



Ernest Bevin Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning



Year 9 Options 2024

“Committed to achievement for all students through appropriate curriculum pathways”

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Letter from the Principal



Dear Parent/Carer,

At Ernest Bevin Academy we recognise how important curriculum choices are for your son. Choices made now will impact decisions made at age 16 and then again at post compulsory school age. Our offer and the choices that are possible ensures that your son will achieve his full potential.

For this reason we have a thorough and informative advice and support programme in place.

Year 9 students will have assemblies delivered to them to inform them of all the choices that are available at Key Stage 4 and each student will have an interview with Mr. Heathcote.

We will hold a Key Stage 4 Choices Evening on Wednesday 28th February. Throughout the evening you will hear from Mr. Heathcote, Director of Learning; and Miss O'Leary, Head of Year 9. There will also be a chance to talk to representatives from all the option subjects.

With guidance from yourself, the Head of Year, tutor and subject teachers your son has the chance to personalise his curriculum in a way that allows him to achieve to the best of his ability and increase the number of opportunities in further and higher education, university and in employment.

This booklet, together with the Key Stage 4 Choices Evening, will support you and your son in making subject choices that are appropriate and that lead to high achievement and the promise of future "economic independence".

All students will study English, mathematics, science and core PE. In addition, it will be appropriate for many students to study history or geography and a modern foreign language in order for them to achieve the EBacc (English Baccalaureate) which has been developed nationally as an expected level of achievement for many 16-year-olds. Your son will have the opportunity to take additional subjects according to his ability and interests.

Please take time to read this booklet with your son and supporting the right choices.

With kind regards,

Ms T Dohel

Principal

Ernest Bevin Academy



Year 9 Options Process

Timeline

Date	Actions
Tuesday 13th February	Options Introduction Assembly
Tuesday 27th February to Friday 8th March	Subject Assemblies
Wednesday 28th February	Options booklets issued on Teams Options Evening from 5:30pm
Week beginning Monday 4th March	Interviews for students with Mr. Heathcote
Thursday 21st March	Options forms returned online
Begins on Monday 22nd April	Second options interviews with Mr. Heathcote
Friday 17th May	Written confirmation of options
Friday 24th May	Deadline for written appeals to Mr. Heathcote

If you have any questions, you can email options@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk This email will be checked on a daily basis.

Advice on choosing

QUESTION “Do I have a free choice?”

Yes, however there are many subjects to choose from and we can only run courses that sufficient numbers of students choose.

Some limits on your choice are also imposed by factors such as the number of teachers and the availability of specialist rooms e.g. workshops. However, any combination required for a particular job or further study should be found within the option scheme.

To sum up, we will try to ensure that you are allocated the subjects you **need**; but it may not be possible to give you all the subjects you would **like**.

QUESTION “What about new subjects?”

You will find that you have already studied many of the subjects on offer in your first three years in the school. However, there are a number of subjects that you may not be familiar with.

Before you choose, you need to **find out** about these new subjects, you should also check the content of familiar subjects. You will find a summary of each course in this booklet. If you have any further questions, the best thing to do is to speak to the Head of the subject concerned.

QUESTION “What subjects should I choose?”

The following points may be helpful:

- “Which subjects do you like?” You will probably try harder at the subjects you like. You will also gain more enjoyment from taking these subjects.
- “Which are your best subjects?” You are likely to be more successful if you choose subjects you excel in.
- “Which subjects are recommended?” A subject teacher may suggest that you take that subject or offer advice on how well suited you are to a subject.

QUESTION “What is the difference between the types of course?”

At Ernest Bevin Academy we offer a range of courses suitable for all students.

We offer the traditional GCSE subjects and a range of vocational subjects.

GCSE subjects

GCSEs are internally assessed throughout year 10 and year 11 with a terminal examination at the end of year 11. Some subjects have a coursework and/or fieldwork element. Other subjects have a practical element. These elements are compulsory and must be completed and/or attended.

Vocational Courses

These are completed through BTEC, NCFE and OCR First awards and are all equivalent to one GCSE. A vocational award will involve ongoing internally assessed work which is then externally moderated by the exam board. Vocational courses include at least one exam in the course. This exam can be repeated, and the best score is awarded.

QUESTION “Which subjects do I need?”

Have you any idea of the career you might wish to follow? If so, you may need certain subjects as qualifications. Or you may be hoping to go on to a course of further study in the Sixth Form or at college or university. Most further and higher education courses require you to have taken suitable subjects beforehand. If you are not sure ask Ms. Patel, Vice Principal in charge of Careers.

QUESTION “Can I choose the same subject as my friends”?

Friends often choose subjects together. This is fine if you both really want to do that subject. But remember, the subjects you choose will be studied for three periods a week for two years, which is a lot of lessons. So it is important that you want to study the subject and will be successful on the course. You might not be in the same group as your friend anyway!

QUESTION “What if I have no idea of a career?”

Most Year 9 students are still undecided about their future plans, and many of those who do have some idea will find their ideas changing during the next two years. The compulsory subjects provide a firm foundation for the overwhelming majority of careers.

QUESTION “Can I change my mind?”

A change will only be considered if:

- It is within the first half of the autumn term;
- There is a valid educational reason;
- There is a vacancy in the subject you wish to join.
- You will then need written approval from your parents and all the teachers concerned; your Head of Year; and Mr Heathcote.

Question “Who chooses the Language options?”

These will be chosen by the Heads of Department for these subjects in consultation with the classroom teachers. It will be based on performance and work in Key Stage 3. Completing a language allows completion of the Ebacc. A language is very important when applying to university, especially the leading universities known as The Russell Group.

A language boosts career prospects and earning potential for students who are successful in them.

Separate Science Guidance

What is separate science for?

Separate science is the preferred pathway for science study at A level, and therefore a key avenue for students to access careers in STEM. Separate science should be the preferred option for those students with realistic ambitions of careers in science or engineering. It should be noted that whilst separate science provides a better preparation for A level, combined science is also a legitimate pathway for further study of science, and students who opt for this course will still be able to study science at A level if they gain suitable grades (e.g. 7-7).

Who should do it?

With the above in mind, Ernest Bevin Academy will target any student with an ability that indicates potential to study science beyond year 11, i.e. those with ability that places them in the top 20% nationally for separate science.

Students studying separate science should be aiming for a minimum of grade 6 in each of the sciences to gain access to A Level science.

However, whilst this is the case, it is important to consider that separate science may be a preferred pathway for students with an individual bias towards one or two of the sciences. In these cases, this means their excellence in one or two sciences gets credited in separate subject grades, rather than averaged out by an overall combined science grade. For example, a student with ambitions to study computer science at university with a grade profile of 4, 6, 7 for biology, chemistry and physics would be better off than with an equivalent 'averaged out' grade of 5-6 for combined science. Here, the chance to show excellence at one science makes the separate science pathway preferable for that student, and the mixed tiering allowable for separate science (but not for combined science) allows schools to mitigate for any relative weakness in one of the sciences.

How do we decide who does it?

Given that the primary consideration for suitability for separate science is ability in science, followed by expressed ambitions to study it beyond year 11, the selection of separate science students will be based on summative data in the first instance as this provides the clearest indication of ability.

Other evidence will be drawn from a range of sources, including, but not limited to the following:

- End of Year 7 and 8 exams;
- Mid-Year 9 exam;
- End of year 9 Exam;
- Cumulative topic test rolling averages.

Expectations for separate science

The separate science curriculum contains an extra 50% of the combined science content. It therefore requires an increased time allocation to that afforded to combined science, which will be one period a week after school.

GCSE Art & Design

Exam Board: AQA

What you will study:

A personal portfolio of work consisting of two projects or bodies of work.

