



Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

Class of 2028

March 2026

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Introduction

Dear Parents & Carers,

This booklet contains information about the curriculum we have available at Key Stage 4 including course specific information. In school, students have had a series of additional assemblies which have allowed course teachers to present their course, the key content covered and the forms of assessment that feature within the course.

Please take the opportunity this evening to visit our marketplace and discuss the courses, qualifications and the different methods of how students will be assessed to get a clearer understanding of the courses on offer and the choices available. The information in this booklet is designed to give you some of the key highlights but can't replace the discussions you will have in person.

The method of assessment can be as much of a factor in making an informed subject choice as the subject content itself. Most GCSE courses are entirely assessed by final examinations, other qualification types include a mixture of internally assessed work, and a final examination sat at the end of the course. Subjects with internally assessed work require students to work hard and meet deadlines throughout Years 10 and 11 but the final examination is smaller, subjects only with a final examination require students to be actively revisiting and recapping knowledge taught in Year 10 so they can remember and apply this knowledge to the exam at the end of the course.

Irrespective of the type of qualification studied, whether they are GCSE, a Vocational Award, or a Technical Award, all types of qualifications that we offer, have been approved by OFQUAL and have the same status when students are looking at options beyond 16.

Based on a thorough analysis of both Year 7 starting points and more recent assessment performance, all students have a recommended pathway that we believe will give them the best chance of academic success and keep as many options as possible open for further study. These pathways are recommendations only and all students have the same choices available to them.

Students are asked to identify on the options form an indication of their job interests for the future or their plans for college / university – we will use this indicative information to ensure that students are choosing a range of courses that leaves this as a possibility for the future.

On the options form, students are asked to choose a first-choice subject from each column and to select a **different** reserve subject. Following the completion of the options process, it may be that some courses are either over-subscribed, or a course may have too few students wanting to study the course. This means that the course may not run. Students will then be allocated their reserve choice so it is important that the reserve choice is a subject they will happily study.

If at any time you have any questions regarding this important process, please feel free to contact me at any time (r.hughes@olqp.lancs.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely



Mr R Hughes
Deputy Headteacher

What do the 9-1 grades mean?

As you are probably aware several years ago the government introduced changes to the structure and assessment of GCSEs. We moved away from the system of A*-G grades to a system of grading with numbers 9-1.

In addition to the changes to the structure of GCSEs, the government also raised a 'good pass' from a C to a new grade 5, where a 5 represents the top third of a C and the bottom third of a B. This is to align the UK with the best education systems in the world. A "good pass" is now considered to be a Grade 5.

The main features of GCSEs are:

- GCSEs are graded 9-1, with 9 being the top grade. This allows greater differentiation between students and helps distinguish the new GCSEs from previous versions
- Assessment is mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills
- The content is demanding
- Courses are designed for two years of study - they are not divided into different modules and students take all their exams in one period at the end of their course
- Exams can only be split into 'foundation tier' and 'higher tier' if one exam paper does not give all students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities (**Maths, Science & Languages**)
- Resit opportunities are only available each November in English Language and Maths
- Students are judged on their eight best grades

GCSE vs Vocational Grading Scheme

This table shows the equivalence between GCSE Grades and their vocational counterparts

A Grade 4 and a Level 2 Pass carry the same number of points for students to use to build points for their college courses

GCSE Grades	Vocational Grades
9	
8	Level 2 Distinction (8.5)
7	Level 2 Distinction
6	
5 (Strong Pass)	Level 2 Merit (5.5)
4 (Standard Pass)	Level 2 Pass
3	Level 1 Distinction *
2	Level 1 Distinction
1	Level 1 Merit (1.5)
	Level 1 Pass
U (Unclassified)	U (Unclassified)

Curriculum Pathways

It is essential that students follow a broad and balanced curriculum. Our five curriculum pathways provide this.

To support students and parents in making decisions regarding options subjects, we have created a set of **five guided pathways**. Students have been recommended one of these pathways based on their starting points in Year 7 and their academic performance to date.

All students follow a common core curriculum:

- GCSE Religious Education
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science
- Curriculum for Life
- Core PE

Red Pathway

For those students that have been identified as being suitable for the most academic pathway schools can offer. This serves as excellent preparation for a wide range of courses at university

- GCSE Separate Sciences
- GCSE French or Spanish
- Another subject

Students on this pathway have been recommended by the Subject Leaders of both Science and Languages based on their academic profile and attitude to learning.

Yellow Pathway

For those students that have a passion for science and wish to follow an academic curriculum that will serve as excellent preparation for study at university. This pathway includes:

- GCSE Separate Sciences (*15 hours of study per fortnight in place of Combined Science*)
- Any two subjects

Students on this pathway have been recommended by the Deputy Headteacher and the Subject Leader of Science.

