



**DIXONS
KINGS**
ACADEMY

Y8 Guided Choice Booklet

2020

Dear Student,

Key stage 4 marks an exciting new phase in your life. It is the period when you build on your earlier learning and prepare for adult life, higher education and employment. This is a great opportunity for you to select and design part of your own curriculum for the next three years at Dixons Kings Academy. However, English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Spanish remain compulsory and you will continue to study Religious Education and Physical Education.

All courses will begin in Year 9 and continue through to the end of Year 11. We offer a highly personalised approach, where we use available data, and information about your preferences to advise you on the best route for you that will lead to greatest success. Your tutor will talk to you about the variety of choices available to you. It is important that you discuss your subject choices and guided choices with your parents in preparation for your discussion with your tutor.

Mrs K Lang
Senior Vice Principal

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Introduction

This booklet gives you and your parents' information about the GCSE courses that will begin in September 2019 and other aspects of the curriculum from Year 9 onwards. It will allow you to state your preferences in those areas of the curriculum where options are available.

Using this booklet

Please read this booklet carefully, paying attention to any advice given. You will be asked to fill in a Preferences Form, which will help us to plan the best personal pathway for every student.

If there is anything you do not understand, please ask. Within school, your subject teachers, the subject leaders, your tutor and Mrs Bowley (Head of Year 8) are all able to give you advice and will support you and your parents in making the right decisions. This booklet explains those courses all students take, as well as giving details of the ones where you will be able to state your preferences.

Stating your preferences

Make sure that you think carefully about the reasons for your preferences. You will be studying these subjects for the next three years. The subjects you name must be selected for the right reasons.

Good reasons for studying a particular subject:

- It is a subject you are good at or enjoy;
- It is a subject that is relevant to a career you are interested in;
- It is a subject that will ensure you have a balanced curriculum.

Poor reasons for saying that you prefer a particular subject:

- Your friends are doing it – you will probably be in different sets;
- You like/dislike particular teachers – you may not be taught by them;
- You think it's an easy option – some subjects become much more challenging at GCSE level.

Student preference is an important factor, which is taken into consideration when determining the best pathway for each individual. However, staff obviously have an obligation to guide students in the most suitable direction and will take into account other factors such as the individual's aptitude and stage of development. There may also be other reasons why the school is unable to make provision in line with the student's first preferences, for example because of class size or lack of specialist accommodation. Whilst the school will try to accommodate individual requests, we cannot guarantee that students will be able to study all of their preferred subjects.

At the end of this guidance process, each student will receive a letter confirming the choices she or he will be studying for the next three years.

The courses

From the beginning of Year 9 you will be following a programme of courses, which will lead to your important GCSE qualifications. Some of the subjects you will take are Core Subjects, which are compulsory for all students. Other subjects are called Guided Choices – you will have a choice within certain categories and staff will guide you towards the best combination for you, taking account of your personal strengths and preferences.

Core GCSE subjects

These are the subjects that all students study in Y9, 10 and 11:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science (This will either be Triple or Combined Award)
- Spanish
- Religious Education (RE)
- Geography*
- History*

*Students will continue to study both Geography and History throughout the duration of Year 9 so are able to access learning at a higher level. This will enable them to make a more informed decision about which subject they choose to carry on studying for GCSE in Years 10 and 11.

Non-examined Core subjects

- Physical Education (core)

Guided choice GCSE Subjects

Block A: Open choice

Choose two from:

Art and Design GCSE	Computer Science GCSE
Photography GCSE	NCFE Sport
Music BTEC	Separate Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics GCSE)
Performing Arts BTEC	Business GCSE
IT – Creative iMedia	

You will need to include one reserve choice.

Computer Science and Triple Science are considered more difficult than other subjects and your child's current attainment in that subject or similar subjects will be taken into account before a final decision is made to offer a place on that course.

Please note that when you state a preference **you are not guaranteed a place on that course**. The Head of Faculty and subject teacher will determine whether you have shown that you will be able to meet the course's academic requirements.

Student Support

As students progress through KS4, they will continue to receive consistent support from their tutor. Tutors will have time each week to work with individual students and/or small groups in order to assist in the target-setting process, and to enable them to learn more about a students' interests, ambitions and aspirations. Further monitoring takes place in all subjects with a view to supporting every student in achieving outstanding outcomes.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

We want students to choose subjects based on what they are good at and what they enjoy, but also ensuring a broad range of subjects. Students also need to take the following into account, which is why we expect that all students will study geography or history after Year 9 and the majority will study a Spanish GCSE.

