

Cirencester
Deer Park School



**Year 9 Key Stage 4
Curriculum Guide 2011**

www.deerparkschool.net

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Introduction



This Key Stage 4 Curriculum Guide summarises the subjects and courses we are offering you as you move into Year 10 from June 2011. We aim to provide personalised learning pathways. These may reflect traditional academic routes including the new English Baccalaureate, a specialised or a broader entitlement curriculum, foundation courses or a composition of the four!

Our KS4 Curriculum Evening aims to help you make **positive** and **informed decisions** about your learning over the next two years by providing 'guided choice'. You will have a further opportunity to talk to your subject teachers at our Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 10 February 2011 before stating your preferences by Thursday 17 February 2011. As you move into KS4, you will find new curriculum and pastoral structures designed to support your learning and help you achieve your very best.

Year 9 is a critical year. It represents an important transition. For the first time in your education you have the opportunity to choose your own course of study. Make sure it is an appropriate one that will help you later in life. For all pupils this should be **challenging** and **rewarding**.

It is important when you consider the options, that you:

- think for yourself (focus on what you want to do not what your friends might be doing)
- reflect on your learning experiences so far (focus on the subjects and avoid thinking about personalities!)
- think long term (find out about what you need to help you achieve your goals beyond Deer Park: 6th Form/College, University, Employment)
- ask questions about courses, their structure, expectations, and assessment frameworks.
- listen to advice from teachers and your parents
- allow us to guide you towards the most appropriate courses for you as a learner within the subjects you choose

Chiquita Henson
Headteacher

Key Stage 4 2011 - 2013



Life is all about choices. Choices, decisions and consequences. We make choices every day – some simple, some profound.

Choosing which subjects to study to GCSE level and perhaps beyond is a crucial decision, the consequences of which could both open and close future career paths. The whole process can appear daunting. After all, there is so much to choose from and so much riding on making a wise choice. However, with the help of your parents, subject teachers and tutors we can make it manageable, enabling you to make an informed decision.

There are significant changes at Key Stage 4; changes to what you learn and to the way you learn it. There are new courses and new GCSE specifications for 2011-13. Above all else, while many of the new specifications offer a modular framework, you must realise that your exams in 2013 will cover all the material you study over the next two years. From the very start of your course, every bit of learning you complete will contribute to your success. Numerous courses offer coursework, much of which will now take the form of 'controlled assessments', and it is important that you prepare thoroughly for these at home. It is also imperative that you revise, complete homework and meet deadlines. The effort you put in and the work you produce will directly contribute to your final grade in 2013!

Over the next two years your tutors and the KS4 Pupil Services Team will work hard to guide and support you through your studies, celebrating your achievements along the way. We look forward to working with you towards your goals.

In the meantime, on behalf of the KS4 Pupil Services Team, I wish you every success in your Year 9 assessments and your ability to make the right choices! Please do not hesitate to seek us out if we can help you in making your decisions.

Kind Regards

David Clarke – Head of Key Stage 4

The Key Stage 4 Options Process

The core subjects – English Language, English Literature, Maths, Citizenship, Religious Philosophy and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) will be taken by all pupils. Citizenship and PSHE are not examined. RP is taken as a short course – worth half a GCSE - by all.

Maths is taken by all and many will gain more than one GCSE in Maths by doing, for example, GCSE Statistics or Additional Maths.

All pupils must also do a course in Science. There are three different courses. If you are a keen and able scientist you might choose separate sciences, which leads to three GCSEs in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Most pupils will study Core Science with Additional Science, leading to two GCSEs. Pupils may also do BTEC Science.

All pupils must do PE. There are three different courses. If you would prefer to do practical PE with no exams then choose Core PE. If you would like to gain a qualification in PE you could choose PE GCSE or BTEC Sport. If you choose an examined course your PE teachers will suggest whether GCSE or BTEC is more appropriate to you.

All pupils must choose a subject from the Design Technology block – Resistant Materials, Graphics, Catering, Textiles, Art or ICT.

There are three other option “blocks” and pupils must choose one subject from each of them. They are designed to be flexible so that most combinations of subjects are possible.

The day after the **Year 9 Parents’ Evening** on **Thursday 10 February** you will be given an options form that asks you to choose your options. This should be returned to your tutor by **Thursday 17 February**.

