

**MY  
MY  
MY**

**FUTURE  
CHOICE  
OPTIONS**



*Year 9*



**Dormers Wells  
High School**

Opening the door to success

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# DEAR STUDENT

Over the past few weeks you spent a lot of time focusing on key skills and the world of work. In this booklet you will find information about all of the courses which will run at Dormers Wells High School next year. You will have choices to make which are amongst the most important decisions you will make whilst at school. You will be able to choose from a wide range of subjects.

Everyone must study:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical education
- Citizenship
- Religious education

You will then have to make up to three additional choices.

The school will help you as much as it can so that you can start Year 10 with the best selection of courses for you. Just a word of warning, we will be restricted by numbers. We may need to ask you to take up your reserve choices. You should not be disappointed by this – whatever happens, we will help you make the best choices possible.

For many students, it is the expectation that two of these choices will be Ebacc subjects, this will include a language and a humanities subject. The Ebacc is a measure of academic success. In order to gain this qualification students need to secure a good grade in the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography or History
- French or Spanish

Make sure you read this booklet carefully to find out as much as you can about all of these subjects before you make a choice. Make sure that you ask for, and listen to advice from teachers in subject areas, Mr Fenlon, Miss Girvan, Mr Paine and our connexions advisor, Mrs Bahra. The Connexions service will be able to advise you in particular about your plans for further education and your future career.

Ms Walsh  
Headteacher

# CHARACTER VALUES

Our vision is to empower students so that they are able to take control of their own future and have enhanced life chances as a result of learning with us. We are academically ambitious for our students: everyone matters.

In 2020 our staff and students worked together to identify the values that sum us up our character as a school. The executive student council made the final decision that these were the values we all strive to embody at Dormers Wells High School, in everything we do:

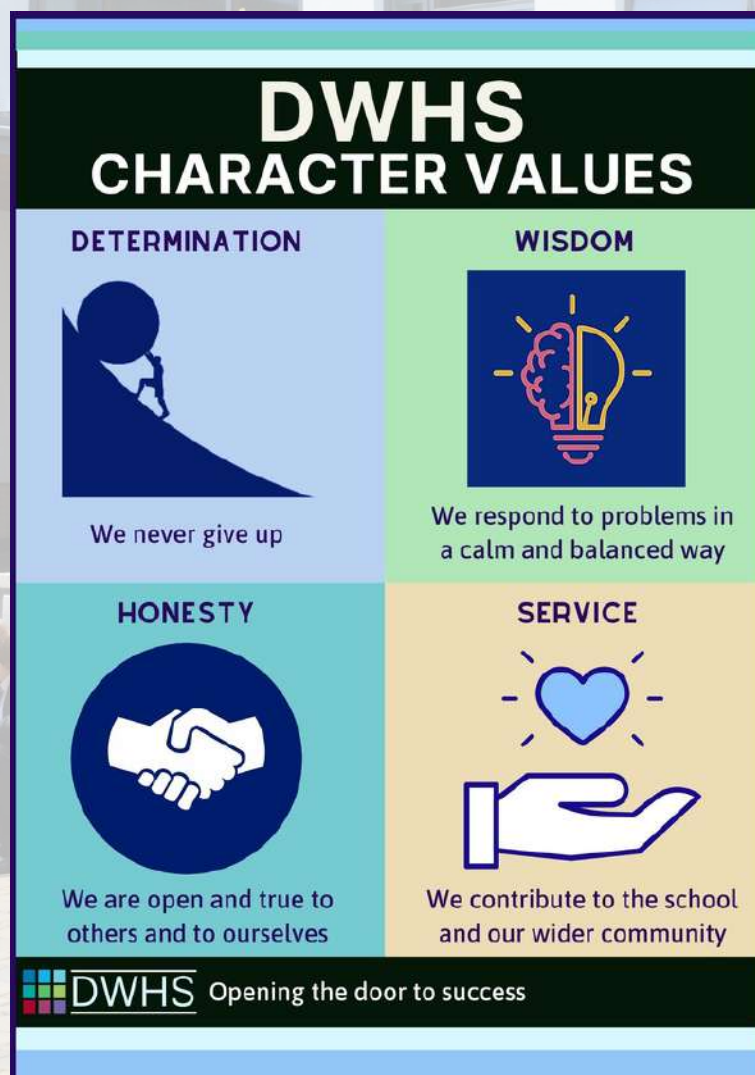
**Determination:** We never give up

**Wisdom:** We respond to problems in a calm and balanced way

**Honesty:** We are open and true to ourselves and others

**Service:** We contribute to our school and to the wider community

We want our students to become independent learners, who are critical in their thinking, informed in their choices and confident in their ability to succeed in the modern world. We also want students who are respectful and tolerant, driven and confident, and who strive for the best. In addition to their academic lives we also want our students to benefit from extra-curricular experiences in the arts, sport and culture, which will help them become well rounded balanced adults.





# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## What will I be studying?

Students will:

- Cover a range of texts and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts
- Have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage enquiry into different topics and themes
- Learn how to write imaginatively while demonstrating confident control of Standard English, using grammatically correct sentences
- Learn how to analyse texts using a critical style

## Which examination board sets the syllabus?

AQA

## What qualification will I gain?

GCSE English Language

## How will this subject be assessed?

The assessment is 100% exam with the 1-9 grading system.

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks (50% of GCSE)

Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)

1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks (50% of GCSE)

Non-examination assessment: Spoken Language (0% of GCSE)

## How do I find out more?

Visit <https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zcbchv4>, where there is up-to-date information on the 1-9 specification for English Language.

Ask your English teacher to see an example 'Paper 1' for English Language.

## Careers Links

- Writing
- Journalism
- Law
- Marketing and PR
- Editing
- Education
- Media
- Web content management

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## What will I be studying?

The current GCSE English Literature syllabus is designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, no matter what their level of ability.

