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THE Mosslands SCHOOL

Options Booklet
for 2017-20

A Technology College

Important Dates

Tuesday 24th January	Year 8 Options Evening
Thursday 2nd February	Year 8 Parents Evening
Friday 3rd February	Students return their Option Form



“The curriculum is well designed to meet the needs of pupils of all abilities.

It is broadly academic but also offers vocational subjects and a wide range of opportunities for pupils to **learn new skills.” (Ofsted 2016)**



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Introduction

Welcome to our Key Stage 4 Advice Evening and to our Options Booklet for 2017, which I hope you find interesting and informative.

As you enter Years 9, 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4), you have for the first time, some choice over the subjects you will study.



The purpose of this booklet is to:

- Present to you and your parents the curriculum and courses which are planned for September 2017
- Advise you of changes to performance measures at Key Stage 4
- Explain the syllabus content, course structure and assessment arrangements for these courses
- Help you to make decisions, which will be appropriate, relevant and lead to success in the next and subsequent stages of student life.

Our aim is to provide you with a broad and balanced curriculum, tailored to your individual needs which leads to a range of possibilities and opportunities post 16.

Since the National Curriculum continues until the end of Year 11, some of what is studied at Key Stage 4 is compulsory. These subjects are outlined on The Core Programme pages of this booklet. The rest of the Key Stage 4 curriculum is optional. You will need to spend some time discussing and selecting which subjects to study for the next three years.

For students, this is an exciting but often challenging time and I would urge you to talk with Subject Tutors, Form Tutors, House staff, Careers Advisors and myself in order to ensure that the right decisions are made, as changing courses in September is very difficult.

It is important that the Options Form is returned to your Form Tutor on Friday 3rd February. The Options booklet contains a wealth of information about courses, examinations and other requirements and so should be kept safe so you can refer to it over the next three years. Please note, that although we aim to provide you with your first choice courses, we cannot guarantee this as some courses are limited in number by the need for specialist facilities. It is possible that some courses may not run due to lack of numbers and some combinations will prove impossible to timetable. This is why you are asked to select reserve choices and these need just as careful consideration as your preferred choices.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at Mosslands, I would like to wish you every success as you embark on this new and exciting phase of your education.

Mr J Sanford (*Deputy Headteacher*)



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Guidance – Some Questions and Answers

What subjects must I study?

All students must study English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (which counts as 2 GCSEs or 3 GCSEs if you take Separate Sciences), ICT, PE, RE and Careers.

What changes have there been to GCSEs?

As you may be aware the Government has started a process of moving GCSE grades from the traditional letter grades (A*-G) to numerical grades (9-1, where 9 is the highest). Most of your qualifications will be reported numerically in the summer of 2020, apart from the vocational qualifications e.g. BTEC or CTEC subjects.

What other changes are there?

The Government has introduced new measures by which schools and students will be judged. Two of these are the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and the 'Best 8'. **It is anticipated that Colleges, Universities and employers will increasingly look at an individual's performance in these two areas.**

The EBacc is achieved if a student gains a minimum of GCSE grade 5 in English, Maths, at least two Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities (Geography or History) subject.

The 'Best 8' takes an average of the 'Best 8' GCSE grades (or equivalent) a student achieves, including English, Maths and at least 3 other EBacc subjects.

The Government are currently consulting on whether to make the EBacc compulsory from 2018 but based on **the Government's current position it is believed that the EBacc and 'Best 8' qualifications will become increasingly important.** Consequently, you will want to make sure you are best placed to capitalise on these measures.

Can I take anything I want?

You already know that some subjects are compulsory.

You need to make four option choices (one from each block), including at least one subject from History, Geography, French, German, Mandarin, Computer Science and Separate Sciences (These are all highlighted in yellow on the options form).

If this presents you with any difficulties, please speak to Mr Sanford.

It is possible that some subjects will not run because of lack of numbers or that some courses will be oversubscribed. That is why you are asked to indicate a reserve choice in each **block, indicating it with a 'R', and you need to think about these as carefully as your preferred choices.**



Do I have to choose a language?

The short answer is no. However, there is a strong demand for people with qualifications and proficiency in at least one modern language and such qualifications will strengthen future applications for Higher and Further Education. If you enjoy languages, you should think carefully about studying French, German or Mandarin. Also be mindful that a language is an essential component of the English Baccalaureate.

Will I be able to change my mind next year?

No – it will not be possible to move between subjects after the beginning of Year 9 so you are signing up now for a three year programme.

Will I be able to cope with the work?

You will obviously choose some subjects because you have succeeded in them. Remember that a subject may be very useful even if you do not like it. However, it is wise to avoid any subject in which you have experienced real difficulty. You will get out of your courses what you put into them. This means that you must work steadily both in class and at home.

