – Curriculum Leader of MFL
Mrs Le Brun – Teacher MFL
Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head and Teacher of MFL

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

ART

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel GCSE Art

What will I be doing?

The Art course develops your practical and analytical skills from Year 9, allowing you to learn new techniques and produce a personal portfolio of work for assessment.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (60%)

- From Autumn Year 10 until Autumn Year 11, you will develop an extensive portfolio of individual work, including technical studies, experimentation, artist research, media testing, and ultimately working up to a final piece.
- Your portfolio will show a 'journey' through the chosen theme, allowing you to showcase your personal development as your work progresses.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

- From January of Year 11 you will produce a smaller portfolio based on a theme set by the exam board, which will culminate in a final piece produced under exam conditions in May of Year 11.
- The exam lasts for ten hours over two days but must be supported by a thorough portfolio of preparatory work.

There is no written exam in Art, although some written analysis is expected as part of the portfolio.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

- Art is a practical skill-based subject – you should have developed a good range of art skills across a range of media, as well as excellent drawing ability.
- Be under no illusion that Art is an 'easy' subject – the quantity of work expected for the portfolio is huge, and students who do not establish a regular working habit in the early weeks of the course invariably struggle to catch up. You will be expected to devote at least 3-4 hours a week to Art homework.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

GCSE Art is good preparation for A-level Art, vocational qualifications in design, graphics and fine art, as well as being a good contrasting subject for those following traditionally academic routes.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Miss H Hickey (Teacher of Art)
Miss M Wright (Teacher of Art)
Mr T Hilton (Curriculum Leader Expressive Arts)

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

COMPUTING

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel GCSE Computing

What will I be doing?

If you want to know what happens inside a computer and the programming that helps it run, then this is the course you might choose. GCSE Computer Science explores the principles of digital technology with coding as a core of the course. To be successful in this qualification you will need to be able to think logically, solve puzzles and enjoy coding using a range of programming languages. A good understanding of Maths is needed to help you on this course. The subject content is divided into six topics:

- Problem Solving (algorithms)
- Programming
- Data handling
- Computer hardware
- Communication and the internet
- Emerging Trends, Issues and Impact - investigating the environmental, social, ethical and legal impact of technology on society

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Principles of computer Science (50%)

- Written examination based on how a computer works, html, networks, databases and emerging technologies

Component 2: Application of Computational Thinking (50%)

- Written examination based on a set scenario

Component 3: Programming Project (No weighting)

- This is a compulsory non-examined assessment to be undertaken in 20 hours. The project is set by the exam board and will be externally verified, although will not affect your final grade

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

This is a challenging academic course suitable for students with Target Grades of 6 or better in maths. Any student wishing to take the course with lower maths Target Grades should speak to Mrs Hilton for guidance.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Edexcel GCSE Computer Science counts as a science option in the EBacc measure in secondary school performance tables. Possible career paths include programming, electronics or engineering. The course also develops transferable skills of problem-solving and analytical thinking.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs C Hilton (Curriculum Leader Computing)

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

Creative Craft (Textiles)

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

This course follows the WJEC Level 2 Vocational Award in Creative and Media with a focus on Contemporary Textiles. It is the

Each unit of this course is graded using a structure of Not yet achieved, Pass, Merit and Distinction.

What will I be doing?

The WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Creative and Media has been designed for students who want to learn about working in the creative industries, particulary of Fashion and Textiles. It introduces learners to the Fashion and Textiles industry and the types of career opportunities available. It will also provide learners with an awareness of the work and skills required for different job roles.

During all 3 units of this course you will work to a design brief where you will show your ability to meet the set brief and communicate creative ideas effectively. You will develop a broad understanding of a range of Textile techniques including: designing, pattern cutting, knitting, fabric manipulation, fabric printing and fabric dying.

How will my work be assessed?

During this course you will complete three units of work, these will aim to broaden your knowledge and understanding of Textiles as a creative practice.