Students will:

- Study a range of modern and pre-1914 literature, including 19th-century novels and Shakespeare
- Look closely at literary conventions and authorial voice in poetry, prose and drama
- Develop an imaginative and exploratory approach to critical reading and writing
- Learn strategies that support their achievement in an untiered (no Foundation/Higher), closed-book exam through the use of extract-based questions

## How will this subject be assessed?

The assessment is 100% exam with the 1-9 grading system.

Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel  
1 hour 50 minutes  
64 marks (40% of GCSE)

Paper 2 – Modern texts and poetry  
2 hour 15 minutes  
96 marks (60% of GCSE)

## Texts on the course

- Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'
- 'The Sign of Four' by Arthur Conan Doyle
- 'An Inspector Calls' by J. B. Priestley
- 'Power and Conflict' poetry cluster
- 'A range of unseen poetry'

Which examination board sets the syllabus?  
AQA

What qualification will I gain?  
GCSE English Literature

## How do I find out more?

Visit <https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zxqncwx>, where there is up-to-date information on the 1-9 specification for English Literature

Ask your English teacher or the librarian for a book recommendation to prepare you for GCSE English Literature.

## Challenge

Write a short review and be ready to discuss it with your teacher .

- 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' by Arthur Conan Doyle (detective genre and Gothic – 'The Sign of Four')
- 'Rebecca' by Daphne du Maurier (murder mystery – 'The Sign of Four')
- 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell (political fable – 'An Inspector Calls')
- 'North and South' by Elizabeth Gaskell (social class and the Industrial Revolution 'An Inspector Calls')
- 'All Quiet On The Western Front' by Erich Maria Remarque (war – Power and Conflict poetry)

## Careers Links

- Writing
- Journalism
- Law
- Marketing and PR
- Editing
- Education
- Media
- Web content management



# MATHEMATICS

Which examination board will set the syllabus?

AQA

What qualification will I gain?

GCSE Mathematics 8300

What will I be studying?

The content has been organised into the following broad topic areas listed below. The weighting of the topic areas has been prescribed by Ofqual and is common to all exam boards. The table to the right shows the approximate weighting

Topic Area	Foundation Tier	Higher Tier
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability and statistics	15	15

How will this subject be assessed?

Two tier papers – higher (grades 4-9) and foundation (grades 1-5).

Students will sit the linear exam which is based on three written assessments. The questions will be a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper. All content can be assessed on any of the three question papers. As such, some questions will draw together elements of maths from different topic areas.

**Paper 1: Calculator not allowed**

33⅓% of the total marks

1 hour 30 minute exam (80 marks available).

**Paper 2: Calculator allowed**

33⅓% of the total marks

1 hour 30 minute exam (80 marks available).

**Paper 3: Calculator allowed**

33⅓% of the total marks

1 hour 30 minute exam (80 marks available).

## Career Links

Accountancy

Architecture

Banking and Finance/ Economics

Biology / Chemistry / Physics /

Medicine

Computing/Computer Sciences

Electrical/Electronic Engineering

Education

Environmental Sciences

Marine Engineering

## Challenge

The sum of two numbers  $a$  and  $b$  is 7 and the difference between them is 2.

What is the product  $ab$ ?

# COMBINED SCIENCE

## What will I be studying?

Science is a compulsory core subject divided broadly into biology, chemistry and physics. Teaching for the Combined Science GCSE starts at the beginning of Year 9. Students will study a wide breadth of topics in all 3 subjects including cells and control in Biology, extracting metals and equilibria in Chemistry and light and the electromagnetic spectrum in Physics. For more detail please view the specification on the Edexcel website. For information on Triple Science please see the "Triple Science" page.

## How will this subject be assessed?

External assessment All students will sit six examinations (2 in Biology, 2 in Chemistry, 2 in Physics) in combined science at the end of Year 11. Each paper is an hour and 10 minutes long. Each subject will have questions covering the following assessment objectives:

40% AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, techniques and procedures.

40% AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, enquiry, techniques and procedures.

20% AO3: Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate, make judgments and draw conclusions, develop and improve experimental procedures.

## Which examination board sets the syllabus?

Edexcel (Pearson)

## What qualification will I gain?

GCSE Combined Science (2 GCSE grades). Students who take Combined Science can still progress onto A Levels if they achieve at least one grade 6.

## Challenge

- What is mitosis?
- What is its role in the development of cancer?
- Why is crude oil in such high demand?
- How do we know the core of the Earth is magnetic?

## Career Links

Agricultural scientist  
Archaeologist  
Biology Researcher  
Biomechanics Engineer  
Biomedical Engineer/Researcher/Scientist  
Conservationist  
Cytologist  
Data Analyst/Scientist  
Ecologist  
Forensic Psychologist  
Scientist  
Gene Analyst/Geneticist  
Genomics Researcher  
Immunologist  
Marine Biologist  
Microbiologist  
Molecular Biologist  
Mycologist  
Oceanographer  
Pathologist



# TRIPLE SCIENCES

## What examination board sets the syllabus?

Edexcel

## What qualification will I gain?

3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

## What will I be studying?

If you study Triple Science, you will study the 3 GCSE Sciences, biology, chemistry and physics in greater depth. This course will suit those students who are considering studying sciences at A Level and beyond, and have a strong interest in science. In addition to the combined science content, triple scientists will learn additional topics including polymers, astronomy and brain function. Due to the demanding nature of the course, students who take Triple Science would need to be performing highly in Science, Maths and English. All students will study the GCSE Combined Science content until the end of year 9, all of which appears in the Triple Science course. At the end of year 9 the top performing students will be selected to complete Triple Science. Triple Science is not an option, but is based on students' performance across year 9. Only those suitable for the course will be selected. For more detail on the additional topics taught in Triple Science, please view the specifications on the Edexcel website.

## How will this subject be assessed?

External assessment

All students will sit six examinations (2 in Biology, 2 in Chemistry, 2 in Physics) across the 3 GCSEs at the end of Year 11. Each paper is an hour and 45 minutes long. Each subject will have questions covering the following assessment objectives:

40% AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, techniques and procedures.

40% AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, enquiry, techniques and procedures.

20% AO3: Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate, make judgments and draw conclusions, develop and improve experimental procedures.