Purple Pathway

For those students that wish to follow an academic curriculum that will serve as excellent preparation for study at university. This pathway includes:

- GCSE French or Spanish
- Any two subjects

Students on this pathway have been recommended by their French & Spanish teachers as having a talent for the subject.

Green Pathway

For those students that wish to follow a varied curriculum that serves as excellent preparation for Post-16 study and beyond:

- Either GCSE French or GCSE Spanish or GCSE Geography or GCSE History
- Two other subjects

Blue Pathway

For those students that would benefit from a more vocational pathway:

- Any three subjects

If you wish to change pathway, please discuss with Mr Hughes

Top Tips for Future Success

You need to think long and hard about the subjects that you would like to study at Key Stage 4; you need to think about why you want to do that subject!

Good reasons for choosing a subject

- ✓ You are good at the subject and achieve well
- ✓ You think you will enjoy the course
- ✓ It fits your career ideas and plans
- ✓ It goes well with your other choices
- ✓ It helps to give you plenty of choice post 16
- ✓ You like the method of assessment
- ✓ You think you might want to continue studying it post 16
- ✓ Your research shows that it will interest you and motivate you to learn.

Bad reasons for choosing a subject

- ✗ Your friends have chosen it
- ✗ You think it will be easy
- ✗ You think it will be all practical
- ✗ You think it's a good option for a boy/girl
- ✗ Someone else thinks it is a good idea
- ✗ You like the teacher you have now
- ✗ You did not have time to research your options properly



Timeline

Thursday 5th February – Year 9 Parents' Evening

- Opportunity to discuss subject performance with class teachers following mid-year exams

Wednesday 4th March – Careers Fair

- Students visit West Lancashire College and get an understanding of the range of courses and future careers on offer, and the routes students need to follow to get on these courses / career pathways

Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th March – Options Assemblies

- All students have a brief informative presentation from course teachers so they are aware of the realities of each subject and not just the myths / assumptions they may have already made
- This booklet emailed home

Thursday 12th March – Options Evening

- Options Process overview from Mr Hughes
- This booklet and Options forms issued at Options Evening
- Marketplace to visit each course available and discuss in more detail whether this would be a good choice for your child

Wednesday 25th March – Options Deadline

- Final date for Options forms to be returned to form tutors
- Forms after this date will be marked late and only reviewed once forms returned on time have been processed

Core Subjects

- GCSE Religious Education
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science*

Religious Studies

Key Contact – Mr D Gough (Subject Leader of RE)

Qualification Title

GCSE Religious Studies

Awarding Body

Eduqas

Why study Religious Studies?

RE provides pupils with the opportunity to reflect on the 'big' existential questions that relate to human life. For example, 'Does God exist?'. 'Is there a life after death?' 'Why should I be moral if I can get away with being immoral?'.

What will I Study?

Primary focus is placed upon Catholic beliefs, teachings, and practices. At times these will be compared and contrasted with other Christian denominations and world faiths such as Judaism. The views of non-religious people are also considered.

How will I be assessed?

The RE GCSE qualification is awarded based upon a student's performance in three external examinations which take place at the end of Year 11.

- Paper 1 – Origins & Meaning and Good & Evil.
- Paper 2 – Life & Death and Sin & Forgiveness.
- Paper 3 – Judaism.

Students will be assessed on their:

- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Ability to critically analyse and evaluate religious beliefs, teachings, and practices.

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

- A Level Philosophy, Ethics & Religion
- A Level Government & Politics
- A Level Law
- A Level Media Studies
- A Level Psychology
- A Level Sociology
- Applied Diploma in Criminology
- Public Services Levels 1-3
- Entry Level Aspire Programme (BTEC Extended Award in Work Skills Level 3)

Possible Careers / Workplaces

National and local government, including the Civil Service and government agencies, as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

Schools, colleges and universities (for teaching and research positions);

Charities, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations

Social services and other caring professions

The Church and other religious organisations

English Language & English Literature

Key Contact – Mrs L Concannon (Subject Leader of English)

Qualification Titles

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature

Awarding Body

AQA

Why study English Language?

English Language provides you with the key reading, writing and spoken language skills to assist you when you enter the wider world of further education and employment. It involves studying both fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th & 21st centuries and writing in a variety of genres and styles. You will also have the opportunity to develop your oracy skills, presenting your ideas on a topic of your choice.

Why study English Literature?

English Literature provides you with the analytical skills to explore a variety of literary texts including poetry, prose and drama. The subject allows you the creative space to explore what it means to be human and live in a complex and ever-changing society. Through fictional narratives you can explore and empathise with a range of different characters and themes and develop a strong knowledge of the historical contexts in which these texts were created.

What will I study?

