



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS 2022



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE



CONTENTS

OPTIONS EXPLAINED	PAGE 3-4
GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE	PAGE 5
GCSE MATHEMATICS	PAGE 6
GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE	PAGE 7
GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE (PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY)	PAGE 8
GCSE HISTORY	PAGE 9
GCSE GEOGRAPHY	PAGE 10
GCSE SPANISH	PAGE 11
GCSE FRENCH	PAGE 12
GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES	PAGE 13
BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	PAGE 14
GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	PAGE 15
BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN MUSIC	PAGE 16
BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN ENGINEERING	PAGE 17
GCSE ART & DESIGN - CRAFT AND DESIGN	PAGE 18
GCSE ART & DESIGN - FINE ART	PAGE 19
GCSE MEDIA	PAGE 20
GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PAGE 21
NCFE LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN HEALTH & FITNESS	PAGE 22
GCSE MUSIC	PAGE 23
WJEC LEVEL1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING	PAGE 24
GCSE DRAMA	PAGE 25
GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE	PAGE 26
BTEC DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	PAGE 27
BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN ENTERPRISE	PAGE 28-29
MAKING YOUR CHOICES	PAGE 30-31



OPTIONS EXPLAINED

Dear Parent/Carer,

This booklet outlines the options process for Year 8 students and provides information on every subject offered at The Aylesbury Vale Academy.

This year options selections will be made online by the students which should simplify and speed up the process.

LOGON DETAILS AT THE END OF THIS BOOKLET

Advice and support on how options should be selected electronically is provided at the back of this booklet. The process is also explained on the school website www.theacademy.me/optionsks4.

Options Evening

The Options Evening and the process of students selecting their options will look a little different this year compared to previous years. Instead of inviting you into school you will be given access to our Options web page (www.theacademy.me/optionsks4) which includes presentations about the selection process and all of the subjects which are available for selection. You will also have the opportunity to make a request to speak to members of teaching staff regarding the subjects which your child is interested in and considering studying at Key Stage 4.

Key Dates:

- 07—18 February – Virtual Options Assemblies in tutor time.
- 18 February—Options Website opens for students to share with their parents carers at home.
- 18 February – Web Portal is opened for students to log options choices. (Login details will be sent to students' emails).
- 01 March – 11 March – Opportunity to discuss choices with the Options Team and/or Curriculum Leaders.
- 11 March – Deadline for students to log options choices. Web Portal is closed to students.
- 11 March – 08 April – One-to-one meetings with some students to discuss options choices.
- 02 May – 06 May Options offers will be posted out to students and parents during this week.

We understand that making choices about which subjects to study can be both an exciting and challenging time where students look forward to the subjects that they enjoy most. Some students may struggle to choose from such a wide range on offer and for this reason the options team are available to help with student enquiries. We would encourage students to do this sooner rather than later so that any queries or concerns are dealt with swiftly. Students can speak to:

- Their form tutor
- Mrs Lloyd—Achievement Director for Year 8
- Mrs Steedman — Pastoral Support for Year 8

If you have any questions you can contact the options team by emailing options@theacademy.me

Mr A West

Vice Principal



OPTIONS EXPLAINED

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

In Years 9, 10 and 11, students have an element of choice which allows them to personalise their Key Stage 4 Curriculum. There are a number of subjects which are mandatory for every student: these are English Literature and English Language, Maths, Science and PE

The remainder of each student's timetable is composed of at least one choice from the English Baccalaureate groups and three option subjects.

Students will achieve a minimum of eight GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

Recent Policy Change by the Department for Education (DfE)

The new policy is that school performance will be measured on the average GCSE point score for students across a wide range of **eight** subjects. This is known as the Progress 8 measure. Progress 8 will benefit students as they now have a broad platform upon which to build their Post-16 choices.

Progress 8 means that students will follow the new curriculum model:

- The three core subjects of English, Mathematics and Combined Science
- **At least one** subject from Triple Science, Geography, History and Modern Foreign Languages
- Up to three GCSEs or vocational qualifications in other subjects

Mandatory subjects

English Language & English Literature

Maths

Combined Science

Core PE

Sciences

All students will take Science, either Combined, or Triple. To be eligible for Triple Science, students must attain at least a **Securing=** by the end of Year 8

Personalised Routes

Students may be guided towards subjects which best suit their needs following discussions with senior staff.



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

All students will follow a course of GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

English Language

100% examination

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% of GCSE)

All examination texts will be unseen

Non-examination assessment: Speaking and listening

English Literature

100% examination

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (40% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Modern Texts and poetry (60% of GCSE)

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

YES! There are a variety of A Level courses that build upon GCSE English including A Level English Literature, A Level English Language and A Level Creative Writing.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Everything! Good written and oral communications skills are essential no matter what career path you choose in the future. A good pass in English is a minimum requirement for many higher and further educational opportunities, training programmes and jobs.

