

Key Stage 4 Subject Information

2023-2025



A Guide for Students and Parents

Blue Coat Church of England School & Music College, Terry Road, Coventry, CVI 2BA



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

This booklet is the starting point of the Options process and will give you the chance to consider each course before deciding on the curriculum which will best reflect your child's personal talents and needs.

Specifications may well change due to Government reforms. However, the basis of the subject will remain the same. This booklet provides a guide to each subject using the most up to date information available.

At this stage it is not expected that students will have a definite idea of what they want to do when they leave school. However, it is important to ensure that students continue with a broad and balanced range of subjects so that they are fully equipped when they face the fast changing and demanding world of higher education, industry, commerce and business.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Tomlinson Deputy Headteacher Ms Z Yasmeen Assistant Headteacher



The Options Process

No	Event	Explanation
I	January & February Tutor/Dept Time Subject Options Talks	 Specialist teachers explain to Y9 pupils the options on offer within their subjects this year. Videos will be shared in tutor/department time as well as with parents and pupils via email.
2	Wednesday 7 th February Pupil Options Fair	• Pupils have 30 minutes in the afternoon to visit the options stalls held in the Sports Hall and speak to the Heads of Department prior to the evening.
3	Wednesday 7 th February KS4 Options Evening Options Fair	 Talk in the Theatre from Mrs Shelley, Mrs Henden, Mr Tomlinson & Ms Yasmeen on the options process at 6.00pm and 6.40pm. Options career fair will provide parents and students with more direct information on the qualifications on offer and subject staff will be on hand to provide information.
4	Monday 4 th March Completed Options Form	• All student option forms completed & returned digitally using the MS Form emailed out.



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The Curriculum Process

The National Qualifications Authority sets a framework for educational qualifications in England and Wales. As students move from Key Stage Three to Key Stage Four of the National Curriculum, they take the first steps up a ladder which can lead to a wide range of high-level qualifications; University Degrees, Masters Degrees, Doctorates, Professional Diplomas and Awards, Higher National Diplomas and Certificates, etc. The first steps are Level I and Level 2 of the National Qualifications Framework, and include GCSEs, BTEC First Diplomas & Certificates, Level I & 2 NVQs and Cambridge National Awards and Certificates.

All GCSE subjects studied at Blue Coat are Level 2 so they require more hours per week than in lower school. Because of this, students need to study fewer subjects in Key Stage 4 than at Key Stage 3 – in other words, some subjects have to be dropped before starting GCSE or equivalent qualifications.

At Blue Coat, certain GCSEs/equivalents are compulsory - English, Maths, Science and Religious Studies. In addition, all students are required to attend lessons in Core PE and PSHE. These subjects are collectively known as *core subjects*.

In most cases, students take three additional subjects; *options*. Within this most students usually take a Humanities subject, (Geography/History) and a Language, (French/German).

Choosing options is a serious business. It needs careful thought, and discussion with parents/carers, tutors and relevant subject teachers. Talking to friends and older students is also really useful. However, it is highly unlikely that any choices made at this stage will close doors forever. The subjects which are likely to be vital for the vast majority of future careers are in the core.



Choosing Options

Good luck!

You are beginning one of the most exciting and challenging periods of your life. Choose what is right for you, work hard and enjoy it.

In choosing options, students are advised to think about:

- Which subjects you are best at?
- Which you enjoy most/find most interesting?
- Which you feel are most likely to be useful to you in the future?
- Is there a new subject you would like to study?

You are strongly advised to ignore:

- Whether you like/dislike your current teacher
- What your friends are doing.

Because of timetable constraints, we cannot guarantee that everyone will be able to study all their option choices. Within those constraints, we will do our best to satisfy as many choices as possible.

Students are given the opportunity to speak to their House Head's about their subject choices. If there are any problems or changes to be made, these will be dealt with accordingly.



Core Subjects

ALL STUDENTS WILL STUDY

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- ENGLISH LITERATURE
- > MATHEMATICS
- SCIENCES
- ≻ RE
- Core PE (Non Examined)

And a selection of further options from predefined groups

Details about each of the courses available can be found in this booklet.

The pathways of Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) are available to those students in Set 1.Trilogy (Combined Science) will be on offer to pupils below Set 1. Students who study Combined Science still study all three Sciences but are awarded two GCSEs.