The English Baccalaureate is currently the achievement of the following subjects at grade 5 or above:

- English language GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- Science GCSE – Combined award or two from biology, chemistry, physics and computer science
- History or Geography GCSE
- Spanish GCSE

This is not a qualification nor is an extra certificate given; it is recognition of an achievement in this group of subjects.

Types of qualification

Grading system

There will be a new grading scale that uses the numbers 9 – 1 with 9 being the top grade. Students will get a U where performance is below the minimum required to pass the GCSE. Most courses will be fully linear, with all assessment at the end of the course and not divided into modules. This is to avoid the disruption to teaching and learning through repeated assessment, to allow students to demonstrate the full breadth of their abilities in the subject, and to allow standards to be set fairly and consistently.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

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

AWARDING
 4 and above = bottom of C and above

English GCSE

Subject Information

The English Department at Dixons Kings strongly believes that success in English is the key to high achievement in all other subjects. We believe that English opens the door to exploring other cultures and communicating effectively. Quite simply, English is the key to unlocking every student's potential. Because of this, we take the progress of every single student at KS4 very seriously and are committed to supporting each and every student to achieve their potential.

All students will sit English language and English literature GCSE examinations and so will leave with two English GCSE qualifications.

Assessment

The new GCSE in English language will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. In this new qualification:

- reading and writing will be equally weighted (50% each);
- students will be expected to analyse high quality, challenging literature and non-fiction texts from a range of genres and types (from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries);
- there will be a greater focus on technical accuracy. Students will be required to demonstrate that they are able to write clearly and accurately with an increased emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar including the use of vocabulary;
- all texts in the examinations will be 'unseen';
- Spoken language (speaking and listening) will be reported on as part of the qualification, but it will not form part of the final mark and grade.

The new GCSE in English literature will encourage students to read, write and think critically. Students will be assessed on the following:

- a 19th century novel;
- a Shakespeare play;
- a selection of poetry since 1789 including representative romantic poems;
- British fiction or drama from 1914 onwards;
- previously unseen texts.

Related Careers / A-level progression

Most post-16 study and employment requires a grade 5 or 6 or above in English Literature or English language. Students who achieve a grade 6 or above in their English studies will be eligible to take English literature or English language at 'A' Level.

Need more information?

See: Ms. Knowles [Head of English]

Mathematics GCSE

Subject Information

Year 9 is a crucial year when all students build upon their earlier work and embark upon the formal GCSE mathematics course. There is a real focus on problem solving skills and the application of mathematics to situations beyond the classroom in all our teaching throughout Year 10 and into Year 11.

Mathematics is a highly regarded subject because of the emphasis on developing logical thought. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. Achieving a good grade in maths will be what makes you stand out from the crowd when you come to apply for college courses and jobs.

Assessment

Two courses of study will be available: foundation and higher. Each student will be permitted to take assessments in either the foundation tier or higher tier. The qualification will consist of three written (1 hour 30 minute) examination papers.

- Paper 1 will be a non-calculator assessment.
- A calculator will be allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.

The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total mark across all three papers where 9 is the highest grade. Individual papers are not graded.

- Foundation tier: grades 1 to 5.
- Higher tier: grades 4 to 9 (grade 3 allowed).

Related Careers / A-level progression

This qualification supports progression to several further qualifications: GCE AS and Advanced Level in mathematics and further mathematics, GCE AS and A Level in pure mathematics and other qualifications in numerate disciplines, such as the sciences, economics or business.

This qualification also supports progression to further education or employment where mathematics skills are required. Mathematics gives you the skills necessary to enter a wide range of careers including accountancy, engineering and teaching and is a qualification that is highly sought after by employers.

Need more information?

See: Miss Sangha [Head of Mathematics]

Science GCSEs

Subject Information

It remains a priority that all students should have a good grasp of science, so that they can make sense of the increasingly scientific and technological world we live in. All students will therefore have a common grounding and experience of science, preparing them for the applications of science that we all experience in our lives.

Science GCSE (AQA) at KS4 involves two pathways:

Combined Science (2 GCSE's)

Students will complete units of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and this will provide all students with a good knowledge of science. By carrying out carefully considered practical work, students will enhance their investigative thinking, improve their mastery of techniques and consolidate their understanding of key scientific concepts.