## Challenge:

Scans of the brain are able to show us blood clots, hemorrhages, tissue damage and cancer growth. What are the different types of brain scan and how do they work?

Flame tests can be used to identify the presence of certain ions in a solid. What are flame tests and how do the ions cause the flame to change colour?

What is the expected life cycle of a star larger than our sun?

## Career Links

Agricultural Scientist  
Archaeologist  
Biology Researcher  
Biomechanics Engineer  
Biomedical Engineer / Researcher / Scientist  
Cytologist  
Data Analyst / Ecologist, Education  
Forensic Psychologist Scientist  
Gene Analyst/Geneticist, Genomics Researcher  
Immunologist  
Marine Biologist  
Microbiologist  
Molecular Biologist  
Mycologist  
Oceanographer  
Pathologist  
Pharmacologist  
Pharmacist  
Toxicologist  
Veterinarian,  
Virologist  
Zoologist

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (NON-EXAMINED)

All students in Year 10 and Year 11 will participate in one hour of Religious Studies a fortnight.

## What will I be studying?

You will take an active part in exploring the role of religion today on a local, national and global level. We will look at ethical issues, philosophical issues and religion in the news today.

## Topics which are covered include:

- The Parables of Jesus: The Good Samaritan
- Poverty in the UK and Worldwide: What do different religions teach about poverty? Students will have the opportunity to engage in fundraising for the Toilet Twinning Project supported by Tearfund and Cord
- The Pro-Life/Pro-Choice debate: What do different religions teach about the sanctity of life?
- Equality and the Role of Women: Students will look at what different religions teach about the role of women and views on equality. The case study of Malala will be used to support this topic
- Pacifism: Students will look at the views of pacifists and how these fit with religious teaching. They will study the life of Desmond Doss
- Concepts of the Soul, Agape Love, Trust and Vegetarianism will be covered
- Stewardship and Dominion: Students will consider what is meant by these terms and what different religions teach about human responsibility for the planet

## Challenge

- What are the views of a pacifist?
- Can you find out what makes Desmond Doss so special?

## Career Links

- Law eg. Solicitor, Barrister, Legal Executive
- Psychologist eg. Forensic Psychologist, CBT Therapist, Child Psychologist
- Cognitive Psychologist
- Teacher
- Banking
- Politics
- Accountancy,
- Consultancy
- Youth Worker
- Charity Sector
- Clergy





# CITIZENSHIP, PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH EDUCATION

**Which examination board sets the syllabus?**

None

**What qualification will I gain?**

None

**What will i be studying?**

All students study this course. The course offers a curriculum that aims to provide the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for students to make informed choices about their lives and their future. For example, students will investigate issues surrounding parenthood and personal finance, as well as investigating options for transition after Year 11. Students use multimedia to investigate homophobic bullying, options for year 12 and develop emotional health. Citizenship issues such as government, the European Union, United Nations and the law are also explored.

**How will this subject be assessed?**

CPSHE is assessed internally.

## Challenge

Create a campaign to raise awareness of an issue that is important to you.

## Careers Links

The course is a sound basis for future training, higher education or employment. It will develop the thinking skills and understanding that underpin a range of careers, including law, teaching, armed forces, politics, police, social work or civil service.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CORE)

## Aims

Throughout year 10 and 11 all students will take part in compulsory Physical Education lessons, the aims of these lessons are as follows:

- Develop competitive play in a variety of activities
- Promote a healthy lifestyle
- Offer a range of activities
- Promote lifelong participation in sport
- Develop teamwork and communication skills

## Content

Students will be given different options every half term; these will reflect the needs of the students and the facilities that are available. Activities include: exercise to music, aerobics, handball, netball, football, basketball, trampolining, badminton.

## Will there be an exam for this subject?

Students may have the opportunity to complete sports leaders/officiating qualifications during their Physical Education lessons, however this is not an exam subject.

## Challenge

Name the agonist and the antagonist muscles used when performing a bicep curl.

The heart has four main chambers, What are the chambers names?

## Careers Links

Physiotherapy  
Police  
Army  
Sport Psychologist  
Psychologist  
Sports Coach  
Sports Scientist  
Sports Centre Management  
Sport Analyst  
Nutritionist  
Sport journalist  
Lecturer  
PE Teacher  
Education  
Events Organiser



# ART&DESIGN

Which examination board will set the syllabus?  
AQA

What qualification will i gain?  
GCSE Art & Design

## What will I be studying?

- In the GCSE Art and Design course students will enjoy:
- Practicing ideas and techniques with imagination
- Developing ideas within a chosen theme
- Exploring and experimenting with a variety of materials
- Drawing, sketching, pastel work, painting, ICT, print making, graphics
- 3-D work including clay, plaster, papier maché and wire.

The broad themes are project based and have a starting point from real life. We look at the work of artists and designers, and artwork from other cultures to support the projects. This includes the school environment, local culture and visits to art galleries and museums. This is a totally practical subject and students will need to do extra practical work at home. Home learning is set each week and is essential as it contributes to the coursework. Students will be working in sketchbooks which have to be submitted along with other coursework.

Further art education is very rewarding and competitive. As well as an art and design qualification students will need good results in other subjects to go on to art school. Whether students are thinking of a career in art in the future or not, GCSE Art & Design will be highly enjoyable and will provide a useful and highly valued qualification.

## How will thiws subject be assessed?

Controlled Assessment – set and marked by centre and moderated by AQA.

96 marks – 60%

Students will produce a portfolio of work consisting of a sustained project and a selection of further work.

Externally Set Task - question papers issued in January.

Marked by centre and moderated by AQA.

96 marks – 40%

Students respond to their chosen starting point in a 10 hour exam.

The grade awarded will depend upon the extent to which the student has met the assessment objectives.

## Challenge

- Research some artists whose artwork you admire.
- Create a piece of artwork influenced by an artist of your choice.
- Analyse how different mediums can create textures similar to the artists you researched.

## Career Links

- Fine artist
- Illustrator
- Photographer
- Animator
- Graphic Designer
- Arts Administrator
- Exhibition Designer
- Education
- Community Arts Worker
- Art Gallery Manager

# BUSINESS STUDIES

Which examination board will set the syllabus?