1. Surfaces: a project that covers all assessment objectives and gives the student a chance to develop observation skills, techniques and processes in various media, and knowledge in contextual studies.
2. A further independent project that develops the skills and knowledge practiced in project 1.

An independent external project assigned by the exam board.

- An exam paper with a choice of 6 project titles starts issued in January of year 11.
- Approximately 12 weeks to develop the theme of your choice showcasing all the skills you have learnt in component 1.
- A 10-hour period across 2 days to complete an outcome for the exam project.

Assessment

Both component 1 and 2 are assessed by the same four objectives.

AO1: - Contextual analysis and resources.

AO2: - Experimenting with media and processes, refining work as it progresses.

AO3: - Recording observation drawing, written content, and annotation.

AO4: - A personal and meaningful response that realises intentions.

Skills you will gain:

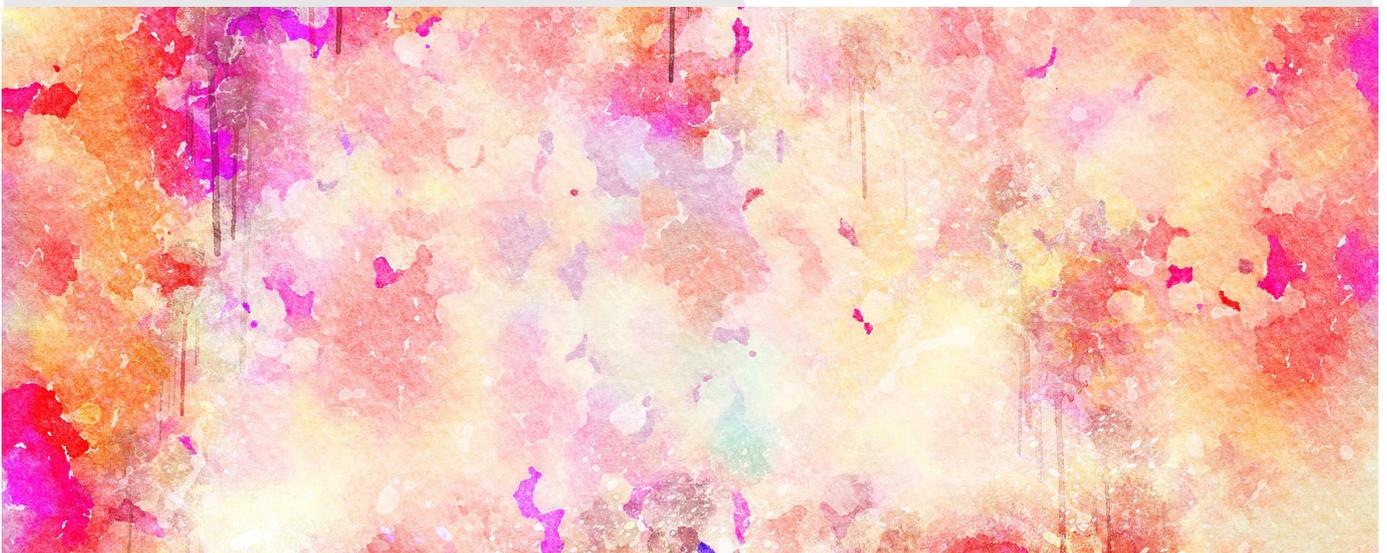
Analysis and evaluation of the work of artists; developing creative processes; developing skills and techniques of a diverse range of art media; developing ideas and experiment with processes to produce an outcome.

Career Paths:

Animation, Architecture, Graphic designer, Digital Graphic designer, Games designer, illustrator, Web designer, Digital film designer.

Please note:

Visits to galleries and museums, workshops with designers and artists.



GCSE Business

Exam Board: EdExcel

What you will study:

Theme 1 - Investigating small business: concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. You will explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

Theme 2 - Building a business: 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 an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance, and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

Assessment

Theme 1 - Investigating small business: 1 hour 30 min written exam.

Theme 2 - Building a business: 1 hour 30 min written exam.

Both papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, and short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper.

Skills you will gain:

The course has been designed to allow you to develop a range of transferable skills cognitive, inter and intrapersonal skills needed in the 21st century. You will also develop problem-solving and decision-making skills relevant to business. In addition you will develop quantitative, extended writing, business development and mathematical skills.

Career Paths:

This course provides a progression pathway to BTEC Nationals Business and complements BTEC Nationals in Information Technology. It provides a stepping stone for those who wish to pursue a career in Business, typically in finance, marketing, human resources, accounting, financial services, sales, product and general management.

Please note:

The above level 3 courses are available at Ernest Bevin Academy.



What you will study:

Unit R064: Enterprise and marketing concepts - You will explore the techniques businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and understand how businesses attract customers.

Unit R065: Design a business proposal - You are presented with a business challenge from which they create a researched and costed business proposal.

Unit R066: Market and pitch a business proposal - You will prepare for and pitch a business proposal. They develop a brand identity and investigate how best to promote their product.

Assessment

R064: Enterprise and marketing concepts – 1 hour 30 min exam paper.

R065: Design a business proposal – centre assessed task.

R066: Market and pitch a business proposal – centre assessed task.

Skills you will gain:

You will develop:

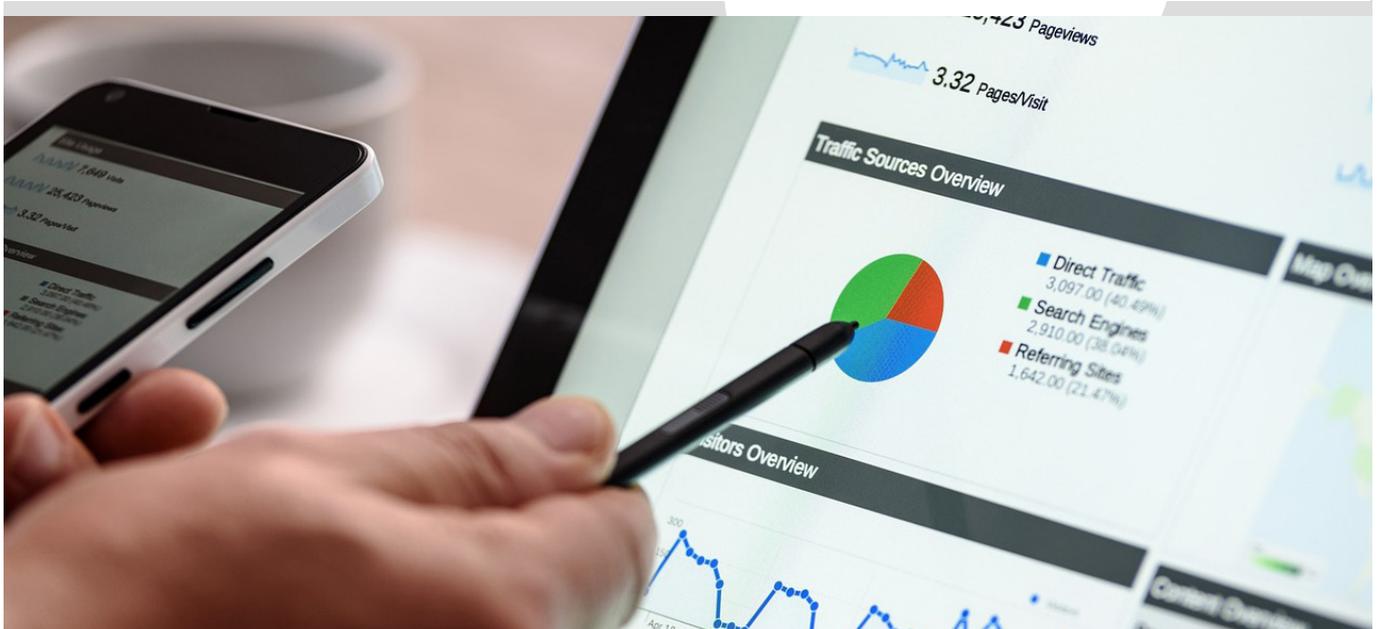
- essential knowledge and understanding of enterprise and marketing concepts
- the skills to design a business proposal to meet a specific business challenge
- the skills to create a brand identity and promotional plan for your specific business product proposal
- the ability to pitch business proposals to an audience
- self-assessment, collaborative working, creativity, numeracy, research and evaluative skills, skills relevant to business.
- quantitative, extended writing, business development and mathematical skills.