Separate Science (3 GCSE's)

Separate science consists of a GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

GCSE Biology gives students the chance to gain a good understanding of human biology, organisms, evolution and the environment. The GCSE helps put biology in the context of students' everyday lives with topics ranging from 'Keeping healthy' to 'Humans and their environment'. Students can identify how biology is related to the living world and how it is relevant to them.

GCSE Chemistry will allow students to study the fundamental ideas in chemistry, putting the building blocks in place. This GCSE will help students understand how to formulate a scientific approach to understanding and explaining the world and solving problems.

GCSE physics is designed to give students the tools and concepts they need to be able to construct a scientific approach to solving problems. Students will learn to ask and answer questions about the fundamental laws that govern natural phenomena.

Assessment

Students will undertake all external assessments at the end of the course. The new exams will be graded from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest.

Each student will be permitted to take assessments in either the foundation tier or higher tier. The combined science qualification will consist of six written (1 hour 15 minutes) examination papers. The Triple Science course will consist of six written (1 hour 45 minutes) examination papers.

Related Careers / A-level progression

The course provides a firm foundation for students to progress to Advanced level Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

These qualifications support progression in to several further qualifications: GCE Advanced Level in Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. It also supports progression to further education or employment where scientific skills are required. Science gives you the knowledge and skills necessary to enter a wide range of careers including Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy.

Need more information?

See: Mr. Sakab [Head of Science]

Spanish GCSE

Subject Information

Students will continue to study Spanish as part of the curriculum. As well as studying the different aspects of Spanish language, students will also study the various aspects of the culture in Spain and the Spanish-speaking world. The AQA GCSE (9-1) in Spanish consists of four externally examined papers based on the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The specification covers the following three themes:

- Theme 1: Identity and culture
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Students will acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through their ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic spoken and written material, including literary texts. They will also develop and use their knowledge and understanding of Spanish grammar through their course of study.

Homework

Students will be set vocabulary learning each week and they will be expected to sit a test each week on this vocabulary. Students will also receive another piece of homework which could include a written piece of homework on an online listening or reading task.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening – 25% of the qualification (externally assessed exam)

Paper 2: Speaking – 25% of the qualification (externally assessed exam)

Paper 3: Reading – 25% of the qualification (externally assessed exam)

Paper 4: Writing – 25% of the qualification (externally assessed exam)

Related Careers / A level progression

The qualification is recognised around the world by employers and educational institutions alike. The qualification also provides a sound foundation for progression to AS and A level qualifications.

Related careers include Interpreting, Translation, Education, Domestic and International Politics, Journalism, Law, Travel and Tourism and many more.

Need more information?

See: Miss. Lopez [Head of Languages]

Religious Studies GCSE

Subject Information

GCSE Religious Studies provides an essential opportunity to explore moral issues in a changing world. This involves articulation of students' own opinions on these issues as well as the opinion of others, particularly those of religious people. The subject allows students to develop a well-informed view of what should be considered right and wrong and teaches them respect, tolerance and understanding of the opinion of others. It allows students to explore beliefs and practices in religion, namely Islam and Christianity, which is important in today's multicultural and diverse society.

All students will study beliefs, teachings and practices in Islam and Christianity, as well as religious, philosophical and ethical themes such as prejudice and discrimination, crime and punishment, war, abortion and caring for the planet. These topics should give students a good idea of issues that people face in the world today as well as giving them an opportunity to consider where their moral stance is regarding them.

As well as giving students an overview of particular moral issues, Religious Studies provides students with the essential skills of forming a justified moral opinion on a particular subject and seeing reasons behind the opinion of others. This skill is transferrable to many different areas of work and general life, as it gives them the means to be able to convince others of their own point of view as well as the wisdom to take on board the reasons behind views different to their own.

The Religious Studies department is passionate about the subject and keen to see all students achieving highly. This is not only because we see the subject as a good academic qualification but also because we see it as a genuinely useful life skill. This attitude is reflected in the planning and support provided to students to achieve their full potential.

Assessment

Paper 1: (50%) Beliefs, teachings and practices in Islam and Christianity

Paper 2: (50%) Religious, philosophical and ethical themes: (1) Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice (2) Religion and Life, (3) Religion, peace and conflict, (4) Religion, crime and punishment

Related Careers / A level progression

Religious Studies is recognised as a highly academic A-level by major universities and provides an excellent indication of the analytical skills needed to complete a degree at any university. The course content involves some challenging philosophy and an in-depth study of a particular religion.