Language	Literature
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A range of text types including unseen fiction, high quality journalism and literary non-fiction from the 19th, 20th and 21st CenturyWriting from a particular viewpoint/perspective including articles, letters, websites, and speechesCreative writing including narrative and descriptive writingSkills in speaking and listening necessary to communicate with others confidently, effectively, and appropriatelyAn appreciation of the different ways in which writers achieve their effectsDevelop the craft of manipulating language to impact a reader.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A range of texts from across literary heritage including<ul style="list-style-type: none">a Shakespeare play (Romeo & Juliet)19th Century novel (A Christmas Carol)Modern drama and prose texts (An Inspector Calls)Poetry past and presentUnseen poetry

How will I be assessed?

Language	Literature
<p>The English Language GCSE qualification is awarded based upon a student's overall performance in two examination papers which are set at the end of Year 11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading & WritingPaper 2 – Writer's Viewpoints & Perspectives	<p>The English Literature GCSE qualification is awarded based upon a student's overall performance in two examination papers which are set at the end of Year 11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper 1 – Shakespeare & the 19th century novel.Paper 2 – Modern text & poetry

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|
| • English Language | • Law | • Drama | • History |
| • English Literature | • Sociology | • Creative writing | |
| • Media Studies | • Psychology | • Philosophy | |

Possible Careers / Workplaces

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| • Journalist | • PR Manager | • Librarian | • Editor |
| • Publisher | • Solicitor | • Digital Marketing Manager | • Speech Therapist |
| • Teacher | • Social Worker | | |

Mathematics

Key Contact – Mr P Allsop (Subject Leader of Maths)

Qualification Title

GCSE Mathematics

Awarding Body

Edexcel

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a core subject as it teaches students to be numerate, confident working with and analysing data and to solve problems by breaking them down into a series of logical steps. This logical approach to solving problems forms the basis of many academic courses and future careers.

What will I Study?

- Number
 - Fractions, Estimation, Error Intervals,
- Algebra
 - Manipulation, Graphical Representations, Forming & Solving Equations
- Ratio & Proportion
 - Percentages, Direct & Inverse Proportion, Conversions, Ratio
- Statistics
 - Collecting Data, Data Analysis, Representing Data
- Geometry
 - Perimeter, Area, Volume, Angle Properties, Trigonometry, Pythagoras' Theorem

How will I be assessed?

The Mathematics GCSE qualification is awarded based upon a student's overall performance in three examination papers which are set at the end of Year 11. Any course content can be assessed on any paper. The grade awarded is based on the total score on these three papers.

- Paper 1 – Calculator **Not** Allowed (80 marks)
- Paper 2 & 3 – Calculator Allowed (80 marks each)

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

A-Level Mathematics

A-Level Further Mathematics

Level 3 Core Maths

A-Level Accountancy

BTEC Accountancy

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Actuarial analyst

Forensic accountant

Teacher

Stockbroker

Meteorologist

Software tester

Quantity surveyor

Corporate Investment banker

Computer animator

Architect

Financial Services

Sound engineer

Combined Science

Key Contact – Ms B Davies (Subject Leader of Science)

Qualification Title

GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy)

Awarding Body

AQA

Why study Science?

Science is essential to understanding the world in which we live. Many of the most important aspects of our lives are driven by scientific discovery including the phones we use and the medical treatment we receive. Science is the most exciting subject to study due to the wide range of practical and theoretical work carried out.

What will I Study?

Biology

Cells, Organisation, Bioenergetics, Infection, Homeostasis, Inheritance, Ecology

Chemistry

Atomic Structure, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Structure and Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Rate, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Atmosphere and Resources

Physics

Particles, Energy, Waves, Electricity, Forces, Radiation, Electromagnetism

How will I be assessed?

The Combined Science GCSE qualification is awarded based upon a student's overall performance in **six** examination papers which are sat at the end of Year 11.

Students are awarded a Double GCSE grade for this qualification based on their performance across all six papers.

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

The School of Medicine – A Level Biology, A Level Chemistry, A Level Physics, A Level Psychology, A Level Mathematics

A Level Biology

A Level Chemistry

A Level Physics

A Level Psychology

BTEC Level 3 – Applied Human Biology

BTEC Level 3 – Health & Social Care

T-Levels Health

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Astronaut

Astronomer

Audiologist

Biochemist

Ecologist

Forensic scientist

Geneticist

Intelligence analyst

Laboratory technician

Marine engineer

Meteorologist

Metrologist

Nanotechnologist

Nuclear engineer

Pathologist

Performance sports scientist

Pharmacologist

Zoologist

Option Subjects

- Separate Sciences
- French or Spanish
- Geography
- History
- Citizenship
- Fine Art
- Textiles
- Music
- Drama
- Sports Studies
- Health & Social Care
- Design Technology
- Hospitality & Catering
- Travel & Tourism
- Creative iMedia

Separate Sciences

Key Contact – Ms B Davies (Subject Leader of Science)

Qualification Title

*GCSE Biology
GCSE Chemistry
GCSE Physics*

Awarding Body

AQA

Why study Separate Sciences?