Independent Study and homework is an essential part of all examination courses.

How do I choose?

Choosing the subjects you will study for the next three years is an important crossroad in your life. Although you do not have to decide upon your career now, and even though you will not be leaving school for at least another three years, it is important to realise that the subjects you choose could affect your future. It is important to keep a balance of subjects in order to keep as many career doors open as possible.

Remember that:

- Your ideas about careers and jobs might change
- It is wise to have a general career direction in mind rather than one specific career
- If you think you know what you want to do as a career, check the subjects you need, but still keep an overall balance.

To help making choices, use the following:

Our website – www.mosslands.co.uk
www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk
www.futuremorph.org



When do I have to choose?

You must make your decision by the day following the Parents' Evening. This is shown on the second page of this booklet. The Option form must be returned to your Form Tutor on time.

Do

- Select subjects which you enjoy studying and remember those that may be new to you.
- Select subjects that you are good at.
- Ask family, friends and teachers for advice.
- Find out everything possible about a subject as you will be taking it for three years.

Don't

- Select a subject because your friend is **doing it: you probably won't be in the same class.**
- Select a subject because you like the teacher: you will probably have a different teacher at Key Stage 4.
- Select subjects that are too similar: you should have a range of qualifications for your future and to vary your days.

The Qualifications You Can Get

All courses last three years.

GCSE

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Most GCSE subjects require you to take examinations at the end of the course which count for 100% of the assessment. Some courses have an element of the skills which are assessed practically or by project. The assessment mechanisms for each course are shown on the subject information pages.

GCSEs are now graded from 9 to 1 but students will not do exactly the same class work. In some subjects there will be a choice of papers or questions to suit their abilities. Students will be guided as to which papers and questions they will attempt and the work they will undertake during the course.

BTEC or other Tech Awards

Tech awards are applied qualifications which fully engage students. They provide a more practical real – world approach to learning and skills development. The qualification could be in readiness for the workplace or continued study at the next level whether in an academic environment or a more specialist applied area.

E.g. the BTEC Level 2 First Awards are equivalent to one GCSE graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

Taking a Tech award does not prevent students from progressing to Level 3 courses post 16.

Old GCSE Grades	A* - A	9	New GCSE Grades
		8	
		7	
	B	6	
	C "Good pass"	5 "Good pass"	
		4	
	D - G	3	
		2	
		1	
	U	U	

"The outcomes achieved by pupils allow them to progress to the next stage of their lives successfully, whether that is in sustained education, employment or training."

(Ofsted 2016)



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THE KEY STAGE FOUR CURRICULUM

Firstly, the **Core Programme** is taken by every student. So you will study:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- ICT
- PE
- RE
- Careers (including Citizenship, Work Related Learning & Enterprise Education).

In total, you will need to make four options choices but remember, at least one must be a subject in yellow.

Subject
Art & Design
Business Studies (BTEC)
Construction & The Built Environment (Tech award)
Computer Science
Drama (BTEC)
Food & Cookery (Tech award)
French
Geography
German
History
Mandarin (chinese)
Music (BTEC)
Physical Education
Technology (Tech award)
Separate Sciences

“Teachers have secure subject knowledge that sustains pupils’ interest. They provide many opportunities to deepen knowledge, consolidate and build on understanding, and practise new skills.” (Ofsted 2016)



