



Key Stage 4 Subject Information

2026-2028



A Guide for Students and Parents



Dear Parent/Guardian,

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

Specifications may change due to government reforms. However, the basis of each 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 to face the fast-changing and demanding world of higher education, industry, commerce, and business.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Tomlinson
Senior Deputy Headteacher

Ms K Fletcher
Assistant Headteacher



How we help you to make your choices

The Year 9 Options Process





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, master's degrees, doctorates, professional diplomas and awards, higher national diplomas and certificates, etc. The first steps are Level 1 and Level 2 of the National Qualifications Framework and include GCSEs, BTEC First Diplomas and Certificates, Level 1 and 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 must 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, referred to as options. Students select their first and second priority subjects first before moving on to select their 3rd option and their reserve choice.

Choosing options is a serious matter. It requires careful thought and discussion with parents/carers, tutors, and relevant subject teachers. Talking to friends and older students is also useful. However, it is highly unlikely that any choices made at this stage will close doors forever. The subjects essential for most future careers are at the heart of our core curriculum.



Core Subjects

At Blue Coat School the **compulsory** GCSE subjects, known as "core subjects," reflect both national curriculum requirements and our commitment to 'living life in all its fullness'.

These subjects are designed to provide a strong foundation of academic knowledge, personal development, and ethical understanding, ensuring students are well-prepared for their future education and lives.

The core subjects at Blue Coat are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Religious Education (RE)

Details about each of the core GCSE courses available can be found in this section.

In addition, students also participate in non-examined lessons in:

- Core PE – to promote physical health and well-being.
- PSHE – to develop personal, social, and health education, as well as key life skills.



GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language

Exam board	Pearson Edexcel
QAN	601/4836/6 601/4789/1

How is the subject Examined?

These courses are examined with terminal exams in Year 11. There is no coursework component for either of the GCSE English qualifications. Students will be placed into sets at the beginning of Year 10, as their classes in KS3 are all mixed ability. GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language form two separate GCSEs and there is no tiered entry which means all students will sit the same papers.

What will I study?

GCSE English Language

Component 1: Fiction and Imaginative Writing

- **Reading:** Students analyse an unseen 19th Century fiction extract.
- **Writing:** Students produce a piece of creative writing.

Component 2: Non-fiction and Transactional Writing

- **Reading:** Students analyse, evaluate and compare two non-fiction texts.
- **Writing:** Students produce a piece of transactional writing.

Spoken Language Endorsement

- Students will create and present a speech on a topic of their choice.

GCSE English Literature

Component 1: Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature

- **Shakespeare:** Students will study one Shakespeare play, exploring themes, characters, and language.
- **Post-1914 Literature:** This includes studying a modern novel or play, focusing on contemporary themes and contexts.

Component 2: 19th-century Novel and Poetry since 1789

- **19th-century Novel:** Students will read and analyse a novel from the 19th century.
- **Poetry since 1789:** This involves studying a selection of poems from different periods, including a focus on unseen poetry.

Leading careers?

Success in English supports a wide and diverse range of careers as the objectives of this core subject, prioritise effective communication of ideas. Therefore, future employers value candidates who have a strong command of the subject.

Post 16 choices?

Students will be able to continue their study of English through our Post 16 opportunities of: A Level Literature, A Level Language and Literature and A Level Media Studies

GCSE Mathematics

Exam board	AQA
QAN	601/4608/4

How is the subject Examined?

These courses are assessed through terminal exams in Year 11. There is no coursework component for the Mathematics GCSE. Students in Sets 1, 2, and 3 will study the Higher GCSE content, while those in Sets 4, 5, and 6 will study the Foundation GCSE. The assessment consists of three papers: one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. All the content described below can be accessed on any paper.

What will I study?

GCSE Mathematics

Number

- Structure and Calculation
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Measures and accuracy

Algebra

- Notation, vocabulary and manipulation
- Graphs
- Solving Equations and Inequalities
- Sequences

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change

Geometry and Measure

- Properties and constructions
- Mensuration's and calculation
- Vectors

Probability

Statistics

More detailed Foundation GCSE topic list



More detailed Higher GCSE topic list



Leading careers?

Mathematics supports a wide range of careers, and this subject provides students with a wide variety of skills, such as; problem-solving, communication and financial life skills. There are many fields that directly link with mathematics including; Engineering, Economics, Software Developer.