Separate science prepares you for a future career in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine or Physics and Engineering. Separate science will not only provide you with the chance to build and gain a more in-depth knowledge and understanding of combined content, which better prepares you for A Level Biology, A Level Chemistry and A Level Physics.

Additionally, this pathway includes an “Aspire Futures” programme which involves a variety of skills workshops, guest speakers and external trips and visits.

What will I Study?

Biology

Cells, Organisation, Bioenergetics, Infection, Homeostasis, Inheritance, Ecology

Chemistry

Atomic Structure, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Structure and Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Rate, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Atmosphere and Resources

Physics

Particles, Energy, Waves, Electricity, Forces, Radiation, Electromagnetism

How will I be assessed?

Each individual Science GCSE is awarded based upon the student’s overall performance in **two** examination papers for each subject which are sat at the end of Year 11. This equates to **six** examinations overall.

Individual grades for each subject are awarded so performance in one does not affect the other sciences.

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

The School of Medicine – A Level Biology, A Level Chemistry, A Level Physics, A Level Psychology, A Level Mathematics

A Level Biology

A Level Chemistry

A Level Physics

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Astronaut

Doctor

Biochemist

Forensic scientist

Geneticist

Intelligence analyst

Laboratory technician

Meteorologist

Nanotechnologist

Nuclear engineer

Performance sports scientist

Pharmacologist

Zoologist

French or Spanish

Key Contact – Mrs L Lawlor (Lead Practitioner for MFL)

Qualification Title

*GCSE French
GCSE Spanish*

Awarding Body

Edexcel

Why study a Language?

Learning languages gives pupils opportunities to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills with increasing confidence, independence and creativity. Learning a foreign language will also support the development of literacy skills in your own language. The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill. Future employability is enhanced by knowledge of a foreign language and opens doors to a wide range of opportunities.

What will I Study?

Students will learn and communicate across 6 of the following thematic units of work:

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

How will I be assessed?

The French or Spanish GCSE qualification is awarded based upon a student's overall performance in four examination papers which are sat at the end of Year 11. Each paper is weighted the same, at 25% of the overall marks.

Paper 1: Speaking in French / Spanish

Paper 2: Listening and Understanding in French / Spanish

Paper 3: Reading and Understanding in French / Spanish

Paper 4: Writing in French / Spanish

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

A Level French

A Level Spanish

A Level Linguistics

Level 2 Travel and Tourism

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Translator

Interpreter

Armed Forces

MFL or ESOL Teacher

Intelligence Analyst

Journalist

Diplomat

International Marketing

Foreign Correspondent

Supply Chain and Logistics Roles

Geography

Key Contact – Mrs S Devlin (Subject Leader of Geography)

Qualification Title

GCSE Geography

Awarding Body

AQA

Why study Geography?

Studying Geography will enable you to become aware of the world around you and help you to make a difference to your future and that of others. It will equip you with the skills to become a sustainable responsible citizen.

What will I Study?

Unit 1

Natural Hazards

Living World (Tropical Rainforests and Hot Deserts)

Physical Landscapes of UK (Coastal Landscapes and River Landscapes)

Unit 2

Urban Issues – Rio De Janeiro and Liverpool

The Changing Economic World – Brazil

The Challenges of Resource Management – Energy

Unit 3

Issue Evaluation on a Topical Issue

Fieldwork Skills

How will I be assessed?

The Geography GCSE qualification is awarded based upon a student's overall performance in **three** examination papers which are sat at the end of Year 11.

Unit 1 – Living with the Physical Environment – 1 hour 30 minutes exam – 35%

Unit 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment – 1 hour 30 minutes exam – 35%

Unit 3 – Geographical Applications – 1 hour 30 minutes – 30%

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

A level Geography

A Level Geology

A Level Sociology

BTEC Travel and Tourism

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Cartographer

Data analyst

Environmental consultant

Geographical information systems officer

Secondary school teacher

Social researcher

Climate scientist

Travel Agent

Town Planner

Non-Governmental Organisations NGO's/Charities

Local Council

History

Key Contact – Mrs K Byrom (Subject Leader of History)

Qualification Title

GCSE History

Awarding Body

Edexcel

Why study History?

By studying GCSE History, you will prove your ability to develop and extend your knowledge and understanding of specific key events, eras, and societies in national and world History. You will become a successful independent learner and a critical and reflective thinker with the key ability to question evidence and understand historical interpretations.

What will I Study?

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

How will I be assessed?

The History GCSE qualification is awarded based upon your overall performance in **three** examination papers which are sat at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 (1 hour and 20 minutes)

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.