Contact: Mr R Cooper



GCSE MATHEMATICS

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

Coverage of a broader and deeper mathematical content, delivered through an extended syllabus. More emphasis on problem-solving, communication, proof and interpretation. Students will cover the following Mathematical Areas :

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion, rates of change
- Probability & Statistics
- Geometry

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

GCSE Exam Board: Edexcel 3 terminal papers, each worth 80 marks

Paper 1 - non-calculator covering all areas above

Paper 2 - calculator covering all areas above

Paper 3 - problem solving with a calculator covering all areas above

Two tiers of entry:

Higher Tier for grades 4 - 9

Foundation for grades 1 - 5

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

To continue with A Level Maths you would need to pass with a 6 or above on the Higher Tier.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Mathematics will open many doors for you, more specifically, surveying, accountancy, engineering, medicine, economics and architecture.

Contact: Miss A Lutchi



GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

Equivalent to 2 GCSEs

Biology - Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and Response; Bioenergetics; Homeostasis and Response; Inheritance; Variation and Evolution; Ecology.

Chemistry - Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table; Bonding; Structure and the properties of Matter; Quantitative Chemistry; Chemical Changes; Energy Changes; The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change; Organic Chemistry; Chemical Analysis; Chemistry of the Atmosphere; Using Resources.

Physics - Forces; Energy; Waves; Electricity; Magnetism and Electromagnetism; Particle Models of Matter; Atomic Structure.

For students opting to take Triple Science, all the above units of combined science are also included in the Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

- Each subject represents 33.3% of the final GCSE Combined Science mark.
- Students will gain grades 1-9.
- 100% external assessment through six exam papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics, each worth 16.7% of the final GCSE.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

GCSE Combined Science provides a foundation in Science and prepares students for further study of Science in either vocational courses or in A Level Sciences.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Science is a qualification that all employers use as a benchmark of success.

Many jobs specifically need it including medicine, engineering, health care, forensics, electricians, teaching and working with animals.

Contact: Mrs C Kirk



GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE (PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY)

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

TRIPLE SCIENCE

The course is taught as three separate Sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students who choose this option will study all three.

Biology

GCSE Biology helps students get a good understanding of the world of living things, from how a basic cell works to the complexities of an ecosystem.

Chemistry

GCSE Chemistry gives students an insight into the chemical processes, reactions and transformations that impact on our daily lives, from the products we use, the buildings we live in and the food we eat.

Physics

GCSE Physics encourages students to gain knowledge and practical experience about the underlying principles of how things work – from electrical circuits via X-ray machines to fairground rides.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Biology

100% externally assessed (two written papers each worth 50%)

Chemistry

100% externally assessed (two written papers each worth 50%)

Physics

100% externally assessed (two written papers each worth 50%)

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes! Triple Science provides an excellent foundation in science and prepares students for studying Science A levels.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Science is a qualification that all employers use as a benchmark of success. Many jobs specifically need it including medicine, engineering, health care, forensics, electricians, teaching and working with animals.

Contact: Mrs C Kirk



GCSE HISTORY

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

AQA GCSE HISTORY

WHY HISTORY?

History gives you a knowledge of both national and international societies which enhances your understanding and appreciation of both the past and contemporary world. A knowledge of the past is important to our future. We enquire in to the past using sources of evidence and judging their utility and reliability. History develops the skill of selecting, evaluating, organising, questioning and presenting information both orally and in writing. These are not just literacy skills but are essential and *desired* work and life skills.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. **Conflict and tension, 1918–1939: The inter-war years** — This wider world **depth study** enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of different individuals and states including the Great Powers. It looks at concepts such as national self-determination, ideas of internationalism and the challenges of revising the peace settlement. It focuses on the causes of the Second World War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to resolve the issues which caused it.
2. **Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship** — This **period study** focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent half century of change. It was a period of militaristic leadership, democracy and dictatorship – the change and development to democracy from Kaiser Wilhelm II, the collapse of democracy and the rise and fall of Nazism.
3. **Britain: Health and the people, c1000 to the present day** — This **thematic study** will enable students to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over 1000 years. It considers the causes, scale, nature and consequences of short and long term developments, their impact on British society and how they were related to the key features and characteristics of the periods during which they took place. This study focuses on the concept of change and continuity and considers *how much* progress was made in medical developments from one time period to another.
4. **Elizabethan England, c1568–1603** — This unit allows students to study in **depth** a specified period; the reign of Elizabeth I. The study will focus on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints, and arising contemporary and historical controversies. This will also include the possibility of a trip to a Historical environment.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Paper 1—Conflict and Tension, and Germany

Paper 2—Medicine and Elizabeth

Both papers are externally assessed, **2 hours each and are worth 50%** each of the overall grade. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Students will need to have a good level of literacy, be able to demonstrate extended writing skills and have an ability to learn and revise information for examinations

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes—A Level History followed by progression to University or chosen career. History is an highly academic subject valued by employers.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

History is an information and skills based subject which may be used in any career. Most apparent includes journalism, local or national government, civil service, teaching, military, police, law, academic libraries, heritage management, archivist, PR, researchers, consultation, writing, human resources and many more!

Contact: Mrs S Michhiana



GCSE GEOGRAPHY

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

The GCSE course in Geography aims to give students a knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live and an awareness of the issues and challenges that face the modern world. The specification is topical and provides students with a knowledge and understanding of the social and economic influences that will affect their lives today and in the future. We follow the AQA specification.

