

The John Fisher School Pathways Booklet



CHOOSING YOUR GCSE PATHWAY

Which way now?



John 10:10

"Have life and have it to the full"



CHOOSING YOUR PATHWAY

This booklet helps our students understand more about the subjects they might want to study and we have provided links to exam specifications/exam boards on each page.

Please use the booklet to help make choices and keep it safe to refer to.

Final choices must be submitted using the link at the end of the document.

The deadline is:

Wednesday, 19 March 2025 – 12:00 p.m.

Sometimes, **we cannot allocate a first choice**; the timetable will not allow it, or perhaps there are not enough students who have chosen to study a subject; therefore, we ask that all students select **reserve subjects**.

As a school, we constantly endeavour to do our best to ensure our students have the courses best suited to their needs

The decisions you make now will affect your future. So think and choose carefully for the right reasons.



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MAKING YOUR DECISIONS

Compulsory element or 'core curriculum'

As a Catholic School, we require that you study Religious Education. You will also explore the compulsory core National Curriculum subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. In addition, you will continue to have at least one period of Physical Education and one session of Games a week.

Choosing your option subjects

- We have a section dedicated to the **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)** on the next page
- Research all your options before you make a decision
- Carefully read what each option subject studies and the assessment requirements
- If you have a firm career idea, choose subjects you will need to meet the entry requirements for the post-16 opportunities that interest you (further education, higher education or an apprenticeship)
- If you don't have a firm career idea, choose subjects that will give you plenty of choices for further education.
- Do not be afraid to ask for help and advice. Family, friends and teachers can all be accommodating.

Do choose a subject because:

- You are good at it and you think you will enjoy the subject.
- It goes well with your other choices.
- You think you might want to study it post-16.
- It links to a career idea.
- It helps to give you lots of choice post-16.

Do not choose a subject because:

- You think it will be easy.
- You like the teacher who teaches you now.
- Your friends have chosen it.
- Someone else thinks that it is a good idea.
- You did not have time to research your options properly.

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The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Pathway



MAKING YOUR DECISIONS

What is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The school has high aspirations for attainment for all students. That is why we offer the EBacc as a guided pathway.

The Department for Education indicate that the EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees.

The EBacc is:

- English language and literature
- maths
- the sciences
- geography or history
- a language

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with more significant opportunities for further education and increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in full-time education. In addition, Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

Why are there other subjects on offer if the EBacc is considered important?

- Offering additional subjects enables students that do choose the EBacc pathway to also choose some additional GCSE subjects
- We also recognise that the EBacc pathway may not be appropriate for all students, despite the fact it is strongly encouraged.
- We therefore, offer subjects outside of the EBacc to maintain breadth in our offer.
- EBacc information (external site): click [here](#)

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The GCSE/BTEC Pathway Process



HOW TO CHOOSE?

Submission
Form



How to choose

Before making any decisions you will need to thoroughly read this document to make sure you have all the information you require. Once you have decided on this you can complete your options by going to the link at the end of the document.

How many GCSE's/BTEC courses will I do?

Total GCSE/BTECs are 9 or 10 based on the breakdown below:

English Language, English Literature, Maths, RE, 3 x Option Subjects – total 7 GCSE/BTEC qualifications.

One of the following based on ability:

1. Separate Science 3 x GCSE's in Biology, Physics, Chemistry (usually the top 85-90 students).

2. Combined Science 2 x GCSEs based on combining the separate sciences.

In total, there are:

9 GCSE/BTECs if doing **Combined Science**.

10 GCSE/BTECs if doing **Separate Science**.

Important Notes

1. If you choose **Sports Studies BTEC** you cannot choose **Sports Studies GCSE**.
2. If you choose **Business Studies BTEC** you cannot choose **Business Studies GCSE**.
3. Students selecting **Economics** will be assessed for suitability. Usually students in **Maths** sets 1 and 2 are suitable to the course.
4. **Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE** has limited spaces and is usually a very popular choice. Please think carefully about a reserve choice if this is a first choice subject.

Please remember to select one choice for each option block and any two reserve-choice subjects in order of preference.

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What if I need to find out more?



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do I need to make a reserve choice?