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The EBacc

We encourage all students to study the EBacc

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE
- > MATHEMATICS
- > SCIENCES
- ➢ HISTORY OR GEOGRAPHY
- ➢ FRENCH OR GERMAN

Why study the EBacc

- Breadth of options on offer at Post 16
- Students who complete the EBacc are more likely to enter Post 16
- Languages will give you a competitive edge
- Languages provide a breadth of skills that can improve outcomes in English and Maths at GCSE
- Languages prepare you for the world of work and offer a breadth of international study or employment opportunities

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GCSE HISTORY

Exam board	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in History
QAN	601/8092/4

How is the subject Examined?

There are 3 written examinations at the end of Year 11.

What will I study?

Crime and punishment in Britain, C1000 to the present day

with a specific historic environment study of crime and policing in Whitechapel 1870-1900, including a trip to the area of Whitechapel in London and the London Dungeon in year 11. <u>Anglo Saxon and Norman England 1060-1087</u>

You will learn the story of the Norman Conquest in 1066, and the ways in which England would change under the rule of William the Conqueror.

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 to 1939

You will investigate the conditions in post-World War One Germany, the rise to power of Hitler and the Nazi Party and the changes they made to people's lives.

Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1943-1990

You will study the developing conflict between the USA and the USSR and how close the world came to nuclear war in the second half of the 20th Century.

Leading careers?

If you want to follow a career in journalism, accounting, law, TV research, business and commerce, public sector, politics, tourism, town planning, building restoration, museums, teaching... the knowledge and skills you learn in GCSE History will be useful AND FUN!

Post 16 choices?

You can continue to study History at A-Level, where we focus on USA in the 19th and 20th Centuries, Britain in the first half of the 20th Century, and the Tudors.







GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Exam board	AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Geography Specification 8035
QAN	601/8410/3

How is the subject Examined?

There are three written examinations at the end of the Year 11.

What will I study?

There are three papers in the Geography GCSE .

Paper 1: Living in the Physical Environment: this involves studying natural hazards of various types including the topical theme of climate change; the features and issues associated with the living world: tropical rain forests and hot environments and the physical landscapes of rivers and coasts, in particular the issues associated with flooding and coastal management. Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment: this considers the issues presented of living in urban areas in lower and higher income countries; managing services when there is growth and decline in cities and how to meet the needs of a variety of groups of people are investigated. The economic world on a global scale and the U.K. are also featured in this unit. Paper 3: Geographical Applications: Fieldwork plays an essential part of the GCSE Geography course. From the beginning of Year 10, we will study geographical skills that are tested across all three GCSE papers, to ensure that understanding is acquired to apply these to the content of the course. There are two compulsory day trips based upon physical and human issues. At present, the physical trip takes place in Year 10 and involves looking at sand dunes near Birkdale and the human theme will be studied in Year 11 and is based upon regenerating a city: the Olympic park in London. These do incur costs.

Leading careers?

Ask the Geography Department for the "wheel of job opportunities" sheet: careers range from accountancy, advertising and marketing to specialist careers such as nature conservation; flood management and urban planning. Geography opens the door to many careers with its wide view of the world from a variety of perspectives that are in the news every day.

Post 16 choices?

A level Geography AQA where the themes studied at GCSE are studied in far more depth and breadth and new content introduced such as Changing Places, where a focus is placed upon Coventry.

GCSE FRENCH

Exam board	EDEXEL GCSE (9-1) in French start 2024
QAN	

How is the subject Examined?

At the end of the course, you are entered for either Foundation or Higher tier. You have four exams, covering speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, which each account for 25% of your final qualification.

What will I study?

During the GCSE course, you will study the following thematic context: My personal world Lifestyle and wellbeing My neighbourhood media and technology Studying and my future Travel and tourism



Leading careers?

Learning a foreign language is a good transferable skill, is viewed highly by universities or future employers and is a valuable addition to your CV.

72% of businesses value foreign language skills among their employees.

Careers could include: interpreter, school teacher, translator, journalist, TEFL teacher, tour manager.

Post 16 choices?

As well as studying French A-Level, learning a language compliments all subjects. It improves your communication skills, has a positive effect on your thinking skills, improves your memory and problem-solving skills and helps you multi-task.

GCSE GERMAN

Exam board	EDEXEL GCSE (9-1) in German start 2024
QAN	

How is the subject Examined?

At the end of the course, you are entered for either Foundation or Higher tier. You have four exams, covering speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, which each account for 25% of your final qualification.

What will I study?

During the GCSE course, you will study the following thematic context: My personal world Lifestyle and wellbeing My neighbourhood media and technology Studying and my future Travel and tourism



• As well as learning the German language, you will also learn about cultural aspects of the German-speaking world. You will also be exposed to literary texts in the reading exam and learn the art of translating which is a really useful and rewarding skill.

