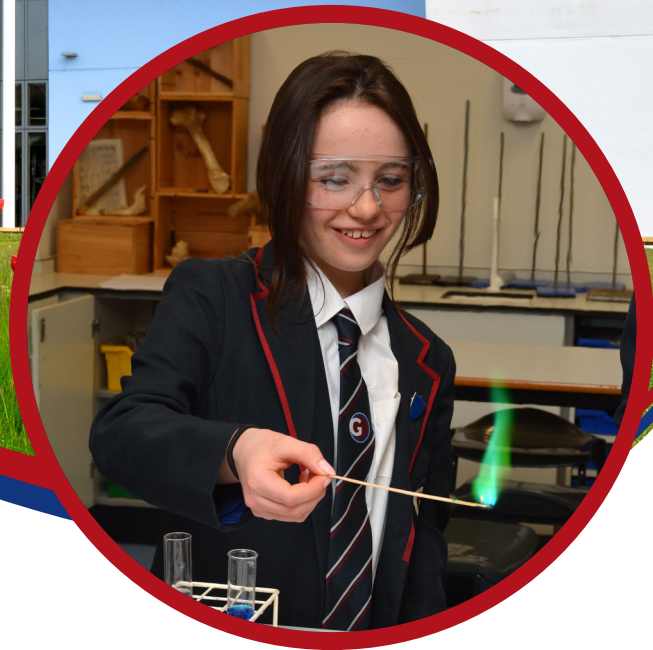


BE YOUR BEST



**GOODWIN
ACADEMY**

Year 9 Options
2024 – 2026

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Introduction

Message from the Headteacher

As you embark on the journey of selecting your GCSE options, I want to extend my support and encouragement to each and every one of you.

Your GCSE studies mark a significant milestone in your educational journey, offering you the opportunity to tailor your learning experience to suit your interests, strengths, and aspirations.

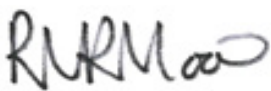
I urge you to approach this decision-making process with thoughtfulness and consideration. Take the time to explore the wide range of subjects available to you, considering not only your academic interests but also the potential impact on your future career path.

Remember, your choices should reflect a balance between subjects you enjoy, subjects you excel in, and subjects that align with your long-term goals. Resist the temptation to choose subjects simply because your friends are taking them or because of a particular teacher.

Your teachers, as well as your family and peers, are here to support you in making informed decisions. Don't hesitate to seek advice and guidance from those who know you best.

Embrace this opportunity with enthusiasm and confidence, knowing that you are taking an active role in shaping your future.

I wish you all the best as you navigate this exciting chapter of your education.



Mrs R Moon
Headteacher



Welcome to the Goodwin Academy Options Booklet for 2024-2026

This is the first time since starting school that our students have had the opportunity to take control of a significant part of their curriculum. Year 9 students will continue to benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum that will allow a range of further and higher education pathways to be followed once they have completed Year 11.

Choosing option subjects for study in Key Stage 4 is an extremely important part of the year for the students involved. We therefore devote significant time to the process and the timeline for this is shown below:

Week Beginning 4th March 2024

Presentations for Year 9 students to explain options process

Thursday 14th March 2024

Information Evening for Year 9 students and parents to explain options process

Thursday 14th March 2024

Year 9 Consultation Evening for Core Subjects

Thursday 28th March 2024

Options form submission deadline

May 2024

Parents and students informed of subject choice allocations

Ongoing throughout process

Individual meetings with students and members of the Senior Leadership Team

The following pages offer further clarification about how we organise Key Stage 4 as well as explaining the key staff involved in the options process. Also included is information on the core curriculum that all students will follow.

