



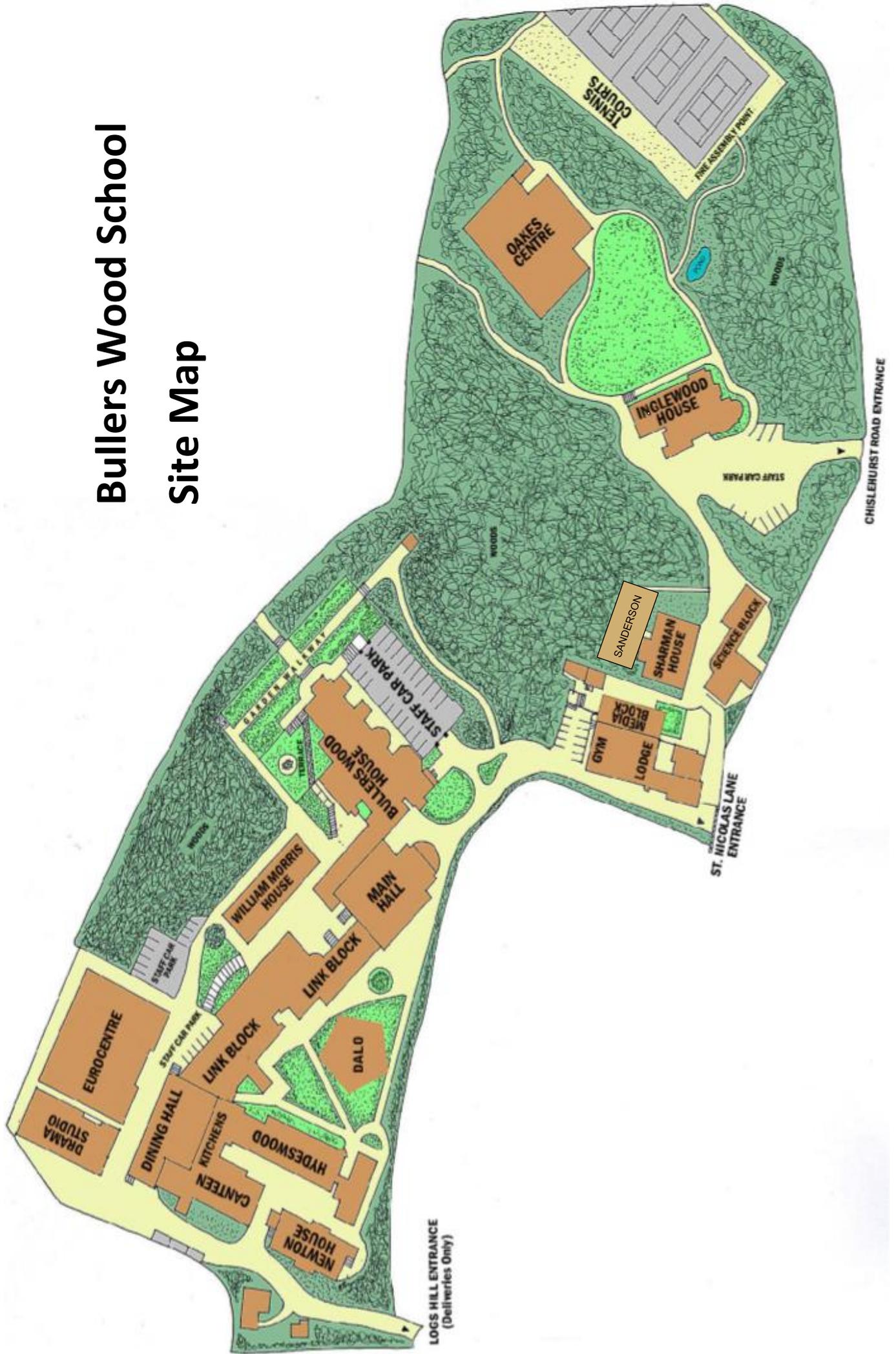
Bullers Wood School

Year 9 Course Guide

2017

Bullers Wood School

Site Map



Year 9 Information Evening

6.30pm to 8.30pm

6.30pm Welcome and Presentation by Mr Greene in the Main Hall

6.50pm Parents and students make their way to subject areas

Senior Staff available for questions in the Main Hall

Demonstrations by Departments begin

Location of Subjects

Course	Room	Course	Room
Art and Design	H104	Health and Social Care (BTEC)	C1
Business Studies	L16	History	L9
Careers	Dining Hall	Italian	Dining Hall
Children's Play Learning and Development - (BTEC)	C2	Mathematics	Dining Hall
Computer Science	L4	Media Studies	L17
Dance	L6	Music	H119
Drama	W1	Physical Education	L8
English	Dining Hall	Religion Studies	Dining Hall
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Rose Kitchen	Science	Dining Hall
French	Dining Hall	Spanish	Dining Hall
Geography	L3	Technology Product Design	N2
German	Dining Hall		

All option groups are subject to student numbers, staff and Department for Education Specification approval.

GCSE ART AND DESIGN

Edexcel Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

Art and Design encourages imagination, conceptual thinking and powers of observation. This subject will give you the opportunity to develop your own interest together with learning practical skills as well as aesthetic understanding and critical judgement.

What will I study?

- You will gain experience in the use of materials, their limits and the effect this might have on the nature of your work. These processes could include, drawing, painting, printing, 3D work, sculpture, textiles and photography.
- You will also look at the way other artists and designers work and use these to develop your own ideas.
- You will be encouraged to look at other cultures to enhance your experience of the visual arts and you will visit a gallery or museum to experience real art at first hand.
- Drawing from observation is an essential part of the course and you will work in a sketch book to record and develop your ideas.
- You will also use Photography and a range of different materials to experiment and explore.

How will I be assessed and examined?



There are two components to the course:-

1. A personal portfolio - you will work in sketchbooks and create a personal portfolio which will show demonstrated skills, artist research and personal responses. This unit makes up for 60 % of the final GCSE grade.
2. The controlled assessment - a title or theme is set by the examination board and you will have about 6 weeks to prepare for the 2 day exam when you will produce a final piece in response to your planning and research. This unit makes up for 40% of the final grade.

GCSE work is internally assessed and externally moderated. You will put up an exhibition of your work at the end of the course.

Future courses and possible careers?