Paper 2 (1 hour and 50 minutes)

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

Paper 3 (1 hour 30)

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

A Level Ancient History

A Level Medieval History

A Level Modern History

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Academic Researcher

Accountancy

Archivist/Archaeology

Armed Forces

Business Management

Criminology

Government Official

Gaming Advisor

International Relations

Police Officer

Politician

Solicitor

Teacher

Citizenship

Key Contact – Miss Z Fox (Subject Leader of Citizenship)

Qualification Title

GCSE Citizenship

Awarding Body

AQA

Why study Citizenship?

Citizenship develops knowledge, skills and understanding that learners need to play a full part in society as active and responsible citizens. Teaching is brought to life using real issues and events in local to global contexts. It demonstrates ways in which UK citizens are able to make their voices and opinions heard.

What will I Study?

- British Society
- Personal Citizenship
- Democracy & Power
- UK Legal System
- Human Rights
- Campaign Makers
- Life in Modern Britain
- Rights & Responsibilities
- Politics and Participation
- Active Citizenship

How will I be assessed?

The Citizenship GCSE qualification is awarded based upon a student's overall performance in **two** examination papers which are sat at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1

- Section A: Active Citizenship
- Section B: Politics and Participation

Paper 2

- Section A: Life in Modern Britain
- Section B: Rights and Responsibilities

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

A Level History

A Level Politics

A Level Sociology

A Level/BTEC Criminology

A Level/BTEC Law

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Activism

Armed Forces

Civil Service and Parliament

Customs Officer

Criminologist

Immigration and Border Force Officer

Intelligence Services (MI5, MI6, GCHQ)

International Relations

Journalist

Law – Solicitor/Barrister/Paralegal

Media

Policing

Politics – local, national and global

Probation and Prison Services

Public Relations

Social Work

Teaching and Education

Fine Art

Key Contact – Miss J Little (Subject Leader of Art)

Qualification Title

GCSE Art: Fine Art

Awarding Body

OCR

Why study Fine Art?

This course is for students who enjoy creating and want to improve their skills and techniques. The Fine Art GCSE course allows students to experience a variety of media, techniques, and processes, including both traditional and new methods of Art (including Photography and digital creative techniques). You will research both contemporary and historical sources and develop a portfolio of their own artwork to showcase their journey.

What will I Study?

Students will work predominantly with traditional media, such as:

- Painting and drawing
- Sculpture
- Mixed media, including collage and assemblage
- Printing

There is also the possibility to expand their experiences by using modern media. This may include:

- Cameras (to record ideas)
- iPads
- Digital Image Manipulation e.g. Photoshop

How will I be assessed?

There are four assessment objectives that students will be assessed on throughout the course:

- AO1** Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources
- AO2** Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- AO3** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses
- AO4** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

Portfolio of Work: Coursework Project worth 60%

The portfolio is a selection work and research undertaken during year 10 & 11 and will include more than one theme (Cityscapes and Natural Form)

Externally Assessed Task: Externally Set Assessment Project worth 40%

A smaller portfolio of research responding to and externally set question or theme.

This includes a 10-hour exam completing a large-scale piece of artwork based on a theme or topic set by the exam board. This exam is usually completed as two 5-hour days.

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

- A-Level Art, Photography
- BTEC Art & Design, Photography

Possible Careers / Workplaces

- Illustrator, Graphic designer, Fashion Designer, Architect, Animator, Interior/set Designer, Photographer, Art Therapy, Education, Makeup Artist, Retail, Game Design, Curator

Textiles

Key Contact – Mrs G Griffiths (Course Teacher)

Qualification Title

GCSE Art: Textiles

Awarding Body

AQA

Why study Textiles?

The Textiles course allows candidates to demonstrate their creativity, with making of textile products.

What will I Study?

Students will be expected to understand a variety of textile methods, such as fabric printing, mono-printing, relief printing, screen printing and laser printing; tie-dye and batik; spraying and transfer; fabric construction; stitching, appliqué, patchwork, padding, quilting and embroidery.

Students must show knowledge and understanding of relevant materials, processes, technologies, and resources. Students should be aware of the four assessment objectives to be demonstrated in the context of the content and skills presented. They should be aware of the importance of process as well as product. Homework will be set each week which forms an essential part of the overall course, this could be research, developing their individual style or evaluating a piece of work.

How will I be assessed?

The Textiles GCSE qualification is awarded based on performance on an internally assessed portfolio of work (60%) and a timed externally assessed piece of work completed in Year 11.

Portfolio of Work: Controlled assessment

This involves researching and creating responses to artists and designers work in the media of Textiles producing a sketchbook of research and responses whilst working on at least 2 projects throughout the course. A portfolio will be selected from work undertaken during the course of study for submission at the end of the course.

Externally Assessed Task: External assessment

10-hour exam completing a piece of Textiles artwork based on a theme or topic set by the exam board. This task is usually completed as two 5-hour days.