Career Paths:

This course provides a progression pathway to BTEC Nationals Business and complements BTEC Nationals in Information Technology. It provides a stepping stone for students who wish to pursue a career in Business, typically in finance, marketing, human resources, accounting, financial services, law and retail.

Please note:

This is equivalent to 1 GCSE. The above level 3 courses are all available at Ernest Bevin Academy.



GCSE Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

What you will study:

Component 1: Computer systems - central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software, ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues.

Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - computational thinking - algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical programming - design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language.

Assessment

Component 1: consists of short and medium answer questions and one 8-mark extended response question. (1 hour 30 min)

Component 2: Section A - short and medium answer questions and one 8-mark extended response question; Section B - assesses students' practical programming skills and their ability to design, write, test and refine programs. (1 hour 30 min)

Skills you will gain:

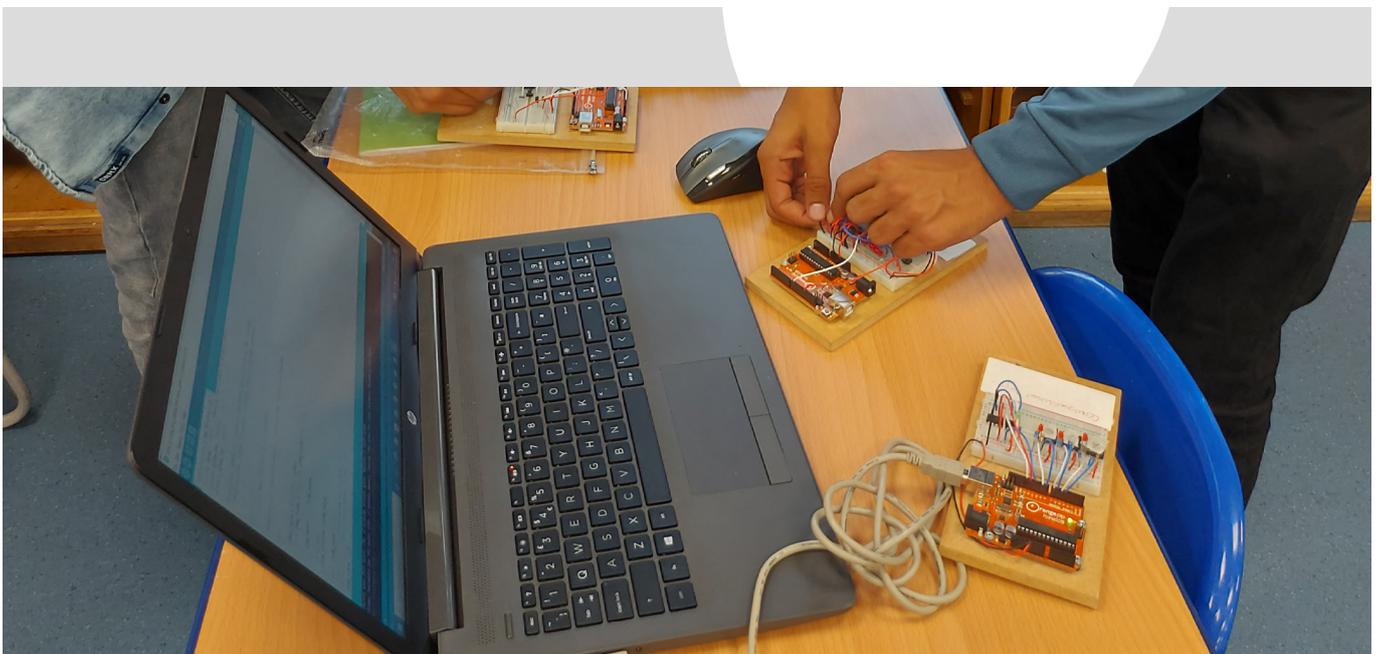
This course is relevant to the modern, changing world of computing, it is designed to boost computing skills essential for the 21st century. These include coding, mathematical, analytical, logical and evaluative computational thinking skills.

Career Paths:

The course provides access to A level Computer Science, as well as other STEM subjects that require problem solving and analytical skills. Most jobs require IT skills in the 21st century. Specific industries include data analyst, software architect, network manager, games designer, web development, cyber security and robotics.

Please note:

All students **must** undertake a programming task(s) to develop design, programming, testing and refining skills. Students **will** be assessed on these skills during the written examinations.



What you will study:

Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques. Explore user interface design and development principles. Investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage digital projects. Discover how to develop and review a digital user interface.

Component 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data. Explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations. Develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools. Draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence.

Component 3 - Effective Digital Working Practices. Explore how modern information technology is evolving. Consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing. Understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.

Assessment

Component 1: internally assessed assignment. 30% of the course.

Component 2: internally assessed assignment. 30% of the course.

Component 3: external assessment exam (1 hour 30 min). 40% of the course.

Skills you will gain:

You will develop key-skills for working in the information technology sector such as project planning, virtual ways of working, designing and creating user-interfaces, presenting and interpreting data for decision making. You will learn effective ways of working, planning techniques, iterative design processes, teamwork, cyber-security, as well as legal and ethical codes of conduct.

Career Paths:

This course provides a pathway to BTEC Nationals in Information Technology. It is ideal for learners who want a career in IT and want to get a broad taste of digital skills. It is a stepping stone to careers like IT Project Management, Technical Support and Cyber Security.

Please note:

This is equivalent to 1 GCSE. This course may involve class field trips to IT stores to analyse User Interface designs in technological devices.



GCSE D&T Product Design

Exam Board: AQA

What you will study:

Component 1 consists of an externally examined paper which will be sat in May / June of the second year of the two-year programme. The paper is divided into three sections:

Section A - Core Content: A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding. Calculators may be used in the examination.

Section B - Specialist technical principles: Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Assessment

Component 1 is worth 50% of the overall grade and will be externally assessed.

Component 2 is worth 50% of the overall grade and will be internally assessed & externally moderated. For Component 2 the marks awarded for each part are:

Section C – Designing and making principles: A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Component 2 is the non-examined assessment (NEA)

- Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released by AQA.
- The project will test students' skill in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.

- Identifying & investigating design possibilities 10 marks
- Producing a design brief & specification 10 marks
- Generating design ideas 20 marks
- Developing design ideas 20 marks
- Realising design ideas 20 marks
- Analysing & evaluating 20 marks

Skills you will gain:

Analysis and evaluation of designer's work; developing creative processes; developing design skills and techniques including technical drawing skills as well as physical and computer aided modeling techniques.

Career Paths:

Animation, Architecture, Engineering, Graphic designer, Digital Graphic designer, Games designer, Interior designer, illustrator, Web designer, Digital film designer, Photographer.

Please note:

STEM workshops, visits to exhibitions and museums, webinars and live talks with designers will be offered throughout the two-year course.



GCSE Drama

Exam Board: Educas

What you will study:

Written exam – You will study a set text whilst considering how design elements and performance skills could be used in performance alongside watching live theatre in order to write a detailed review of the acting skills used.

Devising – You will learn a variety of different practitioner techniques in order to create your own, original piece of theatre from a stimulus.