For anything related to the options process	
Name	Name
Mr N Barnes	Assistant Head
Miss B Foley	Head of Year 9

For specific "Next Steps" advice and guidance	
Name	Name
Mrs H Mercer	KS5 Leader

Making Option Choices

Year 9

All students will study the following core curriculum:

- **GCSE English** (8 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- **GCSE Mathematics** (8 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- **GCSE Combined Science** (9 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- **Life Skills** (Careers, Relationships & Sex Education and Religious Education 3 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- **Core PE / Games** (3 lessons per 2-week cycle)

Students will then choose **4** subjects from the option subjects outlined in this booklet:

- **One** from Option Choice 1 - the first box on the options form (5 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- **Three** from Option Choice 2-4 - the second box on the options form (5 lessons per 2-week cycle)



The Core Subjects

GCSE English Language

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

You will learn how to write for different purposes and audiences and to use interesting vocabulary and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. You will learn how to examine literary and non-fiction texts, commenting on their content, language and structure.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop strategies that help you to read, understand, analyse and interpret different types of texts including drama, poetry, novels and non-literary texts. You will develop writing skills, using descriptive, argumentative and persuasive techniques, organising your ideas and writing fluently and confidently, as well as editing and proofreading your own writing.

How will I learn?

You will learn through the continual practice of reading, writing, and speaking and listening. You will learn through a variety of teacher and student-led activities, home learning and through individual, paired and group work. You will learn by making effective use of thinking tools and thinking maps to help you to work independently.

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1	You will answer four questions responding to the language and structure in a single literary text and then complete a description or story.	Exam 50%
Paper 2	You will answer four questions on the content, language and writers' viewpoints in two non-fiction texts. You will then argue your point of view on a given topic.	Exam 50%
Speaking and Listening	You will give a presentation followed by questions. This does not count towards your final grade and is awarded a separate grade of Pass, Merit or Distinction.	Assessed in school 0%

Where might this lead?

For most employers and educational institutions, a good pass in English is a clear indication that you can read and write effectively. You will need to achieve at least a grade 4 or you will continue to study this subject after year 11. Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level English Language/Literature and A Level Media Studies. GCSE English may also develop an interest in A Level Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as Journalism, Teaching, Retail, Personnel and Administration.

The Core Subjects

GCSE English Literature

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

You will develop the ability to analyse and appreciate the written word. You will learn to use literary language and write about texts using critical and imaginative responses. For examination purposes, you will read Shakespeare, texts written before 1914, modern texts, texts from other cultures and poetry, both contemporary and from the past.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop strategies that help you read, understand, analyse and interpret what is read. The focus of analysis will be on character, theme, setting and context whilst exploring language devices, structure and form. You will be asked to make links between texts and understand the social and historical significance of texts.

How will I learn?

You will learn through the continual practice of reading, writing, and speaking and listening. You will learn through a variety of teacher and student-led activities, home learning and through individual, paired and group work. You will learn by making effective use of thinking tools and thinking maps to help you to work independently.

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1	You will answer two questions, both based on an extract from the texts. The current texts are Macbeth by William Shakespeare and A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.	Exam 40%
Paper 2	You will answer one question on the play An Inspector Calls, compare two poems from a collection of fifteen that have been read and examined in an anthology, and finally examine and compare two 'unseen' poems.	Exam 60%

Where might this lead?

If you achieve at least a grade 4 in English Literature or English Language, you no longer need to study English. However, studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level English Literature and A Level Media Studies. The study of GCSE English Literature may also develop an interest in A Level Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts.

This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as: journalism, teaching, retail, personnel and administration.

The Core Subjects

GCSE Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

You continue to develop your understanding of Mathematics from a real-world perspective as well as the abstract. The six areas of the syllabus; number; algebra; ratio; proportion and rates of change; geometry and measures. Probability and Statistics will have the emphasis on the application of learning.

What skills will I develop?

Amongst the many skills developed throughout the course, the most important are representation (identifying and simplifying), analytical skills (making connections and generalising), interpretation and communication.

How will I learn?

The GCSE curriculum demands that Mathematics is learnt in a way that emphasises using functional maths. Lessons will be a mixture of teacher led activities, individual tasks and collaborative work, with students having the opportunity to review their learning. ICT will be used both as a teaching and learning tool.

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1: Non-calculator	A formal examination consisting of one paper in which a calculator cannot be used (90mins).	External Examination 80 marks
Paper 2: Calculator	A formal examination consisting of one paper in which a calculator can be used (90mins).	External Examination 80 marks
Paper 3: Calculator	A formal examination consisting of one paper in which a calculator can be used (90mins).	External Examination 80 marks

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Geography and Psychology. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as Medicine, Accountancy, Insurance, Teaching and Computer Game Design. Almost every employer will look for Mathematics as proof of ability to think logically and analytically.