We have developed our GCSE curriculum to include a breadth of choice. However, we do anticipate that some subjects will be popular or perhaps may not run due to low levels of interest. Students must therefore be aware that it is essential to choose a reserve subject. Hopefully, this will not be needed, but you should select a reserve knowing that you could be studying this subject.

Can I change my mind about an option subject?

We are able to accommodate a very small number of changes once your son has started his courses. Any request for a change would need to be put in writing by parents/carers, and you will need to have spoken to both the teacher of the subject you want to change from and the subjects you wish to change to.

What is a BTEC Level 2 course?

A BTEC course is a vocational course assessed principally through coursework and is, therefore, more suited to students who prefer this assessment method. It is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction Star. All BTECs have GCSE equivalence. A single BTEC qualification at Level 2 Pass will count as 1 GCSE at grade 5 (or above). All Level 2 BTECs have external examinations which amount to 25% of the course.

Is there a limit to the number of BTECs my son can take?

We recommend a maximum of two BTEC subjects as these courses can have large coursework elements to them.

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SCHOOL RESEARCH AND HELP

Careers education is delivered within the RSHE programme throughout Years 7 to 13, plus an additional 10-week block of lessons in Year 9. The careers programme emphasises managing the changes, choices and transitions that will affect future education, training, work and life as an adult.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance are now recognised in the national framework. It must include the three critical areas of Self Development, Career Exploration and Career Management in alignment with the **Gatsby Benchmarks** below:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

In Years 10 and 12, students are offered the opportunity to participate in **Work Experience** placements for one-week off-site in the Summer term. In Years 8, 9 and 12, a **Speed Careers** event is organised, bringing together over 40 different professions into one place, allowing students to speak to alums and other professionals about their career choices. **Guest speakers** and **CV workshops** are also provided to help boost the employability of our students.

By the end of Year 11, all students will have had the opportunity of a dedicated **one-to-one careers advice appointment** with a qualified practitioner, ensuring they receive impartial advice informing them about different Sixth Form options, apprenticeships and other educational routes.

Students can access high-quality, up-to-date career information from Show My Homework and their tutors. In addition, all students can email our Careers Leader at r.palmer@ohnfishersschool.org and schedule an appointment to ensure tailored advice is being given to each student.

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THE CORE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

*John 10:10
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The Core Key Stage 4 Curriculum Index

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Submission
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English Language >

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Mathematics >

Combined Science >

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English Language & Literature (2 GCSEs)



English
Language
Specification >

English
Literature
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Why is this course important?

Excellent written and verbal communication skills are vital to every future course, career path and avenue in life. The skills that you acquire and refine in English, will ensure that you feel connected to the world in which we live.

What will I learn?

Literature component:

You will study:

- A Shakespeare play (Macbeth)*
- Poetry (Conflict)*
- A pre-C19th novel (Jekyll and Hyde)*
- A modern play (An inspector Calls)*

Texts subject to change

Language component: You will engage with fiction and non-fiction texts on a specific theme. You will be required to analyse the language of structure of these texts and use this as a stimulus for their own pieces of creative writing.

How is the course assessed?

Literature component: 100% of this course is assessed in two, 2 hour external exams.

Unit 1 - (50%) Exploring Modern and Literary Heritage

Unit 2 - (50%) Exploring Poetry and Shakespeare

Language component: 100% of this course is assessed in two, 2 hour external exams. The Spoken Language NEA will be assessed internally and sent to the exam board. Students will be awarded a Distinction, Merit or Pass which will appear separate to their English Language grade on their results statement.

Unit 1 - (50%) Explorations in creative reading and writing

Unit 2 - (50%) Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Where will it take me?

The knowledge gained will give you a greater insight into some of the greatest thinkers of all time. The skills of will set you up for almost any career, but specifically lend themselves to careers in journalism, law, the arts and the media.

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Mathematics
Specification >

Further
Mathematics
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Why is this course important?

This course encourages students to develop confidence and a positive attitude towards numeracy and allows them to recognise the importance of maths in their own lives and to society. This qualification prepares students to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money, further learning opportunities and career choices.

What will I learn?

To develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and graphs
- Shape, space and measures
- Statistics
- Probability

How is the course assessed?