Unit 1 – this unit will be assessed externally by a course moderator.	This is the exam based unit where you will be expected to response to a design brief. The exam is 2 hours long and will involve a write up of the work you have done during unit 1 to show your level of understanding.
Unit 2 – this unit will be assessed internally by your teacher.	This is a practical based unit where you will be assessed on the creation of a final piece. This will bring together all the skills learnt over the course and consolidate them in the making of a garment or Textile product.
Unit 3 – this unit will be assessed internally by your teacher.	This is a practical based unit where you will be assessed on work produced and displayed in a portfolio. This will include researching into job roles within the Fashion and Textile industry, understanding the skills necessary to become a successful Textile practitioner and exploring and experimenting with Textile techniques and using those learn skills to create a garment or Textile product.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

You are most likely to enjoy this course if you are a creative individual interested in garment making and exploring Textile techniques.

To be successful on this course students will need to show dedication for the subject of Textiles and be able to show enthusiasm whilst focusing on a project for long periods of time.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

This course would allow you to progress into AS/A-Level study in Fashion and Textiles or Design and Technology. It would also enable you to access a range of Level 3 qualifications including apprenticeships and vocationally related qualifications. These include qualifications related to Textiles, Art and Design.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Miss H Bilverstone

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

CREATIVE i-MEDIA

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

OCR Cambridge National Level 2 Award in Creative iMedia (Equivalent to GCSE grades 5-9)

What will I be doing?

If you like creating things on the computer, then Creative iMedia is the course you might choose. This course will equip learners with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. Using these skills, you will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose creative media products using your own flair and creativity.

You will complete four units:

- **Unit R081**: Pre-production skills - This unit will enable learners to understand pre-production skills used in the creative and digital media sector. It will develop your understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process.
- **Unit R082**: Creating Digital Graphics – The aim of this unit is for learners to understand the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector. You will learn where and why digital graphics are used and what techniques are involved in their creation.
- **Two optional units** which could include creating digital characters, comic strips, multipage websites, digital animation, interactive multimedia products, digital sound sequences, digital video sequences, or designing a game concept.

How will my work be assessed?

The first unit is assessed through a 1-hour written exam, externally assessed. The remaining units are internally assessed through a portfolio of evidence gathered throughout the course. Internal assessment enables you to receive feedback on your progress throughout the course as you gather and provide evidence towards meeting the unit assessment criteria.

Each of the four units is worth 25% of the final award.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

This course requires a good level of creativity and imagination, as you will be creating a range of products for the end-user. An interest in digital media production (film, TV, web content) is beneficial.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

The creative industries are growing rapidly in the UK at present, and career opportunities are many and varied. You could work in TV, film, web design, graphics, multimedia, gaming, marketing, advertising and publishing fields. Post-16 courses include both A-level and vocational courses in graphic design, web publishing, media and film studies.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs C Hilton (Curriculum Leader Computing)

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

Design and Technology

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?
You will be following the AQA Design and Technology GCSE.

What will I be doing?
Design and technology is part of everyday like and is constantly evolving. This qualification focuses on developing practical skills within a particular material area, allowing students to manufacture high quality outcomes. They'll learn about commercial processes and careers in related industries, as well as developing core transferable skills, such as collaboration and communication. This qualification is modern and relevant, so students can learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes. This GCSE places great emphasis on understanding and applying iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and other's needs, wants and values.

How will my work be assessed?
During this course you will sit a two-hour exam worth 100 marks and 50% of your GCSE grade.
For the exam you will need to have knowledge of core technical principles, specialist technical principles and designing and making principles.
There are two sections to this exam:
Section A-core technical principles (20 marks) – this will include a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.
Section B-specialist technical principles (30 marks) – this will include several short answer questions and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.
Section C-designing and making principles (50 marks) – this will include a mixture of short answer and extended response questions including a 12-mark design question.

You will also complete a non-exam assessment task – (NEA) worth 100 marks and 50% of your GCSE grade. This will be assessed through the following tasks:
A substantial design and make task including: investigating, designing, making and analysing and evaluating.
This will assess:
Practical application of:
Core technical principles
Specialist technical principles
Designing and making principles

Are there any specific requirements for the course?
The new Design and Technology GCSE is a very demanding course and students should understand that as part of this they will be required to develop a high level understanding of Mathematics and Physics. Dedication to the course is essential for students to be successful.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?
This course could help you to progress onto a Product Design AS/A-Level or other vocational qualifications, including apprenticeships focused on Product Design or Design Technology.

Who should I ask if I need more information?
Mr M Reid

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

DRAMA

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel GCSE Drama

What will I be doing?

