



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS 2026



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE





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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 on line by the students which should simplify and speed up the process.

Options Evening

One of the key elements of this process will be 'Options Evening' on 26 February 2026 where you and your child will have the opportunity to get further information from each department about the qualifications they offer. This will help your child to make their final decision which they will submit very soon after options evening.

Key Dates:

- W/C 23 February and 3 March – Student Option Assemblies.
- 26 February – Options Evening.
- 13 March – Deadline for students to log options choices.
- 16 – 27 March – One-to-one meetings with some students to discuss options choices.
- Early May – Options offers posted to students and parents.

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
- Mr M Lobb - Achievement Director for Year 8
- Mr D Murphy - Assistant Achievement Director for Year 8
- Mrs L Herlihy - Pastoral Support for Year 8
- Curriculum Leaders and Class Teachers

Mrs C Kirk

Assistant Principal



OPTIONS EXPLAINED

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

In Years 9, 10 and 11, students have an elements 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 and Science. Students will also continue to have PE, RS and Personal Development lessons.

The remainder of each student's timetable is composed of choices from the option subjects.

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

Department for Education (DfE) Performance Measures

School performance is 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 Science
- **At least two** further GCSE options subjects. One of these will include one of:
 - GCSE Geography
 - GCSE History
 - GCSE RS
- Up to two further GCSEs or vocational qualifications in other subjects

How to select the option subjects

In addition to the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science students will need to select **four** options subjects, from each of the option blocks shown below. Students will need to choose **one yellow** subject in any block, **one blue** subject in a separate block and the remaining two choices may be made from **green, yellow or blue subjects**. They must however **only select one subject from each option block**.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Geography • GCSE History • GCSE RS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Geography • GCSE History • GCSE RS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Geography • GCSE History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Geography • GCSE History
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Art • GCSE Art and Craft • GCSE Spanish • GCSE Drama • GCSE Triple Science • GCSE DT • GCSE Computing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Art • GCSE Art and Craft • GCSE Spanish • GCSE Drama • GCSE Triple Science • GCSE DT • GCSE French • GCSE Music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Business • BTEC Enterprise • Technical Award in Engineering • Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering • GCSE Media • GCSE PE • Cambridge National in Sports Science • GCSE Computing • BTEC IT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Business • BTEC Enterprise • Technical Award in Engineering • Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering • GCSE Media • GCSE PE • Cambridge National in Sports Science • BTEC Music • BTEC Health and Social Care



Whilst selecting one subject from each option block, it is worth noting that it is **not possible** to select:

- Both GCSE Art and GCSE Art & Craft
- Both GCSE IT and GCSE Computing
- Both GCSE Music and BTEC Music
- Both GCSE Business and BTEC Enterprise
- Both GCSE PE and Cambridge National in Sports Science

The subjects in each pairing are too similar, so students are only permitted to select one, for example, either GCSE Art or GCSE Art & Craft.

In some cases, courses may not run if too few students choose them. Furthermore, on the rare occasion that too many students choose a subject, we cannot guarantee that all students will get their first choice of subject because of finite numbers of staff so as such we require students to select some reserve options.

Information regarding Sciences

All students will take Science, and will complete either Combined Science, or Triple Science. If they choose Triple Science this will count towards **one** of their option subjects so they will only need to select three other option subjects. If they don't select Triple Science as an option subject then students will automatically complete Combined Science as one of their mandatory subjects. Both Combined Science and Triple Science provide students with the opportunity to study A Levels in Science at post-16.

Our advice to support student choices

At AVA, we believe that every student has the potential to succeed, and we are committed to providing a range of pathways that cater to diverse interest, strengths and aspirations. In Year 8, students will choose their subjects for Year 9 from a wide range of GCSEs and vocational qualifications.

If students wish to go on to study A Levels at post-16 level with a view to potentially continuing their studies at higher education, they should mainly choose GCSE qualifications. This will provide them with a solid academic foundation that will open doors to a wide range of career opportunities and further study at post-16 level and beyond.

Students who would benefit from a reduced time spent in exams at the end of Year 11 should select more vocational qualifications. This will enable students to keep their options open, whether they want to pursue further study or enter the workforce after their GCSEs. This will give students the chance to follow their passions while gaining qualifications that are valued by employers and colleges alike.

Personalised Routes

Our staff are here to help guide students and parents through the decision-making process, ensuring that each student embarks on a path that is both aspirational and achievable. We are proud to offer a flexible and supportive approach to learning that gives every student the opportunity to reach their full potential. Students may be guided towards subjects which best suit their needs following discussions with senior staff.