The units studied are the following:

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment

- Section A - The challenge of natural hazards (Volcanoes, earthquakes, weather hazards, climate change).
- Section B - The living world (Ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments).
- Section C - Physical landscapes in the UK (Coasts and Rivers)

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

- Section A - Urban challenges (Global patterns, contrasting cities, sustainable urban futures)
- Section B- The changing economic world: (Development, Nigeria and UK Industry).
- Section C - The challenge of resource management (Food, water and energy security).

Unit 3: Geographical applications

- Issue evaluation (based on secondary resources)
- Fieldwork (One physical enquiry (The River Chess) and one human enquiry (Urban Changes), collecting primary and secondary data.)
- Development of a range of skills (including cartographic, graphical, numerical, statistical, literacy)

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment. 1 hour 30 minutes. 35% of the GCSE. The paper is split into three sections.

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment. 1 hour 30 minutes. 35% of the GCSE. The paper is split into three sections.

Paper 3: Geographical Applications. 1 hour 15 minutes. 30% of GCSE. The paper is split into three sections. For Section 1, there will be a pre-release resource booklet on which questions are based. Section 2 is on Fieldwork completed. Section 3 is on Geographical skills.

Question types include: multiple choice, short answers and extended prose.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, A level Geography, followed by progression to university and provides skills useful to a range of courses.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Geography is one of the most diverse fields of study and its unique breadth opens up a great range of career opportunities such as air traffic control, architecture, cartography, conservation, engineering, GIS, graphic design, medicine, meteorology, teaching, travel & tourism management, social work and surveying to name but a few. Geography students are eagerly sought after given the wide range of transferrable skills they are often proficient in. Geography students are good problem solvers, clear communicators, strong team members, demonstrate creative and independent thinking, and are socially, economically and environmentally aware.

Contact: Mrs A Smyth



GCSE SPANISH

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

Theme 1: Identity and Culture	Topic 1: Me, my family and friends	Relationships with family and friends Marriage and partnerships
	Topic 2: Technology in everyday life	Social media Mobile technology
	Topic 3: Free-time activities	Music Cinema and TV Food and eating out Sport
	Topic 4: Customs and festivals	Spain and customs Festivals in Spain and Hispanic countries
Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest	Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region	Home Where I live
	Topic 2: Social issues	Charity/voluntary work Healthy and unhealthy living
	Topic 3: Global issues	The environment Poverty and homelessness
	Topic 4: Travel and tourism	Holidays and travel Regions of Spain
Theme 3: Current and future study and appointment	Topic 1: My studies	School and subjects
	Topic 2: Life at school/college	Life at school
	Topic 3: Education post-16	University or work?
	Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions	Choice of career

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series in June 2025.

Paper 1: Listening. Written Exam. 25% of GCSE. Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

Paper 2: Speaking. Voice recorded exam completed in school. 25% of GCSE. Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

Paper 3: Reading. Written Exam. 25% of GCSE. Understanding and responding to different types of written language.

Paper 4: Writing. Written Exam. 25% of GCSE. Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, students can progress to A Level.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Business, finance, science, engineering sectors, translator/interpreter, language teacher, travel agent, secretary, personal assistant, hotel and tourism industry, air host/hostess.



GCSE FRENCH

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

Theme 1: Identity and Culture	Topic 1: Me, my family and friends	Relationships with family and friends Marriage and partnerships
	Topic 2: Technology in everyday life	Social media Mobile technology
	Topic 3: Free-time activities	Music Cinema and TV Food and eating out Sport
	Topic 4: Customs and festivals	Spain and customs Festivals in Spain and Hispanic countries
Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest	Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region	Home Where I live
	Topic 2: Social issues	Charity/voluntary work Healthy and unhealthy living
	Topic 3: Global issues	The environment Poverty and homelessness
	Topic 4: Travel and tourism	Holidays and travel
Theme 3: Current and future study and appointment	Topic 1: My studies	School and subjects
	Topic 2: Life at school/college	Life at school
	Topic 3: Education post-16	University or work?
	Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and	Choice of career

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series in June 2025.

Paper 1: Listening. Written Exam. 25% of GCSE. Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

Paper 2: Speaking. Voice recorded exam completed in school. 25% of GCSE. Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

Paper 3: Reading. Written Exam. 25% of GCSE. Understanding and responding to different types of written language.

Paper 4: Writing. Written Exam. 25% of GCSE. Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, students can progress to A Level.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Business, finance, science, engineering sectors, translator/interpreter, language teacher, travel agent, secretary, personal assistant, hotel and tourism industry, air host/hostess.



GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

COURSE INFORMATION

This course maintains and promotes the social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of education, whilst encouraging students to consider this side within themselves. This course will enable students to question ideas about the origins of humanity and the world. It will enable students to analyse the nature of God and question the practice of belief. All of this will ensure students are able to make their own minds up about the relevance of Religion within the world and most importantly within their own lives.