Careers which use Religious Studies, include journalism, medicine, teaching, politics, law and the media.

Need more information?

See: Miss Khan [Head of Religious Education]

History GCSE

Subject Information

Apart from being very interesting history is useful for a whole host of careers and life too. GCSE History will teach you vital skills that employers are looking for.

Through history you will learn to handle different types of evidence and opinions and make informed decisions; you will be able to see more than one point of view and what motivates people, their thoughts and feelings. You will understand that different people see things differently. You will be able to find and read lots of different types of information and will be able to communicate your ideas clearly both verbally and in writing. In today's internet based information overloaded world employers really appreciate someone who can sift through the evidence to find vital information and make their own judgments – a skill that GCSE History will allow you to develop.

GCSE History provides you with context to understand the world around you and the society you live in. Students have the opportunity to study engaging topics such as democracy and dictatorships in the modern world, conflict and tension in Europe post World War One, Elizabethan England 1568 – 1603 and British society circa 1170 up to the present day.

Assessment

Students will complete two exams at the end of the course the exams consist of;

- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling punctuation and grammar) Paper 1
- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling punctuation and grammar) Paper 2
- Both exams (Paper 1 and 2) 1hr 45mins
- Range of compulsory and choice questions

Related Careers / A level progression

History is a "facilitating subject" as recommended by the Russell Group of Universities, so it is very helpful in gaining a place at the more prestigious universities. Careers, which use history, include teaching, being a curator, publishing, journalism, archaeology, law and working in the media.

Need more information?

See: Mr. Fieldhouse [Head of History]

Geography GCSE

Subject Information

Geography is all about what's going on in the world, and where it's happening. It is always in the news and is very relevant to your life now and in the future. It is up to geographers to understand and help solve some of the major problems the world faces today such as climate change, natural hazards and population growth.

There are a huge number of reasons why you should study GCSE Geography which include:

- developing your interest in our changing world, understanding current events and seeing the 'big picture'
- understanding the importance of living a sustainable lifestyle, how to be a responsible citizen and showing an awareness of our environment.
- appreciate different cultures in this country and in other parts of the world
- become aware of physical (natural) and human environments
- develop a range of skills that are valued by employers including literacy, numeracy, map reading, graph and diagram interpretation, problem solving, data collection and decision-making.

What will you study?

You will study a number of topics such as tectonic hazards, tropical storms, climate change, rivers, coasts, tropical rainforests, deserts, urban areas, the UK and resources.

Fieldwork is an important part of GCSE Geography and as part of the course at least one out of school field trip will be offered.

Assessment

- Paper 1: [35%] Natural hazards, tectonic hazards, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK, climate change, UK physical landscapes, coastal landscapes in the UK, river landscapes in the UK, ecosystems, tropical rainforests and hot deserts.
- Paper 2: [35%] Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, resource management and energy.
- Paper 3: [30%] Geographical applications: issue evaluation, fieldwork and geographical skills.

Related Careers / A level Progression

Geography is a recognized academic subject respected by universities and employers. Geography graduates are employed in occupations as diverse as advertising, civil engineering, accountancy, armed forces, management consultancy, law, sales, finance, education, environmental awareness, civil service, Foreign Office, the travel industry and journalism.

Need more information?

See: Mr. Kitson [Head of Geography]

Information Technology - Level 2 iMedia qualification (1 GCSE)

Subject Information

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will equip learners with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. Through the use of these skills, learners will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose creative media products. The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will also challenge all learners, including high attaining learners, by introducing them to demanding material and techniques; encouraging independence and creativity and providing tasks that engage with the most taxing aspects of the National Curriculum

The qualification design, including the range of units available, will allow learners the freedom to explore the areas of creative media that interest them as well as providing good opportunities to enhance their learning in a range of curriculum areas.

Assessment

R081: Pre-production skills

R082: Creating digital graphics

R084: Storytelling with a comic strip

R087: Creating interactive multimedia products

75% Coursework (R082, R084 & R087) – controlled assessment. Work to be completed in class supervised by your class teacher. The work is marked by your teacher and externally moderated.
25% Exam - The exam is a written paper exam. The exam looks at techniques used in the creative and digital media, including client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques and will be based around web design.