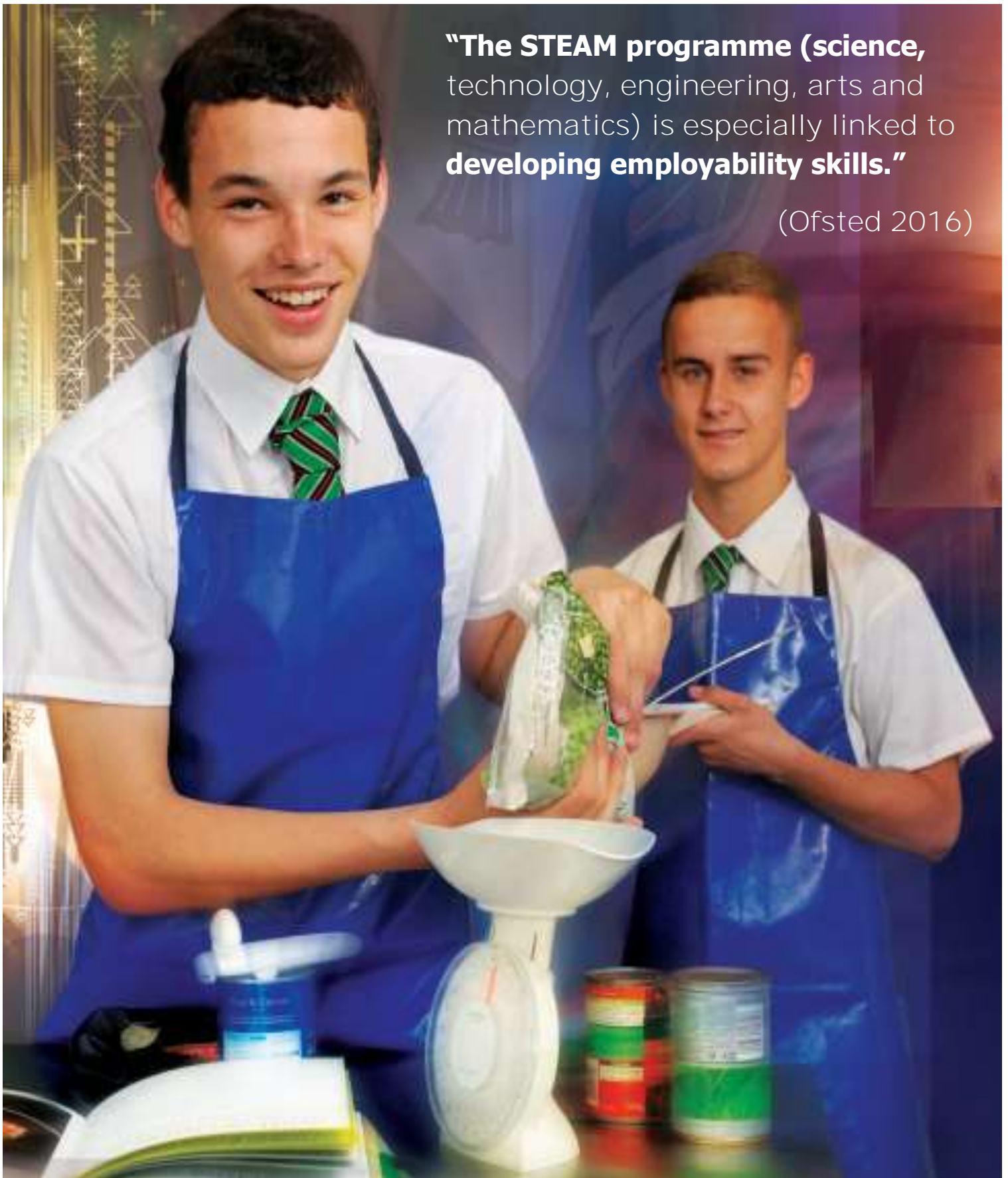
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“The STEAM programme (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) is especially linked to developing employability skills.”

(Ofsted 2016)



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The Core Programme



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English Language

Qualification: GCSE English Language (9-1)

QN Code: 601/4292/3

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

You will:

- Demonstrate your understanding of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Develop close reading and analytical skills in evaluating specific texts
- Write descriptive and narrative pieces
- Write to present a viewpoint
- Develop communication skills through discussion and presentation.

Assessment:

This three year course is assessed through external examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks
50% of GCSE

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks
50 % of GCSE

Spoken Language: This is set and marked by your English teacher. It is a compulsory part of the course and is certified separately.

Other Information:

It is a requirement that students study both English Language and English Literature.

English is an important requirement for many careers and Higher Education courses and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate and 'Best 8' achievement measures.

Subject Lead: Miss Adley

Qualification: GCSE English Literature (9-1)

QN Code: 601/4447/6

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

You will:

- Develop close reading and analytical skills in evaluating specific texts
- Read and study a Shakespeare Text
- Read and study a 19th Century Novel
- Read and study a Modern Text
- Read and study a collection of poetry on the theme of power and conflict.

Assessment:

This three year course is assessed through external examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

1 hour 45 minutes

64 marks

40% of GCSE

Paper 2: Modern Text and Poetry

2 hour 15 minutes

96 marks

60 % of GCSE

Other Information:

It is a requirement that students study both English Language and English Literature and therefore will gain two separate GCSEs in the English subjects.

English Literature

Subject Lead: Miss Adley

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/4700/3

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Edexcel



What you learn about:

Maths GCSE is a core subject taught to all students at GCSE. It is an essential part of any student's education, with many employers and Universities requiring Maths GCSE as part of their entry criteria. The course also allows students to become numerate, think clearly and logically and analyse situations, all of which will help them in everyday life. The Higher course also provides a good grounding for those students who want to go on and study Maths A Level or Further Maths A Level, as students will have to devise solutions to more complex problems.