COURSE OUTLINE:

AQA Religious Studies A 8062:

You must take assessments in the following two components:

- Component 1: The study of religions - beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity and Islam. For example - worship, festivals, pilgrimage and beliefs about God; what impact do these beliefs have on a believer's life?
- Component 2: Thematic studies - The existence of God and revelation, peace and conflict, crime and punishment and human rights/social justice.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Fully assessed by external examination. You will sit two examinations each lasting 1hr 45mins.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, you can progress to study GCE Advanced Level Religious Studies and Philosophy.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

In today's society people are expected to know about world issues and be able to make sense of the world around them. GCSE Religious Studies will enable students to make critical links between concepts and explain these coherently to those around them; being able to communicate effectively is a key skill required for nearly EVERY job. A wide range of professions including: teaching, nursing, social work, police, journalism and law. The skills taught are investigative and analytical and you will be required to understand how religions deal with problems of the world today.

Contact: Mrs K Hanmer



BTEC LEVEL1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

This course gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect this, such as major life changing events like marriage or parenthood. You will learn how people adapt to these changes as well as the types of support available to help them. You will also learn about the different health and social care services, and about 'care values' and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get the care they need. You will be able to demonstrate these care values practically. You will develop skills in interpreting data about someone's state of health in order to design a plan that will allow them to improve their health and wellbeing. This new qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE, and is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about health and social care.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

The qualification consists of 3 components, Component 1 develops your knowledge and understanding of The Human Life span, it is assignment based, internally assessed and forms 30% of the total qualification. Component 2 related to Health and Social Care services and values, it is assignment based, internally assessed and forms 30 % of the total qualification. Component 3 is about Health and Wellbeing, this is an externally set and assessed task. It comprises of 40% of the qualification.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

After you have finished this course you may want to go on to further study, such as A levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. A BTEC qualification at Level 3 is available at our sixth form, or you might want to find work in the health and social care sector as a trainee or apprentice. Which option is best for you will depend on the grades you achieve both in this qualification and other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and any advice you can access about the further learning and training opportunities available in the area.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Health and Social care prepares you for working in healthcare like nursing, midwifery, paramedic, being a nursery nurse or teacher in primary schools, child care, social care for the elderly etc. It provides soft skills for pharmacy, physiotherapy, medicine etc.

Contact: Mrs Sharma



GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world of Design Technology. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. The 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.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Paper 1

What's assessed?

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles focussing on technical principles of woods, plastics, paper and boards
- Designing and making principles focussing on the principles of designing and making a 3D product

How it's assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 50% of GCSE

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

What's assessed?

Practical application of:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

How it's assessed:

- Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approximately
- 50% of GCSE Task(s)
- Substantial design and make task focussing on the principles of designing and making a 3D product.
- Assessment criteria includes investigating, designing, making, analysing and evaluating.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

If you want to study design and technology at university level, some courses require you to have completed the subject as part of your A-levels.

Although some university courses may not list design and technology as an entry requirement, it can still be very helpful for courses in architecture, engineering, information technology and computer science.

A GCSE or A-level in design and technology can also be useful for apprenticeships in carpentry, construction, food manufacture, fashion and textiles, interior manufacturing, engineering technology and product design.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Design and technology can set you up for a career in a wide variety of industries such as fashion, engineering, architecture, information technology and even education.

Popular careers also include: Graphic designer, automotive engineer, interior and spatial designer, fashion designer, tailor, product designer, architect, software engineer, civil engineer and furniture designer.

Contact: Mrs Sharma



BTEC LEVEL 1/ 2 FIRST AWARD IN MUSIC (TECHNOLOGY)

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

The course gives learners an opportunity to explore music in a practical setting and to develop understanding of the techniques used to create and realise music. They will explore a variety of musical styles and the musical theory and techniques that underpin them and develop technical and practical skills through workshops and classes. In addition, learners will develop transferable and employability skills such as responding to a brief, self-development, planning, time management and communication.

As a creative subject with a focus on music practice, there is no written exam. All components, including the externally assessed synoptic component, are assessed through engaging, open, and flexible set tasks, designed to give learners as much freedom as possible in how they respond, allowing them to work to their own strengths and interests, and to focus on the area of the music sector that most excites and appeals to them.

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles. Styles include– Rock n Roll, Hip Hop, Reggae, Disco, Synth Pop, Samba, Bhangra, Jazz and Blues.

Component 2: Music Skills Development Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Component 1 Internal assessment with 2 tasks. Externally moderated– 30% of final mark-12 hours of supervised sessions

Component 2 Internal assessment with 1 task. Externally moderated-30% of final mark– 15 hours of supervised sessions

Component 3 External synoptic task. Externally marked. 40% of final mark-23 hours of supervised sessions

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, you can progress to study a Level 3 Music Technology or Performance. Level 3 course in Music Production

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Jobs within the music industry such as: Sound engineer, producer, editor, music promoter, critic, music publisher, stage crew, venue promoter, band manager music teacher, Technician, DJ



BTEC LEVEL 1/ 2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN ENGINEERING

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Engineering is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying mechanical, electrical/electronic and engineering design as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The course aims to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- development of key engineering practical and technical skills, such as research, observation, measurement, making, using computer-aided design (CAD) and disassembly
- knowledge of key engineering sectors (mechanical, electrical/electronic and engineering design) and the interrelation of each in industry
- knowledge of the stages involved in planning and implementing an engineering project
- knowledge and skills involved in the investigation of solutions to engineering problems in response to a given brief.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Engineering