OCR

What qualification will i gain?

GCSE Business

Business Studies provides the opportunity to learn about retail, human resources, social enterprise, marketing and finance. Lessons are interactive and the layout of the department is designed to stimulate a professional business environment with business like workspaces. The curriculum is designed to provide an understanding of real business life contexts and to develop links with business careers.

The department offers fantastic enrichment opportunities and these include visits to accountancy firms such as Ernst and Young and keynote speakers from high profile businesses.

## How will this subject be assessed?

Business 1: Business activity, Marketing and People (01)

80 Marks

1 Hour 30 Minutes paper

Section A: MCQ 15 marks. Multiple choice questions.

Section B: short, medium and extended response style questions. 65 marks

Business 2: Operations, Finance and Influences on Business (02)\*

80 Marks

1 Hour 30 Minutes paper

Section A: MCQ 15 marks. Multiple choice questions.

Section B: short, medium and extended response style questions

## Challenge

- Do all businesses have the same aims and objectives? Explain your answer.
- What is an entrepreneur?
- What characteristics do entrepreneurs need?
- These are the slogans. What are the brands? 'Just Do It!', 'The world's local bank', 'Taste the rainbow', 'Every little helps', 'Once you pop, you just can't stop'.
- Analyse why businesses have slogans.
- Evaluate which slogan is most effective and justify your opinion.
- What is your favourite brand? Why is this brand successful?
- McDonald's operates in 120 countries. Will their menu be the same across these countries? Explain your answer.

## Career Links

- Accounting
- Consulting
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Leadership
- Marketing
- Retails
- Sales

## Enrichment Opportunities

- IFS student investor stock market challenge.
- Ernst and Young workshop
- Wealth management workshop
- Business key guest speakers.
- Opportunities to lead events.
- Leadership opportunities.



# CITIZENSHIP STUDIES

**Which examination board will set the syllabus?**

Pearson Edexcel

**What qualification will i gain?**

Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Citizenship Studies

**What will i be studying?**

Citizenship Studies is about how people take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally. Students will learn about power, democracy, the operation of government and the legal system, and the role of the UK in the wider world. They will explore and learn about different controversial and topical issues with political, social, ethical, economic and environmental dimensions in a local to global context. They will experience taking citizenship action and learn from making a difference in society themselves.

Unit 1 Year 10

Theme A: Living together in the UK

Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK

Theme C: Law and justice

Unit 2 Year 11

Theme D: Power and influence

Theme E: Taking citizenship action

**How will this subject be assessed?**

**There are three assessment objectives:**

AO1- Engage with topical citizenship issues and contribute to debates on challenges facing society involving a wide range of political, social and ethical ideas, issues and problems in different contexts.

AO2- Develop and apply understanding of key citizenship concepts to deepen understanding of society and how communities change over time.

AO3- Develop the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to take action with others to address citizenship issues in communities.

All topics are examined at the end of the course in two separate paper 1 hour and 45 minute exam papers, worth 100% of the grade.

**Challenge**

What are the views of a capitalist and a socialist?

Does your local area have a good sense of community?

How would the British public react if the government banned immigration to the UK?

Can rights in the workplace ever be successful without responsibilities in the workplace?

**Career Links**

The course is a sound basis for future training, higher education or employment. It will develop the thinking skills and understanding that underpin a range of careers, including law, teaching, armed forces, politics, police, social work or civil service.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Which Examination sets the syllabus?**  
OCR

**What qualification will I gain?**  
GCSE in Computer Science

## **What will I be studying?**

We aim to give learners a real in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will gain an insight into what goes on “behind the monitor” by looking at hardware components, networks and CPU architecture. They will also look at systems software and development methodologies. Students will spend a significant amount of time programming.

This course provides an excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science. They will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming.

Students will be expected to immerse themselves in programming, including practice at home. (They will have to install software and configure their personal computer to do so.)

## **Course Outline**

The course consists of three units, the assessment is outlined below. Students will build upon the programming skills they have developed in year 9 by learning more advanced techniques. They will then apply their knowledge in developing algorithms providing solutions to a widening range of problems of increasing difficulty. This will help them to develop the resilience and thinking skills to work independently on their programming project, and prepare them for their unit 2 examination.

Students will also have discrete theory lessons where they will cover hardware, the functions of systems software, network architecture, binary arithmetic, hexadecimal, data representation and other topics. This will prepare students for both unit 1 and 2 examinations.

## **How will this subject be assessed?**

Pupils will be entered for three units:

Unit 1 - Computer Systems - Exam (1½ hours) worth 50% of the total GCSE marks

Unit 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - Exam (1½ hours) worth 50% of the total GCSE marks

Unit 3 - Programming project - submitted to exam board for moderation

## **Post-16 opportunities**

The course is a sound basis for future training, further or higher education or employment. It will develop the skills and understanding that underpin a range of the more technical occupations and professions that utilise IT. This course is excellent preparation for A-Level Computer Science.

## **Career opportunities**

Software Developer, Database Administrator, Computer Hardware Engineer, Computer Systems Analyst, Computer Network Architect, Education, Web Developer, Information Security Analyst, Computer Programmer.

## **Challenge**

What programming languages do we teach at DWHS and why?



# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

The option available is DT with an area of specialism, which means the ALL students will be expected to learn the core topics below, but the practical products made will lean towards your chosen area of focus.

## PRACTICAL – chosen area of focus.

If your interest is fashion then all the product you make will be fashion and textile based (coats, dresses, trousers, bags, t-shirts, pencil cases, cushions).