The Core Subjects

GCSE Combined Science

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

You will learn how to develop practical skills through investigation work followed by standard procedures. You will learn about the importance of Science to society through the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will continue to learn how Science helps us to understand the world around us.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn how to handle equipment, measure and record, research and select information. You will work in groups, following directions and will also focus on key skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT.

How will I learn?

You will learn through teacher-led activities, self-directed activities, research, discussions, hands-on practical work and by working collaboratively in small groups.

How will my work be assessed?

Biology	Biology Paper 1: Biology topics 1–4 Biology Paper 2: Biology topics 5–7	1 hour 15 min exam F and H Tier 70 marks
Chemistry	Chemistry Paper 1: Chemistry topics 1–5 Chemistry Paper 2: Chemistry topics 6–10	1 hour 15 min exam F and H Tier 70 marks
Physics	Physics Paper 1: Physics Topics 1-4 Physics Paper 2: Physics Topics 5-8	1 hour 15 min exam F and H Tier 70 marks

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics, BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science. Sixth Form study can lead to a University course to study for a science degree, or will enable you to apply for apprenticeship positions in the STEM industries. This qualification is also useful if considering employment in areas such as engineering, healthcare, environmental work, architecture, construction, catering and hairdressing.



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The Options Subjects

2024 – 2026



The Option Subjects

GCSE Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

You will learn how to develop practical skills through investigation work followed by standard procedures. You will learn about the importance of Science to society through the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will continue to learn how Science helps us to understand the world around us.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn how to handle equipment, measure and record, research and select information. You will work in groups, following directions and will also focus on key skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT.

How will I learn?

You will learn through teacher-led activities, self-directed activities, research, discussions, hands-on practical work and by working collaboratively in small groups.

How will my work be assessed?

	Types of Questions Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.	How's it assessed?
Biology	Biology Paper 1: Biology topics 1–4 Biology Paper 2: Biology topics 5–7	2 x 1 hour 45 min exam F and H Tier
Chemistry	Chemistry Paper 1: Chemistry topics 1–5 Chemistry Paper 2: Chemistry topics 6–10	2 x 1 hour 45 min exam F and H Tier
Physics	Physics Paper 1: Physics Topics 1-4 Physics Paper 2: Physics Topics 5-8	2 x 1 hour 45 min exam F and H Tier

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics, BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science. Sixth Form study can lead to a University course to study for a science degree, or will enable you to apply for apprenticeship positions in the STEM industries. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as a Pharmacist, Researcher, Forensic Scientist, Hairdresser, Chef, Engineer, Healthcare or the Police.

The Option Subjects

GCSE French

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

This course consists of three main themes:

1. People and lifestyle
2. Popular culture
3. Communication and the world around us

What skills will I develop?

You will develop the skills to interact with French native speakers both orally and in writing. The aim is to enable you to communicate in everyday situations.

How will I learn?

You will follow this course using realistic, work related contexts and many authentic French documents.

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening	One paper: Foundation tier or Higher tier Section A – listening comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally. Section B – Dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list.	External Examination 25%
Paper 2: Speaking	7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) A role-play, a photo card to describe, a reading aloud task followed by a short conversation.	Recorded with class teacher but externally assessed 25%
Paper 3: Reading	One paper Foundation tier or Higher tier Section A – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally Section B – translation from French into English.	External Examination 25%
Paper 4: Writing	One paper: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier) Foundation tier: Description of a photo + a short grammar task + translation from English into French + structured writing (responding to bullet points) Higher Tier: Translation from English into French + structured writing (responding to bullet points)	External Examination 25%

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A-Level French. This qualification is highly regarded by employers; people with a language will earn more and are seldom unemployed. This qualification would be useful in the Trade, Business, Leisure and Tourism industry.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Computer Science

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

During the course you will learn how to structure programs into modular parts with clear documented interfaces to enable them to design appropriate modular structures for solutions. You will include authentication and data validation systems/routines within their computer programs.

What skills will I develop?

Students will learn a range of practical skills utilising the latest software, developing critical understanding of key concepts before putting them into practice. You will develop your understanding of computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.