Scripted Performance – You will explore two published extracts from plays and will apply theatrical skills and techniques to your own performance of each extract.

Assessment

The Devising performance and accompanying written or recorded logbook will be assessed internally by your teacher. The Scripted performance will be assessed by an external visiting examiner. Your marks will be based on your ability to communicate as a team, analyse a script, commit to the rehearsal process and on your portrayal and understanding of characters in performance. The 1 hour 45 min written exam will draw on your knowledge of a set text, understanding of the roles in the theatre and your analysis of a live performance.

Skills you will gain:

Alongside learning how to read, analyse and evaluate a performance, how to create your own work and apply taught techniques, there are several transferrable skills that Drama can help to develop. These include confidence, communication, teamwork, problem solving, and leadership.

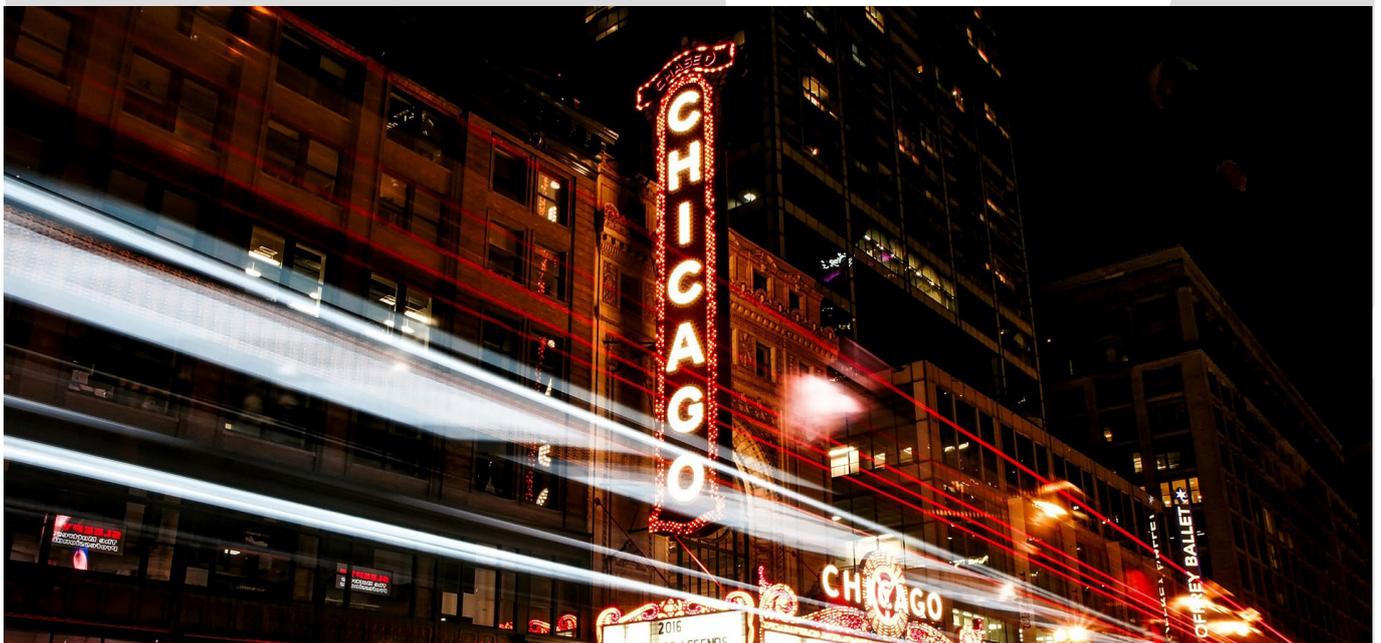
Career Paths:

Drama specific: Actor, director, stage manager, set/lighting/sound designer, playwright.

Other areas Drama can help with: Retail, estate agent, doctor/nurse, teacher, and lawyer.

Please note:

You will have the opportunity to see a wide variety of live or recorded theatre throughout your 2 years studying GCSE. The assessment criteria for performances are similar to KS3.



GCSE Economics

Exam Board: EdExcel

What you will study:

Paper 1 - How markets work:

1. Economic foundations
2. Resource allocation
3. How prices are determined
4. Production, costs, revenue, and profit
5. Competitive and concentrated markets
6. Market failure

Paper 2 - How the economy works:

7. Introduction to the national economy
8. Government objectives
9. How the government manages the economy
10. International trade and the global economy
11. The role of money and financial markets

Assessment

Paper 1 - How markets work: 1 hour 45 minute written exam covering content 1 -6.

Paper 2 - How the economy works: 1 hour 45 minute written exam covering content 7 -11

Question papers have the following format:

Section A: 10 multiple choice questions followed by a range of calculation, short and extended response questions.

Section B: five questions involving a mix of calculations, short and extended responses.

Skills you will gain:

When you understand how markets and economies work, you will develop an economic awareness to benefit you personally and professionally for years to come.

You will also develop quantitative, critical thinking skills, analytical skills and communication skills

Career Paths:

This course will provide access to level 3 BTEC courses and A level Economics in the sixth form. As a customer focused course it can prepare you for any customer facing role in retail and business. Many students have followed this at university and work in hotels, theme parks and hospitality destinations.

Please note:

A level Economics is available in our sixth form.



GCSE English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

What you will study:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and 19th Century Literature

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

You will develop comprehensive written and spoken communication skills, becoming adept at arguing a point, framing a narrative and analysing various levels of meaning. As in the study of algebra and calculus, the study of literature builds thinking skills applicable beyond the subject, including argumentation (logical thinking, citing evidence), interpretation, critical thinking, and writing.

You will study Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, An Inspector Calls and Macbeth. You will also study 15 poems based on the themes of Power and Conflict, or a range of unseen poetry.

The course is taught alongside English Language.

Assessment

You will have two exams at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 min written exam (40%) Paper 2: 2 hours 15 min written exam (60%)

Skills you will gain:

One of the most important skills you will learn through literature is how to react to different situations. Reading allows you to experience situations vicariously, and to consider how you would react in someone else's shoes. To compliment the skills in English Language, the Literature course also nurtures empathy and judgement, management skills and insights into the human psyche. Macbeth may have stopped at nothing in his ambition to be King, but is ambition on its own such a bad thing? The Inspector forces us to consider our roles and responsibilities in society, but do we really care for one another?

Career Paths:

As in English Language, there is a plethora of available career paths with high-level communication skills. Journalist, writer, pundit, office manager, business director, any management position, lawyer, doctor, education, creative industries, advertising, script writing, copywriting.

Please note:

There will be opportunities to see performances in and out of school and visits to the National Library and various literary events.



NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award Engineering

Exam Board: NCFE

What you will study:

Unit 1 - Understanding the engineering world. This unit covers: investigating different engineering disciplines; how science and maths are applied to engineering solutions; how to read and interpret engineering drawings; properties and characteristics of materials; tools and equipment used within the engineering industry; health and safety in engineering workplaces.

Unit 2 – Skills and techniques in engineering. This is a synoptic project in which you will produce design drawings (by hand and using CAD) and a production plan for the manufacture of an engineered product. You will demonstrate the application of practical skills and techniques to prepare, mark-out, modify, join and finish materials in making a prototype of the design.

Assessment

60% of the course is assessed internally and 40% by an externally marked examination of 2 hours. The exam can be repeated once to gain a higher grade. Learners who do not achieve a level 2 grade may be awarded a level 1 if appropriate. Grades can be awarded at L1Pass, L1Merit, L1Distinction, L2Pass, L2Merit, L2Distinction and L2Distinction*.