Post 16 choices?

Students can continue their study of Mathematics through Post 16, with A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics.



GCSE in Biology/Chemistry/Physics

Exam board	AQA GCSE in Biology/Chemistry/Physics
QAN	601/8752/9 601/8757/8 601/8751/7

How is the subject(s) Examined?

Each course is assessed through terminal exams in Year 11. Students in Sets One and Two will study the course in Year 10, with Set One continuing the course into Year 11 and Set Two transitioning to the Combined Science course. Mock exams and classroom performance data will determine which students continue the course and move into Set One.

The Separate Science qualification route covers the same content as the Combined Trilogy pathway; however, an additional one-third of content is introduced over the two years. This increases the subject award to three GCSEs, with grades being specific to each subject.

We do not offer this course pathway as an elective option.

What will I study?

Trilogy is broken up into the three sciences. The topics studied in each are as follows:

Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology
8. Key ideas

Chemistry

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources
11. Key ideas

Physics

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics (physics only)

Leading careers?

As with combined, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics support a broad spectrum of careers and are variations of the mandatory science GCSE. As before, future employers value strong grades in these subjects. Science-specific careers typically rely on continuing the study into and beyond post-16 and include diverse fields of employment, from aerospace engineering to medical sciences.

Post 16 choices?

Students will be able to continue their study of the three sciences post-16 with our offering of A-Level Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. The separate sciences do have additional content at GCSE; however, AQA A-levels are designed to follow on from the Combined Science pathway. This means that while the additional content can confer a slight overlap in certain topics, increasing familiarity, it is not essential.

GCSE in Combined Science: Trilogy

Exam board	AQA GCSE in Combined Science: Trilogy
QAN	601/8758/X

How is the subject Examined?

The course is assessed through terminal exams in Year 11. Students in sets two and three will sit the higher-tier papers, while students in sets four to six will sit the foundation-tier papers.

However, this is not rigid: in Year 11, adjustments will be made in consultation with parents to ensure the correct exam route is chosen, based on all collected mock and classroom data.

Students receive a double grade (e.g. 8-7), which is determined by their performance across all three sciences. Therefore, this subject is equivalent to two GCSEs.

In Year 10, sets one and two will study the separate science courses, with only set one continuing to do so in Year 11. Setting is adjusted based on performance data.

What will I study?

Trilogy is broken up into the three sciences and is typically taught by three teachers who are subject specialists. The topics studied in each are as follows:

Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

Chemistry

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table
9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
10. Quantitative chemistry
11. Chemical changes
12. Energy changes
13. The rate and extent of chemical change
14. Organic chemistry
15. Chemical analysis
16. Chemistry of the atmosphere
17. Using resources

Physics

18. Energy
19. Electricity
20. Particle model of matter
21. Atomic structure
22. Forces
23. Waves
24. Magnetism and electromagnetism

Leading careers?

Science supports a broad spectrum of careers and is a mandatory subject at GCSE. Therefore, future employers value a strong grade in the subject. Science specific careers typically rely on continuing the study into and beyond post-16, and include diverse fields of employment, from aerospace engineering all the way to medical sciences.

Post 16 choices?

Students will be able to continue their study of the three sciences into post-16 with our offering of A-Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics. AQA A-Level sciences are based on the completion of this course as a starting point.

GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Exam board	AQA GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES, SPEC A (8062)
QAN	601/8400/0

How is the subject Examined?

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

What will I study?

Christian and Muslim Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

You will study the main beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam.

Theme A: Relationships and Families

You will study religious teachings and ethical arguments relating to family, sex, marriage, divorce and gender equality.

Theme B: Religion and Life

You will study religious teachings and ethical arguments relating to the origins and values of the universe and human life.

Theme D: Peace and Conflict

You will study religious teachings and ethical arguments relating to violence, terrorism, war and conflict in the 21st century.

Theme E: Crime and Punishment

You will study religious teachings and ethical arguments relating to crime, the causes of crime and forms of punishment.

Leading careers?

In the world of work, employers look for individuals with an enquiring mind, an appreciation of different viewpoints, and the ability to make clear, balanced decisions. These skills are all developed through this course. If you aspire to work in social work, teaching, journalism, publishing, medicine, law, business, tourism, or to work abroad in environments with different cultures, then this course can help you achieve those goals.