There will be opportunities to develop transferable skills such as programming which could directly link into future employment within the computing industry. You will build a thorough knowledge of Cyber security, legal and ethical implications relating to society and theoretical knowledge of computer systems and networks and how these can be effectively implemented in the wider world.

How will I learn?

Achieving through group work, analysis, design as well as through practical computer based tasks and written work. Students will learn through teacher-led activities and models, and then through individual, paired and group work.

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1: Working towards this paper you will develop an in-depth understanding of programming using different modern programming languages. You will build on practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.	Examination unit	Externally Assessed Examination 50%
Paper 2: Developing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge of a range of different topics including data representation, computer systems, computer networks, cyber security and the wider ethical and legal implications of digital technology on society.	Examination unit	Externally Assessed Examination 50%

Where might this lead?

This would support progression into a more specialised Level 3 BTEC in ICT or an A-level in ICT before the option of going to study computing at university. The content and knowledge gained through the GCSE Computer Science will give students a great step in career options within the IT industry. Future career paths could include Web designer, Game Developer or software developer to name but a few.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Geography

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

You will investigate many different aspects of our world. This will include extreme environments, your role as a global citizen, how our world is changing from a human and physical perspective as well as how other countries differ from the UK.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop information processing skills and methods of investigation for use within the classroom and in a practical fieldwork setting. You will develop an understanding of analysis as you will be expected to explain how different processes link together. A number of traditional geographical skills will be developed including source interpretation and analysis, map skills, data collection, evaluation and the use of visual information.

How will I learn?

You will learn through a series of focused case studies to develop detailed knowledge and understanding. There will be an element of independent learning, including field skills where you will put learning and theory into practice. You will also develop skills in geographic information systems. During the course you will be supported to develop the skills you need to be successful.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: Living With The Physical Environment	What's assessed; The challenge of natural hazards, The living world, Physical landscapes in the UK, Geographical skills	Externally Assessed 1hour 30 min Exam 35%
Unit 2: Challenges in The Human Environment	What's assessed; Urban issues and challenges, The changing economic world, The challenge of resource management, Geographical skills	Externally Assessed 1hour 30 min Exam 35%
Unit 3: Geographical Applications	What's assessed; Issue evaluation, Fieldwork, Geographical skills	External Assessment 1hour 15 min Exam 30%

Where might this lead?

Geography is a desirable subject by many employers as it teaches and enables you to develop a wide variety of skills. Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level Geography, Sociology and Psychology. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as working within the Armed forces, Environment Agency, Surveyor, Town planner, Travel Agent, Climatologist, Meteorologist, Teacher/Academic, Developing digital mapping, Police, Criminal mapping. The list of potential jobs is endless and the skills you learn studying Geography will last a lifetime and be useful in your chosen career.

The Option Subjects

GCSE History

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

The first unit you will investigate is Medicine, this is a fantastically topical investigation which focuses on how modern medical techniques have developed over time. For Paper 2 there are two topics. Early Elizabethan England and American West. Last, but not least, we will be looking at how the German people coped with life after 1918 and why they elected Hitler into power.

What skills will I develop?

- Critical reasoning and analytical skills, including problem solving and thinking creatively
- Independent learning skills - including doing your own research
- Ability to construct an argument and communicate clearly, both verbally and written

How will I learn?

Lessons will be delivered through a variety of methods. These range from role-play, group work to verbal and visual presentations. You will be given support and practical advice on how to write essays and how to approach exam questions successfully.

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1: Medicine through time, c1250-present	A thematic study and an historic environment	External Exam 30%
Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588 & The American West, C1835-1895	A British depth study & A period study	External Exam 40%
Paper 3: Weimer and Nazi Germany 1918-39	A modern depth study	External Exam 30%

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level History, Psychology, Sociology, Media or Business Studies. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as archaeology, accountancy, heritage site manager, engineering, curator, journalist, law/police force, politics, business, media or teaching. In fact, the list is endless; the skills you learn studying history are useful for just about any career you can think of.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Art and Design

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

This qualification is designed for students who wish to gain an understanding of the Art and Design industry and develop skills across a range of areas within the subject. The GCSE course covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of media in order to explore your strengths and preferences.