Next Steps

Students will be receiving assemblies on the different subjects on offer and are also encourage to attend our **Options Information Evening on Thursday February 26th** along with their parents, where we will provide further details about the subject options available, as well as the support and guidance available on each pathway. After the event, students will have the opportunity to discuss their choices with teachers and tutors to help make an informed decision.

We are excited to work together to create a personalised learning journey for each student, and we look forward to supporting them as they take the next step in their educational journey.

Students will receive an email in due course with details on how to log onto 'Options Online' where they will select their choices from the pathway allocated to them.

If you need any assistance please contact any member of the Year 8 Options Team at the following email, options@theacademy.me or alternatively please see Ms P Dewhurst, SIMS and Timetable Manager in B-01-12.



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: Mrs M Quinnell



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 S Davoren



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 S Davoren



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!



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 30 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.



GCSE SPANISH

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

Theme 1: Identity and culture	Topic 1: Me, my family and friends
	Topic 2: Technology in everyday life
	Topic 3: Free time activities
	Topic 4: customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries
Theme 2: Local area, holiday and travel	Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region
	Topic 2: Travel and tourist transactions
Theme 3: School	Topic 1: School life, routine and subjects
	Topic 2: Education post 16
	Topic 3: School trips, exchanges and events
Theme 4: Future aspirations, study and work	Topic 1: jobs, careers and ambitions
	Topic 2: Volunteering
	Topic 3: Languages for the future
Theme 5: International and global dimension	Topic 1: Bringing the world together
	Topic 2: Environmental issues

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 2027.

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
	Topic 2: Technology in everyday life
	Topic 3: Free time activities
	Topic 4: customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries
Theme 2: Local area, holiday and travel	Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region
	Topic 2: Travel and tourist transactions
Theme 3: School	Topic 1: School life, routine and subjects
	Topic 2: Education post 16
	Topic 3: School trips, exchanges and events
Theme 4: Future aspirations, study and work	Topic 1: jobs, careers and ambitions
	Topic 2: Volunteering
	Topic 3: Languages for the future
Theme 5: International and global dimension	Topic 1: Bringing the world together
	Topic 2: Environmental issues

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 2027.

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 TECH AWARD LEVEL 1/2 IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

The Level 1/2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care is designed for learners who want an introduction to health and social care that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the health and social care sector or progress onto further study.

This qualification aims to:

- focus on the study of health and social care
- offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge
- provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 3 component areas:

- Component 1: Human Lifespan Development (PSA)
- Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values (PSA)
- Component 3: Health and Wellbeing (externally examined assessment)

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

The qualification has 2 assessments externally-set by NCFE:

- Two internally Person Set Assignment (PSA) – each worth 30% towards the qualification
- One externally assessed written examined assessment – 40% of the qualification

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, you can progress to study a Level 3 BTEC qualification or onto an Apprenticeship in the sector.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

Learners could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the health and social care sector through a variety of occupations that are available within the sector, such as lead/adult care worker or senior/healthcare support worker.

Contact: Mrs N Attreed



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. 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:

Written exam - 50% of GCSE

What's assessed?

- Core technical principles e.g. new and emerging technologies, energy generation and storage, developments in new materials, systems approach to designing, mechanical devices, materials and their working properties
- Specialist technical principles focussing on woods, plastics, paper and boards
- Designing and making principles focussing on designing and making a 3D product/prototype

Non-exam assessment (NEA) - 50% of GCSE

What's assessed?

The project in its entirety should take between 30–35 hours to complete and consist of a working prototype and a concise portfolio of approximately 20 pages of A3 paper.

Students' work will consist of an investigation into a contextual challenge, defining the needs and wants of the user and include relevant research to produce a design brief and specification.

Students should generate design ideas with flair and creativity and develop these to create a final design solution (including modelling). A manufacturing specification should be produced to conclude your design findings leading into the realisation of a final prototype that is fit for purpose and a final evaluation.

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: Miss C Whooley



BTEC LEVEL 1/ 2 TECH AWARD IN MUSIC PRACTICE

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



NCFE LEVEL 1/ 2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN ENGINEERING

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OUTLINE:

The study of engineering is the application of maths and science to solve real-world problems. This involves an understanding of the different disciplines of engineering and how they have shaped the products and projects of the modern world. Students will learn how to read and draw technical drawings (both by hand and using CAD software), select appropriate materials (along with tools and machinery) and know how to carry out a practical task, working in a safe manner in line with current health and safety legislation.