All students will sit three examinations at the end of the course. Students will be entered for the Higher or the Foundation tier, based upon the tier that suits their mathematical ability. The Higher tier allows students to achieve up to grade 9, whilst the Foundation tier allows up to grade 5.

Students in set 1 will also complete work for the AQA level 2 certificate in Further Maths, an exam that they will sit at the end of Year 11, consisting of two papers. Students hoping to study Further Maths at A level will require this qualification.

Where will it take me?

- **Creative careers:** Lighting designer, Photographer, Textiles.
- **Professional careers:** Architect, Engineer, Accountant, Statistician, Finance.
- **Vocational:** Electrician, Navigation, Carpentry, Plumber.
- **Personal:** Mortgage applications, Money Management

Combined GCSE Science: Trilogy



**Combined
Science
Specification** >

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Why is this course important?

Science impacts on everybody's life; whether it is the food you choose to eat or the type of car you will drive. Combined Science provides the knowledge and skills that allow you to make informed decisions in an increasingly technological age. You can gain 2 Science GCSE grades with Combined Science. Gain up to a grade 9 on the higher tier exam, grade 5 on the foundation tier examination.

What will I learn?

You will study units on Physics, Chemistry and Biology and their practical applications which will build on the work learnt in KS3. Practical investigations, experiments and research are all important aspects of the course.

A few topics that are studied are:

- Cell biology
- Forces, energy and waves
- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Chemistry of atmosphere
- Atomic and electronic structure

How is the course assessed?

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment is by external exams at the end of Year 11. These will include questions based on practical's that students must complete during the GCSE course.

There will be six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each will assess different topics

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes each

Weighting: The papers are equally weighted. Each worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks

Tiers: Foundation and Higher

Where will it take me?

If you would like a career in medicine, veterinary science, child development, nursing or even engineering and electronics, then Combined Science will provide you with skills that underpin all these sectors.

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Separate GCSE Science - Biology, Chemistry and Physics



**Biology
Specification** >

**Chemistry
Specification** >

**Physics
Specification** >

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Why is this course important?

Separate Science provides greater breadth of content and suits the more able students who enjoy Science and are keen to study more.

What will I learn?

All three Sciences are taught by a subject specialist. There will be GCSE grades for Biology, Physics and Chemistry. You will be studying the same content as Combined Science but in more depth and with some extra practicals that are a requirement.

- Physics (forces, waves, space physics etc.)
- Chemistry (atomic structure and period tables, quantitative chemistry, energy changes etc.)
- Biology (Cell biology, infection and responses, bioenergetics etc.)

How is the course assessed?

Exam Board: AQA

GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics all have two, 1 hour 45 minutes papers and each paper is worth 50% of that subject.

Tier: Higher paper only at The John Fisher School

Each paper consists of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses. There are 8 required practical's per GCSE subject.

Where will it take me?

Separate Science is the bedrock of essential careers such as medicine, dentistry and teaching. Other avenues where Separate Science is central to them are engineering, marine studies and the food and nutrition industry.

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Why is this course important?

This is an interesting course which includes looking at different opinions, discussing and debating real life issues. It involves delving into different philosophical and ethical issues as well as examining beliefs and practices in Catholic Christianity and Judaism. Studying religion is about people and their many perspectives.

What will I learn?

The AQA syllabus addresses the subject of Catholic Christianity from both ethical and theological viewpoints, in addition to this there is also a study of Judaism.

Topics include:

Paper 1

Catholic Christianity – Creation, Incarnation, The Trinity, God, Redemption, Church and the Kingdom of God, Eschatology

Paper 2

Judaism - Beliefs and teachings, Practices

Themes - Religion, relationships and families, peace and conflict

How is the course assessed?

Each candidate will be assessed by two, two hour assessments. Assessment criteria includes:

- RS1: Demonstrate key elements of Catholicism, including beliefs, practices, sources of authority and organisation.
- RS2: Understand the effect of Catholicism on individual or corporate moral behaviour, attitudes, social practices and lifestyles.
- RS3: Be required to produce evidence and arguments to support and evaluate points of view.

Where will it take me?

You could go on and study A-levels in this subject. If you want to work in a career which works with people then RE is perfect! For example, working in the Police, teaching, the medical profession, law and the armed forces.