Engineering exam is 1 hour 30 min

Skills you will gain:

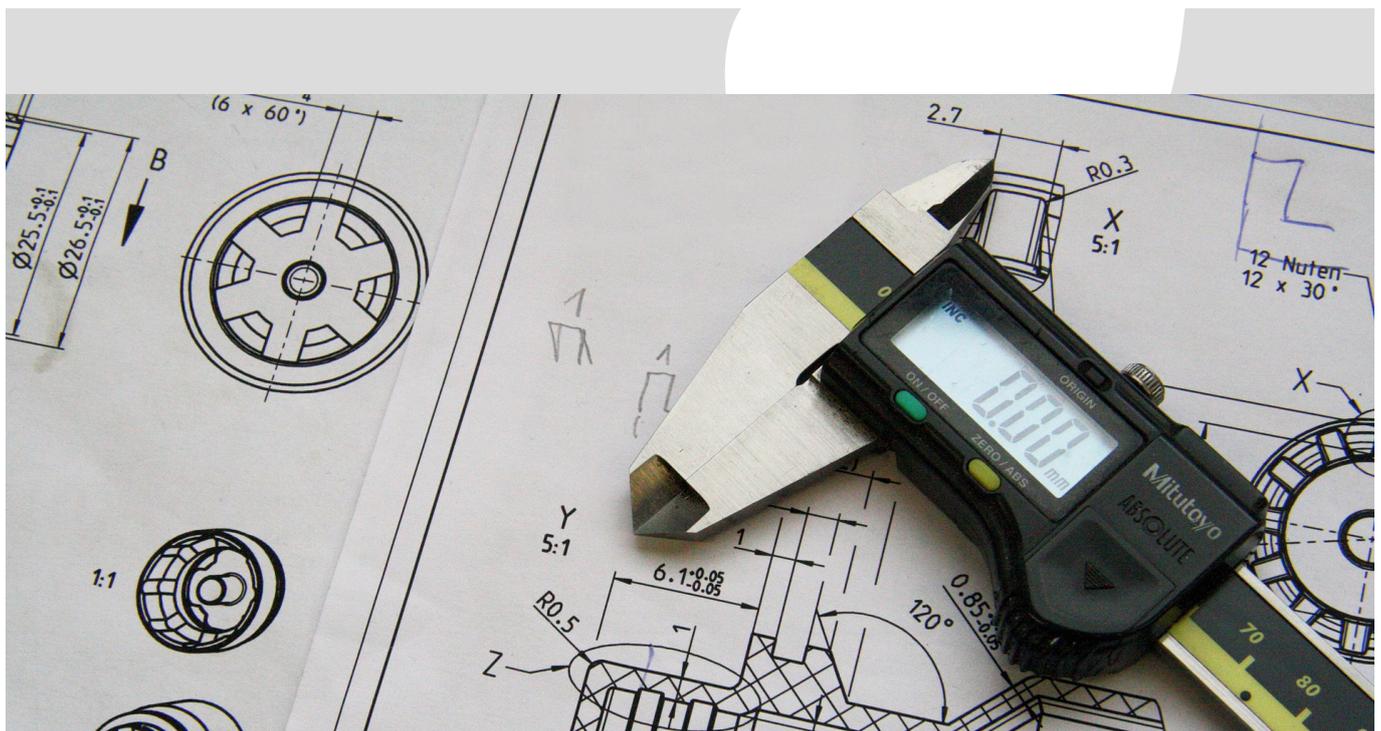
The curriculum focuses on an applied study of the engineering sector and you will gain a broad understanding and knowledge of working in the sector.

Career Paths:

This course may count towards access to a level 3 engineering course post 16. Alternatively, the understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the engineering sector through a variety of occupations.

Please note:

This is equivalent to 1 GCSE. Engineering is a discipline which draws upon prior learning from subjects including Design Technology, Maths, Science, English and IT.



GCSE French

Exam Board: AQA

What you will study:

Topics are taught via key skills, grammar and engaging activities to make GCSE language learning useful for your studies and future career, as well as being fun.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future

Assessment

The course is assessed through four examination papers in Year 11.

Paper 1: Speaking 25% - Prep Time: 15 minutes / 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier), 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier).

Paper 2: Listening 25% - 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 60 minutes (Higher Tier).

Paper 3: Reading 25% - 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier).

Paper 4: Writing 25% - 1 hour 15 (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 20 (Higher Tier).

Skills you will gain:

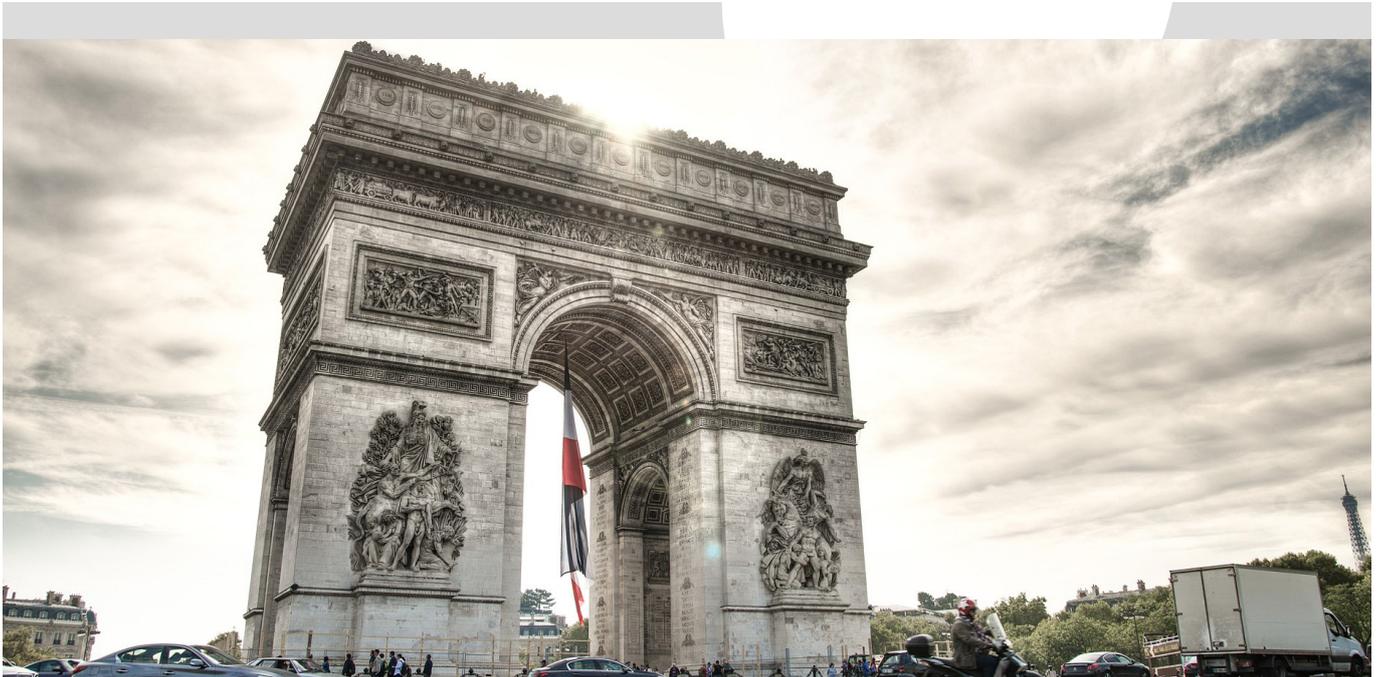
Studying French will help you develop your communication skills in speaking and writing. You will also have better comprehension of reading, listening and grammar. In addition you will learn a range of skills that you need for other subjects: problem solving, analysing and evaluating critically, using imagination and creativity, working independently and improved literacy skills. Language learning for today's world - the new GCSE qualification is focused on the important ways that languages foster communication, broaden perspectives, introduce new cultures and develop students into global citizens.

Career Paths:

You have many job opportunities with the airlines, import-export companies, and other international businesses. French is also an extremely useful language if you are thinking of working at the United Nations (where French is the second most widely used language). City firms like banks, consultancies, and law firms value French highly.

