



Bloxwich Academy
'Be The Best You Can Be'

YEAR 9 PATHWAYS

CONTENTS

CORE

1. GCSE English Language
2. GCSE English Literature
3. GCSE Mathematics
4. GCSE Combined Science - Biology
5. GCSE Combined Science - Chemistry
6. GCSE Combined Science - Physics
7. GCSE Triple Science

EBACC

8. GCSE History
9. GCSE Geography
10. GCSE French

OPTIONAL

11. GCSE Computer Science
12. GCSE Art & Design
13. GCSE Religious Studies
14. GCSE Sociology
15. GCSE Psychology
16. Vocational Hospitality & Catering
17. BTEC Childcare
18. BTEC Construction
19. BTEC Performing Arts - Dance
20. BTEC Performing Arts - Drama
21. BTEC Digital IT
22. BTEC Health & Social Care
23. BTEC Creative Media Production
24. BTEC Music Practice
25. BTEC Sport

GCSE English Language

Course Code: 8700 Contact: Mrs S Hibbs
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

Description:

The skills of reading, writing and speaking and listening are of vital importance in many areas, both in the daily world and the world of imagination. These skills are essential in many careers and they underpin successful study at all levels. Pupils will be assessed across two examination papers, each with a reading and writing component. The assessment of writing skills will account for 50% of the overall GCSE and will focus on both fiction and non-fiction based writing styles. Pupils shall enhance their creative imaginations as they craft works of narrative and descriptive writing. Further to this, pupils will explore their own views and opinions through the construction of non-fiction writing, such as writing to persuade and argue, in various formats such as letters, articles and speeches.

The assessment of reading skills will also account for 50% of the overall GCSE. Pupils will develop their analytical skills through the course as they investigate language, structure and form; they will be provided with a range of stimuli in order to develop their understanding of language approaches, including explicit and implicit reading interpretations. Speaking and Listening is a non-exam assessment and, as such, it will be assessed in school but does not contribute to the overall qualification grade. For this component, pupils will be expected to speak using Standard English and conduct a presentation, which is to be followed by a response to appropriately related questions.

Pupils must be able to demonstrate their ability to:

- Read and understand texts, selecting material that is appropriate to its purpose including cross referencing and comparison.
- Develop personal interpretations and perspectives of writers' intentions and craft (making links where necessary to the context of a text).
- Explain and evaluate how writers create different effects using linguistic and figurative devices.
- Write clearly, effectively and imaginatively for a variety of forms and purposes, employing vocabulary that is appropriate to the purpose, task and audience whilst engaging the reader.
- Organise ideas and information through informed and accurate structural choices such as sentences, paragraphs and punctuation.
- Use language to craft deliberate effects and convey precise meanings, ensuring accuracy of spelling and grammar.

Assessment

- Pupils will complete two examinations: one focused on fiction reading and writing, the other focused on non-fiction reading and writing.
- Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long.
- Speaking and listening will be assessed but this will not contribute towards the overall grade.
- Speaking and listening is awarded on a Pass, Merit, and Distinction basis.
- This course is not tiered and pupils will be graded on a nine-point scale: 1 to 9 - where 9 is the highest grade.

Careers

Any job that requires you to effectively communicate through using reading, writing or verbal skills; such as teaching, journalism, publishing, speech therapy, public relations, marketing and many more!

GCSE English Literature

Course Code: 8702 Contact: Mrs S Hibbs
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

Description:

This course is based on the conviction that the study of English Literature should centre on informed personal responses to a range of texts in the genres of prose, poetry and drama. Texts studied will help pupils develop an appreciation of the breadth and power of the English literary heritage whilst shaping personal viewpoints and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking.

The course will also allow pupils to understand how the social, historical and cultural contexts of literary works are significant when informing a critical evaluation. There are many skills that are enhanced by combining this study with English Language, such as reading and writing skills, plus an increased critical approach to language use in fiction texts.

The course aims to enable pupils to connect ideas, themes and issues that stem from real world situations and experiences. Texts we have chosen to study are: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, Blood Brothers by Willy Russell, an anthology of poetry on the theme of 'conflict' and unseen poetry.

Pupils will learn to have:

- A close knowledge and understanding of prose, poetry and drama texts and their contexts.
- An understanding and appreciation of writers' uses of the following: characterisation, theme, plot and setting.
- An understanding of writers' use of language, structure and form to create literary effects.
- A focused and evaluative personal engagement with the literary texts that is both informed and critical.
- An accurate and coherent use of grammar and punctuation.

Assessment

- Pupils will complete two examinations, both of which will be closed text exams (this means candidates cannot take the texts in with them).
- These units are not tiered and pupils will be graded on a nine-point scale: 1 to 9 – where 9 is the highest grade.