The Drama course aims to develop your skills both as a performer, but also in written analysis of drama techniques and performance practice. Lessons are a mixture of practical and written work.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Devising (40%)

- Practical work – as part of a small group you will devise and rehearse an original piece of drama, to be performed in public and internally assessed (10%)
- Written work – you will complete a portfolio (1500-2000 words) explaining and evaluating the process you went through to create and develop your performance (30%)

Component 2: Performance from Text (20%)

- You will perform two extracts from a set play text, to a visiting examiner

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)

- 90-minute exam, covering both analysis of set texts you have studied, and a live theatre review

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

- Drama is a practical subject in which 30% of the marks come from performing in front of an audience – students must be confident performers, and must not take this option if they do not wish to perform
- Drama is also a written subject, with a large amount of writing required – do not assume every lesson will be practical!
- Students are required to attend at least one live theatre performance during the course
- Students are expected to contribute to school productions and performances

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

While many think of Acting as the traditional aspiration for drama students, drama teaches communication skills, both verbal and physical, which are useful in a wide range of careers and activities, as well as teamwork, leadership, and time-management skills.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Miss E Balmer (Subject Leader for Drama)
Mr T Hilton (Curriculum Leader Expressive Arts)

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?
Cambridge Nationals in Enterprise and Marketing Level 1/2 Certificate

What will I be doing?
You will study 3 Units. The first unit looks at the key factors to consider when starting up a business – targeting a market, deciding on a product and how to attract and retain customers. In the second unit you will complete a practical task – the business challenge - where you design a product proposal and complete market research for your business. Finally, you will look at producing a brand identity and how to pitch your business proposal to an audience.

How will my work be assessed?
You will be assessed through one exam which is one hour and a half long. This will be worth 80 marks. This will assess Unit 1.
Units 2 and 3 will be assessed through the completion of 2 practical assignments each worth 60 marks each. This will be assessed in school and moderated by external examiners.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?
We recommend that learners who opt for this course are working towards a Grade 4 or above in Maths and English.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?
The course is ideal for those of you who wish to go on to study Business, Marketing, Retail, Economics or Law.

Who should I ask if I need more information?
Mr Johnson

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

Food and Cookery

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

The NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Food and Cookery which is a Technical Award and is the equivalent to GCSE qualifications. Each unit of this qualification is graded using a structure of Not yet achieved, Pass, Merit, and Distinction. Level 2 is the equivalent to 9-4 at GCSE.

What will I be doing?

The qualification focuses on an applied study of the food and cookery sector and students will gain a broad understanding and knowledge of working in the food industry sector.

There are four units, one of these is an exam which is two hours long.
The three remaining units are made up of a portfolio of evidence built up over the course which are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Unit 1	Safe and hygienic preparation of cooking ingredients and cooking environment, as well as safe storage of ingredients. How to follow a recipe to demonstrate cooking skills and to produce a variety of dishes successfully.
Unit 2	To understand sources of food and where they come from. Factors which affect our food choice and how to select dishes to prepare and cook successfully.
Unit 3	Balanced diets and individual requirements. RI's and GDA's. Food labelling and how to adapt recipes for health.
Unit 4	This unit brings together all the learning completed and students design a menu in response to a brief in which they plan, make and review suitable dishes.

How will my work be assessed?

This course is assessed through:

- Internal assessment which will include a portfolio of evidence involving written and practical work. This will be graded by centre staff and externally moderated by NCFE.
- External assessment which will involve a 2 hour written exam and will be graded by NCFE.

You must be successful in both types of assessment to achieve this qualification.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

You are most likely to succeed in this course if you enjoy cooking and have an interest in food science and nutrition. A requirement of this course will be that you provide your own cooking ingredients and take part fully in practical classes.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

This course would help you prepare for job roles in hospitality and catering, food production and food retail. From this course you could progress onto an AS/A-Level course in food and nutrition or other food related post-16 courses or apprenticeships.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs N Tarrant

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

MUSIC

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel GCSE Music

What will I be doing?