This qualification will promote the learner's understanding of:

- the different engineering disciplines
- applied science and maths in engineering
- how to read engineering drawings
- the properties, characteristics and selection of engineering materials
- engineering tools, equipment and machines
- hand-drawn engineering drawings
- CAD engineering drawings
- production planning techniques
- applied processing skills and techniques

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Written exam - 40% of qualification

What's assessed?

- Recall knowledge and show understanding
- Apply knowledge and understanding
- Analyse and evaluate knowledge and understanding

Non-exam assessment (NEA) - 60% of qualification

What's assessed?

NEA enables the learner to show their ability to integrate and apply knowledge, understanding and skills with breadth and depth. It also requires them to demonstrate their capability to apply knowledge, understanding and skills across all content areas that are being assessed. Students will work to a given brief containing a design and make problem. The project in its entirety should take around 16-18 hours to complete and consist of a working prototype and a detailed portfolio of research, experimentation, testing and evaluation showing their work towards a solution.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, progression could be onto a Level 3 Engineering course, A level or an Apprenticeship.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the engineering industry through a variety of occupations that are available, such as in technical writing or technical sales, or as an engineer in one of the many different sectors across the industry, such as pharmaceuticals, aerospace or construction.

Contact: Miss C Whooley



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 10 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 12 weeks 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
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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.



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 Media 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

The PE Department offers 2 reputable courses. A GCSE and a Cambridge National. In Year 9, all students begin with the same content. Our experienced staff then guide each learner onto the course that best suits their strengths, ensuring the strongest possible outcome by the end of Year 11.

OCR's GCSE (9–1) Physical Education is a dynamic course that develops students' theoretical understanding of the human body and socio-cultural influences.

Students study key areas such as anatomy and physiology, sports psychology, and socio-cultural issues, supported by both written assessments and non-examined practical components.

It is important to understand that this is not a **practical PE course**.

Whilst there is a practical assessment element, this is completed through your Core PE lessons.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND OVERALL GRADE WEIGHTING

- **Physical Factors Affecting Performance (Exam 1 – 30%):** Assesses anatomy, physiology and the principles of training.
- **Socio-Cultural Issues & Sports Psychology (Exam 2 – 30%):** Covers sports psychology, motivation and socio-cultural influences on performance.
- **Analysing & Evaluating Performance (AEP) – Coursework – 10%:** A 25-page assignment analysing strengths and weaknesses and producing an action plan.
- **Practical Performance (NEA – 10%):** Assesses performance in three sports, focusing on skills and techniques, completed through Core PE.

Course Requirements:

- Have a genuine interest in sport and physical activity.
- Enjoy Science — this is a real advantage, as topics such as anatomy, physiology, and training principles closely link with GCSE Science content.

Can I Study This Subject at a Higher Level?

Yes. This course provides excellent progression routes to:

A-Level Physical Education / BTEC Level 3 in Sport / Other Level 3 qualifications



OCR LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN SPORTS SCIENCE - J828

COURSE INFORMATION

The PE Department offers 2 reputable courses. A GCSE and a Cambridge National. In Year 9, all students begin with the same content. Our experienced staff then guide each learner onto the course that best suits their strengths, ensuring the strongest possible outcome by the end of Year 11.

The Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport Science (J828) provides a vocational, real-world introduction to the scientific principles underpinning sport, fitness, and performance.

Learners explore topics such as reducing the anatomy and physiology, training principles, and the role of nutrition in sports performance. It is important to understand that this is not a **practical PE course**.

COURSE STRUCTURE

- **R180 – Reducing the Risk of Sports Injuries (Written Exam) – 70 marks, 1 hr 15 mins):** Assesses understanding of common sports injuries, prevention strategies, first aid, and dealing with medical conditions.
- **R181 – Applying the Principles of Training (NEA) – 80 marks):** Coursework unit covering training principles, fitness testing, programme design, and analysis of training data.
- **R182 – The Body’s Response to Physical Activity (NEA – 40 marks):** Explores physiological responses to exercise and how technology is used to monitor and enhance performance.
- **R183 – Nutrition and Sports Performance (NEA – 40 marks):** Focuses on nutrients, diet planning for sport, and how nutrition influences athletic performance.