Paper 1

Section A Shakespeare: pupils will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: pupils will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2

Section A Modern texts: pupils will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: pupils will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Pupils will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

GCSE Mathematics

Course Code: 1MA1 Contact: Miss A Keyte
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

Edexcel

Description:

This linear GCSE course develops knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts including: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Geometry, Measures, Statistics and Probability. Pupils use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between concepts, and apply functional elements of mathematics in everyday and real-life situations.

This course gives pupils the opportunity to develop their abilities to acquire and use problem solving strategies, reason mathematically and interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.

Assessment

Pupils will be assessed by three written papers each contributing 33.3% to the final grade. Examinations are 1 hour 30 minutes long for both Higher and Foundation, and assess topic areas with the following weightings. Only the first paper is non-calculator, with a scientific calculator being essential for the second and third papers. .

Topic	Foundation	Higher
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability and Statistics	15	15

Paper one is non-calculator. A scientific calculator is required for papers two and three.

Careers

Mathematics is essential for any job as it develops general numeracy skills as well as an ability to solve problems and confidently handle data. A GCSE in Mathematics is a basic requirement for most jobs and training courses, including the potential to study at A Level and degree standard. Key careers for Mathematics would include accountancy, research and any type of engineering.

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy Biology

AQA

Course Code: 8464 Contact: Dr A Wilkes
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

Description:

All students must study Combined Science unless they take the option for Triple Science (see later in the booklet).

Combined Science is worth two GCSEs and throughout the course you will study aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Details of these components cover the next three pages of this prospectus.

Pupils are expected to develop a wide knowledge of science whilst;

- Learning about how Science and its applications are important.
- Producing ideas to test and evaluate and understanding how scientists develop modern ideas.
- Developing skills in communication, mathematics and the use of technology in scientific contexts.

Assessment

In Combined Science (Trilogy) there are six exams that pupils complete – two for each branch of Science.

Each paper is worth 70 marks and is 1hr 15minutes long. Each exam consists of a selection of multiple choice, short answer and long answer responses.

The total mark from the six papers determines the two GCSE grades awarded for Combined Science. Paper 1 Biology: Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and Response and Bioenergetics. Paper 2 Biology: Homeostasis, Inheritance, Genetics and Evolution and Ecology.

Careers:

Combined Science allows for post-16 A Level study in a range of areas, providing that the grade requirements are met, which will set you up to study Science courses at university. For example, you could go into: veterinary Sciences, drug development, research and development, pharmacy, microbiology, zoology, agriculture. Science also opens door to banking, economics, statistics, business and teaching.

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy Chemistry

AQA

Course Code: 8464 Contact: Dr A Wilkes
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

Description:

Following on from the previous page, Combined Science Chemistry makes up one third of the content of the Combined Science GCSE. Chemistry helps explain the behaviour of the world around us, from why does ice float through to the shiny alloy wheels on our cars. Becoming literate in the chemical sciences, enables us to engage with every day conversations around climate change and recycling from a knowledgeable and informed perspective.

The students are going to be part of a changing world, from a dependent on fossil fuels to one which has to be inventive to use natural resources in a sustainable way. Whilst no course can address all current issues in the world of Science, the GCSE Combined Science Chemistry course allows pupils to develop the required skills to engage with further study in the chemical sciences.

Assessment

In Combined Science there are six exams that pupils complete – two for each branch of science. Each paper is worth 70 marks and is 1hr 15minutes long.

Each exam consists of a selection of multiple choice, short answer and long answer responses. The total mark from the six papers determines the two GCSE grades awarded for Combined Science.

Paper 1 Chemistry: Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, and Energy Changes.

Paper 2 Chemistry: Rate and Extent of Chemical Changes, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis; Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Using Resources.

Careers:

Combined Science allows for post-16 A Level study in a range of areas, providing that the pre-requisite requirements are met which will set you up to study science courses at university. Following GCSE Combined Science can lead to a wide variety of careers. Careers are available in food chemistry, biochemistry, medicine, healthcare and pharmaceutical science, research and development. However, Science can also open doors to careers such as teaching, banking, business and finance.

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy Physics

Course Code: 8464 Contact: Dr A Wilkes
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

Description:

Following on from the previous page, Combined Science Physics makes up one third of the content of the Combined Science GCSE. The goal of Physics is to understand how things work from first principles.

Physicists look for all the hidden laws that explain why all matter (that is: every physical thing) and energy in the known universe exists, where it comes from and how it behaves the way it does. So, if you're wondering how forces of nature, like gravity work or how aircraft stay up in the air, you will need to go to a physicist like Brian Cox, Jocelyn Bell Burnell or your Physics teacher for an explanation.

In Combined Science Physics, you will cover many areas of Physics including; forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter and atomic structure.

Assessment

In Combined Science there are six exams that pupils complete – two for each branch of Science. Each paper is worth 70 marks and is 1hr 15minutes long. Each exam consists of a selection of multiple choice, short answer and long answer responses. The total mark from the six papers determines the two GCSE grades awarded for Combined Science.