During the course students will study:

- Number – this includes money, decimals, fractions and percentages.
- Algebra – algebra allows students to solve more complex problems and study sequences, solving equations and formulae.
- Geometry and measures - studying shapes allows students to understand the world around them. They will look at problems involving angles, measures, 2-D and 3-D shapes. The higher course will also look at trigonometry and circle theorems.
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change – students will study the relationships between two or more variables. This area of mathematics has applications in science, engineering, business and economics. They have particular use in chemistry and physics where they can be applied to anything from rates of chemical reactions to the proportion of the gravitational pull of stars on planets.
- Probability – students will look at how likely events are to happen. Probability is used widely in maths, statistics, finance, science, artificial intelligence and computer science.
- Statistics – here students will learn how to collect and interpret data, how to construct a variety of graphs and how to calculate and interpret averages.

Assessment:

The course is based entirely on exams. Students sitting the Higher Tier (Level 9 to 4) and the Foundation Tier (Level 5 to 1) will follow a Linear course.

The Linear course consists of three papers at the end of Year 11, a non-calculator and two calculator papers. Students will be targeted for a particular tier of entry at the beginning of Year 9 but this is not finalised until January of Year 11.

Other Information:

GCSE Maths is an important requirement for many careers and Higher Education courses and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate **and 'Best 8'** achievement measures.

The Higher course will prepare a student for A/AS Level Maths and Further Maths, which is also offered at the school.

Maths is a requirement for many careers and opens up many doors. Careers involving Maths specifically include Engineering, Banking, Finance and many more.

Maths

Subject Lead: Mrs Chapman

Qualification: GCSE Double Award (9-1)

Science QN Code: 601/8758/x

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

The Combined Science option is equivalent to two GCSEs and covers the three Science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

- For the Biology topics the content is based on key Biological principles such as cell division, respiration and photosynthesis. Students will also study homeostasis and response, bioenergetics, and inheritance, variation and evolution.
- Chemistry content begins by reviewing students understanding of atomic structure and the periodic table. Other topics include organic chemistry, chemical analysis and using resources.
- The key themes of forces, energy, waves and electricity run through the Physics content of the specification. Students will also study the particle model of matter and atomic structure.

Opting for Combined Science at GCSE provides the breadth of knowledge necessary to study Science at Level 3. A strong performance in GCSE Combined Science allows students access to pursue Science related careers and apprenticeships.

Assessment:

Combined GCSE will be assessed through six examination papers at the end of year 11 (two for each discipline). All papers are 1 hour 45 minutes long and are equally weighted towards the final grade.

All examinations consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response question types. There are 16 required practical activities for the Combined Science GCSE and these will be integrated and assessed within day-to-day teaching.

Other Information:

Science is a compulsory subject at key stage 4 and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate **and 'Best 8'** achievement measures.

Students will either take the Combined Science (Double Award) or Triple Science (3 Separate GCSE qualifications) pathway.

Students will be advised as to which course they are best suited to follow. Students on the Double Award Science pathway complete a qualification equivalent to two GCSEs.

Science

Subject Lead: Mrs Weston

Qualification: BCS ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF)

QN Code: 600/6943/0

Level: 2

Exam Board: ECDL



What you learn about:

ECDL is the world's number one IT user qualification—and the benchmark for digital literacy in educational systems around the globe. ECDL equips students with the skills to use a computer confidently and effectively, building on existing knowledge and motivating further learning. The qualification builds a more productive and efficient learner. The course promotes e-learning and automated exam testing to give confidence to all participants. ECDL Level 2 in Application Skills is a qualification that employers recognise and look for in school graduates. The course also incorporates elements of Computer Science.

The course is split into the following four exam units which will be conducted online:

- Word processing
- Spreadsheet software
- Presentation software
- Improving productivity using IT.

Assessment:

This qualification is the equivalent of a GCSE and is offered at Level 2. Level 2 enables students to gain grades equivalent to **the 'old' A* to C.**

The four tier grading structure gives learners appropriate recognition for their efforts:

Distinction* (A*)
Distinction (A)
Merit (B)
Pass ©

All four units are Exam based, carried out online, are externally marked and there is no coursework element.

Other Information:

During the course you will have access to lunch and after school support to help you prepare for each unit exam. Your lessons will be used to teach you skills related to the unit topic and to practice exam techniques to help you develop the required knowledge for the course.