Related Careers / A level progression

This qualification provides a broad and solid foundation for further study of various aspects of creative computing, such as graphic design, web design, computer games design and interactive media. It also enhances young people's overall digital literacy and gives them a solid foundation for further study and employment.

Need more information?

See: Mr. Rafiq [Head of Computing]

Computer Science GCSE (9-1)

Subject Information

Immerse yourself in a digital world and learn to design and create on the bleeding edge of technology. Take the skills and knowledge you have gained from years of social networking, gaming and ICT lessons to the next level. Computer Science is both an art and a science, and requires a high level of creativity as well as mathematical and scientific thinking. This course will develop your logical thinking and puzzle solving skills. Understanding gained in this subject can be transferred to other subjects, and will make concepts easier to grasp in maths, physics, art and design.

The GCSE syllabus covers system design, programming, algorithms, networking, and the use of technology in society. The course is heavily focused on practical programming and developing solutions to problems. You will study artificial intelligence, game design theory and cryptography, and you will find out how the internet works.

Assessment

The course is assessed via two final exams.

Component 1 – Computer systems

Component 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Component 3 – Programming project

Related Careers / A level progression

A GCSE in Computer Science can lead to a career in software development, game design, analytics, network or database administration, or a thousand other related careers. Programming is also an increasingly indispensable skill for scientists in all fields, and computing power is currently opening up whole new areas of research such as computational biology and climate modelling. Computer Science also has more creative applications in fine arts, design and architecture.

Universities always value a GCSE in Computer Science for any science, maths or engineering degree. If you choose a vocational route, Computer Science is an advantage for web design, network administration and IT support.

Need more information?

See: Mr. Barnard [Teacher of Computer Science]

BTEC Performing Arts

<p>Subject Information</p> <p>A BTEC course in performing arts fosters students’ creativity, personal growth, self-confidence, communication and analytical skills through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding and the exercise of the imagination. It also promotes students’ involvement in and enjoyment of drama as performers, devisers, directors and designers.</p> <p>BTEC performing arts provides opportunities for students to attend professional and community dramatic performances and to develop their skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Students will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret their own and others' drama. They will investigate the forms, styles, and contexts of drama and will learn to work collaboratively to develop ideas, to express feelings, to experiment with technical elements and to reflect on their own and others’ performances.</p> <p>By studying BTEC performing arts, students will learn more about the subject and its contribution to social and cultural commentary and will come to appreciate that drama, whether intended for audiences or not, provides significant opportunities for expressing cultural and personal identity.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Year 10 Component 1 Coursework: 30% This unit comprises of researching three performance texts. Students will study three different styles of theatre and examine how they work in terms of performers, set, costume, lighting and sound. They will complete written coursework on these plays.</p> <p>Year 11 Component 2 Coursework: 30% Performance The practical performance requires students to memorise lines from a play text and perform to an audience. They will peer assess each other’s work and build the confidence to perform in front of others. There will also be a written work book to complete.</p> <p>Year 11 Component 3 40% Devising External Assessment Students will make their own performance in groups and complete a written document which focuses and explains their decision making process.</p>
<p>Related Careers / A level progression</p> <p>A Level and Media courses are available for those students who are keen to pursue a career in theatre. Achieving a qualification in Drama would benefit students who wish to pursue sales, media, drama therapy, theatre stage managers or directors and teaching (primary and secondary education).</p>
<p>Need more information?</p> <p>See: Miss Peake [Teacher of Drama]</p>

Business GCSE

Subject Information

Business investigates the changing environment in which businesses operate and looks at many varied factors which affect business activity and business behaviour. Business is a ‘dynamic’ subject which is taught in a student centered way. Students will be expected to take part in group activities, undertake independent research projects, work on team competitions and present ideas to the rest of the class. Whilst students will learn about ‘business theory’, the real focus is on developing the skills they will need to be successful in a real life business! Students will develop an understanding of the issues facing UK businesses in the 21st Century. For example, ‘*what is the impact of competition on businesses?*’, ‘*how is technology changing our buying habits?*’, ‘*what is the effect of globalisation on businesses?*’, ‘*where do businesses get their money from?*’, ‘*are businesses becoming more socially responsible?*’

There are two units in the new Edexcel GCSE Business course:

- Unit 1: Investigating Small Business
- Unit 2: Building a Business

Business students are expected to have an interest in current affairs and should enjoy taking part in discussions and debates. They should also ensure they keep up to date with what is happening in the world by watching, reading and listening to the news on a daily basis. Students are also given the opportunity to participate in real life business competitions and events such as the Coca Cola Real Business Challenge and the Tenner Challenge.