Post 16 choices?

You can continue to study RE at A-Level, where we focus on Philosophy, Ethics and Christianity.





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?

Students are strongly advised to ignore:

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

Due to timetable constraints, we cannot guarantee that all students will be able to study all their option choices. Within those constraints, we will make every effort to accommodate as many choices as possible.

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



Making your choices:

At Blue Coat School the compulsory GCSE subjects, known as "core subjects," reflect both national curriculum requirements and our commitment to "living life in all its fullness".

These subjects are designed to provide a strong foundation of academic knowledge, personal development, and ethical understanding, ensuring students are well-prepared for their future education and lives.

Step 1: Selecting your two priority subjects.

With their core foundation in place, students are invited to select **two further subjects** from the following categories: **Languages, Humanities, Creative & Computing**.

Important Rules:

Each subject must come **from a different category box**. Example: *One Language and one Humanity*.

If a student selects Computing in Step 1, they cannot pick from the Humanities box at this stage. They will have the opportunity to choose from Humanities in Step 2.

Step 2: Selecting your third and final Subject
In this section, you are invited to choose your **third and final subject**, along with a **reserve choice**.

Important Advice:

We recommend that you place your **highest priority subjects in Step 1**. This helps us allocate places fairly and ensures your top choices are considered first.

In addition, students also participate in non-examined lessons in:

- Core PE – to promote physical health and well-being.
- PSHE – to develop personal, social, and health education, as well as key life skills.

Core subject offer

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Science
(Triple or Combined)

Religious
Education

Step 1: Pick **two** subjects. Each must come from a separate category

Languages
French, German
or Spanish
(Subject studied in Year 9)

Humanities
History or
Geography

Creative
3D, Photography, Fine Art,
Textiles, D&T, Dance,
Drama, Music.

Computing
Must be studied with
Language or Creative
only.

Step 2: Select **one** of any of the following

French, German, Spanish, History, Geography, Business, PE, Computing, Food & Nutrition,
*A&D 3D, A&D Fine Art, A&D Textiles, D&T, Dance, Drama, Music, Photography

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 three 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.

Anglo Saxon and Norman England 1060-1087

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, or 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, such as tropical rainforests and hot environments; and the physical landscapes of rivers and coasts, particularly the issues associated with flooding and coastal management.

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment: This considers the issues of living in urban areas in lower and higher-income countries, managing services when there is growth and decline in cities, and investigating how to meet the needs of a variety of groups of people. The economic world on a global scale, as well as in the UK, is 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 fields 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	610/2718/2

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 contexts:

- 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, teacher, translator, journalist, TEFL teacher, tour manager, international business consultant, diplomat, flight attendant, travel agent, foreign correspondent, language researcher, roles in global finance, law, national intelligence, the manufacturing industry, and many more.

Post 16 choices?

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

GCSE GERMAN

Exam board	EDEXEL GCSE (9-1) in German start 2024
QAN	610/3473/3

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 contexts:

- 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 useful and rewarding skill.

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, teacher, translator, journalist, TEFL teacher, tour manager, international business consultant, diplomat, flight attendant, travel agent, foreign correspondent, language researcher, roles in global finance, law, national intelligence, the manufacturing industry, and many more.

Post 16 choices?

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

GCSE SPANISH

Exam board	EDEXEL GCSE (9-1) in Spanish start 2024
QAN	610/3469/1

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 contexts:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism



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

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, teacher, translator, journalist, TEFL teacher, tour manager, international business consultant, diplomat, flight attendant, travel agent, foreign correspondent, language researcher, roles in global finance, law, national intelligence, the manufacturing industry, and many more.

Post 16 choices?

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

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam board	OCR J277 GCSE (9-1) in Computer Science
QAN	601/8355/X
Conditions of Participation:	If chosen as one of your two 'category' options in step 1 – It must be paired with a subject from the creative or language category.

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 lasting ninety minutes. The first exam covers computer theory and how computers work, while the second focuses on 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 high-level 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 2016 that all developed nations will experience job loss rates of up to 47% within the next 25 years, according to a recent Oxford study. "No government is prepared," The Economist reports. These job losses will include both blue- and white-collar roles.