Paper 1 Physics: Energy, Electricity, Particle Model of Matter, and Atomic Structure

Paper 2 Physics: Forces, Waves and Magnetism and Electromagnetism

Careers:

Combined Science allows for post-16 A Level study in a range of areas, providing that the pre-requisite requirements are met which will set you up to study Science courses at university. Physics is important in a range of careers including several branches of engineering, telecommunications, game design, renewable energy engineering, architecture, aeronautics, teaching, and optometry.

GCSE Triple Science

Course Code: Biology - 8461, Chemistry - 8462, Physics - 8463
Contact: Dr A Wilkes
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

Description:

Whilst all students must study Combined Science at GCSE, if you are passionate about science and potentially already considering studying science at A Level or beyond, you may choose to take 'Triple Science' where you study all three branches of science as separate GCSE subjects. By selecting this option, you will study additional content in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which will further prepare you for studying individual sciences at an advanced level.

In Biology, additional content will include plating microorganisms, negative feedback loops, the eye, the brain, and further ecology. In Chemistry, additional content will include nanotechnology, more challenging maths in chemistry, fuel cells and batteries, detailed organic chemistry, and ion testing. In Physics, additional content will include lenses, static electricity, nuclear fission and fusion, transformers, and space physics.

As we go into greater depth of the topics covered, the Triple Science option is more rigorous and challenging than the Combined Science course and we reserve the right to make recommendations about options based on performance in KS3 Science, Maths and English.

Assessment

Similar to Combined Science, you will take 6 exams. However, rather than your grade being calculated from your grand total, instead you will receive one GCSE for each of the separate sciences. This means you will get three GCSE grades instead of two. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes and will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Paper 1	Paper 1	Paper 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell Biology• Organisation• Infection & Response• Bioenergetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table• Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter• Quantitative Chemistry• Chemical Changes• Energy Changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy• Electricity• Particle Model of Matter• Atomic Structure
Paper 2	Paper 2	Paper 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homeostasis• Inheritance, genetics and evolution• Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rate and Extent of Chemical Changes• Organic Chemistry• Chemical Analysis• Chemistry of the AtmosphereUsing Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces• Waves• Magnetism and Electromagnetism• Space

Careers

Studying Triple Science is not essential to studying the subjects at A level.

As with Combined Science, studying Triple Science at GCSE sets you up to go on to careers in healthcare, material sciences, pharmaceuticals, engineering, technology, medicine, dentistry, education, as well as many more!

GCSE History

Course Code: 8145 Contact: Miss S Thomson/
Mrs H Tanner
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

Description:

Historians are often asked: 'What is the use or relevance of studying history?' and 'Why on earth does it matter what happened long ago?' The answer is that history is inescapable. It studies the past and the legacies of the past in the present. Far from being a 'dead' subject, it connects things through time and encourages its students to take a long view of such connections. The AQA GCSE History specification is relevant and engaging for pupils and it also helps them to stimulate their interest in history. GCSE History takes four approaches: one thematic study, which enables pupils to understand change and continuity across a long sweep of history; one period study which allows pupils to focus on a timespan of at least 50 years; two depth studies (one British and one European/wider world) which enables pupils to focus on a short time span, and lastly a study of the historic environment which enables pupils to focus on a particular site in its historical context. Pupils will develop a secure understanding of chronology, knowledge and understanding of history on different scales and contexts, apply historical concepts and processes and engage with the nature of evidence and interpretation.

Assessment

The overall GCSE qualification is broken down into 4 components of a period study, thematic study, wider world depth study and one British depth study. These components are assessed in two papers:

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world (50% of qualification)

Section A Period Study:

- Germany 1890 – 1945 Democracy and Dictatorship (25%)
- Section B Wider World Depth Study:
- Conflict and Tension: The inter war years 1918 -1939 (25%)

Paper 2: Shaping the nation (50% of qualification)

Section A Thematic study:

- Britain: Health and the people c1170 – to present day (25%)
- Section B British Depth Study including site study:
- Norman England 1066 -1100 (25%)

Careers

History gives pupils a range of skills that are transferable to most university courses and job roles including problem solving, critical thinking, persuasive writing, confidently and coherently explaining your views and ideas, analytical thinking, presenting innovative ideas and being open-minded. Employers look for history students because they are able to apply these skills in a range of situations and contexts. Pupils who have studied history go into a number of different areas of further study and employment. Some jobs that use skills and subject knowledge in history are teaching, media, law, management, medicine, nursing, accounts, business, hospitality and journalism.