Assessment

Unit 1: Investigating Small Business

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes / 50% of the qualification / 90 marks The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

Unit 2: Building a Business

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes / 50% of the qualification / 90 marks The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

Related Careers / A level progression

Careers: Business makes a useful contribution to any job or career in business, local or national government and public service because it improves awareness of ‘real life’ and decision-making. The skills that will be developed are useful for any future career.

A Level: A Level Business can be taken without doing it at GCSE; however studying GCSE Business will provide a good foundation for taking the subject further.

Need more information?

See: Mrs Parmar [Teacher of Business Studies] or Mr Wilson [Principal]

Art and Design GCSE

Subject Information

In this GCSE course students are introduced to a variety of experiences and will explore a range of art media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. Students will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of artists and art movements ranging from contemporary to the more traditional.

Students begin the course by exploring the theme of 'The natural world', within this theme students will be exposed to a wide variety of techniques and processes. Students will also study in depth the work of other artists and designers and learn how to incorporate their techniques and style into their own work.

In year 10 students will move on to a guided theme of their choice, such as comic book art, identity, art and words or portraiture. Students will learn how to independently develop their portfolio and create a range of exciting outcomes.

Students will also have the opportunity to work with two visiting artists; a sculptor and silk painter.

Assessment

Candidates should be aware of the four assessment objectives to be evidenced in the context of the content. Each of the objectives is worth 25% of the overall grade, so all are vitally important. A portfolio of work will be developed in Years 9-11 and contributes 60% of their overall mark and a final externally set practical exam will be taken at the end of Year 11 which will contribute 40% towards the final grade.

Related Careers / A level progression

The course is particularly suitable for students who wish to study A Level Art and Design or related subjects at a higher level or who wish to pursue a career in the Arts.

Careers which use Art include practicing artist, illustration, advertising, packaging design, communication graphics, design for print, animation, digital media, web design, television, multimedia, lens-based and light-based media, such as film, animation, video and photography and many more.

Need more information?

See: Miss. Bland [Head of Creative Faculty]

Photography GCSE

Subject Information

In this GCSE course students are introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of lens-based and light-based media techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. Students will explore different areas of photography, processes and techniques throughout the course and this will all be recorded on a digital portfolio using PowerPoint. Students will be expected to experiment with different compositions, lighting, perspectives, Photoshop tools and hand editing techniques. It is important that students have a basic knowledge of computers and powerpoint.

Students work in one or more areas of lens-based and light-based media such as those listed below.

- Portraiture Photography
- Architectural Photography (looking at the exteriors and interiors of buildings)
- Landscape photography (working from the built or natural environment).
- Still life photography, (working from natural or manufactured objects).
- Documentary photography, photo journalism, narrative photography, reportage
- Fine art photography, photographic installations and sculptures
- New media practice such as computer manipulated photography and photographic projections.
- Formal elements within photography such as colour, line and repetition.

Assessment

Candidates should be aware of the four assessment objectives to be evidenced in the context of the content. Each of the objectives is worth 25% of the overall grade, so all are vitally important.

A portfolio of work will be developed in Years 9-11 and a final external set practical exam will be taken at the end of Year 11 which will contribute towards the final grade. The portfolio can include examples of video and film animations.

Related Careers / A level progression

To continue studying photography at AS/A2 level, you need to achieve a grade 6 at GCSE level. The course is particularly suitable for students who wish to study photography or any creative related subjects at a higher level or who wish to pursue a career in the media.

Careers which use photography include; photojournalism, fashion/make up, designer photography, documentary TV shows, travel photography, graphic design, film and police forensics.

Need more information?

See: Miss. Herbert [Teacher of Photography]

Music (BTEC Level 2 Award – Equivalent to 1 GCSE)

Subject Information

What does it take to be a successful performer, producer, composer or sound engineer in the modern music industry? Today's industry has exciting and diverse career opportunities for individuals with a range of skills including communication, marketing, finance and technical skills.

A BTEC Level 2 Award in Music will allow you to discover and practice the business skills needed in modern industry with the focus on the world of music. You will learn about the organisations involved in performing, producing, marketing and supplying music products and you will have the chance to manage, plan, develop and promote your own CD, live performance or other music product as part of the course.