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GCSE PATHWAYS KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

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Your Choices

Key Stage 4

Curriculum

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Art and Design GCSE >	Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE >
Business Studies GCSE >	French GCSE** >
Business Studies (Enterprise) BTEC >	Geography GCSE** >
Computer Science GCSE** >	History GCSE** >
Design and Technology GCSE >	Music GCSE >
Digital Information Technology BTEC >	Spanish GCSE** >
Drama GCSE >	Sports Studies GCSE >
Economics GCSE >	Sports Studies BTEC >

**** = EBacc Pathway Subject**



**Art and
Design
Specification** >

Why choose this course?

Art is an important subject in society today as many elements of our culture are visual and require us to think creatively. This course is suitable for students who are:

- Keen to develop their visual skills
- Creative, enthusiastic and imaginative
- Able to sustain an investigation
- Willing to experiment and take risks in their work

What will I learn?

Students undertaking the Fine Art title are required to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding set out to a relevant chosen title. Areas of study include:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Lens and light-based media (Photography)
- Mixed media
- Installation
- 3D and land art

How is the course assessed?

This qualification is a 100% non-exam assessment. This means both the portfolio and the Externally Set Task (question paper) are 100% internally marked and externally moderated.

Component 1: Portfolio

60% of GCSE

120 marks

Component 2: Externally Set Task

40% of GCSE

80 marks

Where will it take me?

It will give you the qualifications to apply for jobs in the Visual Arts e.g. Fashion Design, Games Design, Film, Web Design, Set/ Costume Design, Animation, Illustration. The list is endless!

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**Business
Studies
Specification** >

Why choose this course?

Business Studies is concerned with the actions and decisions taken by firms and focuses on topics such as marketing, finance and management. It allows students to study how businesses function and looks at the work that various departments like HR carry out. Students will look at important decisions that businesses face in modern, competitive, and often global environments.

What will I learn?

Topics include:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

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Curriculum** >

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How is the course assessed?

This course consists of two, 1 hour 45 minutes examinations worth 50% of the GCSE each. Both examinations are 90 marks each.

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity (business in the real world; influences in business; business operations and human resources)

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity (business in the real world; influences in business; marketing and finance)

Where will it take me?

Business Studies continues in the Sixth Form in both the A Level and BTEC format. Many students continue to study Business Studies and go on to the top universities. The students can get involved in the Young Enterprise competition, where they run their own company.

Business Studies (Enterprise) BTEC Award



Business
Studies BTEC
Specification >

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Why choose this course?

The BTEC Technical Certificate in Business Enterprise has been designed to address the needs of students who prefer to learn in a more varied and independent way. Students have the opportunity to develop skills to support them as they build confidence in a range of delivery methods, including presentations and written reports. The BTEC encourages personal development that no other course does, with students experiencing real business issues.

What will I learn?

Topics include:

- **Component 1:** Exploring Enterprises
- **Component 2:** Planning and pitching a Micro-Enterprise Idea
- **Component 3:** Marketing and Finance for Enterprise

How is the course assessed?

- **Coursework:** Coursework: Components 1 and 2 are assessed through coursework and each component will be broken down into a number of tasks. These tasks are written in class under strict exam conditions. The difference to GCSEs is that students are given an opportunity to improve their work on completion of a first draft.
- **Examination:** Students will sit one exam worth 40% of their total grade. This unit requires learners to analyse and interpret information in relation to an enterprise and to make recommendations on strategies to use to improve the performance of the enterprise.

Where will it take me?

This BTEC provides a route to employment into the many diverse areas of business. These could include:

- Roles in specialist areas such as marketing, finance, customer service or human resources in large organisations
- A more generic role in a small local business

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Computer Science GCSE** (EBacc Subject)



**Computer
Science
Specification** >

Why choose this course?

This qualification will enable students to develop valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace, a deep understanding of computational thinking and how to apply it through a chosen programming language.

What will I learn?

Topics Include:

- **Computer systems**

1.1 Systems architecture, 1.2 Memory and storage, 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols, 1.4 Network security, 1.5 Systems software 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

- **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming**

2.1 Algorithms, 2.2 Programming fundamentals, 2.3 Producing robust programs, 2.4 Boolean logic 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

How is the course assessed?