Leading careers?

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72% of businesses value foreign language skills among their employees.

Careers could include: interpreter, school teacher, translator, journalist, TEFL teacher, tour manager.

Post 16 choices?

As well as studying German A-Level, learning a language compliments all subjects. It improves your communication skills, has a positive effect on your thinking skills, improves your memory and problem-solving skills and helps you multi-task.



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam board	OCR J277 GCSE (9-1) in Computer Science
QAN	601/8355/X

"Our GCSE in Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs."

How is the subject examined?

Students will complete two exams at the end of their course, each 90 minutes long. The first exam covers computer theory, and the way that computers work, while the second covers algorithms and programming.

What will I study?

Component 01: Computer systems

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators

Practical programming

Students will be given the opportunity to undertake a variety of programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a highlevel programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02 (section B).

Leading careers?

Oxford University predicted in 2014 that 35% of jobs in the UK will be replaced by computers in the next 20 years. As such, Computer Scientists are in demand across all sectors. A number of local businesses, like JLR, are also actively looking to recruit Computer Scientists. Some potential careers include Software Development, Financial Trading, Scientific research, Artificial Intelligence and Engineering

Post 16 choices?

We offer Computer Science as an A level at Blue Coat School, and the subject also sits well alongside Maths or Design Technology. Both Coventry and Warwick Universities offer a range of Computer Science degrees.



GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

Exam board	OCR Level 1/2 GCSE (9-1) in Business
QAN	603/0295/1

How is the subject Examined?

- Business I—Business Activity, Marketing and People (I hour 30 minutes exam. 50% of the total GCSE)
- Business 2—Operations, Finance & Influences on Business (1 hour 30 minutes exam. 50% of total GCSE).

External examinations worth 100% will be taken in Year 11.

What will I study?

What will I study?

Students will start looking at Business Activity, including forms of business ownership, aims and objectives and business growth. Marketing is always a popular aspect of the course, covering market research and how to adapt the marketing mix to meet the needs of customers. Also included is finance, helping students to develop their numeracy skills further, human resources, operations and external influences. The following topics will be studies in the course.

- Marketing, including advertising, development of products, setting the best price.
- Recruitment, including how businesses get the right staff and keep them working well.
- Business structures, including the different ways to set up a business.
- Finance, including how businesses get the money to set up and operate and how they make a profit.
- Business operations, including how businesses produce the things we buy.
- Influences on businesses, including the environment and how many businesses are operating around the world.

Leading careers?

This course is suitable for any student interested in how businesses operate in the real world. It will give students an appreciation of the dynamic nature of the business world they will enter. This course is therefore vital, and suitable for everyone entering the world of work, in almost all professions. In particular accountancy, marketing, business consultancy or students interested in starting their own business.

Post 16 choices?

This course leads to many at post 16 including A Level Business Studies, A Level Economics, Vocational Business Course such as BTEC and Cambridge Technical, and also apprenticeships in any business environment.



DANCE

Exam board	AQA GCSE Dance (9-1) (8236)
QAN	601/8549/1

How is the subject Examined?

Practical 60%		Theory 40%
Internally marked and externally moderated		Exam
Performance	Choreography	I hour 30 min exam
Set phrases x 2 through a solo performance	Solo or group choreography 30%	Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performance
Duet/Trio 30%		Critical appreciation of own and professional works
		40%

It is essential that you participate regularly in Dance or that you have participated in Dance classes for a prolonged period previously.

What will I study?

Dance performance and choreography. You will need to be confident performing on your own and in a group. You will learn physical, technical and expressive skills and there is a strong focus on contemporary Dance. You will become a choreographer; showing knowledge and understanding of actions, space, dynamics, relationships and devices.

You will study 6 dance anthology works where you will critically analyse the styles, structures, environments, aural and physical settings.

Leading careers?

Dancer, Dance/PE Teacher, Choreographer, Arts administrator, Executive producer, Company manager, Creative learning manager

Post 16 choices?

Btec Performing Arts offered at Blue Coat. A level Dance option and at university you can pursue a Dance/performing arts degree.



GCSE ART

Exam board	WJEC Eduqas GCSE in ART AND DESIGN (Fine Art)	
QAN	C651QS	N

How is the subject Examined?

Over the 2 years students will complete 2 projects. They work in 20 page A2 flip files and v present their best work for assessment.



Component I: Personal Portfolio – (coursework) 60%. This is completed between the beginning of Year 10 and the January of Year 11.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment – (examination) 40%. This is completed between February and May of Year 11, culminating in a 10 hour practical exam.