Our assessment structure is also designed so that students can build on what they learn, and develop their skills, as they move through the course. Component 1: Exploring Engineering Sectors and Design Applications. It is internally assessed and forms 30% of the total course. Component 2: Investigating an Engineering Product . It is internally assessed through assignments and forms 30% of the course. Component 3: Responding to a Brief . This is externally assessed task and forms 40% of the total course

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, BTEC level 3 engineering course or apprenticeships.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Engineering is one of the **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects **prioritised by Government and employers in the UK and in every successful nation**. It is readily associated with progression through sixth forms and apprenticeship, further and higher education and towards rewarding employment in sectors of the global economy vital to sustainable growth. It directs pupils to see how they can use what they have learned to solve problems and improve lives. Respected engineering qualifications for 14–16 year olds, such as BTECs, provide the STEM learning outcomes required for progression to STEM apprenticeship, further education or university, along with significant opportunities to design, create, and test engineered products.

Contact: Mrs Sharma



GCSE ART & DESIGN - CRAFT & DESIGN

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

THIS COURSE IS SIMILAR TO FINE ART IN MANY ASPECTS, THE KEY DIFFERENCE BEING THAT THIS COURSE WILL FOCUS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SKILLS INFLUENCED BY CRAFTSPEOPLE AND DESIGNERS.

The GCSE course aims to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to Art and Design. Students will demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary Art and Design practice and be able to produce Artwork that embraces a range of ideas and techniques.

The course aims are to develop:

- creative and imaginative ability and the practical skills for engaging with and for communicating and expressing original ideas, feelings and meanings in art, craft and design
- investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretative capabilities, aesthetic understanding and critical and enquiring minds, with increasing independence
- cultural knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design and of the media and technologies used in different times, contexts and societies
- personal attributes including self-confidence, resilience, perseverance, self-discipline and commitment.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

This is an exciting and rewarding course. 60% of the overall mark is based on your coursework, which includes all the work you complete from the beginning of year 9 until the end of year 11. The other 40% of marks is gained from an externally set assessment, which will be completed in the spring term of year 11. During the assessment you will be given an externally set assignment, you will have 20 hours to complete research, development and experimental ideas during lesson time before completing a final piece in controlled examination conditions for a further 10 hours.

You will need to ensure you come to each class with the correct equipment, and that you are prepared to work independently at home. All work is part of your controlled assessment, but regular homework will be set to support your lesson based work.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, after successfully completing the GCSE you can move onto an A Level course in Art and Design.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

The GCSE Art course will provide skills for a career in all Art and Design disciplines, such as Photography, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fashion Design, Textile Design and Architecture.

Contact: Ms C Dadson



GCSE ART & DESIGN - FINE ART

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

THIS COURSE IS SIMILAR TO CRAFT AND DESIGN IN MANY ASPECTS, THE KEY DIFFERENCE BEING THAT THIS COURSE WILL FOCUS ON FINE ART TECHNIQUES- DRAWING, PAINTING AND PRINTING.

The GCSE course aims to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to Art and Design. Students will demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary Art and Design practice and be able to produce Artwork that embraces a range of ideas and techniques. Focusing on fine art techniques - drawing, painting and printing.

The course aims are to develop:

- creative and imaginative ability and the practical skills for engaging with and for communicating and expressing original ideas, feelings and meanings in art, craft and design
- investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretative capabilities, aesthetic understanding and critical and enquiring minds, with increasing independence
- cultural knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design and of the media and technologies used in different times, contexts and societies
- personal attributes including self-confidence, resilience, perseverance, self-discipline and commitment.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

This is an exciting and rewarding course. 60% of the overall mark is based on your coursework, which includes all the work you complete from the beginning of year 9 until the end of year 11. The other 40% of marks is gained from an externally set assessment, which will be completed in the spring term of year 11. During the assessment you will be given an externally set assignment, you will have 20 hours to complete research, development and experimental ideas during lesson time before completing a final piece in controlled examination conditions for a further 10 hours.

You will need to ensure you come to each class with the correct equipment, and that you are prepared to work independently at home. All work is part of your controlled assessment, but regular homework will be set to support your lesson based work.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, after successfully completing the GCSE you can move onto an A Level course in Art and Design.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

The GCSE Art course will provide skills for a career in all Art and Design disciplines, such as photography, graphic design, illustration, fashion design, textile design and architecture.

Contact: Ms C Dadson



GCSE MEDIA

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

At GCSE, Media students have the opportunity to study a range of theories and concepts that are integrated into the practical work. It is an academically challenging, creative and dynamic course that informs young people about our contemporary, media-rich society. Theoretical frameworks are Media Language, Industry, Audience and Representation explored across a range of platforms; print, broadcast, e-media, participatory and new media.

Students will have the opportunity to use our hi-tech Mac-Suite during production work.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

2 written exams, 70% of GCSE

- Paper 1: Media Language, Audience Representation, Media Audiences, Media Industries
- Paper 2: Theoretical Framework and Contexts of Media with reference to the Close Study Products

Non Exam Assessment, 30% of GCSE

- Practical Production. Students choose one of five annually changing production briefs.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, you can move on to our BTEC Certificate or BTEC Extended Diploma course in Creative Digital Media Production or A Levels in Media and Film.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

A career in all media sectors for instance journalism, film reviewing, television production, animation and digital print media.