What skills will I develop?

- Mark-making
- Print making
- Carving
- Graphic communication
- Digital working methods
- Photography

How will I learn?

You will undertake three projects and one externally set exam. You will explore a number of projects, materials, starting points and artists to develop art and design work for your portfolio. Your portfolio is a collection of work that holistically covers the tasks for each unit.

How will my work be assessed?

Pearson GCSE Art and Design is made up of two units.

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio in Art and Design	Internally set and marked; assessed through controlled assessment. 60% of overall mark
Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment in Art and Design	Theme set by Pearson and internally marked. 40% of overall mark
Each unit is assessed separately out of 72 marks, is standardised by the Art department and then moderated by a representative from the exam board at the end of the course.	

Where might this lead?

On completion of your GCSE Art and Design course, you could progress to further education. This course will also demonstrate your dexterity and you will have a portfolio of work that will evidence your ability to pursue a two-year GCSE course in Art and Design, covering different assignments and producing a range of work.

This may compliment your applications to take apprenticeships or other courses, in local design offices, graphics companies and retail, web, design and other practical based careers.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Business

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for learners to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business. Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources.

What skills will I develop?

During the completion of the two themes, you will develop a wide range of transferable skills including non-routine problem solving, critical thinking, communication, collaborative problem solving and self-management. You will develop study and independent research skills and an ability to apply your learning to a real business context.

How will I learn?

A variety of methods of learning will be applied. You will learn through individual and group work and through presentations as well as through practical application of skills. You will be encouraged to watch and read the news to gain an insight into real business contexts to support your understanding of the theory which you will learn.

How will my work be assessed?

Theme 1: Investigating small business	Examination Unit	Written Paper 50%
Theme 2: Building a business	Examination Unit	Written Paper 50%

Where might this lead?

This qualification in business will:

- enable learners to understand more about the business world
- motivate and challenge learners and prepare them to make informed decisions about further study and career pathways.

Learners can progress from this qualification to a number of different academic and vocational qualifications at Level 3, including GCEs in Business, History, Geography, Economics and Psychology and BTEC Nationals in Business.

The Option Subjects

Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing

Examination Board: OCR

What will I learn?

The **RO67 Unit** underpins the wider learning in this qualification. Learners will develop essential knowledge and understanding of enterprise and marketing concepts, which can be applied to the other units within the qualification. In the **RO68 Unit**, learners will develop the skills to design a business proposal to meet a specific business challenge. They will identify a customer profile for a specific product, complete market research to generate product design ideas, and use financial calculations to propose a pricing strategy and determine the viability of their product proposal. In the **RO69 Unit**, learners will develop the skills to create a brand identity and promotional plan for their specific business product proposal developed in the second topic. They will develop pitching skills in order to pitch their business proposal to an external audience. Finally, they will review their pitching skills and business proposal using their learning, self-assessment and feedback gathered.

What skills will I develop?

In the presentation and analysis of your work you will develop a wide range of ICT skills. During the completion of units, literacy and numeracy skills will be applied. You will develop study and independent research skills and an ability to apply your learning to a real business context.

How will I learn?

A variety of methods of learning will be applied. You will learn through individual and group work and through presentations as well as through practical application of skills. The course will put classroom-based learning into a real business context and encourage you to participate in a real business setting.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit RO67: Enterprise and marketing concepts	Examination Unit	Written Paper 40%
Unit RO68: Design a Business Proposal	Coursework Unit	Centre Assessed OCR Moderated 30%
Unit RO69: Market and Pitch a Business Proposal	Coursework Unit	Centre Assessed OCR Moderated 30%

Where might this lead?

If you select this option it can lead to further areas of study such as a Level 3 Business qualification and then on to University. This qualification is also useful when considering future employment. The topics and case studies used throughout this course will help you understand the world of work. Business has strong academic and vocational aspects to it.

The Option Subjects

BTEC Tech Award in Drama and Production Arts

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

You will have the opportunity to take part in a series of workshops exploring theatre arts, practitioners, performances, along with creating and devising work. You can choose to work in Drama and/or Production Arts (Lighting, Sound & Theatre Design). The nature of the course allows you to choose one or more of these styles to work in, allowing you to explore all aspects of theatre if you wish to do so.