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

Fashion And Clothing BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (Wigan & Leigh College)

Level 3 Applied General and Extended Diploma in Art & Design (Fashion Design)

Art & Design 16-18 (West Lancashire College)

A Level Textiles (Runshaw College)

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Fashion Designer, Fashion Buyer, Interior Designer, Retail Manager, Stylist, Display Designer, Furniture Designer, Print Designer, CAD Designer, Graphic/Print Designer, Garment/Textiles Technologist, Tailor, Hat/Footwear Designer, Pattern Cutter

Drama

Key Contact – Ms E Cawley (Subject Leader of Drama)

Qualification Title

GCSE Drama

Awarding Body

AQA

Why study Drama?

This course encourages students to become confident performers and designers through creative and collaborative contexts. Students will study a range of styles, genres, plays and theatre makers, increasing their awareness and knowledge of the theatre world. GCSE Drama is a group-based subject. Students will be required to work outside of the lesson with others. You need skills in co-operation and commitment, including confidence when performing to be successful in this course.

What will I Study?

Component 1: Understanding Drama (Written Examination - 40%)

- Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed. They will study a set play and analyse and evaluate the live work of others. Students will develop knowledge of theatre makers and design elements, whilst learning about the historical, social and cultural aspects of theatre.

Component 2: Devising Drama (Practical and written – 40%)

- Students will take part in creative workshops to support the development of their own piece of drama which is performed to an audience. Students will reflect upon their role and the development of their skills. Students will learn about a range of styles and genres to support their creative ideas.

Component 3: Texts in Practice (Practical – 20%)

- Students develop two extracts from the same play. They will apply their theatrical performance skills to two performances that capture the artistic intention.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed both practically (30% of overall grade) and through their written work (70% of overall grade)

- **Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes (40% of overall grade)**
- **Devising Drama (10% practical and 30% coursework – 40% of overall grade)**
 - Process of creating and performing devised drama
 - Analysis and evaluation of own work
- **Texts in Practice (Practical – 20% of overall grade)**
 - Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

St John Rigby College – Level 3 Acting

Winstanley College – A Level Theatre Studies

Wigan and Leigh College – Level 2/3 Acting and Performing Arts

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Acting

Set Design

Events Manager

Directing

Sound Design

Drama therapist

Scriptwriting

Teaching

Costume design

Stage management

Lighting Design/Technician

Producing

Music

Key Contact – Mr A Peckham (Subject Leader of Music)

Qualification Title

GCSE Music

Awarding Body

Eduqas

Why study Music?

Studying for a GCSE in music can increase overall academic performance, offer a creative outlet for students and provide them with a well-rounded education. Collectively, these benefits can boost self-esteem and help students make more competitive applications to universities and higher education institutions.

Music allows you to:

- Increase overall academic performance:
- Get a well-rounded education:
- Find a creative outlet:
- Boost self-esteem:

What will I Study?

GCSE Music consists of three main elements: performing, composing and appraising. This offers a good range of areas covered, whilst also encouraging creativity. Students specialise in an instrument of their choice (including voice) and will also expand their horizons by learning about different cultures, contexts and musical techniques.

Musical contexts:

- *In this section, you'll learn about purpose and intention in music. You'll also consider the effects of audience, time and place on how music is created and what it sounds like.*

Musical language

- *You'll learn about notation, including key signatures, as well as major and minor chords and their associated chord symbols.*

Performance

- *You'll be asked to perform with control and expression, using phrasing and dynamics that are appropriate for the style of music.*

Composition

- *Students will respond to a brief and be expected to demonstrate technical control and coherence in their compositions.*

Appraisal

- *Here, students will use their knowledge about musical elements, contexts and language to make critical judgements about a piece of unfamiliar music.*

How will I be assessed?

- Integrated Portfolio – Coursework – Working to a brief (30%)
- Practical component – Coursework – Composition & Ensemble Performance (30%)
- Listening and appraising – Written Exam (40%)

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

St John Rigby College – Level 3 Music Performance, Music Technology, Music Production

Winstanley College – A Level Music, A Level Music Technology

Wigan and Leigh College – Level 2/3 Music Performance, Music Technology, Music Production, Performing Arts

LIPA – Level 3 Music Performance, Music Technology, Music Production

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Performer, Musician, Composer, Instrumental Teacher, School Teacher, Music Producer, copyist, music production, sound engineer, TV & Film, social media, sound healer, music therapist, holistic therapies, church musician, vocal coach, choir leader, games development, song writer.

Sports Studies

Key Contact – Mr D Smith (Subject Leader of PE)

Qualification Title

L1/2 Tech Award in Sports Studies

Awarding Body

OCR

Why study Sports Studies?

The Sports Studies course applies theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development, and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and the use of technology. Learners will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.