Contact: Mrs V Proud



GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COURSE INFORMATION

Studying GCSE Physical Education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in three different sports through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of Physical activity and sport.

The combination of the physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through the academic study learn how to improve your performance through application of the theory.

- ⇒ 2 theory lessons per week
- ⇒ 1 practical lesson per week
- ⇒ Expected to attend sporting extra curricular clubs in and/or outside of school

COURSE REQUIREMENT:

- **Students selecting this qualification MUST be participating in at least 1 sport at club level outside of school**
- **If you do not, please select GCSE 'Health and Fitness' as there is no emphasis on practical performance**

If we do not meet the minimum number requirement for this course, we may offer you an alternative qualification in Physical Education

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

- 2 written exams, 60% of GCSE
- Paper 1: 1 hour: Applied Anatomy & Physiology / Physical Training
- Paper 2: 1 hour: Socio-cultural influences / Sports psychology / Health, Fitness and well-being
- Non Exam Assessment
- Practical Activity Assessment- Assessment in 3 selected sports (30%)
- Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP) – Coursework (10%)

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, you can move onto a Level 3 BTEC or A-Level in Physical Education

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Sports industry, PE Teacher, Fitness Instructor, Coach, Sports Journalism, Events Organiser, Physiotherapy, Nutritional analysis, Sport Development officer and many more!



NCFE LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN HEALTH AND FITNESS

COURSE INFORMATION

V Certs are a suite of high quality technical qualifications which are appropriate for Key Stage 4 learners who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on practical content.

The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness is designed to provide learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding of the applied study of good health and fitness practices and an understanding of working in the sector.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Students will gain a broad understanding of Health and Fitness including the following:

- How physical activities affect the body in the short and long term
- How relevant fitness test can be used for specific health and skill components of fitness
- Different lifestyle analysis tools and how to apply them
- Creating a health and fitness programme

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

- Written Examination (40%)
- Coursework Project (60%)

⇒ 2 theory lessons per week

⇒ 1 practical lesson per week

This is suited for students wishing to do GCSE PE, but do not participate at club level in any sports

If we do not meet the minimum number requirement for this course, we may offer you an alternative qualification in Physical Education

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

- A Level in Physical Education and Sport
- Level 3 Technical Level in Sport & Physical Activity
- Apprenticeships in occupations within the Health & Fitness sectors such as Health Assistants, Fitness Instructors or Personal Trainers.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Sports industry, PE Teacher, Fitness Instructor, Coach, Sports Journalism, Events Organiser, Physiotherapy, Nutritional analysis, Sport Development officer and many more!

Contact: Miss Fuller



GCSE MUSIC

COURSE INFORMATION

GCSE music will provide a contemporary, accessible and creative education in Music with an integrated approach to the three main elements – performing, composing and appraising.

GCSE music will enable learners to explore performance and composition with a focus on their own instrument and offer opportunity to explore new instrumental skills. Through the various genres, styles and eras contained in our Areas of Study they will explore musical context, musical language, and performance and composition skills. Students must be proficient on an instrument or singing to access the performance element of the course. Students are encouraged to have instrumental lessons to help with their performance skills and progress.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Areas of Study 1 - **My Music** - Students focus on their chosen instrument and develop performance and composition skills. They are required to perform one solo and one ensemble piece of their choice. Students can sing for their performance work.

Area of Study 2 - **The Concerto Through Time** - Students look at the development of the concerto from 1650-1910. The focus will be on instruments, the development of the orchestra, and the relationship between the soloist and the orchestra.

Area of Study 3 - **Rhythms of the world** - Students study the traditional rhythmic roots from four geographical regions of the world. India and Punjab/Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East/Africa/Central and South America.

Area of Study 4 - **Film Music** - Students study a range of music for films including music that has been composed specifically for a film. Music from the Western Classical tradition that has been used within a film. Music that has been composed as a soundtrack for a video game.

Area of Study 5 - **Pop Music** - Students study a range of pop music from the 1950's to the present day.

Throughout the course students develop their performance and composition skills and are able to access state of the art I-macs where they can develop their music sequencing and ICT skills.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

1 Solo and 1 ensemble performance- 30% internally assessed.

2 composition tasks- 30% internally assessed.

Listening exam- 40% externally assessed.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, you can progress to study a Level 3 BTEC or A Level Music.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Performer, composer, lyricist, sound engineer, producer, editor, arranger, critic, music teacher, conductor, Technician, music therapist, DJ .

Contact: Mr C Hallam



WJEC LEVEL 1/ 2 VOCATIONAL AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

COURSE INFORMATION

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment.

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is made up of two mandatory units:

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

Learners apply their learning by considering all aspects of the vocational sector. They should acquire knowledge of all aspects of the industry and be able to propose new hospitality and catering provision for specific locations. Learners will be able to use their learning of different types of establishment and job roles to determine the best option. They will then apply their learning in relation to front of house and kitchen operations to determine how the proposed hospitality and catering provision will operate efficiently legally and financially viably whilst meeting the needs of their potential market. This unit provides a broad introduction to the vocational sector in a way that is purposeful and develops a range of transferable skills.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

Learners apply their learning to safely prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. They will draw on their learning of different types of provision and kitchen and front of house operations in Unit 1, as well as personal safety in their preparations. The content is relevant not only to employees within food production, but also those with a responsibility for food safety in the industry, nutritionists and managers and owners. This extends the learners appreciation of the whole vocational area beyond the kitchen environment.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Unit 1 is a paper based examination worth 40 % and is externally assessed.