What skills will I develop?

Alongside your theatrical skills you will learn how to meet deadlines, work and co-operate with others, listen and respond to others and work within the perimeters of a challenge. Over time your drama and life skills will develop and you will complete the course with many skills to place upon your CV.

How will I learn?

The lessons are mainly practical with some log book keeping. Emphasis is on the development of practical skills and the use of an Interactive Notebook will support and validate your learning. Work is filmed on a regular basis for assessment.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1	Student will explore a range of theatre styles and practitioners. They will have the opportunity to rehearse and perform practical work and to create designs in lighting, sound, set and stage if they so choose.	Internally Assessed
Component 2	In this component students select a theatre skill area in either drama performance or technical theatre that they would like to develop. Through their skill they will create a performance to share with a range of audiences.	Internally Assessed
Component 3	This component is set by the exam board and takes the form of a brief, where students create a performance for a target audience from a given stimuli. They can work in Drama or Technical Theatre	Externally Assessed

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as Actor, Teacher, Holistic Therapist, Technician, Costume & Make-Up Designer or Director. Drama is also welcome on a CV where the job applied for involves working with others, addressing members of the public and negotiating with others.

The Option Subjects

BTEC Tech Award in Dance

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

You will have the opportunity to take part in a series of workshops exploring dance performances, practitioners, choreographers and dance genres. The course encourages the students to work closely together to produce work, replicating a theatrical company. It encourages students to collaborate, meet deadlines, challenge themselves creatively and produce work to a high standard, that they will be proud of. You will also have the opportunity to perform in a range of shows.

What skills will I develop?

Alongside your dance skills you will learn how to meet deadlines, work and co-operate with others, listen and respond to others and work within the perimeters of a challenge. Over time your dance and life skills will develop and you will complete the course with many skills to place upon your CV.

How will I learn?

The lessons are mainly practical with some log book keeping. Emphasis is on the development of practical skills and the use of an Interactive Notebook will support and validate your learning. Work is filmed on a regular basis for assessment.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1	Students will study 3 professional works in a range of dance styles. They will explore them in a practical and theoretical way, understanding how these works are created from start to finish. This unit will culminate in a shared performance.	Internally Assessed
Component 2	In this component students refine their dance skills and prepare work for performance. They will have the opportunity to perform to a range of audiences.	Internally Assessed
Component 3	This component is set by the exam board and takes the form of a brief, where students create a performance for a target audience from a given stimuli.	Externally Assessed

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as Dancer, Teacher, Holistic Therapist, Technician, Costume & Make-Up Designer or choreographer.

Dance is also welcome on a CV where the job applied for involves working with others, problem solving, meeting deadline and understanding body language.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Health and Social Care

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

You will complete three units of work:

- Principles of care in Health & Social Care (Exam)
- Supporting individuals through life events (Coursework)
- Health promotion campaigns (Coursework)

What skills will I develop?

You will develop independent research and study skills. During completion of portfolios, ICT, Literacy and Numeracy skills will be developed.

How will I learn?

A variety of methods of learning will be used. You will learn through individual and group work and through presentations as well as through practical application of skills.

By visiting and interviewing local employees and through independent research, you will develop your understanding of this sector.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit RO32: Principles of care in Health & Social Care	In this unit you will learn about the importance of the rights of service users, person-centred values and how to apply them.	External Examination 40%
Unit RO33: Supporting individuals through life events	In this coursework unit you will learn about life stages and the factors that affect them.	Internally Assessed Portfolio 30%
Unit RO35: Health promotion campaigns	In this coursework unit you will explore the various public health challenges the country faces, the approaches used to encourage health and wellbeing and the importance of this to society.	Internally Assessed Portfolio 30%

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Health & Social Care, Level 3 Childcare Course, Level 3 Public Services or Nursing Qualifications.

This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as Care Assistant, Nursing, Midwifery, Public Services, Teaching or Social Work.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Examination Board: OCR

What will I learn?

You will learn about food nutrition and health, food science, food safety, food choices and food provenance. You will develop a wide range of practical skills as well as ICT skills. The course is designed to encourage you to become an independent learner, team worker as well as being a creative thinker.

What skills will I develop?