This GCSE course structure is suitably linked to advanced level study. Work is thematic or project based with an emphasis on visual research leading to a final realisation. Many of Bullers Wood students go onto study visual arts courses at Art College or University. Possible careers include graphic design, illustration, photography, fashion and fashion styling for theatre and the film industry, film, ceramics, three dimensional design, product design, theatre design, television and broadcasting, architecture, fine artist, craftsperson, conservation and art restoration, museum and gallery curator.

GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

AQA Examining Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

Have you ever wondered what it is like to run your own business? Do you enjoy watching “Dragon’s Den” or “The Apprentice”? Why are we suffering from a “credit crunch”? Would you like to become rich and successful after you finish your education?

Business Studies will teach you the theories and practical application of how to set up and run a business. Your teachers have personal experience of working in a range of market sectors and can use up to date examples to make this subject fresh and exciting.

What will I study?

Starting and growing a Business

Marketing

Finance

People in Business

Operations Management

Where to locate the Business and the Legal Structure

Market Research and Advertising

Sources of Finance and Calculating Profit and Loss

How to Recruit and Motivate Staff

Customer Service and Production Methods

How will I be assessed and examined?

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity

- Assessment: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 90 marks
- 50% of the GCSE

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

- Assessment: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 90 marks
- 50% of the GCSE

Future courses and possible careers?

A good grade at GCSE will allow you to continue at AS/A2 level Business Studies, count towards your entry into the Sixth Form for other subjects and will develop your English and Mathematical skills. Many university degree courses can be combined with Business Studies including Business and Dance, Retail Management, Events Management, Sports Management and Business Administration.

Future careers are varied and, apart from setting up your own business, you could go into Accountancy, Marketing, Personnel, Retailing, Banking, Manufacturing, Public Relations, Publishing and even Teaching!

CHILDREN'S PLAY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

BTEC First Award Level 1/2

Why study this subject?

Children's Play Learning and Development is designed to recognise and enhance skills, knowledge and understanding of the early years' sectors including the settings, job roles, principles and values involved. It is a vocational qualification applying theory to work place examples.