Entry to Cirencester College

If you wish to study A levels at Cirencester College they currently require **all** potential A level students to have 5 GCSE passes at Grade C or better in a “basket” of particular subjects. These include English Language, English Literature, Maths, any Science GCSEs, any Language, History, Geography or RP short course. Most pupils likely to go on to A level study will get their “basket” from English, Maths, Science and RP so it shouldn’t affect option choices but it is worth bearing in mind.

Tim Connole
Deputy Head

The Key Stage 4 Options Process

The “English Baccalaureate”

The government’s White Paper on Education, published in December, announced the introduction of the “English Baccalaureate”. This is not a separate qualification as such but is likely to be an additional certificate awarded to those who attain a Grade C GCSE or better in **all** of the following:

- English Language
- Maths
- Science – pupils would need **two** GCSEs in science to qualify e.g. **either** Core and Additional Science **or** two from Physics, Chemistry and Biology
- A language
- Geography or History

It has always been possible to do this combination of subjects at Deer Park and just under half of our current Year 10 pupils are doing so. We have always encouraged our pupils to take a language GCSE but recognise that it is not necessarily suitable for everyone.

The government has already included a measure of the percentage of pupils gaining the “EBACC” in the performance tables based on last year’s results – and Deer Park is well above the national average. The aim, apparently, is to use the “EBACC” as the measure of schools’ performance in the future.

The idea is to encourage schools to increase take up of languages, history and geography. This does **not** mean that they have become compulsory. We try to design our curriculum to suit our pupils and it may be that they have particular strengths or interests in other subjects – Music, Drama, Art, Design for example – that they would not be able to fit in if they followed “EBACC” subjects.

It is difficult to say how important the “EBACC” could be. It may be that, for example, universities will use it as one of the ways to choose between applicants. It may be that there will be a change of policy or a change of government and it will all come to nothing. It is certainly not something we are going to force anyone to do but our options are flexible enough to allow a number of different ways of achieving the “EBACC” if you wish to do so.

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS 2011 – 2013

You should choose **one** subject from each column, with a second choice. You cannot choose the same subject as your 1st Choice in more than one column. If you choose Separate Sciences as your Science Option you **must** also choose it in **either** Option A **or** Option C

Design Option	Science Option	Option A	Option B	Option C	PE Option
Graphics Textiles Catering Resistant Materials Art (BTEC) ICT (DiDA or BTEC)	Additional Science Applied Science (BTEC) Separate Sciences*	Separate Sciences* Geography History Business (BTEC) ICT (OCR or DiDA) Music Performing Arts (BTEC)	French German Spanish History ICT (DiDA) Workskills (BTEC)	Music Technology Drama Art Geography French Separate Sciences*	PE Core PE GCSE BTEC Sport
1 st Choice:	1 st Choice:	1 st Choice:	1 st Choice:	1 st Choice:	1 st Choice:
2 nd Choice:	2 nd Choice:	2 nd Choice:	2 nd Choice:	2 nd Choice:	2 nd Choice:

Name: **Tutor Group:**

Parent/Guardian signature:

PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR TUTOR BY THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2011

Question and Answer

Have I chosen a good range of subjects?

A recommended range of options would include a technology subject, a language, a humanities subject and an arts subject. There are opportunities to specialise in areas that really interest you but you should think very carefully before giving up a curriculum area – it could affect your choices at 16.

Do I have to do a Technology subject?

Yes. Deer Park is a Technology College and all pupils must take a subject from the Design Technology block – Graphics, Resistant Materials, Catering, Textiles, BTEC Art or ICT.

Do I have to do a language?

It is possible to choose a range of subjects that does not include a language. However, you are strongly encouraged to continue studying a language, a valuable skill for most career paths.

Do I need a language to get into university?

No but it is an advantage. Several universities require a language, or suggest it is preferable, for courses such as history, law and philosophy.

Is it possible to do two humanities subjects and a language or two languages and a humanities subject?

Yes, but you won't be able to do an arts subject or separate sciences if you do.

If I do not opt for a subject at GCSE will it be impossible to do it for A level?

Not necessarily, but it depends on the nature of the subject. Some subjects build on prior knowledge. For example if you want to do any Science A levels you must do separate sciences or Additional Science at GCSE. Talk to your subject teacher or Cirencester College representatives if you are unsure.