Computer systems

Written exam paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes (50% GCSE)

The paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Written exam paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes (50% GCSE)

The paper consist of questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language.

Where will it take me?

Your computer science skills will be in high demand across many different industries. for example; Financial, Software, Hospitals, Communications and Multinational companies.

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Design and Technology Specification >

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Why choose this course?

Product Design students will be required to complete a range of projects leading to a single major project. Students are encouraged to learn from the local ethos, community and wider world, students identify needs and opportunities. They respond with ideas, products and systems, challenging expectations, where appropriate. They combine practical and intellectual skills with an understanding of aesthetic, technical, cultural, health, social, emotional, industrial and environmental issues.

What will I learn?

Students will be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of modelling materials and graphics. Students will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical activities possible. Year 9 students will design and make a range of general products. Year 10 students make radios, MP3 and phone docking stations which are very popular.

How is the course assessed?

The assessment is in two main sections: The Non-exam assessment project which is worth 50% and end of course exam 50%.

The Non-exam assessment (NEA), worth 50% of the total mark, will give students the opportunity to demonstrate designing and making skills. Assessment criteria:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing and evaluating

The second part of the course will be a written examination, worth 50% of the total mark.

Where will it take me?

Continue this subject into A level. Jobs where this subject would be useful include: art directors; furniture conservator/restorer; graphic designer; materials engineer; product manager; production designer; theatre/TV/film; purchasing manager.

Digital Information Technology BTEC Award



Digital IT Specification >

Why choose this course?

The Award gives students the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and digital skills in a practical learning environment. Students will gain the understanding and skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection. These data skills span all industries; almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy.

What will I learn?

Students will learn a strong mix of creative design and technical knowledge and is a new digital qualification that gives students a real insight into the modern fundamentals of Information Technology. The external assessment is structured to be relevant to Information Technology.

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Pathways Curriculum >

How is the course assessed?

- **Coursework:** Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed through coursework worth 30% each of their total grade. Both coursework units consists of 3 main tasks – Investigation, Planning and Developing a product.
- **Examination:** Component 3 is externally assessed and students will sit one exam worth 40% of their total grade. Students will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

Where will it take me?

After completing the BTEC Tech Award DIT, students will be in a great position to continue in the Digital Information Technology sector. Future career opportunities includes - Cloud Architect, Cyber Security, IT Consultant , Ethical Hacking and Web Development

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Drama Specification >

Why choose this course?

I hear; I forget
I see; I remember
I do; I understand
(Old Chinese proverb)

The above proverb highlights the ethos of Drama and Theatre within education. We are in the business of preparing our students to be freethinking, analytical, articulate and considerate of the world they live in. We foster artistic talents with enthusiasm and support.

What will I learn?

Students will be studying and learning a variety of texts. You will develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes of the theatrical process, work independently and reflectively to be able to make informed choices in process and performance over the next three years.

Core Curriculum >

Pathways Curriculum >

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Devising theatre (NEA/ 40% of GCSE)

- Students will be assessed on either acting or design. They will produce a realisation of their piece of theatre and a portfolio with supporting evidence and an evaluation of the final performance. 2 sides of work

Component 2: Performing from a text (NEA/20% of GCSE)

- Students will be assessed on either acting or design. Students will have two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the centre.

Component 3: Interpreting theatre (written exam/40% of GCSE)

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- Based on a set text and a live theatre review

Where will it take me?

The course covers all sorts of transferable skills that will be useful throughout life: communication, presentation/public speaking, group and leadership skills, problem solving, time management and initiative.



Economics Specification >

Core Curriculum >

Pathways Curriculum >

Why choose this course?

Economics is about understanding what is happening in the economy at all different levels – from choices we make about how we spend our wages, right through to what policies governments should use to improve the fortunes of the country. Economics can be used to explain decisions that people make and the consequences of them, e.g. what causes recessions and what can governments do about them?

What will I learn?

How markets work:

- Economic foundations
- Resource allocation
- How prices are determined
- Production, costs, revenue and profit
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- Market failure

How the economy works:

- Introduction in the national economy
- Government objectives
- How the government manage the economy
- Trade and global economy

How is the course assessed?