- Practical food skills
- Knowledge of how nutrition and health are linked
- Knowledge of culture and other factors that help decide our food choices
- Food product design through adapting existing recipe ideas and designing our own ideas
- You will be equipped with important practical skills that will enable you to progress onto a variety of skilled jobs

How will I learn?

You will complete a number of task-based activities that are designed to develop your food preparation skills. As you progress, you will be expected to complete two tasks set by the exam board. Task one consists of a report including photographic evidence, whilst task two is a portfolio with a timed practical assessment and photographic evidence.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1	This will be an examination at the end of Year 11.	External Examination 50%
Unit 2	This is internally assessed and consists of two tasks. Task 1 involves food investigation looking at the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Task 2 is a food preparation assessment requiring candidates to prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.	Controlled Assessment 50%

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as Food Science and Nutrition at Diploma and Degree level. This qualification is also useful if considering employment in areas such as Health and Social Care, Catering, Dietician, Research, Marketing and Food Product Design.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Three-Dimensional Design

Examination Board: Pearson

What will I learn?

This qualification is designed for students who wish to gain an understanding of Three-Dimensional Design, Art and Sculpture industry and develop skills across a range of areas within the subject.

What skills will I develop?

- Observational skills
- Modelling
- Scaling
- Manipulation of materials
- Mark-making

How will I learn?

You will undertake three projects and one externally set exam. You will explore a number of projects, materials, starting points and artists to develop three-dimensional design outcomes for your portfolio. Your portfolio is a collection of work that holistically covers the tasks for each unit. You will investigate drawing, materials, shape, form and sculpture.

How will my work be assessed?

Pearson GCSE Art and Design is made up of two units.

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio in Three-Dimensional Design	Internally set and marked; assessed through controlled assessment. 60% of overall mark
Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment in Three-Dimensional Design	Theme set by Pearson and internally marked. 40% of overall mark
Each unit is assessed separately out of 72 marks, is standardised by the Art department and then moderated by a representative from the exam board at the end of the course.	

Where might this lead?

On completion of your GCSE Three-Dimensional Design course, you could progress to further education. Courses include: BTEC National Diploma in Engineering, Foundation Degree in Art and Design. This course will also demonstrate your dexterity and you will have a portfolio of work that will evidence your ability to pursue a two-year GCSE course in Three Dimensional Design, covering different assignments and producing a range of work.

This may compliment your applications to take apprenticeships or other courses, in local design offices, graphics companies and retail, web, design and other practical based careers.

The Option Subjects

BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

The main aim of this course is to develop your understanding of the media: cinema, television, newspaper, radio, advertising, music, Internet and publishing industries. We aim to help you discover how these industries work, who their audiences are, how various people are represented and how their products are constructed.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop the ability to analyse various media texts, in both spoken form and written work; develop practical skills in photography and desktop publishing; develop creative skills in the designing of your own media products and develop the ability to write detailed self-evaluations and evaluate real media products.

How will I learn?

You will learn through discussion, analysis, design, computer-based and written work. As well as through teacher-led activities and models, and then through individual, paired and group work.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Exploring media products	In this unit learners will develop their understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences. Learners will examine existing products and explore media production techniques.	Internal Assessment
Component 2: Developing Digital Media production skills	In this unit learners will develop skills and techniques in media production processes by reworking media products from one, or all, of the following sectors: audio/moving image, publishing, interactive design.	Internal Assessment
Component 3: Create a media product in response to a brief	In this unit learners will apply and develop their planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a client brief	External Assessment

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as BTEC Level 3 Creative Media Studies. This course is a further development of the Level 2 course.

This could lead on to university to pursue careers such as: Journalism, Teaching, Retail, film and TV, publishing, Video production and Advertising.

The Option Subjects

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

Component 1 – You will develop your understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. You will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface. **Component 2** – You will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. You will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information. **Component 3** – You will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

What skills will I develop?

- Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data.
- Process that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct.
- Attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

How will I learn?

You will learn through discussion, analysis, design, computer-based and written work. You will learn through teacher-led activities and models, and then through individual, paired and group work.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques	Coursework unit	Internally Assessed, externally verified 30%
Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	Coursework unit	Internally Assessed, externally verified 30%
Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices	External Examination	Exam 40%

Where might this lead?