What will I Study?

Students will be expected to learn the content of three units.

Contemporary issues in sport

- Issues which affect participation in sport
- The role of sport in promoting values
- The implications of hosting a major sport event
- The role National Governing Bodies play in the development of their sport
- The use of technology in sport

Performance and leadership in sports activities

- Key components of performance (practical based)
- Applying practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activity
- Organising planning and leading a sports session

Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities

- Provision for different types of outdoor and adventurous activities in the UK
- Equipment, clothing and safety aspects of participating in outdoor and adventurous activities
- Plan for and be able to participate in an outdoor and adventurous activity

How will I be assessed?

Contemporary issues in Sport – 75-minute written exam (40%)

Sports performance and leadership – Coursework – 5 tasks (40%)

Outdoor activities – Coursework – 4 tasks (20%)

Where could this lead?

Winstanley College – A level PE

St John Rigby College – A Level PE

West Lancashire College – Sports, Fitness and Personal Training level 3

Marine Football Academy – Football education programme

Possible Careers / Workplaces

PE teacher, Sports coach, Personal Trainer, Physiotherapist, Sports nutritionist

Health & Social Care

Key Contact – Mrs L Conning-Wild (Course Teacher)

Qualification Title

L1/2 Tech Award in Health & Social Care

Awarding Body

OCR

Why study Health & Social Care?

The Health & Social Care course provides learners with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve and enhance their employability, contributing to both their personal development and future economic well-being. The course will equip them with sound specialist knowledge and skills for everyday use and encourage independence and creativity. They will learn about values of care and the importance of softer skills such as communication skills to ensure individual rights to independence and dignity in care settings. Understanding how people can be kept safe and cared for are paramount to this course.

What will I Study?

Students will be expected to learn the content of **three** units:

Principles of care in health and social care settings

Rights of service users, Person-centred values, Effective communication, Protecting service users and service providers

Supporting individuals through life events

Life stages, Impact of life events, Sources of support

Health promotion campaigns

Current public health issues and the impact on society, Factors influencing health, Plan and create a health promotion campaign, deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign

How will I be assessed?

Two Moderated coursework projects – 60%

These will be assessed through set assignments. These will include an interaction, interview, display presentation to others, planning for an activity, written tasks, booklets, posters, leaflets and any other form of assessment necessary to complete the coursework

Written Examination - 40% – 1-hour 15mins

This examination is completed in the summer of Year 11

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate / Diploma in Health and Social Care

OCR Level 3 Extended Certificate / Diploma in Health and Social Care

NCFE Level 3 T Level in Health – Supporting the Adult Nursing Team

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Health Care workers

Nurse

Social Services

Care home worker

Support worker

Residential worker

Foster carer

Youth worker

Youth offending team

Outreach worker

Therapists

Welfare officer

Counsellor

Psychologist

Design Technology

Key Contact – Mr S Norbury (Subject Leader)

Qualification Title

GCSE Design & Technology

Awarding Body

AQA

Why study Design Technology?

Dive into a hands-on, future-focused course that empowers you to shape the world around you. GCSE Design & Technology isn't just about making things it's about becoming an innovative problem-solver ready to thrive in our fast-moving, tech-driven society. You'll explore how design transforms lives by diving into real-world influences from history and culture to sustainability and the global economy giving your creations purpose and impact. You'll brainstorm bold ideas, prototype with passion, and bring your visions to life using both traditional craftsmanship and cutting-edge technology. You will learn to master industry-standard tools in our fully equipped workshop, then level up with CAD/CAM software, laser cutters, and 3D printers to turn digital designs into tangible innovations.

What will I Study?

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

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 written exam (50%) 100 marks

What's assessed

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

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

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Unit 2 Non-Examined Assessment (50%) 100 marks

What's assessed:

In year 11 you will produce a 20-page digital portfolio over 35 hours which will be split into the following sections:

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

How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment (NEA) marked by class teacher and moderated by AQA

Where could this lead?

Post 16 College:

- Level 3 Constructing the Built Environment.
- Level 3 Engineering,
- Level 3 Design & Development for Engineering and Manufacturing.
- Electrical Installations.
- A Level Engineering.
- A Level Product Design.

Possible Careers / Workplaces:

Architecture, Product Designer, Interior Designer, Joiner, Plumber, Graphic Designer, Aerospace Engineering, Built Environment, Civil Engineering, CAD Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Structural Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer, Electrical Installation Engineer, Automotive industry and Mechatronics.

Hospitality & Catering

Key Contact – Mrs A Dunne (Course Teacher)

Qualification Title

L1/2 Award in Hospitality & Catering

Awarding Body

Eduqas

Why study Hospitality & Catering?

Ever wondered what it takes to work in a top hotel or restaurant? Does food and discovering new flavours in the kitchen inspire you? Maybe you're interested in developing the skills you need to work front of house? If so, it's time to find out more about this exciting qualification today!