Practical music skills are, of course, also very important, and you will have the chance to work on two optional units from Introduction to Live Sound, Performance, Composition, Music Recording and Music Sequencing.

Assessment

- Unit 1: The Music Industry – 1 hour written exam (25%)
- Unit 2: Managing a Music Product – Internally assessed portfolio (25%)
- Two optional units - Internally assessed performance or portfolio (25% each)

Related Careers / A level progression

Leads to vocational courses post-16 or courses in Music Technology and Sound Recording. Creative and Arts subjects are highly valued by employers, universities and colleges as they demonstrate creative thinking, team working skills, independence and dedication.

This course will be directly useful for careers in studio recording, management, television and film, performance, sound editing, marketing and many others.

Need more information?

See: Mr Rossell [Teacher of Music]

NCFE LEVEL 1 / 2 TECHNICAL AWARD HEALTH AND FITNESS

Subject Information

- This qualification shows learners how to:
- understand and identify the main body systems and their functions
- understand the Principles of Training and FITT
- explore how physical activities effect the body in the short- and long-term
- understand how relevant fitness tests can be used for specific health and skill components of fitness
- understand different lifestyle analysis tools and how to apply them
- create a health and fitness programme

Assessment

Externally assessed exam worth 40%- graded from Not Yet Achieved to Level 2 Distinction
Internally assessed(externally quality assured) synoptic project worth 60%- graded from Not Yet Achieved to Level 2 Distinction

Related Careers / A level Progression

Level 3 Applied Generals in:

- Sport Studies
- Sport and Physical Activity
- Sports Performance and Excellence
- Sport and Exercise Science.
- Level 3 Technical Levels in:
- Sport and Physical Activity
- Personal Training
- Personal Training and Behaviour Change
- Fitness Services
- Exercise Science and Personal Training
- Personal Training for Health, Fitness and Performance
- Physical Activity and Exercise Science
- A Level in Physical Education and Sport. This will support progression to higher education.
- Learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship

Need more information?

See: Miss Elson [Head of PE]

Step Up Alternative Provision – Entry Level 1-3

Subject Information

Our 'Step Up' provision aims to equip our students with SEN with the relevant qualifications that prepare them for their future. Students join the provision in Yr9, and spend three years working towards alternative qualifications to GCSEs; through a bespoke timetable and high levels of support.

We have a specialist team of teachers and support assistants, who guide students through AQA English and Maths at Entry Level, Home Cooking Skills level 1, and ASDAN Personal and Social Development. All of these qualifications are fully recognised and will help your child access further education after Year 11.

Your child may be placed within the provision under the guidance of the SENDCo and Head of SEN.

Assessment. Students will compile evidence portfolios in the following units;

AQA Step Up to English Entry level 1-3	Component 1 – Media Campaigns Component 2 – Travel Component 3 – Exploring
AQA Step up to Maths Entry level 1-3	Component 1 – Place Value Component 2 – The four functions Component 3 – Ratio Component 4 – Money Component 5 – Calendar and Time Component 6 – Measures Component 7 – Geometry Component 8 – Statistics
ASDAN – Certificate in Personal and Social Development Entry 1 -3	Healthy Living Preparation for Work Environmental awareness Using Technology in the home and community Social Relationships Working as a group Making the most of leisure time
Home Cooking Skills	Level 1: Using equipment safely Following recipes Working hygienically

Related Careers / A level Progression

These qualifications will allow students to access Entry level and Level 1 courses at college in Maths, English and vocational courses.

Need more information?

See: Miss Dykxhoorn, Mrs Cunningham, Mrs Lang and Miss Probst [Specialist Teachers]

Useful websites

Some of the following websites would be useful as part of your research.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

www.ucas.com

www.careerpilot.org.uk/info/your-choices-at-14/gcses-compulsory-and-optional

<http://university.which.co.uk/advice/how-important-are-gcse-choices-when-it-comes-to-university>

Subject Preference Form

Name of Student: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Block A

Choose two from:

IT – Creative imedia
Computer Science
Business
Art and design
Photography
BTEC Performing arts
BTEC Music
NCFE Sport

Reserve choice:

**Return to your tutor by
Friday 7 Feb 2020**

Signed: _____ (parent/guardian)

Date: _____

Please tear this page from ther booklet and return by the date requested.
Studnets should hand in their choices to their form tutor.