GCSE Geography

Course Code: 8035 Contact: Miss S Thomson
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

Description:

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant, and it is fun. Current GCSE courses offer a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world. There are so many ways of learning in geography. It is very practical with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer-based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills. Fieldwork, or working outside the classroom is a really important part of geography. Fieldwork offers a brilliant opportunity to experience some of the things you have learnt about in class out in the real world.

Assessment

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35% of GCSE)	Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (35% of GCSE)	Paper 3: Geographical applications (30% of GCSE)
Topic 1: The challenge of natural hazards	Topic 1: Urban issues and challenges	Topic 1: Issue evaluation
Topic 2: The living world	Topic 2: The changing economic world	Topic 2: Fieldwork
Topic 3: Physical landscapes	Topic 3: The challenge of resource management	Topic 3: Geographical Skills

- Reference skills - ability to make use of a variety of sources for obtaining information.
- Communication skills - ability to present information in a clear and appropriate way through written and oral communication.
- Interpretative skills - ability to give meaning to data.
- Evaluative skills - ability to analyse critically and interpret evidence and to formulate conclusions.
- Problem-solving skills - the ability to enquire, to think clearly, critically and constructively and make decisions based on evidence.

Careers

Urban planner or community development, cartographer, GIS specialist, climatologist, transportation management, environmental management, writer or researcher, emergency management, demographer, marketing, librarian or information scientist, national park service ranger, real estate appraisal.

GCSE French

Course Code: 1FR0 Contact: Mr Gaudillat
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

Description:

GCSE French is an exciting opportunity for pupils to build on the language skills they have developed throughout Key Stage 3.

It is designed to encourage pupils to be able to communicate confidently both in written and spoken French in a range of different scenarios. The GCSE course blends cultural knowledge about French-speaking countries alongside extending pupils' grammar and vocabulary abilities to create proficient and confident linguists.

The specification is designed with a significant focus on developing spontaneous speech to ensure that pupils can apply their language skills in real life scenarios. Taking GCSE French offers pupils the chance to develop a wide variety of skills that are much sought after in a variety of different disciplines.

The course develops outward-looking, self-regulating, independent and confident learners. It encourages pupils to develop their communication and presentation skills as well as develop an empathetic and understanding worldview. A language qualification often sets pupils apart at interviews, as employers know they will have excellent attention to detail and be self-motivated. The course is divided into three separate themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

- My family and friends : relationships, family and friends
- Marriage – understanding views on marriage and your plans regarding marriage in the future
- Technology in everyday life – internet use, social media and the benefits and dangers of technology
- Free time – what you do at the weekend and what you did last weekend, sports and extreme sports, foods around the world.
- France and customs – discussing different festivals and celebrations and what traditions mean to you.

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

- Home and where I live – describing home and region and ideal home, twin towns
- Charity work - discussing the importance of charities
- Health and lifestyle - discussing your lifestyle and resolutions to be healthier
- Environmental issues – discussing what you do to help the planet as well as what you have done recently and what you are going to do in the future.
- Inequality and poverty – discussing inclusion and inequality and poverty in the world.
- Holidays and travel : travel and accommodation; asking for help and dealing with problems; directions; eating out; shopping. Discussing typical holidays, a past holiday, holiday plans for the future and dream holiday. Weather and what the weather was like on holiday and what you do in different types of weather.

Theme 3: School

- What school is like: school types; school day; subjects; preferences and discussing your strengths and weaknesses in different subjects.
- School activities: school trips and clubs.
- Different schools – describing and understanding school life in different countries
- School rules – rules in school and uniform
- My ideal school – what you would do to improve your school
- Post-16 Options – your plans for the future in terms of post-16 education
- University or apprenticeship – discussing going to university or doing an apprenticeship
- How to get a job – interview for jobs and describing yourself and your suitability for a job
- Work – jobs and the advantages and disadvantages of different jobs and professions

Assessment

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

AO1 Understand and respond to different types of spoken language

AO2 Communicate and interact effectively in speech

AO3 Understand and respond to different types of written language

AO4 Communicate in writing

Exam Structure:

25% Listening (Paper 1)

25% Speaking (Paper 2)

25% Reading (Paper 3)

25% Writing (Paper 4)

Pupils will be examined in all four papers on either the Foundation or Higher tier.

Careers

Languages can be very beneficial in a variety of different careers – some where you will use the language actively every day and some where having a language is desirable and makes you a more employable candidate. Some areas where a language is highly sought after are:

Teaching, translator, interpreter, tour guide, tourism and hospitality, airline pilot, flight attendant, journalist, government employee, working for the embassy/foreign office, politics, university researcher, law, business and trade.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.html>

GCSE Computer Science

Course Code: J277 Contact: Mr T Oram / Mr M Plant
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

OCR

Description:

This qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science elements of the Key Stage 3 programme of study. The content has been designed not only to allow for a solid basis of understanding, but also to engage learners and get them thinking about real world application.