ICT

Subject Lead: Mr Inman

Optional Subjects



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Art & Design

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8088/2

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

This is a broad based Art and Design course that prepares students well for access to Post-16 study. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two and/or three-dimensional media, techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies. This may include Fine Art (Drawing, Painting, Mixed media, Ceramics) and Graphic Communication with some use of computer software graphics packages. Students will be expected to develop their practical work by exploring relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to an area of art, craft and design. This will require independent research and investigation into a particular theme; this may be from a period or aspect of Art or Design from the past or from recent times and could be from anywhere in the world. Their practical response to this research must show an understanding of different styles, genres and traditions investigated. Career paths may include: Architecture, Product design, Graphic design, Interior design, Construction, Photography, Illustration, Animation, Fashion, Metal/stone design & craft and Printing.

Assessment:

Component 1: Portfolio of Work

Coursework consists of one extended or two projects that are set internally by the subject teacher. There will be coursework deadlines throughout the duration of the course. It is this/these project/s that make up **the student's portfolio of work. The Coursework Portfolio** makes up 60% of the final assessment and is marked out of 96.

Component 2: Externally Set Project

A Question paper, written by the Examination Board and issued from 1 February in the final year of the course, provides the starting point for a final project. After an allocated period of preparation time, students must produce a final piece of work during a supervised controlled test period of 10 hours. The work produced during this time must be unaided. The final Externally Set Project makes up 40% of the final assessment and is marked out of 96.

Other Information:

To meet the standards of a GCSE course in Art and Design, students will be required to complete work outside of lesson times- the department runs both lunchtime and evening sessions on set days.

This may take the form of independent research and investigation into a particular theme or may require the completion of practical work.

It is important that students enjoy and feel confident in their ability with the practical aspects of this subject.

A basic range of art materials and access to the internet at home would be useful but is not compulsory- sketch-books and other materials can be purchased at a discounted rate from the department.

Subject Lead: Ms Robbins

Qualification: BTEC First Award in Business Studies

QN Code: 600/4786/0

Level: 1 & 2



What you learn about:

It doesn't matter if you haven't studied this subject prior to taking this course. You might have an interest in business, and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you to understand all this and more.

You will be introduced to:

- The world of small businesses.
- What makes someone a successful business person.
- The opportunity to develop the key enterprise and financial skills and knowledge necessary to enable you to understand how businesses recognise opportunities, and build on them to succeed.

Assessment:

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Business is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH).

It has core and optional specialist units. You must complete the two core units, and a choice of optional units. This BTEC First Award has units that are assessed internally and a unit that Edexcel sets and marks externally.

Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Business			
Unit	Core units	Assessment method	GLH
1	Enterprise in the Business World	Internal	30
2	Finance for Business	External	30
Optional specialist			
3	Promoting a Brand	Internal	30
4	Principles of Customer Service	Internal	30
5	Sales and Personal Selling	Internal	30
6	Introducing Retail Business	Internal	30
7	Providing Business Support	Internal	30
8	Recruitment, Selection and Employment	Internal	30

Other Information:

BTECs are vocationally related qualifications and learners develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context.

Additionally, they are popular and effective because they engage learners to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace. These skills include: team-working; working from a prescribed brief; working to deadlines; presenting information effectively; and accurately completing administrative tasks and processes.

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8355/x

Level: 1/2

Exam Board: OCR



What you learn about:

Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement. Our Computer Science qualification will value computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do so.

Computer Systems

- Systems architecture
- **Memory**
- **Storage**
- **Wired and wireless networks**
- **Network topologies, protocols and layers**
- **Network security**
- **System software**
- **Moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns**

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

- **Translators and facilities of languages**
- **Algorithms**
- **High- and low-level programming**
- **Computational logic**
- **Data representation**

Programming Project

- **Programming techniques**
- **Design**
- **Development**
- **Effectiveness and efficiency**
- **Technical understanding**
- **Testing, evaluation and conclusions**

Assessment:

Computer Systems : Exam covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory (40% of final mark)

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming: Exam covering the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles (40% of final mark)

Programming Project: Non-exam assessment where candidates will be challenged by a range of exciting and engaging tasks to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned (20% of final mark).

Other Information:

During the course you will have access to lunch and after school support sessions to help you complete the controlled assessment to the expected standard.

Your lessons will be made up of theory and practical sessions.

You will be expected to catch up on any work that you have missed in your own time.

Subject Lead: Mr McKune

Qualification: Tech Award in Constructing the Built Environment

QN Code: 601/0543/4

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC



What you learn about:

This hands on and very practical based qualification is a new course designed to offer learners the opportunity to learn about the world of construction. The qualification is **based around 'plan, do review' concept of learning and will allow learners the opportunity** to learn and develop a wide range of construction based skills including joinery, decorating and plumbing.