What will I Study?

The Hospitality & Catering Industry

- Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, types of hospitality providers and working in the industry
- Health and Safety, Food Safety & food related causes of ill health

Hospitality & Catering in Action

- Importance of nutrition
- How cooking methods impact on nutritional value
- How to plan nutritious menus
- Factors that affect menu planning
- Skills & techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes
- Review, evaluate and improve your work

How will I be assessed?

This qualification is awarded based upon a combination of internally assessed coursework and an external examination sat at the end of Year 11.

- Internally Assessed Coursework: Unit 2 – Hospitality & Catering in Action
- Examination: Unit 1 – The Hospitality & Catering Industry

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

West Lancs College: Food Preparation and Cookery Level 2 Technical Diploma, Level 1 Certificate in Introduction to the Hospitality Industry

Wigan and Leigh College: Food Preparation and Cookery Level 2 Technical Diploma, Advanced Professional Cookery Level 3 Technical Diploma, City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma professional cooking, Food Production and cookery Level 1 or Level 2 Diploma, Production Chef Apprenticeship plus many other Apprenticeship and career pathway qualifications.

Southport College

Hospitality L1/2/3 progressing to level 3 Diploma in Food and Beverage Supervision.

Possible Careers / Workplaces

The qualification develops skills for and leads directly into a wide range of careers and professions including Events Management, Bar Manager, Restaurant Manager, Nutrition specialist, Professional Chef/Cook, Front of House, Food Product Development, Environmental Health, Catering, Food safety, Food Science, Dietician, Hotel staff.

Travel & Tourism

Key Contact – Mrs S Clarke (Course Teacher)

Qualification Title

BTEC Tech Award Travel & Tourism

Awarding Body

Edexcel

Why study Travel & Tourism?

Studying Travel and Tourism provides students with the opportunity to study an interesting and rewarding subject. This course is suitable for students wishing to progress to A Levels or pursue a career in the travel and tourism industry.

What will I Study?

Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations

- Investigate the aims of UK travel and tourism organisations.
- Explore travel and tourism and tourist destinations, and the features that make destinations appealing to visitors.

Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism

- Explore the different factors that may influence global travel and tourism.
- How travel and tourism organisations and destinations respond to these factors.
- Examine the potential impacts of tourism at global destinations and how to achieve sustainable tourism.

Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism

- Investigate how organisations use market research to identify travel and tourism trends, and customer needs and preferences.
- Apply their understanding by selecting products and services and planning a holiday to meet customer needs and preferences.

How will I be assessed?

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment (coursework), which collectively will make up 60% of the qualification. There is one external assessment, Component 3, which provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. This will be assessed through an exam worth 40% of the grade. All assignments and the exam must be completed satisfactorily to pass the course.

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

Travel And Tourism Level 3 BTEC National Extended Diploma
Various Apprenticeships (e.g. Hays Travel)

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Travel and Tourism opens up a huge range of career opportunities such as working in the hospitality, tourism and travel industries. Direct careers involve areas such as holiday representative, travel agents, working in the travel sector and within areas of hospitality and visitor attractions.

Creative iMedia

Key Contact – Miss E Wright (Course Teacher)

Qualification Title

L1/2 Tech Award in Creative iMedia

Awarding Body

OCR

Why study Creative iMedia?

Creative iMedia develops student's understanding of media codes and convention for producing digital media products. It raises your confidence in creating characters and comics, digital games, visual imaging, digital graphics, interactive digital media, and animation with audio products. Each unit of the qualification has interactive digital media at its heart. Creative iMedia provides you with knowledge and understanding in several key areas. You will design, plan, create and review interactive digital media products appropriately to meet client and target audience requirements.

What will I Study?

R093 – Creative iMedia in the Media Industry

- Media Industry Sectors & Products
- Job Roles in the media industry
- Factors influencing product design
- Pre-Production Planning
- Product Distribution

R094 – Visual Identity & Digital Graphics

- Develop Visual Identity
- Plan Digital Graphics for Products
- Create Visual Identity & Graphic Products

R095 – Characters & Comics

- Plan Character & Comics (conventions & resources needed)
- Create Character & Comics (techniques & technical skills)
- Review Character & Comics (Improvements and refinements)

How will I be assessed?

R093 – Creative iMedia in the Media Industry: Written exam in Y11 (40% of overall grade)

R094 – Visual Identity and Digital Graphics: Coursework Unit (30% of overall grade)

R095 – Character & Comics: Coursework Unit (30% of overall grade)

Where could this lead?

Post-16 Courses

BTEC Level 3 IT

BTEC Media Studies

Possible Careers / Workplaces

Creative iMedia opens up a huge range of career opportunities such as working in the IT, media or computing industries.