There is no written exam. Students will annotate their folders as they work throughout their coursework.

What will I study?

We will start with the theme Land. Through this students learn the basics of drawing and painting. During Year 10 and Year 11 students will develop their own work which is personal to them and guided by their teacher.

Leading careers?

UK creative industries generate \pounds 91.8bn a year to the UK economy. Any career that involves creating, design or the visual image requires a grounding in GCSE Art. Studying Art equips students with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with visual literacy throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a GCSE subject due to the independent nature of the course.

Post 16 choices?

We offer A Levels in Fine Art, Photography, Graphics and Textiles. You must have studied GCSE Art to take Fine Art A Level. We support University applications to all architecture and design courses including automotive, theatre, interior, fashion and textiles, also all courses related to journalism, media, advertising and marketing and all courses related to the making of art : illustration, fine art, photography, fashion, jewellery and textiles.



GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam board	WJEC Eduqas GCSE in ART AND DESIGN (Photography)
QAN	C656QS

How is the subject Examined?

Over the 2 years students will complete 2 projects. They work in 20 page A2 flip files and will present their best work for assessment.

Component I: Personal Portfolio – (coursework) 60%. This is completed between the beginning of Year 10 and the January of Year 11.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment – (examination) 40%. This is completed between February and May of Year 11, culminating in a 10 hour practical exam. There is no written exam. Students will annotate their folders as they work throughout their coursework.

What will I study?

We begin with the theme Land. Through this students will learn the basics of how to take a photograph and use editing programs such as Photoshop. There will also be some hand manipulation of photographs. During Year 10 and Year 11 students will develop their own work which is personal to them and guided by their teacher.

Leading careers?

Studying Art based subjects such as Photography equips students with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with visual literacy throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a GCSE subject due to the independent nature of the course.

Post 16 choices?

We offer A Level Photography and A Level Graphics. Typically if students want to take their studies in Photography beyond Post-16 they will study Photographic courses at University in which we have a 100% first choice success rate. Students can also follow routes in Fashion, Media, Journalism, Marketing and Advertising. Photography is a great combination with Fine Art at GCSE and A Level.





GCSE 3D – Architecture and Transport

Exam board	WJEC Eduqas GCSE in ART AND DESIGN (Three-dimensional Design)
QAN	C656QS

How is the subject Examined?

Over the 2 years students will complete 2 projects. They work in 20-page A2 flip files and will present their best work for assessment.

Component I: Personal Portfolio – (coursework) 60%. This is completed between the beginning of Year 10 and the January of Year 11.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment – (examination) 40%. This is completed between February and May of Year 11, culminating in a 10-hour practical exam. There is no written exam. Students will annotate their folders as they work throughout their coursework.

What will I study?

There are two pathways for the completion of coursework, Architecture or Transport Design. Through this students will learn the basics of how to work to a brief, research, design, evaluate and then make their responses to developing a new product in these areas. Students will develop all areas of the design and making prototypes process, developing all ideas digitally using CAD programmes and then building prototypes using specialist materials and equipment that mirrors manufacturing industries.

Leading careers?

Studying this qualification will provide students with an intensive high-quality portfolio of work that would prepare them for any interview including apprenticeship opportunities or further study into any design discipline or architecture.

Post 16 choices?

We offer A Level Product Design and A Level Graphics. Typically, if students want to take their studies in Design beyond post-16 they will study courses at University in which we have a 100% first choice success rate. Students can follow routes in Transport Design, Architecture, Product Design, Furniture Design, Jewellery Design.



GCSETEXTILES

Exam board	WJEC Eduqas GCSE in ART AND DESIGN (Textiles)
QAN	C653QS

How is the subject Examined?

Over the 2 years students will complete 2 projects. They work in 20-page A2 flip files and will present their best work for assessment.

Component 1: Personal Portfolio – (coursework) 60%. This is completed between the beginning of Year 10 and the January of Year 11.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment – (examination) 40%. This is completed between February and May of Year 11, culminating in a 10-hour practical exam. There is no written exam. Students will annotate their folders as they work throughout their coursework.

What will I study?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, textiles art and design is a great choice.

Throughout the course you will develop skills in stitched, printed or decorative textiles., woven and Knitted textiles. Areas of study include fashion design and illustration, costume design, constructed textiles, printed and dyed textiles and digital textiles. Learning to experiment with a range of media, techniques and materials in response to a growing understanding of the work of relevant textile artist. The requirements of the course are to produce a portfolio of work showing initial explorations and ideas on a chosen theme by Christmas of year 11, plus a final piece or a range of final pieces.