Pupils will learn about and explore the effectiveness of computer programming and the impact that this has in today's society. The course gives a real, in-depth insight into how computer technology works. Pupils will be encouraged to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. They will understand the impact of technology on the individual and wider society and will be encouraged to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

Pupils who want to go on to higher education and employment using computing will find that this course provides the perfect platform.

The course is suitable for pupils who:

- Have a keen interest in and aptitude for maths and problem-solving.
- Enjoy programming.
- Have a keen interest in Computer Science.
- Have a keen interest in further education / a career in the field of computing.

Assessment

The course content is assessed in **three** separate units:

1. Computer Systems (50% exam).
2. Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (50% exam).
3. Programming Project (Compulsory for course, not assessed by OCR).

Careers

Software developer, games developer, programmer, cyber security, robotics, analyst, computer engineer, network engineer, database design.

GCSE Art & Design

Course Code: J170 Contact: Miss E Dutton
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Exam
60% Controlled Assessment

Description:

The Fine Art course is designed to encourage pupils to develop knowledge, skills, and understanding along with creativity and imagination. Pupils show this through their responses to a range of visual and written stimuli. Pupils have the opportunity to gain insight into the practices of artists, organisations and creative and cultural industries. The course allows pupils to acquire and develop technical skills, working with a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent. Further opportunities are offered for pupils to work with professional practicing artists and visit galleries for personal inspiration.

Homework tasks are set on a weekly basis to underpin and support learning in the classroom.

Assessment

Unit 1 - (60% of the qualification) pupils are required to produce a portfolio of work showing their personal response to a theme, demonstrating a range of skill and media.

Unit 2 - (40% of the qualification) this is set by the exam board and involves preparatory time followed by a 10 hour supervised exam.

The course is suitable for people who:

- Have a profound interest in Art and Design theory as well as practical application, and share a passion for creativity.
- Want to express their own voice and ideas through a visual means.
- Wish to develop their creative flare and enhance record and observation skills using a variety of media, including photography.
- Have demonstrated excellent motivation throughout their KS3 Art lessons
- Demonstrate consistent effort with their homework assignments.

Careers

Studying the Arts can lead to numerous careers in this field:

- Fine artist
- Design specialisms e.g. design director, junior designer, freelance designer and interior design, set design, fashion, graphics including website design, multimedia/animation and illustration
- Concept art, ceramicist, craftsperson, textiles artist, animator, games designer, special effects artist, model maker, photographer, copywriter, typographer, environment artist, arts administration, advertising and many more.....

GCSE Religious Studies

Course Code: 8062 Contact: Miss S Thomson
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Exam

AQA

Description:

Our GCSE covers a range of the major world religions, four contemporary ethical themes, ensuring students have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore.

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

Component 1: The study of religions.

The study of religions focuses on two chosen religions, we will be studying Christianity and Islam, where you focus on the beliefs, teachings, practices and values of religious believers. At the end of the two years you will take an exam paper for each religion. This exam paper is made up of questions ranging from 1 mark to 15 marks, so this will take the ability to answer extended writing questions.

Component 2: Thematic studies

Thematic studies focus on ethical, philosophical and religious themes. Our chosen themes are;

The existence of God

Religion, Human rights and Social justice

Religion, crime and punishment

Religion, peace and conflict.

Assessment

Paper 1 : Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes.

96 marks, plus 6 for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
(50% of GCSE)

Paper 2 : Written exam: 1 hour and 45 Minutes

96 marks, plus 3 for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
(50% of GCSE)

Careers

Religious Studies equips you for almost any career path. It develops a range of skills that you will need in almost every job such as problem-solving, empathy, critical thinking and logical decision making. Employers agree Religious Studies pupils have skills that make them very valuable in the workplace. It is also important because it builds character and develops soft skills that employers look for, such as communication, initiative and social interaction.

Jobs could include: Teaching, law, social work, health work, childcare, local government and journalism.

GCSE Sociology

Course Code: C200QS Contact: Mr Booth
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Examination

EDUQAS

Description:

Sociology is the study of society, and how patterns of social relationships, our interaction and culture impact our everyday life. As a sociologist it is your role to investigate different aspects of society such as to determine how these impacts on you as a person within society.

Pupils will take modules on the following:

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes

1. Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission
2. Families
3. Education
4. Sociological Research Methods

Component 2: Understanding Social Structures

5. Social differentiation and stratification
6. Crime and Deviance
7. Applied methods of sociological enquiry

Assessment

Pupils will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the subject area together with their ability to analyse and evaluate perspectives. They will also be assessed on their ability to apply their sociological understanding to a given scenario as well as their ability to design, conduct and report on sociological investigations. Both exams have a range of short answer questions and extended writing.