What will I study?

Students learn a variety of topics based around Early Years settings including promoting children's development through play and the principles of Early Years practice which all prepare students for further training, further education and moving into employment and apprenticeships within the Early Years sectors.

How will I be assessed and examined?

25% of the qualification is externally assessed by exam and 75% internally assessed and externally verified through coursework.

The exam is taken at the end of Year 10.

Students who fail to achieve the qualification at Level 2 may achieve a Level 1 qualification dependent upon results in the individual units.

Future courses and possible careers?

The Level 2 qualification allows for progression to Level 3 in sixth form or at college. Future career opportunities are dietician, primary teacher, nursery nurse, paramedic, occupational therapist and play activities organiser.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Edexcel Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

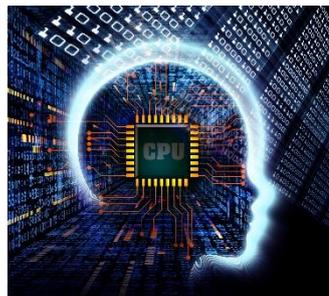
Students are introduced to core principles of computing and develop skills in problem solving and computational thinking. Following on from more visual programming environments, programming skills are further developed using high-level textual programming languages. Computing is an expanding industry where changes in computing are forever altering the way we work and computing specialists are in much demand. This course introduces you to the concepts and topics used in the world of work, in which women in particular, are under-represented and much valued!

The course provides a real study of computation, enabling students to apply computational thinking in context, evidenced in examined and non-examined assessment. It helps to develop an understanding of computer science methods in the real world, where students will decompose and model aspects of real-world situations, and as a result be able to design, build and test a fully-programmed solution to given scenarios. It develops transferable skills for a smooth progression to higher education because students will develop concepts which are useful in many subjects, for example mathematics, science and engineering. It reflects today's global world, where students develop knowledge and understanding of how technology can be used to proactively help with current issues that impact modern society, preparing them for their next steps in today's global world.

What will I study?

Six comprehensive topic:

- Problem solving
- Programming
- Data
- Computers
- Communication and the internet
- The bigger picture



Practical hands-on experience, projects and assignments, presentations, individual research, industrial and commercial visits and Problem solving activities will be used to look at the topics.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Component 1: Principles of Computer Science

Written examination: 1 hour and 40 minutes, 40%

Component 2: Application of Computational Thinking

Written examination: 2 hours, 40%

Component 3: Project

Non-examined assessment: 20 hours, 20%

Possible careers

Software Engineer, Systems Analyst, Network Security Specialist, Network Architect, Database Administrator, Network Administrator, Web Developer, Graphic Designer and Computer Tech Support.

GCSE DANCE

AQA Examination Board (9-1)

Why Study this Subject?

The course aims to develop an understanding and response to a range of dance styles and an appreciation of the ways in which dancers/choreographers achieve creative dance works that communicate effectively with the audience. It also gives students increased self and group awareness and the ability to appreciate and evaluate the work of others. Students will gain increased skills of creativity, self-confidence, concentration, self-discipline and communication. They will also develop an appreciation of a range of art forms and how they can be used in the creation of dance works. Students should also develop personal qualities of self-confidence, instruction, imagination, analysis and critical reflection by engaging in the creative process.

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of dance as a choreographer, performer and critic. They will be adapting a wide range of skills and techniques effectively in performing and choreographing dance. Students will also explore 'Arts' appreciation skills studying a range of stimuli necessary for creating imaginative, original dance work e.g. Professional Dance Repertoire, film paintings, poetry, music script etc. As part of the written component of the course students will also be required to develop the ability to analyse, evaluate, appreciate and critique a selection of six set professional dance works in a variety of dance styles. In addition candidates will also appreciate the contribution of dance to their personal and social health, fitness and wellbeing and be aware of the range of opportunities and pathways available in dance.

In preparation for examination students will be encouraged to participate in the extra-curricular Dance Club, visits to dance performances, theatre visits, workshops and performances in school.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Component 1: Performance and Choreography - Total component 60% - Internally marked and externally moderated

Performance - 30 % of GCSE

Set phrases through a solo performance

Duet/trio performance

Choreography – 30% of GCSE:

Solo or group choreography

Component 2: Dance appreciation – Total Component 40%

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.