Please Note:

This is a new GCSE specification with first exams in May 2026.



GCSE Geography

Exam Board: EdExcel B

What you will study:

Paper 1 – Global Geographical issues. Explaining atmospheric and tectonic hazards and assessing their impact. Measuring development, global inequality within an indepth study of India. Looking at how cities change over time including a study of a mega city.

Paper 2- UK Geographical Issues. A study of both coastal and river landscapes. A look at settlement change within the UK including a study of a major UK city. You will conduct two geographical fieldwork investigations; an urban study and a coastal study.

Paper 3- Environmental Issues. A look at the relationship between humans and ecosystems. Understanding the rainforest and taiga, the threats to them and how to protect them. A study of how we can reduce demand for energy resources and how different interest groups feel about this.

Assessment

The course is assessed through three 1 hour 30 min examination papers in Year 11. Paper 1 and paper 2 are worth 37.5% and paper 3 the remaining 25%. Each paper contains a mixture of multi choice, short response, and longer evaluation questions.

Skills you will gain:

Geography is a broad subject drawing on your understanding of science, maths, psychology, history, and English to help explain why the world is like it is. It develops your literacy skills enabling you to express your thoughts and opinions about the world we live in.

Career Paths:

Geography is a popular subject and will help you access several courses available in the sixth form and further education, as many of the skills learnt are useful in many subjects and future employment opportunities. More specific jobs available include engineering, geographical information systems development, environmental project management and consultancy.

Please note:

There are two days of fieldwork; one completed in London and one along the coast of Worthing. All students studying this course **must** attend the fieldwork visits.



GCSE History

Exam Board: EdExcel

What you will study:

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment:

Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study:

Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–9

Paper 3: Modern depth study: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Assessment

Paper 1: Written examination: 1 hour and 15 min 30% of the qualification.

Paper 2: Written examination: 1 hour and 45 min 40% of the qualification.

Paper 3: Written examination: 1 hour and 20 min 30% of the qualification.

Skills you will gain:

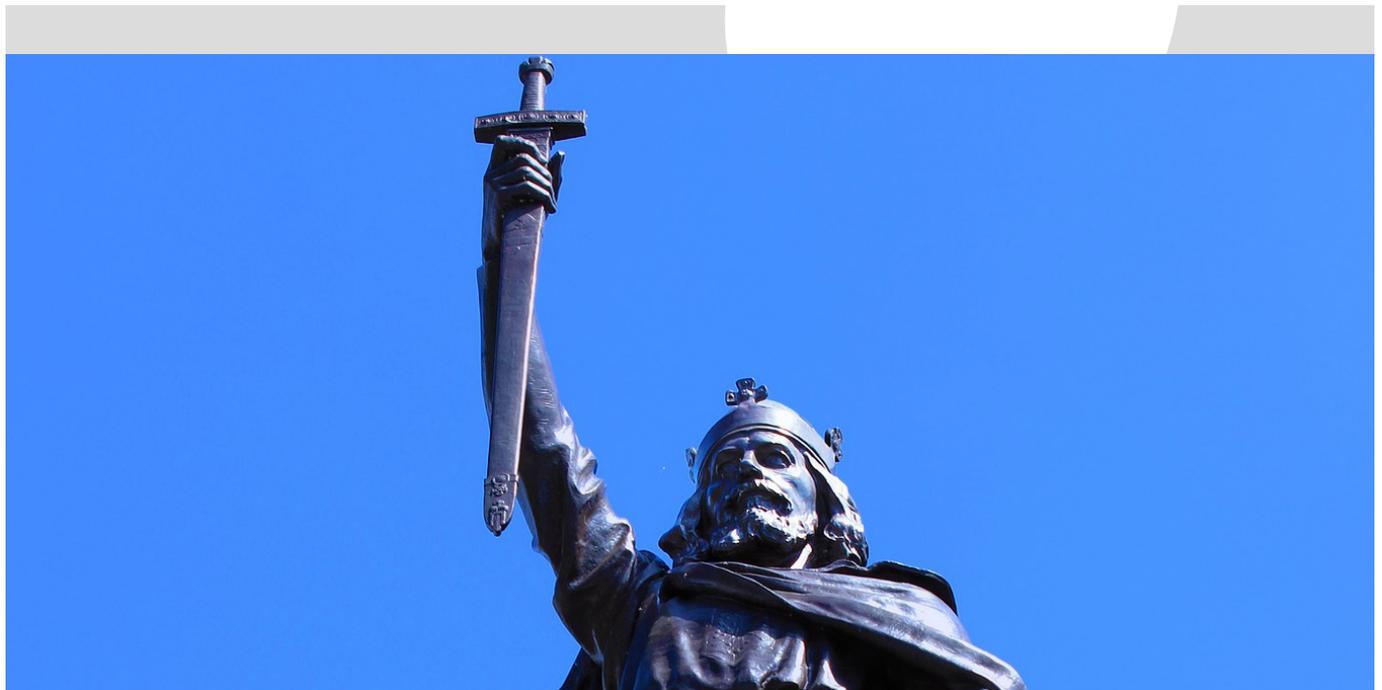
- develop and extend your knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history.
- engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical thinkers.
- develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context.
- develop an awareness of why people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance.
- organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions.

Career Paths:

Law, Archaeology and Architecture, Media and Journalism, Conservation and Horticulture, National and Local Government, Civil Service and Diplomatic Service, Charity Work, The Police and Armed Forces.

Please note:

History is an enabling subject that is seen as having many transferable skills for other subjects.



GCSE Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

What you will study:

You will develop confidence, fluency and problem-solving skills in number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics.

Within these content headings, you are assessed on the use and application of standard techniques on your ability to reason, interpret and communicate mathematically and on their ability to solve problems within mathematics and other contexts.

Assessment

The qualification consists of three equally weighted written exam papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. All three-tiered exam papers are taken at the end of year 11.

Paper 1: A non-calculator exam

Paper 2: A calculator exam

Paper 3: A calculator exam

Each tiered exam paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and each is worth 80 marks. Each exam paper has a range of question types set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.

Skills you will gain:

Studying maths helps you to:

- Think clearly.
- Pay attention to detail.
- Manipulate precise and intricate ideas.
- Follow complex reasoning.
- Construct logical arguments and expose illogical ones.

Career Paths:

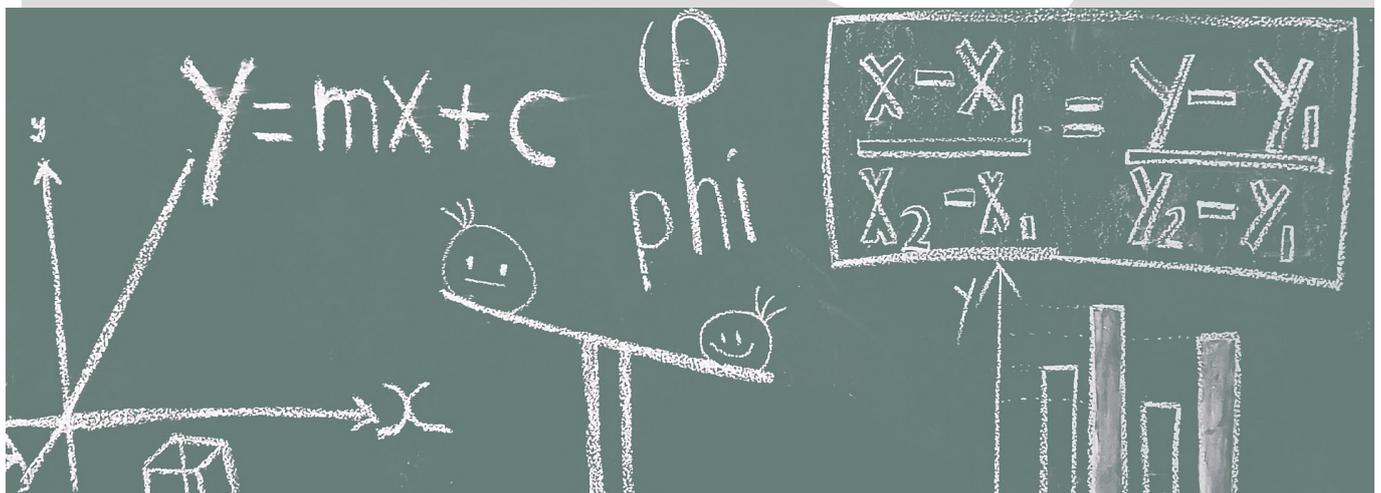
Almost every single job or career you choose will involve some element of mathematics.