As such, Computer Scientists are in high demand across all sectors. Several local businesses, such as JLR, are actively looking to recruit Computer Scientists. 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 1 -Business Activity, Marketing and People (1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50% of the total GCSE).
- Business 2 -Operations, Finance, and Influences on Business (1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50% of the total GCSE).

External examinations, worth 100% of the GCSE, will be taken in Year 11.

What will I study?

Students will begin by exploring 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. The course also includes finance, human resources, operations, and external influences.

The following topics will be studied in the course:

- **Marketing:** Including advertising, product development, and setting the best price.
- **Recruitment:** Including how businesses find the right staff and keep them motivated.
- **Business Structures:** Including the different ways to set up a business.
- **Finance:** Including how businesses secure funding to set up and operate, and how they make a profit.
- **Business Operations:** Including how businesses produce the goods we buy.
- **Influences on Businesses:** Including environmental factors and how businesses operate globally.

Leading careers?

This course is suitable for any student interested in how businesses operate in the real world. It provides an appreciation of the dynamic nature of the business world they will enter.

This course is vital and suitable for everyone entering the workforce, across almost all professions. It is particularly relevant for those interested in careers in accountancy, marketing, business consultancy, or for students planning to start their own business.

Post 16 choices?

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



Physical Education

Exam board	OCR Level 1/2 GCSE (9-1) in Physical Education
QAN	601/8442/5
Conditions of Participation:	You must compete in at least one sport (club level) and competitively in 2 other sports (team or individual) and participate on a regular basis.

How is the subject Examined?

Theory 60%		Practical 40%
Two Exams		Non-exam Assessment
Physical factors Affecting Performance (1) 30%	Socio-Cultural Issues & Sports Psychology (2) 30%	3x Practical performances (30%) AEP coursework (10%)

It is mandatory that you compete in at least one sport (club level).

It is essential that you can also perform competitively in 2 other sports (team or individual) and that you participate on a regular basis.

A strong foundation in Science is also highly recommended.

What will I study?

GCSE (9-1) PE includes the compulsory study of: Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Physical Training, Sports Psychology, Socio-cultural Influences and Health, Fitness, and Wellbeing. Alongside this, the practical skills of PE are assessed through the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) component.

Leading careers?

- Sports Coaching & Development sector
- Physiotherapy
- Personal trainer
- Sports Psychology
- Physical Education Teacher



Post 16 choices?

A level Physical Education & BTEC Sport.

NCFE Health & Fitness V-CERT

Exam board	NCFE Health & Fitness V-CERT
QAN	603/7007/5

How is the subject Examined?

Internal Synoptic Project 60%	Theory 40%
Internal Synoptic Project (60%) – Plan and evaluate a fitness programme (Lifestyle Analysis, Fitness Testing & Programme Design)	One External Exam
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding body systems, systems, training principles, principles, and effects of exercise

A foundation in Science is also highly recommended.

What will I study?

Students studying the NCFE Health and Fitness (V-Cert) will explore a mix of theoretical and practical content designed to build a strong foundation in health, fitness, and the human body. Here's a breakdown of what they will study: Body Systems, Effects of Exercise, Components of Fitness & Principles of Training.

Leading careers?

- Sports Coaching & Development sector
- Physiotherapy
- Personal trainer
- Sports Psychology
- Physical Education Teacher

Post 16 choices?

BTEC Sport.



GCSE MUSIC

Exam board	Eduqas GCSE Music
QAN	601/8131/X
Conditions of Participation:	You must play a musical instrument or sing.

Why Choose Music GCSE?

If you love making music, this course is for you! It's creative, inclusive, and rewarding — whether you sing, play an instrument, or produce music digitally. You'll need to commit to regular practice and be ready to perform. Plus, you'll get to attend concerts and use our recording studio!

How is the subject examined?

 Performance – 30%

Show off your skills! You'll perform solo and in a group on your chosen instrument, voice, or using music tech — for at least 4 minutes.

 Composition – 30%

Get creative! You'll write two original pieces: one in your own style, and one based on a set brief.

 Listening & Analysis – 40%

Explore music! You'll take a 1.5-hour exam with listening tasks and written questions based on musical extracts.

How will I Study?

On this exciting course, you'll:

- Build confidence as a performer — solo and ensemble.
- Compose music in different styles and genres.
- Use music software to bring your ideas to life.
- Listen to and analyse pop, classical, world, and experimental music.