Unit 2 is a practical examination that is worth 60 % and is internally assessed.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, you can progress to study a Level 3 BTEC qualification.

Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. All of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

Contact: Mrs Sharma



GCSE DRAMA

COURSE INFORMATION

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of Drama, as performers. Additionally it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Learners will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret their own and others' drama. They will explore different performance styles through practitioners and genres, work collaboratively to develop ideas and experiment with drama techniques to produce a piece of original theatre. They will also have the opportunity to participate in a scripted performance.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Component 1 - Devising Theatre - Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of an original piece of devised theatre inspired by a stimulus, chosen from a selection from the exam board. Students are free to choose their own performance style and practitioner when creating their performance.

Component 2 - Performing from a Text - Learners will study two extracts from the same play text chosen by the students from a selection of texts the teachers provide. Learners will perform two contrasting extracts from their chosen play.

Component 3 - Interpreting Theatre - Learners will complete a written exam, where they demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a set text, chosen by the school and a live theatre review. In the first section of the exam they will explore the different elements of their text and discuss how scenes could be designed and directed on stage. The second section of the exam is the live theatre review, where students will answer a question about a live performance they have seen.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Component 1 - Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 40% of qualification, 60 marks

Component 2 - Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner 20% of qualification, 60 marks

Component 3 - Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification, 60 marks

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

This course is preparation for a natural progression to a to any A Level in Drama or Theatre studies.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Actor/actress, dancer, drama therapist, director, choreographer, drama community worker, community arts worker, musical theatre performer, teacher, TV presenter, youth worker, set designer, script writer, theatre administration, holiday rep, sound technician, producer, public relations worker, community drama worker, stage manager, lighting technician, props designer, cruise ship entertainer, lighting/sound designer and many more.

Contact: Miss L Finnie



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

COURSE INFORMATION

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 will 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 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).

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting	
Computer systems (01)	80	1 hour 30 mins	50%	Calculators not allowed
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (02)	80	1 hour 30 mins	50%	Calculators not allowed

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Component of a Computer System Networks Algorithms	Networks Issues Programming Data Representation	Programming project Design, Testing and IDEs

What is the Exam Board? Oxford, Cambridge (OCR)

What revision guide available?

GCSE OCR Computer Science for Grade 9-1 course, The Revision Guide.

GCSE OCR Computer Science for Grade 9-1 course, Exam practice Workbook.

Useful Link

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zmtchbk>

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, subject can be studied at higher level.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

This subject will prepare you for the following jobs: data scientist, software tester, systems analyst, business analyst, product manager, network architect, software engineer, computer science teacher and many more jobs are available.

Contact: Mrs V Carr



BTEC DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COURSE INFORMATION

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden the learners experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them. The units studied are the following:

Component 1: Exploring user interface design principals and project planning techniques.

- Section A - The Investigate user interface design for individuals and organisations.
- Section B - Use project planning techniques to plan and design a user interface.
- Section C - Develop and review a user interface.

Component 2: Collecting, presenting and interpreting data.

- Section A - Investigate the role and impact of using data on individuals.
- Section B- Create a dashboard using data manipulation tools.
- Section C - Draw conclusions and review data presentation methods.

Component 3: Effective digital working practices.

- Section A - Modern technologies and their impact on organisations.
- Section B- Threats to digital systems and how an organisation can manage them.
- Section C - Responsible, legal and ethical use of data.
- Section D - Planning and communication in digital systems.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Learners are required to complete and achieve all three components in the qualification.

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology				
Component number	Component title	GLH	Level	How assessed
1	Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques	36	1/2	Internal
2	Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	36	1/2	Internal
3	Effective Digital Working Practices	48	1/2	External Synoptic

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- ⇒ A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- ⇒ Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

This subject may lead to various jobs in the digital sector. These jobs include data analytics management, application development, user interface and user experience design, cyber security, etc.



BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN ENTERPRISE COURSE INFORMATION

BTECs are vocational qualifications designed to help learners succeed. Students develop knowledge and understanding through applying their learning to work-related contexts, and gain the skills they need for further study and employment. BTEC Tech Awards are Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications designed to complement GCSEs and provide a first glimpse into a professional sector. These qualifications assess learners through assignments and tasks rather than traditional exams.

The BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise has been designed to help KS4 learners develop their entrepreneurial skills through practical, skills-based learning.

Assessment is through task-based assignments so learners can demonstrate their knowledge and skills in work-related scenarios. Learners will explore, develop and apply their knowledge helping to develop key transferable skills such as research and data analysis to support their progression to further learning and the workplace. This highly motivating, course teaches learners about business and enterprise and will encourage students to explore the world of business and what makes or breaks an enterprise.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT

The course is made up of three components. The-block structure (Exploring, Developing and Application) allow students to build on and embed their knowledge, grow in confidence and then put into practice what they have learnt.