This would support progression into a more specialised Level 3 vocational or academic course or into an apprenticeship. It will give learners the potential opportunity to enter employment within a wide range of job roles across the information technology sector and some aspects of the creative industries, such as website content manager, computer animator and graphic designer.

The Option Subjects

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. The focus is on three areas of equal importance, which cover:

- Responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques.
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music sector, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal, creation, production and performance.
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the music sector, including personal management and communication.

What skills will I develop?

The qualification enables learners to develop their skills, such as using musical elements, music creation, performance and music production, using realistic vocational contexts, and their personal skills, such as self-development, responding to a brief, planning and time management through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

How will I learn?

You will learn through discussion, analysis, practical activities, computer based and written work. You will learn through teacher led activities and models, and then through individual, group and pair work.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1:	You will create a blog explaining what you have learned about each genre with embedded video evidence of your workshops.	Internally Assessed, 30%
Component 2:	You will give a presentation on the key skills used in the music industry. Rehearsal logs and video evidence of the self development process.	Internally Assessed, 30%
Component 3:	You will produce a cover version of a song in a different genre. You will produce an explanation of how you have adapted the stylistic features of the piece to change the genre.	Externally Assessed 40%

Where might this lead?

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

The Option Subjects

BTEC Level 2 Award: First Certificate in Sport

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

Students will develop an understanding of the fitness requirements integral to sports performances, how these components are tested and the methods of training to improve fitness and performance. They will also improve their practical expertise in a variety of sports and analyse theirs and others' performances.

What skills will I develop?

IT skills will be improved as all assignments are completed on the computer. Furthermore, students will develop their leadership skills by planning and delivering a sports session to younger students.

How will I learn?

- You will be asked to prepare written reports and leaflets, complete practical assessments, use analysis systems to assess others and lead activity sessions.
- You will be working in small groups and individually to complete tasks which are compiled to produce an overall portfolio of your work.

How will my work be assessed?

Externally Examined Unit	Fitness for Sport and Exercise
Internally assessed units through completion of assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 2 – Practical Sport (performance and knowledge in 2 chosen sports)• Unit 3 – Applying the Principles of Personal Training
Optional Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 4 – The Mind and Sport performance• Unit 5 – Leading Sports Activities (planning, organising and running sports sessions)• Unit 6 – Training for Personal Fitness

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as Level 3 Sport.

The content of the course also provides a useful foundation of knowledge for potential careers in Sports Coaching, working in the health and fitness industry, sports and active leisure industry, PE Teaching, Physiotherapy, Nutrition, Fitness Instruction or Personal Trainer.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Photography

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

The GCSE course covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. Whatever you choose, the main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a personal portfolio of work to progress to further courses or employment. You will have the opportunity to specialise in one discipline of your preference after being introduced to many processes and approaches through workshops; in traditional processes in our fully functioning darkroom or in Photoshop. All workshops will explicitly or subtly develop you to become the photographer you wish to be.

How will my work be assessed?

Edexcel's GCSE Photography is made up of two units.

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio in Photography	Internally set and marked; assessed through controlled assessment. 60% of overall mark
Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment in Photography	Theme set by Pearson and internally marked. 40% of overall mark
Each unit is assessed separately out of 72 marks, is standardised by the Art department and then moderated by a representative from the exam board at the end of the course.	

Where might this lead?

On completion of your GCSE Art and Design course, you could progress to further education. Courses include:

- BTEC National Diploma in Art and Design. There are one and two year courses available.
- Specialist Diploma in Creative Media
- GCE A Level in Art and Design or Photography

This course will also demonstrate your dexterity and you will have a portfolio of work that will evidence your ability to pursue a two-year GCSE course in Art and Design, covering different assignments and producing a range of work. This may compliment your applications to take apprenticeships or other courses, in local design offices, graphics companies and retail, web, design and other practical based careers.

Is this the right subject for me?

This course is suitable for those of you who:

- Enjoy taking photographs
- Enjoy looking at visual work such as photography, art, advertisements, gaming, etc.
- Enjoy learning new processes
- Enjoy visits to galleries, museums, workshops and studios.