Able **Mathematicians in sets 1 and 2** are well suited to this course due to the Mathematical content and assessment. This course consists of two 1 hour 45 minutes examinations worth 50% of the GCSE. Both examinations are worth 80 marks each.

Paper 1: How the market works.

Paper 2: How the economy works.

Where will it take me?

Economics lends itself to a wide variety of careers and not necessarily those in finance. Career options include:

- Economist
- Chartered accountant
- Investment / financial risk analyst

You can find work in both the public and private sectors for a range of different companies over many different industries. Some people find work in areas including:

- Charities and voluntary organisations
- Banks and building societies
- Consultancies

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Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE



**Food
Preparation
Specification** >

Why choose this course?

Studying Eduqas GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition will equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook, it will enable you to make informed decisions about food and nutrition, as well as being able to feed yourselves and others affordably and nutritiously.

What will I learn?

You will make connections between theory and practice.
You will learn:

- planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food using different techniques and equipment
- the functional and chemical characteristics of food
- diet, nutrition and health of food and drinks
- understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- functional and nutritional properties of food, sensory qualities of food and food safety considerations

**Core
Curriculum** >

**Pathways
Curriculum** >

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Written Exam (50% of GCSE)

- 1 hour 45 minutes, 50% of qualification, 100 marks
- Section A: questions based on stimulus materials
- Section B: a range of question types to assess all content

Component 2: Food preparation (50% of GCSE)

Assessment 1 (15%): The Food Investigation Assessment

- 8-hour task, practical experimental on a food commodity e.g. bread, pastry

Assessment 2 (35%): The Food Preparation Assessment

- 12-hour task, Students will plan, prepare, cook and present three dishes in 3-hour practical exam

Where will it take me?

This course provides a strong basis for various careers in the hospitality and catering industries, such as a baker, a chef, and catering managers. As well as careers as a nutritionist, food technologist or dietician. Students could also explore careers in food journalism, food safety, food/product development.

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This is a subject with limited spaces, please think carefully about a reserve subject if selecting this GCSE in Block A.

French GCSE** (EBacc Subject)



French
Specification >

Why choose this course?

Learning a foreign language is becoming increasingly important as we try to forge closer links with Europe following Brexit, and employers are keen to recruit those with good language skills. Reasons to study a foreign language: increase global understanding; employment potential; competitive in the international business world; to expand study abroad options; to make travel more feasible and enjoyable and many more reasons!!!

What will I learn?

In French, students are entered for the GCSE examinations of Edexcel. The GCSE French course will focus on the following five themes:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local area, holiday and travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations, study and work
5. International and global dimensions.

How is the course assessed?

All students will be assessed in the following ways:

Paper 1: Listening (25% of course)

- Foundation: 35 minutes (+5 minutes reading time)
- Higher: 45 minutes (+5 minutes reading time)

Paper 2: Speaking (25% of course)

- Foundation: 7-9 minutes (+12 minutes prep time)
- Higher: 10-12 minutes (+12 minutes prep time)

Paper 3: Reading (25% of course)

- Foundation: 45 minutes
- Higher: 60 minutes

Paper 4: Writing (25% of course)

- Foundation: 1 hour 10 minutes
- Higher: 1 hour 20 minutes

Where will it take me?

Not only do universities and employers look favourably on a GCSE in French because of the level of challenge, they also acknowledge the resilience and discipline that you will have demonstrated. Learning a language gives you a pathway to travel and work worldwide.

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Geography GCSE** (EBacc Subject)



Geography
Specification >

Why choose this course?

Discover more about the fascinating world in which we live! Lessons will explore how today's world was shaped and how we can respond to growing future challenges. There are opportunities to take your learning outside the classroom, with fieldtrips to various places around the UK as well as an optional international fieldtrip.

What will I learn?

Living with the Physical Environment:

- Natural Hazards (tectonics, weather, climate change)
- Living World (tropical rainforests and hot deserts)
- UK Landscapes (coasts and rivers)

Challenges in the Human Environment:

- Urban Issues and Challenges (Rio de Janeiro and London)
- Changing Economic World
- Challenge of Resource Management (food security)

Geographical skills:

- Compulsory fieldtrips to learn fieldwork techniques
- Pre-seen task (e.g. deforestation in Malaysia)

How is the course assessed?