Students can study for a mathematics or related degree at university or secure well-paid careers in accountancy, insurance, statistics, marketing, banking, retail, engineering, education and much more.

Please note:

We offer Additional maths and selected students will be expected to attend additional sessions to support their learning. GCSE Statistics is also offered to selected students.

Web link to maths GCSE course <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/mathematics-2015.html> Students that gain a strong pass in their GCSE mathematics qualification (Grade 7+) would be suitable candidates for mathematics at A level (or grade 8+ for Further Mathematics at A Level).



GCSE Media Studies

Exam Board: OCR

What you will study:

Media Studies is the study of all forms of media; digital, print or broadcast. We look at everything from computer games to movies to magazine adverts, examining what makes them successful and creating our own media texts as well.

You will learn all about the different forms of media from advertising to video games. You will learn what goes into these media texts to make them successful products. You will have the opportunity to design and create your own magazine and website, using industry standard editing software and camera equipment. Students will analyse and then create a range of media texts including print adverts, music videos, newspapers, video games, TV shows and more.

In Year 10, the course covers television and music, followed by the research and planning phase of the coursework. In Year 11, the coursework production phase will be completed in the first term, followed by the final two exam modules – promoting media and the news.

Assessment

The majority of assessed work takes the form of externally assessed exams, alongside coursework that is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Media Paper 1 - Television & Promoting Media: 1 hour 45 min

Media Paper 2 - Music & News : 1 hour 15 min

Skills you will gain:

In modern times, the question really should be why are we not studying media already? Media is everywhere. Our lives are saturated with TV, games, cinema, websites, and adverts, everywhere we look. It is fundamental that we have a clear understanding of these products and how they are created in order to fully understand the world in which we live. In addition, for young men in London, there are thousands of career opportunities in Media

Career Paths:

Music producer, songwriter, advertising exec, graphic designer, web analyst, journalist, cameraman, director, TV producer, A/V editor, game engineer, scriptwriter, copywriter, animator.

Please note:

Trips to see specific media-related events in London are always on offer – films at the BFI, production workshops and visits to film, game or music studios.



BTEC LEVEL 1/2 Award Physical Education - Sport

Exam Board: Pearson

What you will study:

Unit 1 - Fitness for Sport and Exercise is a core unit which underpins the programme of study for this course. You will learn the fundamentals of how to assess levels of fitness and training principles. This unit is externally assessed through an online exam.

Unit 2 - Practical Sports Performance - This unit introduces you to a variety of different sports and, through participating in different sports, it is expected that you will develop knowledge of the associated rules, regulations, scoring systems, skills, techniques and tactics.

Unit 3 - Applying the Principles of Personal Training enables you to design a physical training programme to meet personal training goals, aspirations and needs. You will learn how to assess current levels of fitness before designing and implementing a training programme.

Unit 5 - The Sports Performer in Action allows you to investigate the changes of the human body systems due to exercise.

Assessment

75% of the course is assessed internally and 25% by an externally marked online examination (1 hour).

The exam can be repeated once. Learners who do not achieve a level 2 grade may be awarded a level 1 if appropriate. Grades can be awarded at pass, merit, distinction and distinction*.

Skills you will gain:

You will learn the key skills of teamwork, time management and how to become an effective participator. Additional skills of self-reflection, and communication are also required.

Career Paths:

This course will provide access to the level 3 BTEC Sport course in the sixth form. This can then lead to an apprenticeship or degree course enabling a career within the sports industry or other area.

Please note:

This is equivalent to 1 GCSE. You will be required to bring PE kit and to participate in practical activities which may be recorded as evidence towards assessment.



GCSE Physical Education (PE)

Exam Board: EdExcel

What you will study:

This course entails practical and theoretical assessment. Practical assessment involves you participating in a range of sporting activities where you will develop the skills necessary to improve your own performance. You will need to produce a plan to assess and develop your skills in a chosen sport. You will also need to offer three activities for practical assessment. Development of your skills and techniques for your three chosen sports will happen over the duration of the course to allow the best final grade possible. For theory you will learn about exercise and how the body works to help you exercise. Through training you will also learn how performance can be improved. Key areas of study are: Fitness and body systems; health and performance, psychology, social cultural and movement and analysis.

Assessment

60% of the course is assessed through theory with the remaining 40% for practical assessment. The theory modules will be assessed with end of unit tests and a final exam (1 hour) at the end of Year 11. Practical assessment will be externally moderated to verify the ability levels of the students.

Skills you will gain:

You will learn the key skills of teamwork, time management and how to become an effective participator. Additional skills of self-reflection, and communication are also required to excel on this course.

Career Paths:

This course will provide access to the A Level PE course in the sixth form. This can then lead to an apprenticeship or degree course enabling a career with the sports industry or any other chosen profession.

Please note:

You will be required to bring PE kit and to participate in practical activities which may be recorded as evidence towards assessment.



GCSE Religious Education

Exam Board: AQA

What you will study:

Paper 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices from 2 of the following:

- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Catholic Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism

Paper 2: Thematic studies from 4 of the following:

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme B: Religion and life.
- Theme C: The existence of God and revelation.
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

Assessment

Paper 1: Written exam: 1 hour 45 min - 96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Written exam: 1 hour 45 min - 96 marks, plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) 50% of GCSE

Skills you will gain:

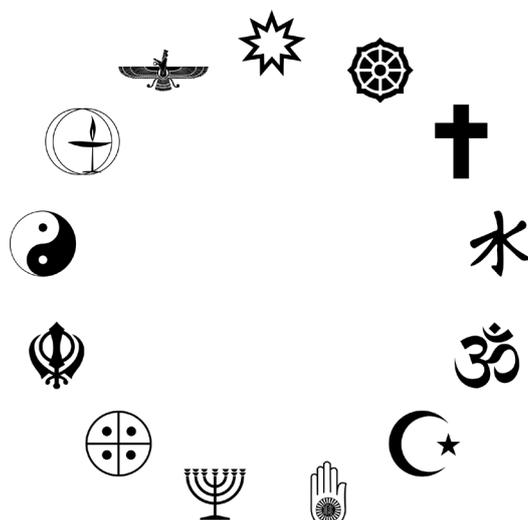
- develop your knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism
- develop your knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and authority, including through your reading of key religious texts, other texts and scriptures of the religions you are studying
- develop your ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating your depth and breadth of understanding of the subject
- reflect on and develop your own values, belief, meaning, purpose, truth and your influence on human life
- reflect on and develop your own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what you have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.

Career Paths:

Aid worker, Human resources manager, Librarian, Museum curator, Newspaper journalist, teacher, Religious, Secondary school teacher, Youth and community worker.

Please note:

There will be the chance to attend talks and lectures about religion during the course.



GCSE Separate Science (3 x GCSEs)

Exam Board: AQA

What you will study:

Biology 1: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Biology 2: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Chemistry 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes and Energy changes.