If your preference is wood/metal/plastic, you will be making products such as storage boxes, chairs, tables, light installations, jewellery, speaker and clocks

## THEORY – core topics

All students of the new Design and Technology specification will explore the following topics:

- Industry/Enterprise
- Sustainability
- Social/Cultural Influences
- Environmental issues/Deforestations /6R's
- Production Techniques
- Modern Materials/Smart Materials
- Technical Materials
- Inputs Processes and Outputs.
- Levers and Linkages
- Papers/Boards/Plastics/Wood/Metals/Fabrics
- Safety At Work/Laws
- Tools and Equipment
- Surface Treatments and Finishes.
- Designer Studies

## All students will investigate the following companies

Harry Beck  
Marcel Breuer  
Coco Chanel  
Norman Foster  
Sir Alec Issigonis  
William Morris  
Alexander McQueen  
Mary Quant  
Louis Comfort Tiffany  
Raymond Templer  
Marcel Breuer  
Gerrit Reitveld  
Charles Rennie Macintosh  
Aldo Rossi  
Ettore Sottsass  
Philippe Starck  
Vivienne Westwood  
Alessi  
Apple  
Braun  
Dyson  
Gap  
Primark  
Under Armour  
Zara

### What qualifications will I gain?

GCSE Design & Technology

### What examination sets the syllabus?

AQA

### What will I be studying?

You will have the opportunity to design products using technical skills, working in a wide range of materials to model, prototype and manufacture your designs into a outcome.

Through designing and making, you will look at product issues and demonstrate skills in communication, investigation, analysis, design, manufacture and evaluation.

You will be expected to choose and work with appropriate materials, components, tools and equipment, use specialist techniques and processes to shape, construct and assemble a high-quality prototype, appropriate to the materials and/or components used.

### How will this be assessed?

#### Component 1 (50%):

Design and Technology (Written examination) 2 hours- 100 marks

A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing your knowledge and understanding of:

- Technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Along with your ability to analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology

#### Component 2 (50%):

Design and make task (Non-exam assessment)

Approximately 35 hours- 100 marks

A design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by the exam board, assessing your ability to:

- Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
- Design and make prototypes
- Analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology

### Career Links

Fashion Designer

Illustrator

Fashion Photographer

Fashion Stylist

Textile Artist

Retail

Printer

Fashion Journalism

Fashion Promotion and Marketing

Illustration.

Architecture

Animation

Structural & Civil Engineering

Aerospace Design and Engineering

Computer Games Design

Product Design

Aerodynamic Design

Automotive Engineering

### Challenge

Develop a soft drink that meets a specific target customers need. Ingredients of an existing drink could also be altered, but the logo must be close to the original.

Research the following designers. What is their signature style?

- Vivienne Westwood
- Alexander McQueen
- William Morris
- Mary Quant



# DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (BTEC)

The Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

## What will I learn on this course?

You will explore user interface design and development principles and investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project. You will develop and review a digital user interface, explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations, draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence. You will also develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools, explore how modern information technology is evolving, consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing and understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.

## How will I be assessed?

### Component 1– User Interface Design

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

**Assessment:** Internally assessed assignments worth 30% of qualification. You will explore user interfaces, discover how to develop and review them, and investigate to how to use project planning techniques.

### Component 2 – Presenting and Interpreting Data

**Aim:** Process and interpret data and draw conclusions (Spreadsheets / Databases)

**Assessment:** Internally assessed assignments worth 30% of qualification. You will explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations and develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools. You will draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence.

### Component 3 – Digital Working Practices

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

**Assessment:** Scenario based external assessment where students demonstrate their knowledge to propose digital solutions to realistic situations worth 40% of qualification. You will explore how modern IT is evolving and understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it. You will consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing.

## What can the qualification lead to?

You can study post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, progression to employment, apprenticeships or to further study at Level 3.

## Challenge

Research how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

## Career Links

- User Interface Engineer
- Web Illustrator
- Graphic Designer
- E-commerce Merchandiser
- Game Producer
- Insights Analyst
- IOS Developer
- Social Media
- Leadership
- Sales



# DRAMA

Which examination board sets the syllabus?  
EDUQAS

What qualifications will I gain?  
GCSE Drama

## What will I be studying?

GCSE Drama is an exciting course which allows students the opportunity to explore a variety of performance styles and texts. Students are able to create their own pieces of theatre, perform existing play texts and analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others. The course also involves trips to the theatre to see live performances.

### Component 1: Devising

Learners will research and explore a stimulus, then work collaboratively to create their own unique devised performance. These performances are performed to an audience. Students will create an accompanying portfolio (that details their devising process) and write an evaluation the final performance. Students can either choose to be a performer or a designer for this unit. Designers can specialise in costume, lighting or sound. This unit is assessed internally and is worth 40% of the GCSE grade.

### Component 2: Performing a text

Students will perform two short extracts from a play text. Students will rehearse and perform with the aim of achieving their chosen artistic intentions. Students can either choose to be a performer or a designer for this unit. Designers can specialise in costume, lighting or sound. This unit is assessed internally and is worth 20% of the GCSE grade.

### Component 3: Written Exam

Section A: Learners will practically explore a modern, exciting and challenging performance text (play). Students will have to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how this play can be performed in a written exam. Students will need to answer questions from the perspective of an actor, director and designer. Section B: Learners will visit the theatre to watch a professional, live performance. Students will be required to analyse and evaluate this live theatre performance. This is assessed as an essay question in the written paper. This unit is assessed externally and is worth 40% of the GCSE grade.

## What can the qualification lead to?

Taking a Drama GCSE enables learners to develop their interpersonal and communication skills. Students are required to develop their creative thinking and their ability to work collaboratively with others, as well as their academic and literacy skills. The skills and knowledge learn during a Drama GCSE are transferable to a variety of A-Levels, University degrees and careers beyond school.

## Career Links

Some of the careers that could follow a Drama GCSE include: Director, Performer, Designer, Lawyer, Drama Therapist, Performance Artist, Artistic Director, Careers in Marketing, Events Manager, Teacher, Lecturer, Producer, TV / Radio Presenter or Stage/ Theatre Manager.



# FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

## What qualification will I gain?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

## Which examination board sets the syllabus?

AQA

## What will I be studying?

You will gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. This will enable you to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows you to acquire knowledge in order to be able to cook affordably and nutritiously.

You will learn to develop food preparation skills and techniques through a series of units which cover starch, protein, fats and oils, pastry making and cake making.