Pupils must demonstrate their ability to:

- Work independently
- Complete extended writing tasks with a concise writing style
- Look at and analyse data

Careers

Sociology is such a versatile subject that it is relevant to almost all career opportunities, some of the key careers linked to a qualification in sociology are:

- Police / Prison Service
- Lawyer / Solicitor
- Teaching

GCSE Psychology

Course Code: 8182 Contact: Mr Booth
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 100% Examination

AQA

Description:

Psychology is not a course on mind reading. Psychology is the science of the mind and behaviour. It is the study of what people and animals do and why they do it. Psychologists try to bring about change and help people with difficulties through psychological research.

Pupils will take modules on the following:

Unit 1 (Year 10)

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research methods

Unit 2 (Year 11)

- Social influence
- Language thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

Assessment

Pupils will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the subject area together with their ability to analyse and evaluate studies. They will also be assessed on their ability to design, conduct and report on psychological experiments through the use of research methods. The exam has a range of short answer questions and extended writing.

Pupils must demonstrate their ability to:

- work independently;
- write in a full prose and have a concise writing style;
- look at and analyse data;
- use good grammar and spelling as there is a lot of terminology;
- work as part of a team within a class, as there is a lot of group work.
- Pupils need to be good at maths, science and English - an essential requirement for success in psychology.

Careers

- Clinical psychology: working directly with people with mental health problems, individually or in groups, as well as conducting assessments, designing and carrying out therapies.
- Forensic psychology: studying offending behaviour through work in the police, prison or probation service. This involves the completion of risk assessments to inform the Home Office of risk, to protect the public.
- Educational psychology: applying theory to young people in education, examining learning difficulties as well as social and emotional problems. This involves doing assessments, researching into teaching methods, planning educational programmes.

Vocational Hospitality & Catering

Course Code: 5049QA Contact: Mr Evers/Mrs Dhaliwal
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Exam 60%
Controlled Assessment

WJEC

Description:

WJEC Vocational Awards in Hospitality and Catering consist of two units:

Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry: enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety

Unit 2 - Hospitality and catering in action: enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.

Assessment

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry: This is an external assessment of 90 minutes worth 90 marks. The assessment is a combination of short and extended answers. The grade for this unit is worth 40% of your final mark.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action. This is an internally assessed unit that includes planning, preparing and cooking dishes. The grade for this unit is worth 60% of your final mark. The course is suitable for people who:

want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. However, it is also suitable for anyone who is interested in food although the course is not just practical. There is a mixture of theory and practical learning.

Careers

Careers in the food and catering industries such as food product development, chef, dietician, sports nutrition and teaching.

BTEC Childcare

Course Code: RCD3 Contact: Mrs Burton
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Exam /
60% Controlled Assessment

Pearson

Description:

The Tech Award in Child Development gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and understanding of child development and growth up to the age of five, how children learn through play and how meeting the needs of individual children will support their development, play and learning. Learners will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in the following areas: the characteristics of children's development from birth up to five years, factors that affect growth and development, the importance of play, how play promotes children's learning and development, reasons why children may need support, child-friendly environments to support play, learning and development in children from birth to five years' old and supporting all children to learn and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially, and adapting activities to support children's play, learning and development.

Assessment

Internally assessed units:

Component 1 – Children's Growth and Development

Component 2 – Learning Through Play

The externally assessed unit will be completed through a written examination:

Component 3 – Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop.

This course is for people who:

For learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by planning, developing and adapting play opportunities suitable for young children across five areas of development as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden the learners experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

Careers

Teacher (primary and secondary), child psychologist, educational psychologist, social worker, nursing, nursery management, nursery nurse, childminder, midwifery, play-worker, play therapist, social worker.

BTEC Construction

Course Code: RCB3 Contact: Mr Hall
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 25% Exam /
75% Controlled Assessment

Edexcel/
Pearson

Description:

All of us use and experience the structures and buildings created by the Construction sector. The homes we live in, the schools we learn in, the hospitals, sports halls, gyms, tunnels and bridges that are part of our everyday lives are designed and built by people who will have the skills that this course will begin to develop. You will learn about the law and building regulations, Health, safety, and site management, materials and processes as well as a wide range of practical and technical skills needed to work in this industry. There is no practical element on this course. Some lessons will have a practical theme.

Assessment

Internally assessed units will be teacher-led through the completion of a number of coursework activities that are completed under controlled conditions. These include written assignments and the delivery of presentations.

The externally assessed unit will be completed through a paper based one-hour fifteen-minute exam that is marked externally. It contains:

- multiple choice questions
- short answer questions
- four extended writing question

Core units -

Unit 1: The unit will examine the different forms of construction that can be used for low-rise (up to 5.2 metres in height) offices, retail units and homes. You will examine the modern methods of construction that rely heavily on offsite prefabrication, which benefits the environment sustainably.

Unit 2: This unit aims to develop your understanding of the science and mathematics used in construction projects. It will help you to develop the mathematical and scientific skills needed to solve a variety of construction problems.