GCSE Music is a course for passionate and dedicated musicians who are already able to play to at least Grade 2 standard (Rockschool/ABRSM). The course aims to develop your individual musicianship as a performer and composer through studying a range of musical styles.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Performing (30%)

- You are expected to devote at least 1-2 hours per week to practising your instrument/voice at home, and should be prepared to perform a piece in front of the class once every half term
- For the final GCSE assessment, you will perform one solo piece (on your own) and one as an ensemble (with other students)
- The expected standard at the end of the course is equivalent to **Grade 4** (Rockschool/ABRSM)

Component 2: Composing (30%)

- You will compose a range of pieces in Year 10 to develop your skills, using Sibelius software as well as instruments
- For the final GCSE assessment, you will submit two individual compositions, one to a brief set by the exam board and one as a free choice

Component 3: Listening & Appraising (40%)

- You will study eight set works, covering a range of musical genres, music history and theory
- You will sit a 1 hour 45-minute listening exam, in which you will listen to both your set works and some unfamiliar music, and answer questions including a 12-mark essay

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

- Music is a practical subject in which 30% of the marks come from performing in front of an audience – students must be confident performers, and must not take this option if they do not wish to perform
- Music is also a written subject, with a large amount of writing required – do not assume every lesson will be practical!
- The required standard of performance at the end of the course is **Grade 4** standard, therefore you should already be able to play to **at least Grade 2** standard (Rockschool/ABRSM)
- Individual music tuition is not a formal requirement, but students rarely reach this standard without some individual tuition
- Students are expected to contribute to school concerts and performances to develop their skills. Students should be a member of at least one school ensemble.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

GCSE Music is good preparation for A-level Music, BTEC courses, and Access to Music vocational qualifications. Musical careers span many fields – publishing, recording studios, and multimedia industries as well as performing or composing careers. GCSE Music is regarded by employers as evidence of both team-working and individual study skills.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr T Hilton (Curriculum Leader Expressive Arts)

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

Philosophy & Ethics

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?
GCSE Religious Studies OCR

What will I be doing?
This course will take an in-depth look at the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam, as well as the wider philosophical and ethical themes arising from these, and other, religious and non-religious beliefs.
The course encourages students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to engage in debate and discussion about life in a modern pluralistic society. Students will explore and understand personal values and beliefs, with an emphasis on critical analysis and the ability to construct balanced and informed arguments within the context of religious, philosophical and ethical awareness.
Students will explore the intellectual tensions between religious and scientific explanations of the world; learn how to navigate through difficult issues in medical ethics, such as abortion and euthanasia; analyse the nature of God and its implications on belief; debate classical arguments for and against theism, attitudes towards wealth and poverty, prejudice and discrimination; and assess religious and non-religious responses to war and self-defence, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards these significant contemporary issues and cultivate crucial analytical and critical thinking skills.

How will my work be assessed?
The course is 100% examined on three written papers. The examinations will include short open response questions as well as extended writing questions.

Philosophy papers (2) - Beliefs, teachings and practices from two religious perspectives; **Christianity** and **Islam**. *Both of the papers are out of 63 marks, one hour in length and worth 25% each of the total GCSE.*

Ethics paper (1) – Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a **Christian** perspective. Four themes will be examined; relationships and families, the existence of God and the ultimate reality, religion, peace and conflict, dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes. *The paper is out of 126 marks, two hours in length and worth 50% of the total GCSE.*

Are there any specific requirements for the course?
An enquiring mind and an interest in human beliefs and behaviour. To be prepared to consider your own beliefs and values and listen carefully to alternative viewpoints. To be willing to engage in discussion and debate concerning moral and ethical issues.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?
Religious Studies or Philosophy and Ethics are direct progression at A-Level.
As you enter the world of work, you will be expected to work alongside people with different beliefs from your own. Philosophy and Ethics will teach the skills and understanding needed to work with people of all faiths and cultures. These skills are vitally important in all careers especially professions such as the police, retail, social services, teaching, politics and the law, the caring and medical professions and the armed services, in fact any profession that brings you into contact with other people.

Who should I ask if I need more information?
Miss R Taylor

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

Physical Education

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Examination Board: Edexcel GCSE PE

The syllabus content for this examination is 30% practical, 60% theory and 10% coursework. All candidates will be assessed in three practical areas and sit two written theory papers.

What will I be doing?

Practical Assessment consist of 2 lessons per fortnight

All candidates must participate in a variety of sports of which three will be assessed. They must be taken from at least two of the following areas:

Games Activities e.g. football, basketball, hockey, netball, badminton, cricket etc.