You will have the opportunity to prepare and make food products whilst learning various processes as well as the functions of ingredients. You will learn how to explore food products and develop new food products.

## How will this subject be assessed?

### 50% Component 1:

Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

(Written examination)

This component will consist of two sections both containing compulsory questions and will assess the six areas of content:

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

## Challenge

Research the different types of sugar in different packets of food and analyse what each of them are used for.

## Career Links

Baker, Barista, Chef, Restaurant Manager, Food scientist, Food technologist, Nutritional Therapist, Education, Hospitality and Catering, Buyer.

### 50% Component 2:

Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action  
(Non-examination assessment)

### Assessment 1 (15%): The Food Investigation Assessment

A Food Investigation will be set that will require you to:

- Research and plan a task
- Investigate the working characteristics, function and chemical properties of ingredients through practical experimentation and use the findings to achieve a particular result
- Analyse and evaluate the task
- Produce a report which evidences all of the above and includes photographs and/or visual recordings to support your investigation

### Assessment 2 (35%): The Food Preparation Assessment

This assessment will require you to:

- Plan, prepare, cook and present a selection of dishes, to meet particular requirements such as a dietary need, lifestyle choice or specific context

# FRENCH

**What examination board sets the syllabus?**

AQA

**What will I be studying?**

The specification covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

**Grammatical and linguistic structures**

The grammar requirements for GCSE are set out in two tiers: Foundation Tier and Higher Tier. Students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge and understanding of this grammar progressively throughout the course.

**Communication strategies**

There are two main types of strategy: those that relate to understanding

**Challenge**

Watch and translate a film / magazine in another Language.

Could you also find:

- 5 famous French writers?
- 5 French speaking countries in the world?
- The name of 5 main cities in France?

Bonne chance!

**Career Links**

Charities Administrator

Commissioning Editor

Consultant

Human Resources Officer

Interpreter

Investment Analyst

Journalist

Logistics/Distribution Manager

Management Accountant

Marketing Manager (Social Media)

Public Relations Officer

Secondary School Teacher

**What qualification will I gain?**

French GCSE

**How will this be assessed?**

Students may be entered for either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier but they must enter at the same tier for all four skills.

**Listening 25%**

Students will be required to: identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions from items such as announcements, short conversations, instructions, news bulletins and telephone messages, together with some material which will be longer and will include reference to the relationship between past, present and future events.

**Speaking 25%**

(conducted by your teacher)

The format of the test will consist of three parts: role-play, a photo card and general conversation.

**Reading 25%**

Students will be required to: identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions from items such as Instructions, public notices and advertisements, together with some material which will be longer, such as extracts from brochures, guides, letters, newspapers, magazines, literary texts, email and websites. There will be a translation from French into English.

**Writing 25%**

Students are required to write in French. Its consists of 4 (foundation tier) or 3 (higher tier) tasks which demonstrates students' ability to produce clear and coherent text of extended length, to present facts and express ideas and opinions and write longer texts accurately. For the higher tier there will be a translation from English into Spanish.



# GEOGRAPHY

**What examination board sets the syllabus?**

Edexcel Geography A

**What qualification will I gain?**

GCSE Geography

**What will I be studying?**

The syllabus provides a balanced coverage of physical, environmental and human aspects of the subject and is studied through three units:

**Paper 1: The physical environment**

Section A: The changing landscapes of the UK

Section B: Weather hazards and climate change

Section C: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

**Paper 2: The Human environment**

Section A: Changing cities

Section B: Global development

Section C: Resource management

**Paper 3: Fieldwork and UK Challenges**

Section A: Geographical investigations

Physical environments

Section B: Geographical investigations

Human environments

Section C: UK challenges

**How will this subject be assessed?**

75% external examination, through two written papers, and a 25% external examination based on a field work investigation undertaken in year 10 or 11.

Students will be required to take all papers (unit 1, 2 and 3) at the end of year 11.

In Paper 1, students will be required to answer three sections on the topics they have covered. The exam is out of 94 and lasts 90 minutes.

In Paper 2, students are required to answer three sections on the topics they have covered. The exam is out of 94 and lasts 90 minutes.

In Paper 3, students are required to answer three sections on the topics they have covered. The exam is out of 65 and lasts 90 minutes.

The investigation assessment element is one investigation marked internally: The skills learnt through the local fieldwork investigation are then examined in a 1hr 30 minute exam in year 11.

The external exams are made up of three papers made up of multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose questions.

**Challenge**

Please investigate the recent migration patterns around the world. Try to find out which people are moving, where to and why?

**Career Links**

Environmental Consultant, Town Planner, Geographical Information Systems Officer, Conservation Officer, Recycling Officer, Landscape Architect, Education

# BTEC HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE LEVEL 2

The BTEC Technical Award in health and social care has been developed to provide an engaging introduction to the health and social care sector for young people. This qualification provides learners with an appreciation of the importance of health and social care values and communication in the sector.

Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. In 2019/20, the adult social care sector contributed approximately £41.2 billion a year to the UK economy. Social care employees, such as care assistants and social workers work with individuals to support them to be as independent as possible in their own homes, in care homes or nursing homes. Healthcare employees, such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and physiotherapists, work with individuals to enhance their quality of life by improving their health. Approximately 3 million people are currently employed in the sector. In 2019, it was estimated that by 2035 approximately 2.17 million health and social care job vacancies will need to be filled.

## What will I be studying?

This course is equivalent to 1 GCSE. Students will gain a qualification in the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Social Care.

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge in the following areas:

- the life stages and key characteristics in the physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development classifications and the different factors that can affect an individual's growth and development
- different life events and how individuals can adapt or be supported through changes caused by life events
- health and social care conditions, how they can be managed by the individual and the different health and social care services that are available
- the barriers and obstacles an individual may encounter and how these can be overcome
- the skills, attributes and values required to give care and how these benefit the individual
- how factors can affect an individual's current health and wellbeing
- how physiological indicators and an individual's lifestyle choices determine physical health
- the use of the person-centred approach
- recommendations and actions to improving health and wellbeing and the barriers or obstacles individuals may face when following recommendations and the support available to overcome.