Year 9

Introduction to basic concepts

An introduction to Business studies and Enterprise.

Year 10

Component 1 - Exploring Enterprises

Which comprises of internally assessed assignments and contributing to a 30% of the total course. Students will have the opportunity to examine the characteristics of enterprises, exploring how enterprises meets customers' needs and investigating the factors that contribute to the success of an enterprise.

Year 11

Component 2 - Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity

Which comprises of internally assessed assignments and also contributing to a 30% of the total course. The focal points would include ideas to plan for a micro-enterprise activity, pitching a micro-enterprise activity and reviewing own pitch for a micro-enterprise activity.

Component 3 - Promotion and Finance for Enterprise

This is an externally assessed task and contributes to a 40% of the total course. This unit is an examined unit, students will have one opportunity to re-sit. Key emphasis will be on promotion, financial records, financial planning and forecasting.



WHAT IS THE EXAM BOARD?

Edexcel Pearson's

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT

Students achieve a grade for each component, which are allocated points. At the end of the course we calculate the final grade by adding the points from each component, and matching this against the qualification grade point thresholds.

Internally assessed		Externally assessed	Final qualification grade
Explore – 30%	+	Develop – 30%	
PASSED ☺		PASSED ☺	
		+	
		Apply – 40%	=
		PASSED ☺	
Example			
29 Points		38 Points	38 Points
Grade Level 2 – Merit		Grade Level 2 – Distinction	Grade Level 2 – Merit
			103 Points
			Final Grade Level 2 – Merit

IS IT POSSIBLE TO STUDY AT A HIGHER LEVEL?

After completing your BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise, you will be in a great position to continue in the business sector. This qualification prepares you for both practical and academic routes. We currently offer a BTEC L3 National diploma in Business studies at KS5 level.

WHAT TYPE OF JOB WILL THIS SUBJECT PREPARE ME FOR?

This qualification prepares students for a variety of pathways including higher education leading to university. Some of the prospective career path includes Marketing and Advertising executive, Accountant, Revenue and Customs Inspector, Human Resources, Stock Broker, Insurance specialist, Business Development Manager, Customer Services Manager, Economics and finance Management, Investment Manager, IT/Data Processor, Leisure and Tourism specialist.

WHAT REVISION GUIDES ARE AVAILABLE?

- ⇒ BTEC Tech award Revision guide by Pearson's
- ⇒ Pearson's active learn website
- ⇒ GCSE Bite size Revision: Business

Useful Link

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/enterprise.html>

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/enterprise/2018/Guide/BTEC-Tech-Award-Enterprise-Guide-Pearson.pdf>

CONTACT: Mrs P Marina



MAKING YOUR CHOICES

You will need to choose a total of 4 subjects to study as well as 3 reserve choices. You will choose one subject in block A and 3 subjects in block B. It is important to ensure you retain a broad curriculum as you enter Key Stage 4, for this reason you will need to choose between Geography and History in block A and you are encouraged to pick one language (Spanish or French) as one of your choices in block B.

Humanities Block

In block A you **MUST** choose between either GCSE Geography, GCSE History. One as your first choice and the other as your reserve.

First choice:	Reserve:
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Open Choice Block

In block B you can choose any subject from this booklet. If you would like to study Geography AND History you should enter your reserve from block A as one of your main choices in block B. Pick 3 choices and 2 reserves.

First choice:	First reserve:
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Second choice:	Second reserve:
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Third choice:



Prior to Choosing your Options Online

- Make a note of the subjects you would most like to study at Key Stage 4 including reserves. Use this in discussion with parents/guardians to help you choose.

Logging on to Options Online

1. Log into your student email account and look for a 'noreply' invitation email from SIMS.
2. The email will have a button '**Accept Invitation**' and an invitation code. Click on this button and **write down the invitation code**.
3. An '**Activate Your Account**' screen will display. Click on '**Register with an External Account**'
4. On the next screen, DO NOT ENTER your email here, just **click on the Office365 login icon** 
5. A **Registration** screen will pop up. Type in your invitation code in the box provided (the code you received in the invitation email (step 1)).
6. In the next screen, **enter your date of birth** and click '**Verify**'.
7. After a few seconds this will take you to the **Options Online Portal**.

Making Your Choices with Options Online:

- Online you will be able to choose 4 first choice subjects and 3 reserves from the Open Choice block and one as a first choice subject and one as a reserve subject in the Humanities block.
- Main subjects will turn green when selected and reserve choices orange.
- Choices will also show on the right hand side of the screen, here, you can move them up and down to rank your choices in order of preference, remember, you will only end up with four of your seven choices so ranking them is important.
- We actively encourage parents to look at the students options screen and discuss decisions at home.
- Form Tutors will be able look at student choices but will not be able to change them, this facility is purely to allow and support conversation over chosen subjects.
- Whenever you wish to login again, go to the web address **www.sims-options.co.uk** and login with your **Office365 (student email) credentials**.

If you need any assistance please contact any member of the Year 8 Options Team.



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

**A copy of this booklet can be found
on the Academy website**

The Aylesbury Vale Academy

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