The course is structured into 3 units. These are:

1. Safety and security in construction
2. Practical construction skills
3. Planning construction projects.

The units provide learners with 'real world' experiences in this field to prepare them for further learning at A Level, an apprenticeship or a work based college course.

Assessment:

Unit 1 will be assessed by an online 60 minute examination.

Units 2 and 3 are assessed via a range of project work and practical tasks completed during the three year course.

Other Information:

You will be expected to learn a range of new skills throughout the duration of the course. This is a real life course that is taught in a real life situation, to enrich and reinforce the skills required to embark upon a career within Construction.

Construction

Subject lead: Mr Roberts

Qualification: BTEC First Award in Drama

QN Code: 600/4785/9

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Edexcel



Drama

What you learn about:

This practical, engaging and stimulating course allows you to develop a range of skills and techniques in DRAMA and ACTING. This course will provide you with a multitude of opportunities to perform and learn in a practical environment.

Drama is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people. You will develop your improvisation and acting skills to a higher level.

Assessment:

UNIT 1 (Core unit) - Individual Showcase

You will be given a fictional performance event to prepare for. You will have to prepare performance material which links to the given scenario. This is externally assessed.

Assessment:

- A letter of application
- Two short performance pieces.

UNIT 2 (Core unit) - Preparation, Performance and Production

You will work as a company of actors to prepare for a performance. This will include all performers working alongside each other to develop and shape ideas for the final piece.

Assessment:

- A log book tracking your performance progression.
- The final performance piece.

UNIT 3 - Acting Skills

You will participate in a variety of practical workshops designed to develop your acting skills. You will focus on your use of drama techniques and how you interpret characters.

Assessment:

- **Actor's log books**
- Assessed performance work

Other Information:

- The Drama Department has high expectations of its students. This is a practical and creative subject which requires you to act and behave in a mature and responsible manner
- Theatre trips are organised to influence your practical work and to support **your Actor's Logs.**

Subject Lead: Mrs Brett

Qualification: NCFE Tech Award in Food and Cookery

QN Code: Awaiting Accreditation

Level: 1 & 2



Food and Cookery

What you learn about:

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in food and cookery. It will provide learners with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give them a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in food.

The objectives of this qualification are to help learners to:

- prepare and cook using basic skills
- understand food and its functions in the body and in recipes
- understand balanced diets and modification of recipes for health
- plan and produce dishes for a purpose.

Throughout the delivery of this qualification, the following core areas and transferable skills should be evident:

- planning
- research skills
- communication
- problem-solving skills
- health and safety.

Assessment:

The course is split into 4 units which are equally weighted;

Unit one; Preparing to Cook which is internally assessed through a portfolio of work.

Unit two; Understanding food which is internally assessed through a portfolio of work.

Unit three; Exploring balanced diets which is externally set and assessed examination paper.

Unit four; Plan and produce dishes in response to a brief which is internally assessed through a portfolio of work.

Other Information:

The Food Technology department commits itself to teaching students to prepare and cook food products in a safe and hygienic manner.

We aim to bring out the full potential of each student, allowing them to discover and develop their own style and culinary tastes.

Subject Lead: Mr Bradshaw

French

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8159/X

Level: 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

The new GCSE course covers three distinct themes.

Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries and communities where French is spoken.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

- Relationships with family and friends
- Marriage/partnership
- Social media
- Mobile technology
- Music
- Cinema and TV
- Food and eating out
- Sport

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

- Home, town and region, environment
- Charity/voluntary work/poverty
- Healthy/unhealthy living
- Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

- Life at school/college
- Education post-16
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Assessment:

The new GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four exam papers, each worth 25%, at the same tier at the end of Year 11.

Papers 1 + 3 - Listening & Reading: each paper is 35 mins (Foundation), 45 mins (Higher).

Paper 2 - Speaking: Role-play, photo card, conversation 7–9 minutes (Foundation), 10–12 minutes (Higher)

Paper 4 - Writing: Message, short passage, translation, structured task - 60 minutes (Foundation), 75 minutes (Higher).

Other Information:

- Access to a French Assistant / ICT for Speaking / Listening practice
- Possible visits to France
- Website recommendations for online study opportunities
- Careers advice on how to pursue French at post-16 and beyond
- A foreign language is recognized as an important element and contributing subject to the English **Baccalaureate** and 'Best 8' achievement measures.

Subject Lead: Mr Wilmin

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8157/6

Level: 2

Exam Board: AQA



German

What you learn about:

The new GCSE course covers three distinct themes.

Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries and communities where German is spoken.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

- Relationships with family and friends
- Marriage/partnership
- Social media
- Mobile technology
- Music
- Cinema and TV
- Food and eating out
- Sport

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

- Home, town and region, environment
- Charity/voluntary work/poverty
- Healthy/unhealthy living
- Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

- Life at school/college
- Education post-16
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Assessment:

The new GCSE German has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four exam papers, each worth 25%, at the same tier at the end of Year 11.