Unit 3: "Construction and Design". Have you ever wondered why buildings are very different in their design and function? You will learn how client briefs can be developed by analysing the client's requirements for the building and considering the external constraints on development.

Optional Specialist Units

Unit 4: In this unit you will initially investigate the different kinds of drawings used in the Construction industry and explore the purpose of each. You will become familiar with the drawing equipment and materials in common use. You will also be introduced to a computer-aided drafting (CAD) environment.

Careers

Bricklayer, Carpenter and Joiner, Site Manager, Land and or Quantity Surveyor

BTEC Performing Arts (Dance)

Course Code: RPD3 Contact: Miss E Dutton
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Exam/
60% Controlled Assessment

Pearson

Description:

It is important that pupils have an enthusiasm and interest for the subject alongside commitment and dedication to demonstrate their talent. This qualification is aimed at pupils who not only have a passion for Dance performance but also those who may wish to pursue a career as a Choreographer, Teacher, Dance Journalist or Dance Business, alongside many other career aspirations.

Assessment

Internal Assessment:

- Exploring the Performing Arts
- Developing Skills & Techniques in the Performing Arts

External Assessment:

- Performing to a Brief

Throughout these units' pupils will develop skills in a variety of Dance styles such as; Contemporary, Jazz, Ballet, Street and Lyrical. They will also have the opportunity to showcase their own choreography talents in their very own themed Dance showcase. Pupils will develop their audition skills within their externally assessed unit which will help to prepare them for their future careers. Pupils will be formally assessed during each unit through coursework and recorded performances that will take place in front of an invited audience. This will ensure pupils finish their course as a confident Dance performer.

The course is suitable for people who are:

Interested in dance as a career and enjoy being creative whilst building confidence and skills that can be used in other subject areas.

Careers

Professional dancer, choreographer, fitness instructor, teacher, dance therapy, dance journalism.

BTEC Performing Arts (Drama)

Course Code: 603/7054/3 Contact: Miss E Dutton/ Miss H Joel
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Exam |
60% Controlled assessment

Pearson

Description:

Within this course pupils will learn to work independently and as part of a group both in practical and theoretical aspects. Pupils will gain knowledge of exploring text, analysing professional works, devising and developing their ability to implement skills, techniques and conventions in preparation for their final examination.

During the course, the pupils will take part in the creation of a collaborative devised piece as well as teacher led pieces. They will then showcase their acting skills in performance to an invited audience.

As well as the practical elements of the course, pupils will complete theoretical elements in all three components. Pupils theory work will consolidate the practical aspect of the course.

Assessment

Internal Assessment:

- Exploring the Performing Arts
- Developing Skills & Techniques in the Performing Arts

External Assessment:

- Performing to a Brief

The course is suitable for people who:

- are considering further a career in the drama field;
- want to develop interpersonal skills;
- enjoy performing and critically evaluating performances;
- want to aid their understanding of English through the study of play-texts;
- want to develop crucial speaking and listening skills.

Careers

Possible career paths that this course will support include actor, director, teacher, journalist, drama therapist, and a number of careers in television and media.

BTEC Digital Information Technology

Pearson

Course Code: RIT3 **Contact:** Mr T Oram / Mr M Plant
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 60% Controlled Assessment
40% Exam

Description:

As the BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, your pupils can explore the sector while:

- Developing technical skills and techniques
- Planning a digital solution for a given brief
- Developing an understanding of what cyber security is and the importance of legal and ethical considerations when using modern technologies.

The course has two internally assessed components, and one that is externally assessed:

Assessment

Component 1

Exploring User Interface
Design Principles and
Project Planning Techniques

Component 2

Collecting, Presenting and
Interpreting Data

Component 3

Effective Digital Working
Practices

The course is suitable for people who

- have basic literacy and basic numeracy skills
- show motivation to work independently and aptitude for working with computers.

Careers

Database Manager, Web designer, Software Development, Games Designer, Network Consultant, Cyber Security Expert, IT technician.

BTEC Health and Social Care

Pearson

Course Code: 603/7047/6 **Contact:** Miss Williamson
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Exam |
60% Controlled assessment

Description:

The course is designed for pupils who have an interest in health and social care and have an interest in entering a caring profession such as nursing, social work, midwifery and the probation services.

The course content looks at many aspects of health and social care including human lifespan development. This unit explores how people grow and develop throughout their lifespan (from birth to late adulthood) and how lifestyle choices can impact on our physical, emotional and intellectual development.

Pupils will look at the role of the health professionals and the health and social care values that they portray. It looks at the roles and responsibility of the carer and the needs of the individuals. Effective communication plays a major part in the role of the health care professional. Throughout the course pupils will look at the different methods that are used as well as the barriers to communication.

Pupils will develop a variety of skills including independent learning, investigation and research skills as well as data handling and analysis.