Critical appreciation of own work.

Critical appreciation of professional works.

Future course and possible careers?

Vocational courses at Art Schools, Drama Schools, Dance Colleges and Music Academies. Degree courses at University in History of Art, Drama, Dance, Music, Media, Film, Creative writing etc. Theatre Design courses, courses in the Educational Arts, Communication Studies Degree course, Broadcasting Qualification, Marketing and Publicity Qualification, Careers in Advertising, Arts Administrations and Teachers of Dance.

GCSE DRAMA

Edexcel Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

An opportunity to extend your acting, directing, designing skills in a creative, playful and interactive environment. You will discuss, analyse and explore pertinent themes and issues – both universal and contemporary whilst developing friendships through discipline and fun.

What will I study?

Devising own pieces from a given stimulus

Play text performance in differing styles/time periods

Theatre Makers Examination including a Live Theatre Evaluation

How will I be assessed and examined?

Devising: (Internal) - 40%

- 1) A portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process. The portfolio submission recommendations are either
 - handwritten/typed evidence between 1500–2000 words
 - recorded/verbal evidence between 8–10 minutes
 - combination of handwritten/typed evidence (between 750–1000 words) and recorded/verbal evidence (between 4–5 minutes)
- 2) A devised performance realisation (15 marks, assessing AO2)

Text Performance: (External) - 20%

Students will perform in two key extracts from a performance text.

Theatre Makers Exam: (External) - 40%

Section A: Bringing Texts to Life

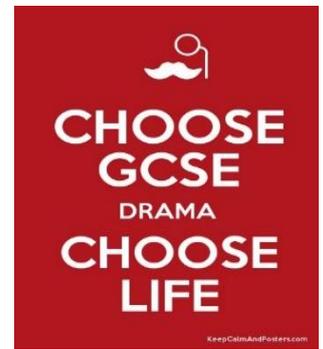
- This section consists of one question broken into six parts (short and extended responses) based on one extract from the chosen performance text.
- Performance texts are not allowed in the examination as the extracts will be provided.

Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation

- This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen.
- Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words.

Future courses and possible careers?

University courses in Drama with or without English. Industry standard training in Drama Schools – Actors, Directors, Designers in Theatre, Film, TV, Radio. University courses in Drama and Applied Theatre Arts and Education. Community based arts work - prisons, schools, community centres, outreach, at-risk, youth TV Presenters, Media and communications, HR, Social work and Teaching.



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

AQA Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

English Language skills are essential in life. In studying this GCSE you will enrich your core literacy skills by developing your understanding of a range of fiction and non-fiction. You will also learn how to improve, develop and craft your own use of the English language in written and spoken contexts.

What will I study?

Modern, contemporary and 19th century fiction and non-fiction.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Paper 1 Explorations in Reading and Writing

Section A Reading (one literature fiction text) 25%

1 short form question

2 longer form questions

1 extended question

Section B Writing (descriptive or narrative writing) 25%

1 extended writing question

Paper 2 Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A Reading (one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text) 25%

1 short form question

2 longer form questions

1 extended question

Section B Writing (writing to present a viewpoint) 25%

1 extended writing question

Non-Examination Assessment (teacher assessed unit, carries no marks towards a GCSE)

Spoken Language: Presenting, responding to questions and feedback and use of standard English.

Future courses and possible careers?

English Language is an essential 'gateway' GCSE to every post-16 course of study, every university course and every career.

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

AQA Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

English Literature GCSE develops reading and writing skills by developing your capacity to understand, analyse and evaluate language, appreciating social, historical and cultural influences. Studying literature develops thinking skills and enriches your experience of the world.

“Today a reader; tomorrow a leader.”

What will I study?

Shakespeare, 19th century fiction and modern literature.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Paper 1 **Shakespeare & the Nineteenth Century Novel - 40%**

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play. 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: students will answer one question on a novel they have studied. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from this novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2 **Modern texts and Poetry - 60%**

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on a modern text they have studied.

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

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

Future courses and possible careers?

This is a relevant and useful qualification for any career or course which identifies skills in writing, research, communication, analytical thought and critical appreciation as desirable.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

WJEC Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

What will I study?