Course Requirements:

- Have a genuine interest in sport, fitness, and how the body responds to exercise.
- Be willing to complete **coursework-based tasks** and practical investigations, as this course includes several NEA units.
- Enjoy learning about applied science in a sporting context — topics such as **injury prevention, training principles, nutrition, and the body’s response to physical activity** link closely with real-world sport and health settings.

Yes. The CNAT qualification provides a strong foundation for progression to:

- Level 3 Cambridge Technicals
- BTEC Level 3 National in Sport / Sport & Exercise Science

Contact: Mr B Wallington



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

COURSE OUTLINE:

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

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry

Unit 1 enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety. Topics include:

- Hospitality and catering provision
- How hospitality and catering providers operate
- Health and safety in hospitality and catering
- Food safety in hospitality and catering

Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action

Unit 2 enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively. Topics include:

- The importance of nutrition
- Menu planning
- The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes
- Evaluating cooking skills

This unit is synoptic and draws upon the knowledge gained in Unit 1. Learners will need to apply knowledge gained in the following topic areas in order to be able to complete this assessment:

- the operation of the front and back of house
- hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements
- health and safety in hospitality and catering provision
- food safety preventative control measures of food-induced ill health.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT:

Unit 1 is a written examination worth 40 % of the qualification.

Unit 2 is a coursework portfolio and practical examination that is worth 60 % of the qualification.

Is it possible to study at a higher level?

Yes, you can progress to study a Level 3 BTEC qualification or onto an Apprenticeship in the sector.

What type of job will this subject prepare me for?

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: Miss C Whooley



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. It is important that students choosing this subject have a high level of attendance as a lot of the course involves group work.

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. Students will also complete a written portfolio of 900 words and a written evaluation of their final 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 will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a set text and their ability to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen. The first section of the exam will ask them about the set text, they will need to answer a variety of questions including shorter essay questions about how they might direct, stage or use lighting or sound for a specific scene. The second section of the exam consists of one short essay questions where they will analyse and evaluate a live theatre 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: Mrs Z Convery



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
System Architecture Network Data Representation Algorithms and Program Constructs	Programming Techniques/Fundamentals Design Testing and IDE Boolean Logic Revision and Mock Examination	System Security and Software Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Issues Programming Revision Revision for GCSE

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

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Enterprise is designed for learners who want an introduction to enterprise that includes a strong vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who are interested in how businesses are set up, how they operate, and how new ideas are developed into successful enterprises.

This qualification complements GCSE subjects and is aimed at learners studying the Key Stage 4 (KS4) curriculum who are interested in enterprise and entrepreneurship. It is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. The qualification is graded at Level 1 Pass, Merit and Distinction, and Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 1–8.5).

The course focuses on the practical application of enterprise knowledge and skills. Learners will develop an understanding of how enterprises identify opportunities, plan and pitch ideas, manage resources and finances, and review their performance. This qualification is distinct from GCSE Business Studies as it places a greater emphasis on hands-on learning and the development of enterprise skills.

Learners will gain valuable personal and vocational skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, creativity and decision-making. These transferable skills support progression into further study, apprenticeships or employment. The qualification is designed to sit alongside core GCSE subjects and is suitable for learners who enjoy practical learning and applying knowledge to real-life enterprise scenarios.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment is the process of measuring a learner's skills, knowledge and understanding against the standards set in the qualification.

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Enterprise consists of **three components**:

- **Two internally assessed components**, which are coursework-based and assessed through practical tasks and projects
- **One externally assessed component**, which is a written examination set and marked by Pearson

IS IT POSSIBLE TO STUDY AT A HIGHER LEVEL?

Depending on the grade achieved in this qualification, learners can progress onto further study, apprenticeships or employment.



Learners who achieve at **Level 1** may progress to Level 2 qualifications post-16, such as:

- GCSE Business Studies
- Level 2 vocational or technical qualifications related to business, enterprise or administration

Learners who achieve at **Level 2** may progress to Level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 BTEC National qualifications in Business
- A Level Business
- T Level Technical Qualifications in Management and Administration

This qualification also supports progression into apprenticeships or employment within the business and enterprise sector.

WHAT TYPE OF JOB WILL THIS SUBJECT PREPARE ME FOR?