## How will this subject be assessed?

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development (Controlled Assessment)

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values (Controlled Assessment)

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing (Exam)

The course has three components. Students will need to complete all the course units to pass the overall qualification.

Students will be awarded with an overall grade for their qualification. The grading criteria is Pass, Merit or Distinction.

## Challenge

### Youtube Recommendations

"Barbara, the whole story" created by nurses at Guy's and St Thomas' to raise awareness of dementia among staff.

### Research activity

Research the history of the NHS. Evaluate how it has changed?

<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/topics/nhs-reform>

### Career Links

Care Worker, Personal Assistant, Social Worker, Community Support and Outreach Worker, Supervisors and Managers, Occupational Therapist, Activities Coordinator, Technician, Childcare, Education, Nurse, Carer.



# HISTORY

## What examination board sets the syllabus?

Edexcel

## What qualification will I gain?

GCSE History

The History course offered at GCSE is specifically designed to be both engaging and challenging to students. Those skills learnt at Key Stage 3, such as source analysis, historical enquiry, and interpretation evaluation, are developed further at GCSE through a diverse selection of both British and global topics.

In Year 10 students will get to study the history of medicine in Britain, which traces the nature of medical practice from the Middle Ages up to the present day. This topic enables students to better understand the process of change over a large period of time, whilst also tying in well with GCSE Science and particularly helping those students interested in future careers in the Sciences or Medicine.

The second Year 10 topic is an in-depth study that looks at Germany in the short period of time between World War One and World War Two when the Nazis gained power. This popular topic uses sources from the period to better enable students to understand the Nazis' rise to power and the impact which their actions had on the rest of the world.

Students then start Year 11 with another 20th century topic; the Middle East conflict. The controversy surrounding this area of study is precisely what makes it so fascinating, and through developing their ability to wrestle with contrasting interpretations students are able to form a much deeper understanding of the situation that still greatly impacts on the world they live in.

The final GCSE topic comes back to Britain and focuses on the country during the reign of the Tudor monarch Elizabeth I. This was an exciting time in Britain, both in regards to religion and literature, as well as politics and exploration. Thus through studying this short period of British history in-depth students discover many of the foundations of the country we know today.

## How will this be assessed?

All four topics are examined at the end of the course in three separate papers:

Paper 1 (30%) – Thematic Study  
Medicine Through Time: 1250-present (20%)  
Historical Environment Study - The British Sector of the Western Front: Injuries, Treatments and the Trenches (10%)

Paper 2 (40%) – Period Study and British Depth Study  
Conflict in the Middle East: 1945-1995 (20%)  
Early Elizabethan England: 1558-1588 (20%)

Paper 3 (30%) – Modern Depth Study  
Nazi Germany: 1918-1939

## Challenge

Make sure that at Options Evening you ask your teacher about how studying History at GCSE, A Level and even university can link to future careers. In the meantime you could investigate which famous people studied History at university. Here are a few to start you off: Louis Theroux, Jonathan Ross, Sacha Baron Cohen.....

## Career Links

The Law, Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations, Politics, Teaching and Research, Archiving and Heritage, The Media, Archiving and Heritage



# GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**What examination board sets the syllabus?**  
OCR

**What qualification will I gain?**  
GCSE PE

**What will I be studying?**

The course is broken into five sections:

**Applied anatomy Physiology,**

- 1.1 The structure and function of the skeletal system
- 1.2 The structure and function of the muscular system
- 1.3 Movement analysis
- 1.4 The cardiovascular and respiratory systems
- 1.5 The effects of exercise on the body systems

**Physical Training,**

- 2.1 Components of fitness
- 2.2 Applying the principles of training
- 2.3 Preventing injury in physical activity and training

**How will this subject be assessed?**

Two written exams worth 30% each, 10% on a personal exercise program and 30% for Practical assessment.

**Socio-cultural influences,**

- 3.1 Engagement patterns
- 3.2 Commercialisation of sport
- 3.3 Ethical and socio-cultural issues in sport

**Sports psychology,**

- 4.1 Characteristics of movement
- 4.2 Goal setting
- 4.3 Mental preparation
- 4.4 Types of guidance and feedback

**Health and fitness.**

- 5.1 Health, fitness and well-being
- 5.2 Diet and nutrition

**Challenge**

- Name the agonist and the antagonist muscles used when performing a bicep curl?
- The heart has four main chambers. What are the names of the chambers?

**Career Links**

Physiotherapy  
Police  
Army  
Sport Psychologist  
Psychologist  
Sports Coach  
Sports Scientist  
Sports Centre Management  
Sport Analyst  
Nutritionist  
Sport Journalist  
Lecturer  
PE Teacher  
Education  
Events Organiser



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

## THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS, BELIEFS, TEACHINGS AND PRACTICES THEMATIC STUDIES

**What examination board sets the syllabus?**

AQA

**What qualification will I gain?**

GCSE Religious Studies Full Course

**What will I be studying?**

This course will be studied in Y9, Y10 and Y11. The exam consists of two papers: The Study of Religions, Beliefs, Teachings and Practices and Thematic Studies.

Paper one focuses on the beliefs, teaching and practices within two of the 6 major world religions and paper two follows a multi-faith approach and responds to ethical dilemmas we face in our society today. Students will be drawing on current news stories to explore each topic.

### The Study of Religions, Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

This course looks at different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. Students gain a knowledge of the diversity of religious traditions in Great Britain with a focus on two of the six major world religions.

**How will this subject be assessed?**

100% written examination

Two exams of 1 hour 45 minutes at the end of Year 11

The exam follows a series of short answer questions and an evaluative question of 12 marks

### Thematic Studies

The course encourages students to look at what it means to be a citizen from a religious point of view. It explores religious attitudes to Relationships and Families, Peace and Conflict, Religion and Life and Existence of God and Revelation.

### Challenge

Jesus is seen as the Son of God in Christianity, however, in Islam it is a big sin to say this – where do you think the truth is?