This course is 100% examined externally.

Paper 1: Living in the physical environment

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 3: Geographical applications

- 1 hour 15 minutes
- 30% of GCSE

Where will it take me?

Geographers have a range of skills, making them highly employable and successful. Geography is useful in a variety of careers such as law, journalism and architecture. Specific careers include: Volcanologist, Meteorologist, Hazard Risk Planner, Energy Policy Analyst, Solicitor, RNLI Trainer, Marketing Consultant, Glaciologist and Transport Planners.

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History GCSE** (EBacc Subject)



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Why choose this course?

Today's world is a volatile, diverse and interconnected place in which we all live. Without any knowledge of the past it is near impossible to try to make sense of what's happening now. Taking GCSE History will not only help you to improve your knowledge of the past, but also help you to make sense of the world today.

What will I learn?

Warfare and British Society c1250-modern day:

- London's response to the Second World War & the impact of the Blitz
- Battles: (e.g.) Falkirk, Agincourt, Naseby, the Somme and Iraq

Breadth Study- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England & Period study- The Cold War 1941-1991:

- Political, social, religious and military aspects of both Anglo-Saxon and Norman England.
- The development of the Cold War

Weimer and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

- Depth study on Germany between the First & Second World Wars (1918 through to 1939).

How is the course assessed?

This course consists of three papers.

Paper 1: Warfare and British Society

- 1 hour 15 minutes (52 marks/30% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Breadth study: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England and Period Study: The Cold War

- 1 hour 45 minutes (64 marks / 40% of GCSE)

Paper 3: Weimer and Nazi Germany

- 1 hour 20 minutes (52 marks / 30% of GCSE)

Where will it take me?

You'll learn a range of skills that will help you with your future. For example communication and writing skills, how to construct an argument, how to select evidence, how to organise and handle data and how to detect bias. History is useful in a variety of careers such as law, journalism, teaching, charities, architecture, heritage, nature conservation, libraries and local and national politics.

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Music Specification >

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Why choose this course?

GCSE Music is about making music and listening to a wide range of musical genres and eras, studied through performing, composing and listening. It is not essential that you are already learning an instrument, but you must be willing to practice once you start the course as well as partake in an ensemble inside or outside of school.

What will I learn?

Students explore different styles and genres of music. They develop skills in performing, composing and listening. They develop an understanding of a range of musical styles and genres from Film Music to Classical and Popular Music to Folk.

We must also learn about one classical piece (Badinerie by Bach) and one Popular piece (Africa by Toto) in detail.

There were low student numbers indicated by Year 9 for this course, if choosing this subject please carefully consider a reserve choice in the same block.

How is the course assessed?

All students will be assessed in the following ways:

Component 1: Performing (30% of GCSE)

- Perform on any instrument of your choice, you can also perform rapping, Mc-ing or beat boxing.
- The entire performance should last between 4-6 minutes.

Component 2: Composition (30% of GCSE)

- One composition can be in the style of your choice and completed in Year 10.
- The other composition will be in response to a brief and will be completed in Year 11. Both are 3-6 minutes.

Component 3: Appraising (40% of GCSE)

- Written listening exam: 1 hour 15 minutes

Where will it take me?

After completing the course students can continue on to study Music at A level. What's more, the transferable skills students master during their studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support their progress.

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Spanish GCSE** (EBacc Subject)



Spanish Specification >

Why choose this course?

Learning a foreign language is becoming increasingly important as we try to forge closer links with Europe following Brexit, and employers are keen to recruit those with good language skills. Reasons to study a foreign language: increase global understanding; employment potential; competitive in the international business world; to expand study abroad options; to make travel more feasible and enjoyable and many more reasons!!!

What will I learn?

In Spanish, students are entered for the GCSE examinations of Edexcel. The GCSE Spanish course will focus on the following five themes:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local area, holiday and travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations, study and Work
5. International and global dimensions.

How is the course assessed?