Chemistry 2: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

Physics 1: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Physics 2: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space.

Assessment

Students will get a separate grade for each subject (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Each subject is assessed through 2 x 1hour 45min examination papers in Year 11. Each paper is worth 50% which is out of 100 marks. Each paper contains a mixture of multiple choice, short response and longer evaluation questions. There will be 6 examination papers in total.

Skills you will gain:

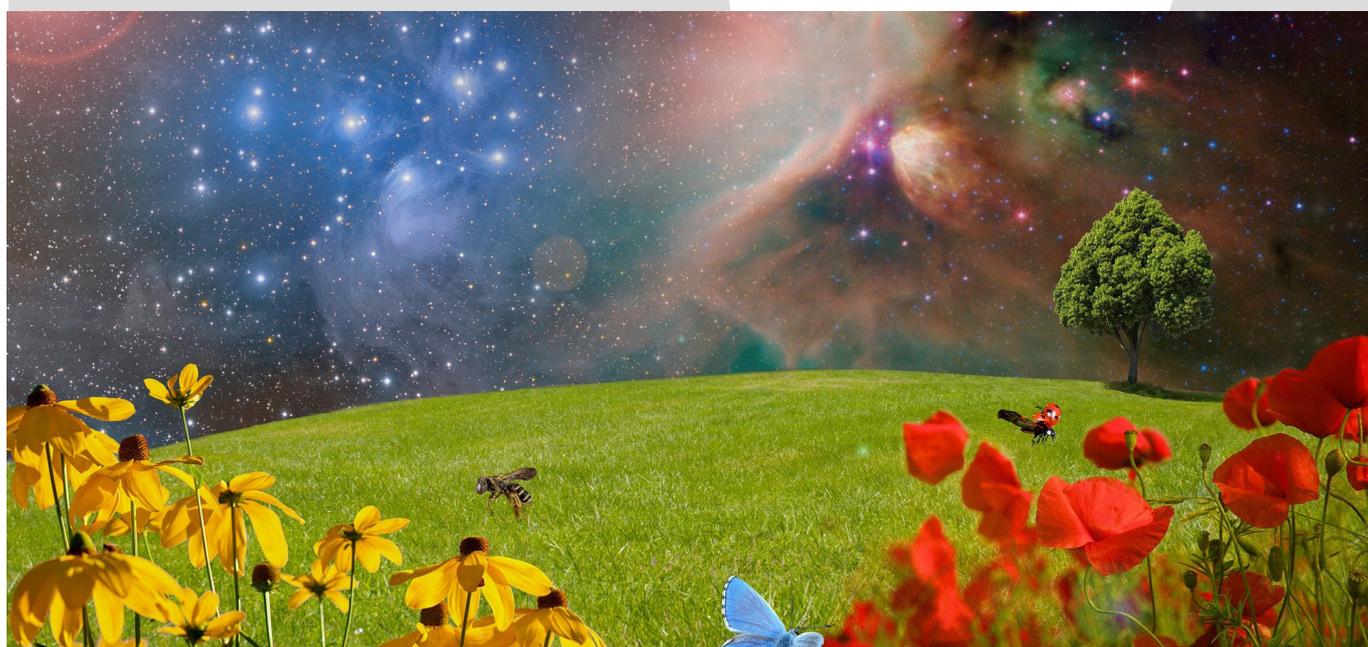
Science provides you with the knowledge and skills needed for our rapidly developing world. The subject combines knowledge from other subjects (such as maths, PE and geography). You will acquire the skills to be able to analyse, evaluate and interpret information which is vital for every profession.

Career Paths:

As well as providing access to A level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and BTEC Applied Science, a good grade will help you access several courses available in the sixth form. The career options are vast. More popular options include Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Engineering, Forensics and Medical Research.

Please note:

This is a demanding course and we strongly recommend purchasing the recommended textbook and/or a revision guide for support during the course. Given both the demands of the course, and that it gives an extra GCSE, students will be expected to attend additional sessions to support their learning.



GCSE Trilogy Science (2 x GCSEs)

Exam Board: AQA

What you will study:

Biology 1: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Biology 2: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology.

Chemistry 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes and Energy changes.

Chemistry 2: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

Physics 1: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter and Atomic structure

Physics 2: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism.

Assessment

The course is assessed through 6 x 1 hour 15 min examination papers in Year 11. Each paper is worth 16.7% and is marked out of 70 marks. Each paper contains a mixture of multiple choice, short response and longer evaluation questions.

Skills you will gain:

Science provides you with the knowledge and skills needed for our rapidly developing world. The subject combines knowledge from other subjects such as maths, PE and geography. You will acquire the skills to be able to analyse, evaluate and interpret information which is vital for every profession.

Career Paths:

As well as providing access to A level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and BTEC Applied Science, a good grade will help you access several courses available in the sixth form. The career options are vast, some of the most popular options include Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Engineering, Forensics and Medical Research .

Please note:

We strongly recommend purchasing the recommended textbook and/or a revision guide for support during the course.



GCSE Spanish

Exam Board: AQA

What you will study:

Topics are taught via key skills, grammar and engaging activities to make GCSE language learning useful for your studies and future career, as well as being fun.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Assessment

The course is assessed through four examination papers in Year 11.

Paper 1: Speaking 25% - Prep Time: 15 minutes / 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier), 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier).

Paper 2: Listening 25% - 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 60 minutes (Higher Tier).

Paper 3: Reading 25% - 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier).

Paper 4: Writing 25% - 1 hour 15 (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 20 (Higher Tier).

Skills you will gain:

Studying Spanish will help you develop your communication skills in speaking and writing. You will have better comprehension of reading, listening and grammar. You will also learn a range of skills that you need for other subjects: problem solving, analysing and evaluating critically, using imagination and creativity, working independently, and improve literacy skills. Language learning for today's world - the new GCSE qualification is focused on the important ways that languages foster communication, broaden perspectives, introduce new cultures and develop students into global citizens.

Career Paths:

Spanish is the world's fourth most spoken language. City firms like banks, consultancies, and law firms thus value Spanish highly.

Please Note:

This is a new GCSE specification with first exams in May 2026..



 KS4 Options Choice form

* Required

Student Details

1. Name: *

2. Tutor Group: *

Never give out your password. Report abuse

A

3. All students must follow the compulsory subjects:
 GCSE English Language
 GCSE English Literature
 GCSE Maths (Statistics will be taught as part of the Maths lessons)
 GCSE Science (The Trilogy or Separate Science GCSEs)
 ELC Physical Education (non-examined)

Never give out your password. Report abuse

* Required

B

4. Choice one- You will study one of these. *

All students must study either GCSE History or GCSE Geography. Please mark the box of your choice.

Geography

History

Never give out your password. Report abuse

C

5. What language are you studying in year 9

French

Spanish

Never give out your password. Report abuse

* Required

D

Please use the options below to choose first, second, third and fourth choices, marking your first choice as 1, your second choice as 2, your third choice as 3 and your fourth choice as 4.

6. Option 1 *

7. Option 2 *

8. Option 3 *

9. Option 4 *

* Required

E

10. If you read and speak another language then please record it here *

If you read, write, speak and understand another language then please enter the language in the box provided. This will be checked by the visit of Modern Languages.

If you do not read, write, speak and understand another language then please enter 'None' in the box provided.

Never give out your password. Report abuse

* Required

F

11. Please sign to confirm your choices (type your name clearly) *

STUDENT

12. Please sign to confirm your choices (type your name clearly) *

PARENT

Finally it is vitally important that parents/ guardians fully approve of these choices. Please ensure the Parent/ Guardian signature box is signed/ marked accordingly.

[Click here for Options Choices Form Link](#)

Or scan the QR Code





Ernest Bevin Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

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