The majority of the course is practical, where you will be given the opportunity to prepare and cook every week learning new skills and building on and improving existing skills. In both the theoretical and practical side of the subject you will study, Food commodities, Principles of nutrition, Diet and good health, the science of food, where food comes from.

Food preparation and nutrition enables learners to make connections between theory and practice so that they are able to apply their understanding of food science and nutrition to practical cooking.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Component One - Written examination: 1hour 45 minutes – 50% of the qualifications

Topics covered are: Food commodities, Principles of nutrition, Diet and good health, the science of food and where food comes from

Component Two - The Food Investigation Assessment – 15% of total qualification

Investigate the working characteristics, function and chemical properties of ingredients through practical experimentation

The Food Preparation Assessment – 35% of total qualification

Plan, prepare and cook a selection of dishes

Future courses and possible careers?

This course builds on subject content which is taught at Key Stage 3 and provides a suitable foundation for the study of WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition, which we offer in sixth form, this can lead on to other opportunities such as University courses in Food Technology and Food Science, Event Management and Hospitality Management. It also prepares students for many vocational courses in FE Colleges, such as BTEC Hospitality and apprenticeships in the Hotel industry. In addition, this course provides a comprehensive and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not wish to further study in this subject, by giving them knowledge and practical skills they can use throughout life.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Edexcel B Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

Geography is an exciting and diverse subject to study. The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography helps to explain why, and to prepare for those changes. If you are fascinated by the natural environment, interested in how places are changing and enjoy the subject then you should definitely consider geography for GCSE.

What will I study?

In Geography you will study a range of places and a wide variety of topics these include:

- Climate change
- Extreme weather
- Coastal environments
- Earthquakes and Volcanoes
- Tropical rainforests
- Globalisation
- Development
- Energy
- The human and physical landscape of the UK

Mathematics and fieldwork also play a large role in the course.

How will I be assessed and examined?

You will have 3 exams at the end of year 11. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Exam 1: Global geographical issues (37.5%)

Exam 2: UK geographical issues (37.5%)

Exam 3: People and environment Issues (25%)

You will also need to go on 2 separate one day fieldtrips as part of your course. One will be to a physical environment e.g. a coast, another will be human e.g. a town or city.

Future courses and possible careers?

Geographers are often some of the most employable people. Geography opens doors to a wide range of careers and future courses. These include jobs such as town planning, environmental agency, teaching, geologist, meteorologist. As well this many students have careers in tourism, charity, media, marketing, the financial sector, administration and marketing.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

BTEC First Award Level 1/2

Why study this subject?

BTEC Level 2 Health and Social Care is designed to recognise and enhance skills, knowledge and understanding of the job roles, principles and values involved in a career in the health care sector. It is a vocational qualification applying theory to work place examples.

What will I study?

Students learn a variety of topics based around health, social care and early years settings including legislation and policies, promoting health and well-being, equality and diversity in Health and Social Care and human lifespan development. All topics prepare students for further training, further education and moving into employment and apprenticeships.

How will I be assessed and examined?

25% of the qualification is externally assessed by exam and 75% internally assessed and externally verified through coursework.

The exam is taken at the end of Year 10.

Students who fail to achieve the qualification at Level 2 may achieve a Level 1 qualification dependent upon results in the individual units.

Future courses and possible careers?

The Level 2 qualification allows for progression to Level 3 in sixth form or at college. Future career opportunities are medical secretary, care worker, dietician, primary teacher, nurse, paramedic, occupational therapist and social worker.

GCSE HISTORY

Edexcel Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

History is essentially the study of humanity, and traces the development of societies, political systems and even philosophical values. As such, it is a key part of any broad and balanced education.

What will I study?

Thematic Study:	Medicine through time 1250 - present
Historic Environment:	Medicine in the trenches during WW1
Period Study:	The American West 1835 - 1895
British Depth Study:	Early Elizabethan England 1558 - 1588
World Depth Study:	Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 1939

How will I be assessed and examined?

There are three exams, each of between 1 and 2 hours in duration. There is no coursework requirement.

Future courses and possible careers?