Papers 1 + 3 - Listening & Reading: each paper is 35 mins (Foundation), 45 mins (Higher).

Paper 2 - Speaking: Role-play, photo card, conversation 7–9 minutes (Foundation), 10–12 minutes (Higher)

Paper 4 - Writing: Message, short passage, translation, structured task - 60 minutes (Foundation), 75 minutes (Higher).

Other Information:

- Access to an ICT suite
- Links with our new partner school near Stuttgart
- Website recommendations for online study opportunities
- Careers advice on how to pursue German at post-16 and beyond
- A foreign language is recognized as an important element and contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate **and 'Best 8'** achievement measures.

Subject Lead: Mr Wilmin

Geography

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8410/3

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

At GCSE, the new specification includes looking at the changing landscapes of the UK – including, Coastal landscapes and processes, River landscapes and processes and Glaciated upland landscapes and processes.

In addition, the topics of Weather hazards and climate change and Ecosystems, biodiversity and management have been introduced to highlight threats to the human race in the future. The new specification also includes human geographical topics such as: Changing cities, Global development, Resource management, Energy Resources and Water Management.

Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges.

Students will also be required to develop an understanding of fieldwork techniques and data analysis skills which will be practice in fieldwork opportunities during Year 10.

Previous field studies have included, retail studies in Liverpool, river studies in North Wales and Tourism studies in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Assessment:

The Physical Environment

Written examination: 37.5% of the qualification

The Human Environment

Written examination: 37.5% of the qualification

Geographical Investigations

Written examination: 25% of the qualification—64 marks

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response, calculations, and 8-mark and 12-mark extended writing questions.

Other Information:

Geography is recognised as an important element and contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate **and 'Best 8'** achievement measures.

Geography is classified as a science subject in many Universities when studied at A Level.

Geography can lead to a variety of career prospects

Remember Geography is one of the most versatile subjects.

Subject Lead: Mr Lightwing

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8239/8

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Eduqas



What you learn about:

Component 1—Studies in Depth

This component is in two parts:

- The Elizabethan Age, 1558-1603
- The USA—A Nation of Contrasts, 1910-1929.

Component 2—Studies in Breadth

This component is in two parts:

- The Development of Germany, 1919-1991 (Period Study)
- Changes in Crime and Punishment in Britain, c500 to the present day (Thematic Study).

Assessment:

Component 1

Written examination of 2 one hour papers, worth 50% of the final grade.

Component 2

A two hour written examination, split into 2 papers of 45 minutes and 1 hour 15 minutes, worth 50% of the final grade.

Other Information:

During the course, there are opportunities for:

- Intervention
- Residential and day trips

History is recognised as an important element and contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate **and 'Best 8' achievement** measures.

History

Subject Lead: Mr Potts

Qualification: BTEC First Award in Music

QN Code: 600/6818/8

Level: 2

Exam Board: Edexcel



Music

What you learn about:

- **The Music Industry and it's types of organisations and understanding Job roles** within the industry
- Planning, developing, promoting, managing and reviewing a music event, CD or radio station
- Performing Music
 - ◇ develop your music performance skills and review your own practice
 - ◇ use your music performance skills within rehearsal and performance.
- Composing music
 - ◇ explore creative stimuli to meet a brief
 - ◇ develop, extend and shape music for performances
 - ◇ present compositions appropriately.

The course is split into the following four units:

- The Music Industry Externally assessed, 1 hour exam paper
- Managing a Music Product Internally assessed coursework
- Introducing Music Composition Internally assessed coursework
- Introducing Music Performance Internally assessed coursework.

Assessment:

This qualification is the equivalent of a GCSE and is offered at Level 2. Level 2 enables students to gain A* to C.

The four tier grading structure gives learners appropriate recognition for their efforts: Distinction* (A*) 58 points; Distinction (A) 52 points; Merit (B) 46 points; Pass (C) 40 points.

One unit is Exam based carried out in a 1 hour externally marked exam and there are 3 coursework elements internally assessed.

Other Information:

During the course you will have access to lunch and after school support to help you prepare for each unit.

Your lessons will be used to teach you skills and knowledge related to the unit and to practice exam techniques to help you develop the required knowledge for the course.

Subject Lead: Mr Jackson

Qualification: GCSE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8161/8

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Edexcel



What you learn about:

The GCSE PE course has both a practical and theoretical element to it.