### Career Links

Law eg. Solicitor

Barrister

Legal executive

Psychologist

Forensic Psychologist

CBT Therapist

Child Psychologist

Cognitive Psychologist

Teacher

Banking

Politics

Accountancy

Consultancy

Youth Worker

Charity Sector

Clergy

Police

Any senior leadership roles

Public relations

Media

# SOCIOLOGY

What examination board sets the syllabus?

AQA

What qualification will I gain?

GCSE Sociology

What will I be studying?

The course develops an understanding of patterns of social life.

Unit 1 Year 10

The sociological approach

Education

Families

Unit 2 Year 11

Sociological research methods

Crime and deviance

Social stratification

Students should develop their knowledge of the world in which they live and their ability to understand and analyse it critically. There is a great deal of reading and writing involved in the GCSE so a good standard of English is required.

How will this subject be assessed?

There are three assessment objectives:

AO1 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts.

AO2 - Apply knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods

AO3 - Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods in order to construct arguments, make judgments and draw conclusions

100% written examination

2 exams of 1 hour 45 minutes each

Students will sit both exams in Year 11

Career Links

Law and the Legal Professions

Journalism

Criminology

Prison Work

Teaching

Social work

Nursing

Physiotherapist

Public Relations

Marketing and Advertising

Politics

Civil Service

Therapist

Human Resources

Management Consultant

Market Research

Media Planner

Challenge

Watch the Youtube video from Crash Course in Sociology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnCJU6PaCio>

Ask yourself the question 'Am I interested in the way people behave in our society?'

Write a list of 3 top questions you want answering about studying GCSE sociology to bring to the Y9 options fair.



# SPANISH

**What examination board sets the syllabus?**

AQA

**How will this subject be assessed?**

Students may be entered for either foundation tier or higher tier but they must enter at the same tier for all four skills.

**Grammatical and linguistic structures**

The grammar requirements for GCSE are set out in two tiers (foundation tier and higher tier). Students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge and understanding of this grammar progressively throughout the course.

**Communication strategies**

There are two main types of strategy: those that relate to understanding (reading and listening) and those that relate to production (speaking and writing).

**Career Links**

Charities Administrator,  
Commissioning Editor, Consultant,  
Human Resources Officer,  
Interpreter, Investment Analyst,  
Journalist, Logistics/Distribution  
Manager, Management  
Accountant, Marketing Manager  
(Social Media), Public Relations  
Officer, Secondary School Teacher,  
Solicitor, Tourism Officer, Tourist  
Information Manager, Translator

**Challenge:**

Watch and translate a film /  
magazine in another language

Could you also find:

- 5 famous Spanish writers?
- 5 Spanish speaking countries in the world?
- The name of 5 main cities in Spain?

**What qualification will I gain?**

GCSE Spanish

**What will I be studying?**

The specification covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

**Writing 25%**

Students are required to write in Spanish. It consists of 4 (foundation tier) or 3 (higher tier) tasks which demonstrates students' ability to produce clear and coherent text of extended length, to present facts and to express ideas and opinions and write longer texts accurately. For the higher tier there will be a translation from English into Spanish.

**Listening 25%**

Students will be required to: identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions from items such as announcements, short conversations, instructions, news bulletins and telephone messages, together with some material which will be longer and will include reference to the relationship between past, present and future events.

**Speaking 25% (conducted by your teacher)**

The format of the test will consist of three parts: role-play, a photo card and general conversation.

**Reading 25%**

Students will be required to: identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions from items such as instructions, public notices and advertisements, together with some material which will be longer, such as extracts from brochures, guides, letters, newspapers, magazines, literary texts, email and websites. There will be a translation from Spanish into English

# SPORTS (BTEC)

**What examination board sets the syllabus?**  
BTEC/Pearson

**What qualification will I gain?**  
BTEC Sport

## **What will I be studying?**

This course will help you to develop and demonstrate a range of skills. You will study the following 6 units. Unit 1 and 2 are compulsory units;

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Practical Sports Performance
- The Mind and Sports Performance
- The Sports Performer in Action
- Training for Personal Fitness
- Leading Sports Activities

## **How will this subject be assessed?**

All practical modules will be assessed internally. Leadership and officiating modules are likely to be assessed internally using external criteria from different national governing bodies.

## **What can this qualification lead to?**

Study at post-16 in a range of routes designed to lead to work, progression to employment, apprenticeships or to further study at Level 3.

## **Challenge**

Name the agonist and the antagonist muscles used when performing a bicep curl.

The heart has four main chambers. What are the names of the chambers?

## **Career Links**

Physiotherapy  
Police  
Army  
Sport Psychologist  
Psychologist  
Sports Coach  
Sports Scientist  
Sports Centre Management  
Sport Analyst  
Nutritionist  
Sport Journalist  
Lecturer  
PE Teacher  
Education  
Events Organiser



# EXAMINATION ENTRIES

Acceptance on a course does not guarantee that a student will automatically be entered for a public examination in the relevant Summer Examination Series.

Reasonable levels of attainment must be maintained over the whole of the course and students must reach a standard acceptable to both the school and the examination boards before they are entered for any public examination. The school reserves the right to refuse to enter any student who has not reached the agreed acceptable level. This is particularly the case where a defined amount of coursework/controlled assessment is required to be completed before the end of the course.

# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1. How many GCSEs will I be studying?

Most students will study a total of 8 GCSEs.

2. Why do I have to choose reserve subjects in addition to my initial choices?

It is not always possible to give students their first choice subjects; this may be for a number of reasons such as not enough people choosing the subject, subjects clashing in the option blocks or other situations. If you know what your reserve choices are, we can try to make these fit.

3. When will I find out which subject choices I have been given?

We will confirm your choices after the subject blocks have been finalised. This will be in the summer term.

4. What is the English Baccalaureate?

In order to gain this qualification, students need to secure a good grade in the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography or History
- French or Spanish

If you have any more questions, don't forget to ask your Form Tutor, Mr Fenlon, Miss Girvan, Mr Paine or our Connexions Advisor, Mrs Bahra.