All students will be assessed in the following ways:

Paper 1: Listening (25% of course)

- Foundation: 35 minutes (+5 minutes reading time)
- Higher: 45 minutes (+5 minutes reading time)

Paper 2: Speaking (25% of course)

- Foundation: 7-9 minutes (+12 minutes prep time)
- Higher: 10-12 minutes (+12 minutes prep time)

Paper 3: Reading (25% of course)

- Foundation: 45 minutes
- Higher: 60 minutes

Paper 4: Writing (25% of course)

- Foundation: 1 hour 10 minutes
- Higher: 1 hour 20 minutes

Where will it take me?

Not only do universities and employers look favourably on a GCSE in Spanish because of the level of challenge, they also acknowledge the resilience and discipline that you will have demonstrated. Learning a language gives you a pathway to travel and work worldwide.

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Sports Studies Specification >

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Why choose this course?

Because you are interested in how the human body works through sport. You are interested in how socio- cultural influences and sport psychology determines performance in sport. You are interested in health, fitness and well-being through sport. You enjoy playing sport and play to at least school level and above.

What will I learn?

- **Component 1:** Applied anatomy and physiology; movement analysis; principles of training; injury prevention and use of data
- **Component 2:** Health and fitness; Sports psychology; socio-cultural influences in physical activity
- **Component 3:** Practical performance of three sports (combination of team and individual)
- **Component 4:** Personal Exercise Programme (PEP). This consists of a 6 week training programme.

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE course is split into 70% Theory and 30% Practical.

- **Component 1** (Fitness and body systems): Exam 1 hour 45 minutes (90 marks and 36% of GCSE)
- **Component 2** (Health and Performance): Exam 1 hour 15 minutes (70 marks and 24% of GCSE)
- **Component 3** (Practical performance): Performances are moderated (105 marks and 30% of GCSE)
- **Component 4** (PEP): 1500 word coursework (20 marks and 10% of GCSE)

Where will it take me?

Students can progress from this qualification to:

- Further study of physical education at A level
- Vocational courses such as BTEC Nationals in Sport & Sport and Exercise Sciences
- Apprenticeships in other training
- Employment in a related sector
- University courses, including at Russell Group institutions.



Sports Studies BTEC Specification >

Core Curriculum >

Options Curriculum >

Why choose this course?

The BTEC Tech Award in Sport covers a breadth of sports and challenges, you will explore many different aspects of sport and the sports industry. As part of your coursework, you will look into the benefits of playing various sports, technological advances, how this has shaped sports today, and how we can train to advance sporting performance. Students also show leadership through leading coaching sessions as well as showing their practical skills.

What will I learn?

- Benefits of taking part in sport
- Technology and equipment for sporting performance
- The benefits of the warm up on the body system
- Different components of fitness used in sport
- The roles of officials and participating in sport
- Demonstrating how to improve technique in sport
- Components of fitness and fitness testing
- Training methods
- Principles of training
- Motivation and goal setting

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through three separate components. Component 1 & 2 are taught for an extended period of time and then assessed under controlled conditions by an exam board set assignment, much like a case study or coursework. Component 3 is taught for a period of time and then assessed through an examination.

Where will it take me?

Students can progress from this qualification to further education at A-level, BTEC Sport and Exercise Science or Sports Coaching and development. 4 out of 5 BTEC students go on to receive a 1st/2nd class degree. BTECs are backed by some major UK employers such as Sports Coach UK.

Choosing Your Pathway – March 2025



Please select one subject from each block and any two reserve choices, click [here](#) to enter these.

Block A	Block B	Block C
Art and Design GCSE	Business Studies GCSE	Business Studies (Enterprise) BTEC
Business Studies GCSE	Computer Science GCSE**	Business Studies GCSE
Design and Technology GCSE	Digital Information Technology BTEC	Design and Technology GCSE
Drama GCSE	Geography GCSE**	Economics GCSE
Economics GCSE	History GCSE**	French GCSE**
Food Technology GCSE	Music GCSE	History GCSE**
Geography GCSE**	Sports Studies BTEC	Spanish GCSE**
History GCSE**	Sports Studies GCSE	Sports Studies GCSE
Spanish GCSE**		

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DEADLINE: Wednesday, 19 March 2025 – 12:00 p.m.

John 10:10

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