Assessment

Pupils are required to complete **3** components of work:

Two units are teacher assessed and one unit is an external assessment.

The 2 internally assessed units are:

Component 1 Human Lifespan Development

Component 2 Health and Social Care Services and Values.

The external examination:

Component 3 Health and Wellbeing, is a 2 hour written assessment worth 40% of the final grade. This can be sat in January and May/June.

This course is suitable for people who:

Are thinking of a career in the 'caring profession'. The course is aimed at pupils who are willing to work hard and who are good at communicating their opinions whilst being sensitive to the views of others. You must be willing to work independently and meet set deadlines.

Careers

The course is aimed at pupils who have an interest in nursing, midwifery, social work, probation services and other caring professions.

BTEC Creative Media Production

Course Code: 603/7053/1 Contact: Miss Barton / Mr Kirkham
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Controlled Assessment | 60% External Assessment

Pearson

Description:

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- development of key skills that prove your aptitude in creative media production such as investigating and developing ideas through pre-production, production and post-production of media products
- process that underpins effective ways of working in creative media production, such as responding to briefs and feedback, planning and generating ideas

Assessment

Internal Assessment:

Component 1: Exploring Media Products:

• Learners will develop their understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences. Learners will examine existing products and explore media production techniques. This will focus on print products (adverts), moving video/audio (TV and Film), and interactive (websites and apps)

Component 2: Developing Digital Media Production Skills

• Learners will re-create an existing media product. This year learners created an online advert for their own version of Goosbumps film, with the target audience changed from pre-teens to 16-18 year olds.

External Assessment:

Component 2: Create a media product in response to a brief

• Learners will apply and develop their planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a client brief. For example, this year pupils have to create an advert for a new café. Under examination conditions learners will have to plan and create a finished product (e.g. magazine advert, TV advertisement)

The course is suitable for people who:

- are interested in being creative and practical;
- The course will involve pupils developing sketchbooks to document the creative processes and thoughts. The expectations for pupils are high and they must be able to work independently and generate 'innovative ideas'.

Careers

Camera Operator/ editing/ publishing/directing/productions /magazine and website design

BTEC Music Practice

Course Code: 603/7055/5 Contact: Ms S Chater
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 40% Exam | 60% Controlled Assessment

Pearson

Description:

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will develop key skills, ranging from rehearsing to experimenting with technology, equipment and instruments. You will also develop an understanding of the music industry.

Assessment

Everyone taking this qualification will study three components, covering the following content areas:

- Exploring Music Products and Styles - exploration of the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigation of the key features of different musical styles and genres.
- Music Skills Development - development of two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.
- Responding to a Music Brief - developing and presenting music in response to a given music brief.

Where will this course take me

Once you have completed the qualification, you will have developed valuable knowledge, practical skills and a wider understanding of the music industry. This qualification will allow you to develop your knowledge and skills through practical and creative application in a vocational context, and by responding creatively to a commercial brief. Since you will be developing skills across a number of disciplines – such as music creation, production and performance – you will have a better understanding of the music industry. If you decide to go on to further study of music, you could progress to a Level 2 Technical Certificate or to a Level 3 programme, such as A Levels, a T Level or a BTEC National, either on its own or in combination with A levels.

Careers

Higher education courses such as degrees in popular music, music composition, music technology and music business, session musician, orchestra performer, peripatetic music teacher, instrumental teacher, music examiner, recording studio artist, music producer, orchestral manager, composer, video game music composer, music librarian, performing artist, freelance musician, musical theatre performer, pit band musician, armed forces musician, private teacher, music producer, music transcriber, music therapist, radio manager and even instrument maker and repairer.

BTEC Tech Award in Sport

Course Code: RSP3 Contact: Miss Knight/Mr Hamnett
Exam/Controlled Assessment: 33.3% Exam
66.6 % Controlled Assessment

Pearson

Description:

The course appeals to young people that have strong vocational abilities. It is an extremely hands on approach to learning where pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a practical or work-related context.

Pupils will take part in a range of practical activities and tasks that may include team sports such as: football and netball, a variety of fitness tests, involvement in the leadership of House competitions and many more. This will allow pupils to develop their knowledge in a range of activities.

Assessment

Component Number	Component Title	GLH	Level	How assessed
1	Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity	36	1 / 2	Internal - externally moderated
2	Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance	36	1 / 2	Internal - externally moderated
3	Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity	48	1 / 2	External Synoptic

This course is suitable for people who:

Are committed to weekly practical and theory lessons. Pupils must also participate in a number of sporting activities and have a high level of commitment to practical participation. Pupils must also complete regular units of assessments and homework tasks.

Careers

Sport scientist, coach, fitness instructor, sports doctor, physiotherapist, sports psychologist, sports massage therapy, sports journalist.



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