Athletic Activities e.g. running, jumping, throwing

Gymnastic e.g. gym, trampoline, horse riding

Dance Activities e.g. solo dance, modern, contemporary, tap, ballet, jazz, swimming strokes

Adventurous Activities e.g. sailing, climbing, personal survival, skiing

Exercise Activities e.g. aerobics, judo, karate

An all-round higher ability is required from a candidate in order to gain quality marks from such a spread of activities. It is possible to be assessed in out of school clubs as part of the Practical Assessment, as long as the assessment criteria are met and you have a qualified instructor

Theory consists of 3 lessons per fortnight. The theory will cover the following areas:

Paper One:1 hour 45 minutes.

- Anatomy and physiology (Bones, Muscles, Heart and Respiratory systems.)

Paper Two:1 hour 30 minutes

- Factors affecting participation in physical activity.
- Safety aspects of physical activity.

Coursework

Students will be required to do an analysis of a Performance Project in Year 10 and they will be required to plan and execute a personal exercise programme in Year 11.

How will my work be assessed?

Two written exams = 60% / Three Sports = 30% / Coursework = 10%

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

The practical standard required for GCSE PE is very high. We would expect those who opt for GCSE PE to be involved in at least one team/club for the school. If you have not been involved in any sports clubs this GCSE is not for you.

Each student is expected to have a cardiovascular fitness level of twenty minutes continuous running as a minimum.

To help the candidates gain a satisfactory grade, they should have been participating in general sports teams for several years.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

A-level / Diplomas / NVQ

PE Teacher / Coach / Sports Medicine / Sports Writer / Facilities Manager / Sports Psychologist

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr Dwight / Miss Cook / Mr Taylor / Mrs Fearn

Year 9 Options 2018-2020 – Subject Information

STATISTICS

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel

What will I be doing?

The GCSE will build upon and develop the work done in the Handling Data section of the Mathematics GCSE.

Real life scenarios will be used and will give insight into the importance of statistics in the real world.

The course will follow the 3 aspects below.

1. The Collection of Data
2. Processing, representing and analysing data
3. Probability

How will my work be assessed?

The work will be assessed by two 1 hour 30 minute written calculator exams in Year 11.

Are there any specific requirements for the course?

The GCSE is available at Higher and Foundation level although the course will be delivered initially at the Higher level. The course is designed so that a change to Foundation in Year 11 is straightforward if necessary.

Although being a strong mathematician is an advantage, it is not a necessity as the papers will contain short, medium and extended response questions.

A scientific calculator is a must.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

The qualification will allow students to develop skills they will use in other subjects such as Science and Geography.

The curriculum for GCSE Statistics has been redesigned to enable students to acquire transferable skills to support them in progressing beyond GCSE in a range of subjects.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr S Cowan

Please fill out this form for your reference and return the A4 copy to the **School Reception** no later than **Friday 9th February 2018**.

You must indicate your two preferred option subjects plus 3 reserves. Please label as explained below:

1 and 2: your preferred option subjects **3, 4 and 5:** your reserve subjects in order of preference

If you do not return your form, the school will place you into option blocks which would most suit you, based on availability.

Please ensure that your preferred choices 1 and 2 are in different Option Blocks.
Your reserve choices can come from anywhere.

Route 3 Options Form		
Core Subjects	English Literature	*
	English Language	*
	Maths	*
	Science	*
Option Block A	French	
	Geography	
	Computing	
	Resistant Materials	
	GCSE PE	
Option Block B	Art	
	Drama	
	French	
	German	
	History	
	Creative iMedia	
Option Block C	Art	
	Geography	
	History	
	Enterprise & Marketing	
	Music	
	Resistant Materials	
	Food and Cookery	
Option Block D	Geography	
	Philosophy and Ethics	
	History	
	Creative Craft	
	Statistics	

If there is a subject you **really** want to do, write it here and say why:

CHECK:	
I have indicated whether I would like to study French or German	
I have indicated whether I would like to study Geography or History	
I have indicated my preferred options 1 and 2	
I have indicated my reserve subjects 3, 4 and 5	
I understand that it may not be possible to be allocated my preferred options	
Student Name:	**Tutor Group:**
Student Signature:	**Parent/Carer Signature:**