Leading careers?

Fashion design • Theatre designer • Illustrator • Museum curator • Costume designer • Architecture • Textiles design • Advertising • Publishing • Interior design • Fashion and media journalism • Retail design • Exhibition design • Teaching

Post 16 choices?

Art & Design Textiles A Level



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GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Exam board	AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Design and Technology
QAN	603/0984/2

How is the subject Examined?

- 50% Non Examined Assessment (NEA) 30 hour substantial design & make task. This includes substantial researching, designing, prototyping, development of a final outcome and evaluation.
- 50% Written Examination—2 hours paper based on core technical principles, specialist technical principles, designing and making principles.

What will I study?

GCSE 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. Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Leading careers?

- Product or Industrial Designer
- Engineering including civil, automotive
 & mechanical
- Architecture and Interior Design
- Theatre Set Design
- Furniture Design

Post 16 choices?

- A Level Product Design
- Apprenticeships
- Further education courses such as BTECs in related subjects



GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

Exam board	AQA GCSE (9-1) in Food Preparation and Nutrition
QAN	601/8421/8

How is the subject Examined?

- Exam -Food preparation and nutrition = 50%
- Non-examined assessment Food investigation task = 15%
- Non-examined assessment Food preparation task = 35%

What will I study?

The topics are: Food, nutrition and health Food science Food safety Food choice Food provenance.

This is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. A part of NEA 2, pupils will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Leading careers?

- Food and drink including bakery, dairy, confectionary, butchery, e.g. artisan baker, food technologist.
- Hospitality catering, e.g. chef, sous chef, pastry chef.
- Hospitality management, e.g. deputy general manager, front office manager.
- Clinical Dietetics.
- Food and Nutrition Management.
- Public Health Nutrition







GCSE MUSIC

Exam board	Eduqas GCSE Music
QAN	601/8131/X

How is the subject Examined?

Performance (30% of the final grade): perform solo and ensemble pieces on your chosen instrument, voice or via technology. This will be for a minimum of 4 minutes. **Composition** (30% of the final grade): Write 2 pieces of music; one piece is free, in your chosen style, the other is to a set brief.

Listening and Analysing (40% of the final grade): I hour and 30 minute exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music.

What will I study?

On the course you will learn to:

- Develop your skills as a performer; both as a soloist and as part of an ensemble.
- Create your own music in a variety of different styles and genres.
- Use music ICT software for composition.
- Listen and analyse a wide variety of pop, classical, world and experimental music.

Music GCSE is for anyone who is passionate about making and creating music! The course is diverse and inclusive yet stretching and rewarding for all types of students. You **must be** willing to perform either on an instrument or using your voice and be committed to regular practice throughout the course. You will have opportunities to attend concerts to develop your understanding of different types of music and to spend time in our recording studio.

Leading careers?

Career opportunities include: musician, instrumental teacher, sound technician (TV, film, radio), music therapist, arts administrator, event manager, theatre stage manager, recording engineer, songwriter, composer, conductor, music publisher, teacher. The range of options are huge!

Post 16 choices?

At Blue Coat we offer A levels in Music and Music Technology. Both courses are designed to lead on from GCSE Music. Many of our past students have gone on to study Music or Music Technology at University or Conservatoires and have been successful in creating a career in music.



GCSE DRAMA

Exam board	AQA GCSE in Drama
QAN	601/8575/2

How is the subject Examined?

- Scripted performance = 20%
- Devised performance & coursework = 40%
- Written examination = 40%

What will I study?

GCSE Drama will stretch your creativity as you study a range of theatre styles through a mixture of practical and theory lessons. You will specialise in either performance or design (lighting, sound, set and costume) for the performance projects you will take part in.

During the course, you will create an original piece of drama from scratch (contributing as a performer or designer) and produce a piece of coursework as an account of your experience. You will also perform or design for two extracts from a script.

The final written examination will have questions for you on your performance and design ideas for the musical "Blood Brothers" and a live professional production that you to see in Year 11.

Leading careers?

The communication and problem-solving skills developed in drama are applicable for a range of industries. Performance in theatre, TV and film (actor, director, design & technical). Marketing, PR and communications. Journalism. Teaching. Personnel / human resources. Social work. Youth and community work.

Post 16 choices?

At Post 16 we offer a BTEC L3 course in Performing Arts preparing students to enter the performing arts industry. Our PA students enjoy the different learning style with various other subjects. Our performing arts students are future leaders, managers and creative thinkers that all employers and education institutions are looking for.



Make notes on your favourite subjects here...

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