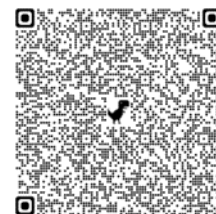
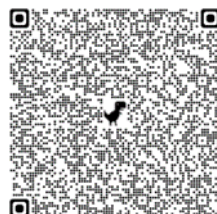
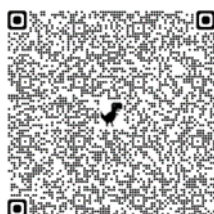
This qualification helps prepare learners for a wide range of careers within the business and enterprise sector. Possible career pathways include:

- Marketing and Advertising Executive
- Business Administrator
- Human Resources Assistant
- Customer Services Manager
- Entrepreneur or Small Business Owner
- Finance Assistant
- Business Development Officer
- Retail or Sales Manager

The skills developed through this course are transferable and valued across many industries.

WHAT REVISION GUIDES ARE AVAILABLE?

Pearson provides a range of support materials, including learner guides and revision resources, available via the Pearson website (QR codes below) Additional revision guides and workbooks for the BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise are also available from major book retailers.





GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES COURSE INFORMATION

The GCSE Business Studies an exciting journey to explore the dynamic world of commerce and entrepreneurship. This comprehensive program is designed to provide a solid foundation in key business concepts, strategies, and skills essential for success in the global marketplace. Throughout the course, students will delve into topics such as marketing, finance, human resources, and operations, gaining a holistic understanding of how businesses operate. Engaging lessons, real-world case studies, and interactive projects will empower students to analyse business scenarios, make informed decisions, and develop critical thinking skills. Whether aspiring entrepreneurs or future leaders in established organizations, students will acquire valuable insights into the ever-evolving business landscape, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities that await in their future careers. Get ready to unlock the secrets of business success and foster a lifelong appreciation for the fascinating world of commerce. The specification is structured into two themes, taking students from how entrepreneurs start businesses (Theme 1) through to growing and global businesses (Theme 2). There are two equally weighted exam papers, focusing on each specification theme.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Business consists of two externally examined papers. Students must complete all assessment in May/June in Year 11.

Theme 1: Investigating small business (*Paper code: 1BS0/01)	Theme 2: Building a business (Paper code: 1BS0/02)
<p><i>Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes</i></p> <p><i>50% of the qualification</i></p> <p><i>90 marks</i></p>	<p><i>Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes</i></p> <p><i>50% of the qualification</i></p> <p><i>90 marks</i></p>
<p>Content overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship • Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity • Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice • Topic 1.4 Making the business effective • Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business 	<p>Content overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 2.1 Growing the business • Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions • Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions • Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions • Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions
<p>Assessment overview</p> <p>The paper is divided into three sections:</p> <p>Section A: 35 marks</p> <p>Section B: 30 marks</p> <p>Section C: 25 marks.</p> <p>The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.</p> <p>Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper.</p> <p>Calculators may be used in the examination. Information on the use of calculators during the examinations for this qualification can be found in <i>Appendix 4: Calculators</i>.</p>	<p>Assessment overview</p> <p>The paper is divided into three sections:</p> <p>Section A: 35 marks</p> <p>Section B: 30 marks</p> <p>Section C: 25 marks.</p> <p>The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.</p> <p>Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper.</p> <p>Calculators may be used in the examination. Information on the use of calculators during the examinations for this qualification can be found in <i>Appendix 4: Calculators</i>.</p>

EXAM BOARD?

Pearson Edexcel



IS IT POSSIBLE TO STUDY AT A HIGHER LEVEL?

Depending on the grade the learner achieves in this qualification, they could progress to level 3 qualifications/A Levels.

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Business and Enterprise • Level 3 T Level Technical Qualification in Management and Administration (this will support progression to higher education) • A Level in Business (this will support progression to higher education)

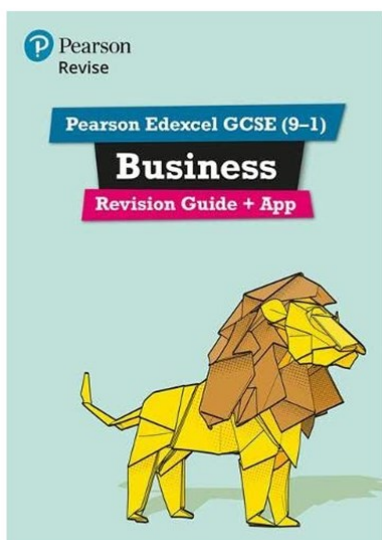
Learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the business sector or through a variety of occupations that are available within the sector, such as in marketing, business administration and human resources

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?

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revise-Edexcel-Business-Revision-Guide/dp/129219071X>



Useful Links

<https://www.gcsepod.com/>

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

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>



NOTES



NOTES



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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