History is one of the subjects which universities value most highly. Historians are regarded as having had an education that trains their minds to assemble, organise, present facts and opinions and this is a very useful quality in many walks of life and careers. History is an excellent preparation for very many jobs, such as law, journalism, advertising and government.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Edexcel Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

As a nation we are not training as many people with Mathematical skills and qualifications as we need. Consequently, those people who are well trained in this subject are in demand and generally have excellent career prospects. Mathematics also develops essential skills used in many other subjects.

What will I study?

The style and content of the lessons will be a continuation of the work covered in Year 9 as this is considered to be part of the GCSE course in Mathematics.

How will I be assessed and examined?

There will be ten groups and they will be set according to ability. Decisions about groupings will be made in the light of the end of Year 9 examination results, tests the students have completed throughout the year and teacher assessment. There are two tiers of entry. Each student will be prepared for the most appropriate level of entry depending upon which teaching group she is in. Students in sets 1 to 6 will work towards the higher tier. Students in sets 7 to 9 will sit the foundation tier. There is no early entry. Sets 1 and 2 will also sit the Further Mathematics GCSE (OCR).

There is no coursework in GCSE Mathematics. The candidates sit three written examinations, each counting for a third of the final award. The first of these is a non-calculator paper and the second and third are calculator based papers.

There are two tiers of entry

<u>Level</u>	<u>Available Grades</u>
Higher	9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, U
Foundation	5, 4, 3, 2, 1, U

Future courses and possible careers?

A grade 6 or better in GCSE Mathematics is the new requirement to study mathematics at A level. A minimum of grade 5 is required for any degree course and most professional careers. A grade 4 is equivalent to a grade C.

GCSE MEDIA STUDIES

AQA Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

The media includes television, radio, popular music, film, newspapers, and new media, such as the Internet. Media Studies gives you the opportunity to study the theory behind the media and to create your own media texts. You will be able to develop your creative skills by using ICT, industry standard editing software, digital stills and digital video cameras.

What will I study?

You will have the opportunity to study a range of Media topics, including: popular music, film, magazines and television. You will look at how media texts are created, who creates them and the audiences who consume the texts. You will also learn how to make a range of different media texts including music videos, adverts and film trailers.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Controlled Assignment - 30% of the final mark (internally assessed).

You will complete a piece of coursework from one of the three media platforms:

- Print
- Broadcast
- eMedia

The coursework will be inspired a media debate that will be changed every year.

Written Examination - 70% of the final examination mark (externally assessed).

You will have two exams lasting 1 ½ hours each. The exam will be based upon four key areas of study:

- Language and Form
- Audience
- Representation
- Industries

Each of the exams will ask you to reference close study products that you have been analysing in year 2 of your study.

Candidates will be entered for the Single Award, Grades = A* - G

Future courses and possible careers?

A GCSE in Media Studies could lead to further study of the Media at A Level or the BTEC Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production. You could then continue to degree level at university and study any of the Media or English based courses, such as film production or journalism.

GCSE MODERN LANGUAGES - FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH, ITALIAN

AQA Examination Board (9-1)

The majority of students will study one language to GCSE level. In addition, many students will be given the opportunity to study two languages to GCSE level. The MFL Faculty is very fortunate to teach in the new building dedicated to Languages.

Why study these subjects?

Universities and colleges are becoming increasingly selective and some now only offer places to candidates who offer at least one GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language.

The ability to speak at least one Modern Foreign Language opens doors. We strongly encourage those students who are confident in more than one Language to make the most of this chance and to study two at GCSE. This is a way of standing out in a highly competitive labour market. Employers are very keen to recruit people who can speak, understand and write European languages. Work opportunities abroad and easy access to Europe through the Channel Tunnel mean that there are many more jobs in mainland Europe, as well as in multi-national companies in the UK. Organisations find it easy to buy goods in English but need foreign language speakers to sell and market their own products abroad.

Employers favour applicants competent in several foreign languages. Foreign holidays will also be more worthwhile and more enjoyable when conversation with the local people or other holiday makers is possible.

What will I study?

The main aim of the GCSE course in Modern Languages is to develop the ability to speak, understand and write foreign languages in preparation for practical and real life situations. A wide variety of topics will be introduced. The ICT facilities are used to reinforce language skills and contact is made with schools in Europe. Students are also encouraged to take part in foreign exchanges with schools abroad and there may be study visits to the country in Year 10.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Speaking, writing, listening and reading will be assessed by public examination at the end of Key Stage 4.