Leading Careers?

Music GCSE opens doors to amazing careers like Musician or singer, Instrumental teacher, Sound technician (TV, film, radio), Music therapist, Composer or songwriter, Recording engineer, Event or stage manager, Arts administrator, Music publisher, and of course... music teacher!

The possibilities are endless!



GCSE ART

Exam board	WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Art & Design (Fine Art)
QAN	601/8087/0
Conditions for participation:	Cannot be studied in conjunction with A&D: 3D Design & A&D: Textiles

How is the subject Examined?

Over the two years, students will complete two 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 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 work as they develop ideas through the preparatory period.

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 £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 & Design (Photography)
QAN	601/8087/0

How is the subject Examined?

Over the two years, students will complete two 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 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 work as they develop ideas through the preparatory period.

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 opportunities for 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.

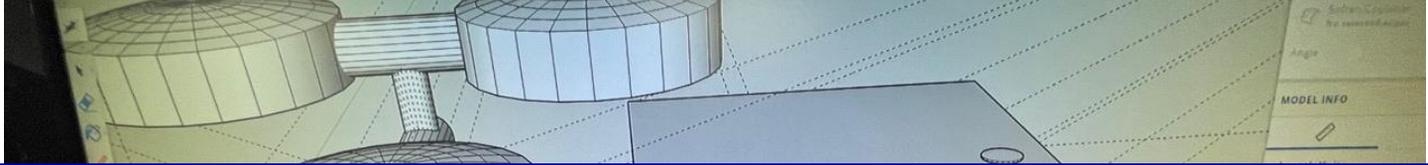
Leading careers?

Studying art-based subjects such as Photography equips students with the skills to enjoy, produce, and engage with visual literacy throughout their lives. It holds 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, students who wish to pursue their studies in Photography beyond Post-16 will study photographic courses at university, where we have a 100% first-choice success rate. Students can also explore career pathways in Fashion, Media, Journalism, Marketing, and Advertising. Photography combines well with Fine Art at both GCSE and A-Level.





GCSE 3D – Architecture and Transport

Exam board	WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Art & Design (Three-dimensional Design)
QAN	601/8086/9
Conditions of Participation:	Cannot be studied in conjunction with A&D: Fine Art & A&D: Textiles

How is the subject Examined?

Over the two years, students will complete two 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 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 work as they develop ideas to make in the exam.

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, students who wish to pursue their studies in Design beyond Post-16 will study courses at university, where we have a 100% first-choice success rate. Students can follow career pathways in Transport Design, Architecture, Product Design, Furniture Design, and Jewellery Design.



GCSE TEXTILES

Exam board	WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Art & Design (Textiles)
QAN	601/8087/0
Conditions for participation:	Cannot be studied in conjunction with A&D: 3D Design & A&D: Fine Art

How is the subject Examined?

Over the two years, students will complete two 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 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 work as they develop ideas through the preparatory period.

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 • Teaching
- Architecture • Textiles design • Advertising
- Interior design • Fashion and media journalism
- Publishing • Retail design • Exhibition design

Post 16 choices?

Art & Design Textiles A Level



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) – A 30-hour substantial design and make task. This includes substantial research, designing, prototyping, the development of a final outcome and evaluation.
- 50% Written Examination – A 2-hour paper based on core technical principles, specialist technical principles, and designing and making principles.

What will I study?

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

Students will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making, while applying 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. As 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 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.





GCSE Dance

Exam board	AQA
QAN	601/8549/1

How is the subject Examined?

Practical 60%		Theory 40%
Internally marked and externally moderated		Exam
Performance Set phrases x 2 through a solo performance Duet/Trio 30%	Choreography Solo or group choreography 30%	1 hour 30 min exam Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performance Critical appreciation of own and professional works 40%

It is recommended that you currently take part in Dance outside of school or have been previously technically trained/part of a dance school.

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?

At University you can pursue a Dance or Performing Arts Degree, Dancer, Dance/PE Teacher, Choreographer, Arts administrator, Executive producer, Company manager, Creative learning manager, Costume designer, Event management

Post 16 choices?

BTEC Performing Arts offered at Blue Coat, A level Dance , A level Drama, Dance Colleges, Other vocational courses