Practical GCSE PE (30%)

Students are given the opportunity to improve their personal levels of fitness and develop their technical ability in a variety of sports and activities (one team, one individual and one free choice).

Theoretical GCSE PE (60%)

The theoretical part of the course is divided into several areas. These areas include Anatomy, Training, Movement Analysis, Psychology and Socio-Cultural influences.

Coursework (10%)

Students will design their own PEP (Personal Exercise Plan).

Assessment:

The practical part of the course is assessed on three selected activities. These final three areas are assessed during internal controlled assessment and, along with an analysis of performance, make up 30% of the GCSE PE course.

The theoretical part is assessed through two external written examinations and is worth a total of 60%.

Other Information:

Activities and Sports

Students will experience a mixture of activities and sports before specialising in four of their choice. Activities include: Golf, Football, Rugby, Tennis, Badminton, Fitness, Athletics, Cricket, Table tennis, Hockey, Swimming, Rock climbing and Boxing.

Resources

A variety of resources are used during the course to maximise student attainment and enjoyment. Fitness Suite, astro-turf, sports fields, 2 sports halls, Thorndale Tennis Centre, Leasowe Swimming Pool, Moreton Driving Range, Bidston Golf Club, Underground Fitness Centre, Soccer Dome.

Opportunities

Students are able to continue their study of Physical Education into the Sixth Form.

Materials Technology

Qualification: AQA Technical Award
Materials Technology

QN Code: TBC

Level: 1 & 2



What you learn about:

This is for students who want to study materials in a practical way and understand the working properties of woods, metals and polymers. It enables students to work in a hands-on way to develop the core skills to make high-quality products using woods, metals and polymers. They will have the opportunity to use traditional skills and also modern technologies.

What will learners study?

Students complete three mandatory units

Unit 1: Skills demonstration (internally assessed)

Learners will carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate their competence in the 12 core skills. This will include the transferable skill of teamwork and one mini project should allow for this. Learners will produce a series of small made outcomes and record their work in a portfolio of no more than 12 pages.

Unit 2: Extended making project (internally assessed)

Learners will undertake an extended making project that showcases the skills and knowledge they have developed in Unit 1 and the knowledge they have developed through Unit 3. The project will be in response to a brief. Students will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing, evaluation and communication.

Unit 3: Fundamentals of Materials Technology (externally assessed)

Learners will study materials and their working properties and learn about processes and manufacture. They will gain knowledge of the applications and characteristics of a wide range of woods, metals and polymers and also learn about possible careers within industry.

Other Information:

Developing a wide range of practical making skills including using hand tools for cutting or shaping, casting or moulding, and using joining and finishing techniques in a range of materials. Learners will also develop an understanding of commercial processes and an in-depth knowledge of materials and their properties. Additionally learners will gain transferable skills such as communication and teamwork that will benefit them in the workplace.

Subject Lead: Mr Roberts

Qualification: GCSE
QN Code Biology: 601/8752/9

QN Code Chemistry: 601/8757/8

QN Code Physics: 601/8751/7
Level: 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

The Separate Science option allows students with an interest and aptitude in Science to access three separate GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. For GCSE Biology the content is based on key Biological principles such as cell division, respiration and photosynthesis. Students will also study infection and response, bioenergetics, and inheritance, variation and evolution.

GCSE Chemistry content begins by reviewing students understanding of atomic structure and the periodic table. Other topics include organic chemistry, chemical analysis and using resources.

The key themes of forces, energy, waves and electricity run through the Physics GCSE specification. Students will also study the particle model of matter and space physics. Studying the separate sciences means students will cover more content than GCSE Combined Sciences. Opting for separate sciences at GCSE provides the breadth of knowledge necessary to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A-level.

Assessment:

Each GCSE will be assessed through two examination papers at the end of year 11. Both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes long and are equally weighted towards the final grade. Students opting for Triple Science will therefore sit 6 Examinations. All examinations consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response question types. There are 8 required practical activities for each GCSE and these will be integrated and assessed within day-to-day teaching.

Other Information:

Science is a compulsory subject at key stage 4 and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate **and 'Best 8' achievement measures.**

Students will either take the Combined Science (Double Award) or Triple Science (3 Separate GCSE qualifications) pathway.

Space for Notes, Questions and Ideas

Subjects I achieve well in...

Subjects I don't feel so confident in...

Subjects I enjoy...

Subjects I don't really enjoy...

Subjects I might need for my
possible career...

Questions I want to ask...



“Relationships are strong. Staff are ambitious for their pupils and determined in their aim to get the best from each one academically and **personally.” (Ofsted 2016)**

“ the difference
between ordinary and
extraordinary is just
that little bit extra ”

Jimmy Johnson

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care commitment challenge