Future courses and possible careers?

Advanced Level study is a natural progression from GCSE. Our language students have gone on to careers in business administration, hotel management, the travel industry, accountancy, law and fashion design amongst many others. Increasingly, universities are offering a year at a foreign university as part of any degree course.

We are also currently able to offer courses in Japanese, Russian, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese and Latin in the Sixth Form.

GCSE MUSIC

Edexcel Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

If you love Music, and have a talent for it, then you should study Music GCSE. Employers and Universities will see that you are demonstrably, amongst other things, perseverant, a team player, an analytical thinker, a performer under pressure, determined and resilient. Music will stand you in good stead whether or not you wish to study the discipline at University. Studying GCSE Music will make you stand out from the crowd!

What will I study?

The course is divided into 3 main areas.

Performing: You will need to be able to perform one Solo piece and one Ensemble piece before the end of the course. The performances are recorded and sent to the examination board. By the end of Year 11 you should be at a standard of around ABRSM Grade 4. Two performances: Combined duration of four minutes; Solo (30 marks) and Ensemble (30 marks) **30% of GCSE, 60 marks**

Listening: There is a list of 8 'Set Works'. These are considerably varied in genre and need to be studied in detail. You will need to be able to place music in context when it is played to you. Areas of study are Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions.

Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes, 40% of GCSE, 80 Marks

The paper is made up of two sections:

Section A:

Areas of study, dictation and unfamiliar pieces (68 marks)

- Six questions related to six of the eight set works
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise
- One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided) with questions on its musical elements

Section B:

Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)

- One question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music.

Composing: You will compose 2 pieces which add up to approximately 3 minutes duration. The pieces can be in any style **30% of GCSE, 60 marks**

Two compositions: Combined duration of three minutes

- One free composition (30 marks)
- One set to a brief, provided by the exam board (30 marks)

Future courses and possible careers?

Music GCSE Level does not tie you to further study of the Arts but, naturally, it is well suited to any Arts' based course or career. Beyond that, recruiters for Universities and employers will find the diversity of your study to be interesting and valuable.

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

AQA Examining Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

You actively take part in Sport to a good standard and you have a passion for Sport as well as science and philosophy. The GCSE PE specification provides breadth and balance, giving students the chance to study a wide array of theoretical areas that underpin Physical Education, whilst also getting the chance to experience and develop an interest in a variety of sports and activities.

What will I study?

You will study both the theory and practical elements of the subject and this will be balanced across the 3 lessons a week. Within the written part you will cover, applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences and finally health, fitness and well-being. In practical you will study a variety of different sports over a 4-6 week period, including swimming and personal survival.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Two written exams worth 60% of the total GCSE:

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Topics to be assessed will be applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and the use of data.

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

Topics to be assessed will be sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being and the use of data.

Both exams will be 1 hour 15 minutes, worth 78 marks and each will count as 30% of the GCSE. The paper will consist of a mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and Sport worth 40% of the total GCSE:

Practical performance in **three** different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). For each of the three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity).

Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity. Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

The practical will be assessed by teachers, but moderated by AQA and will be worth 100 marks and 40% of the GCSE.

Future courses and possible careers?

Students have gone on to study: Physiotherapy, Medicine, Biochemistry, Physical Education Teaching, Radiotherapy, Personal Training, Sports Coaching, Sports Development and Sports Journalism.

GCSE (FULL COURSE) RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Eduqas Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

Religious Studies allows students to develop their knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs and the effects they have had on society. This contributes to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic community. Religious Studies will additionally develop students' ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments demonstrating the depth of their understanding.

What will I study?

Students will study three components. The first component will be based around Christianity, looking at, for example, the nature of God, creation, Jesus, Salvation, the afterlife, forms of worship, sacraments, pilgrimages and the Church. The second component will be based around Islam, looking at, for example, the nature of Allah, prophethood, angels, the afterlife, the foundations of faith, the five pillars of Sunni Islam, the Shi'a, jihad and festivals. The final component focuses on various ethical and philosophical units. Firstly, relationships, including gender prejudice and sexual relationships. Secondly, life and death, which includes looking at how we should treat the environment, the value of human life in relation to abortion and euthanasia, and the beliefs about life after death. Thirdly, good and evil, which includes crime and punishment, forgiveness and suffering. Finally, human rights, which focuses on social justice, prejudice and poverty.

How will I be assessed and examined?

There will be three exams:

- Paper 1: A 1 hour exam worth 25% of the course solely based on Christianity.
- Paper 2: A 1 hour exam worth 25% of the course solely based on Islam.
- Paper 3: A 2 hour exam worth 50% of the course applying religious and non-religious beliefs to the modern world in terms of relationships, life and death, human rights and good and evil.

Future courses and possible careers?

Religious Studies will prepare students to undertake further courses not only in A-level Religious Studies but any subject requiring analysis and evaluation.

All careers would appreciate the study of Religious Studies as it helps students to have an understanding of the pluralistic world in which they live.

GCSE SCIENCE

AQA Examination Board (9-1)

Combined Science and Separate Sciences (Triple science)

Students will study either Combined Science or the Separate Sciences, which counts as two or three GCSEs respectively.

Why study GCSE Science?

Science is a compulsory subject. It is a core subject like English and Maths. Most students will take the Combined Science course, Trilogy, resulting in two Science GCSEs (sometimes called Double Award) and some will take the Separate sciences as an option. Initial teaching groups for GCSE will be set according to ability based on your progress in Science at KS3. It is therefore very important that you work very hard in Year 9.

What will I study?

You will have six lessons of Science per week; two in Biology, two in Chemistry and two in Physics all taught by subject specialists. This means not just learning theory but understanding the practical side of Science and the world in which we live. If you take Separate Sciences you will have nine lessons of Science per week; three in Biology, three in Chemistry and three in Physics. To support your learning revision guides are available to buy through school and there are a large number of resources on the VLE for you to access at home.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Both the Combined Science and Separate Science courses are completed over 2 years, so content is taught during Years 10 and 11. The course is examined through written papers where you have to explain your answers and this takes place at the end of Year 11. You will also complete practical assessments in school as a fundamental part of both the Combined Science and Separate Science courses. During each year you will be internally assessed and given the opportunity to move up a group if you have made good progress.

Examinations are at two levels: Foundation tier, where the highest achievable grade is a 5, and Higher tier, where the highest achievable grade is 9. The Higher level work requires a very good understanding of Maths. Teaching sets, and your level of entry at GCSE, will be based on your progress throughout the course. The Science GCSE courses changed in September 2016 and, as the exams are now taken at the end of Year 11, there is no opportunity to re-sit any part of the course.

Future courses and possible careers?

Science helps us understand the world in which we live and is essential for many careers including: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Nursing, Engineering, Architecture, Physiotherapy, Geology and Environmental Work. ***Society needs Scientists and Engineers.***

GCSE TECHNOLOGY PRODUCT DESIGN

AQA Examination Board (9-1)

Why study this subject?

This course is likely to appeal to students who have enjoyed designing and making products in a variety of Design and Technology materials. The course allows for students to complete work on their core understanding of design issues and work in a combination of other material specialist units, such as textiles, resistant materials and graphics. The students' coursework will follow the area that relates to student strengths and interests and allows for experimentation across the material areas. This course offers a great deal of flexibility to students who enjoy problem solving through designing and making.

What will I study?

The majority of the course is practical, where you will be given the opportunity to design and make products in different materials. You will also be taught a variety of processes and have the opportunity to use a range of tools and equipment. For the coursework project you will be expected to design and make a product based on themes set by AQA which allow for a great deal of student choice. The products designed will be made using one or a combination of the material areas based on student choice and expertise.

How will I be assessed and examined?

Final Project	50%
Final Examinations	50%

Future courses and possible careers?

The course prepares students for study at Advanced Level: Product Design, Advanced A Level: Fashion and Textiles which leads directly to university courses such as Architecture, Engineering, Product Design, Graphic Design, Fashion and other design related degrees. It also prepares students for many vocational courses such as Theatrical Design and Manufacturing.



New GCSE Grading Structure



New GCSE Grading Structure

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above