Can I do separate Physics, Chemistry and Biology?

You can do all three if you choose separate sciences but it will not be possible to do just one of them – only Chemistry, for example.

Question and Answer

Do I have to do separate sciences to do science A levels or science courses at university?

No, but it will be a distinct advantage if you do. Research suggests that pupils who have done separate sciences at GCSE generally do better at science A levels than pupils who did not.

I am not very good at exams. Are there any subjects that do not have any?

A number of subjects are now assessed by coursework only. If you follow a BTEC course, for example, you will be assessed on a series of assignments. Do be aware that you will need to keep up with deadlines on these courses. Other subjects have a greater percentage of marks awarded for coursework. Check each course carefully.

Can I change my choices after the deadlines?

Generally speaking no. Options affect teaching groups and there may not be space to accommodate any changes you wish to make. It is important that you make the right decisions now.

Will I be guaranteed my first choices?

No. This is why we ask you to choose reserve subjects. The vast majority of pupils will get the options they want but we may have to make changes if, for example, not enough pupils opt for a subject (usually we set a minimum of 15) for us to run a class or too many pupils opt for a subject but not enough for a second class. There may also be unusual combinations which we can not timetable.

How many GCSEs will I get?

This is actually difficult to answer. Most pupils will study the core subjects – English, Maths and Science – and have 4 other optional subjects. However, a number of courses – BTECs, for example - are “worth” the equivalent of two GCSEs. Most pupils are likely to get the equivalent of 10.5 or 11.5 GCSEs.

Glossary

Level 1	equivalent to grades D – G at GCSE	AQA	Assessment and Qualification Alliance
Level 2	equivalent to grades A* - C at GCSE	WJEC	Welsh Joint Education Committee
Level 3	equivalent to AS/A level	OCR	Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations
CoE	Certificate of Education	BTEC	British Technology Education Council
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education	DIDA	Diploma in Digital Applications
GLH	Guided Learning Hours		

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE English

Why Should I Study English?

(All pupils will study English)

Through studying English, you will learn to be confident and articulate communicators, be it through writing or through speaking and listening. In the technological age of the twenty first century, we can easily be overwhelmed by the intensity of images and the abundance of texts that we encounter every day but studying English helps us to absorb and filter this information with a more critical and perceptive pair of eyes. Whether it is a broadsheet article on the latest Government initiative, a magazine review of the latest blockbuster, a nineteenth century novel or a website designed to sell you the best mobile phone deal, your study of English will help to make you a more discerning reader. At the same time, your development as a reader will support your growth as a writer with increased awareness, appreciation and usage of the skills and techniques that are used to help fulfil a range of purposes be it to argue, persuade or to entertain. Again, with the increased impact of technology in the modern age, we can all too easily forget that before any advert, film trailer or website comes into existence, someone has the ability to draft and craft their ideas through that ancient tool, the pen (or at least the keyboard!) And then, of course, there's the essential art of being a dynamic speaker: someone able to coerce and influence others through her sheer personal presence or his ability to express a clear vision through what she or he says and how they respond to what others are saying. So, all in all, forget English as 'That Compulsory Subject' and start thinking of it as the tool to unlocking the secrets of success in the modern age of mass communication.

How Will I Learn?

The GCSE course in English builds on the key skills that you began to develop during your work in KS3. You will study a wide range of texts and be encouraged to write in a range of different styles as well as being given opportunities for discussion and debate. In English Literature, your responses to a range of literary texts are developed in more detail to foster a real appreciation of what you read. The two courses are taught together in 3 hours per week.

Grouping - As in KS3, groups in the English Faculty are not always set by ability, one group in each half of the year is usually smaller and includes pupils who are working towards a C grade with more emphasis on basic skills. The other groups are parallel and are targeted towards A* - C grades. We have started to create an A*/A group for the first time for the entry in exams for 2011. We do run revision lessons by ability as preparation for the final GCSE exams in Year 11.

Speaking and Listening - The range and complexity of your oral skills will be enhanced through presentations and group discussions as well as more formal and informal paired work. You will be given opportunities to use ICT to run Microsoft PowerPoint and video presentations.

Reading - You will read and respond to a range of materials from non-fiction through to poetry, plays and stories, written in and before the 20th Century. Through your work on a range of texts, you will also have the opportunity to consider the choices made in film and TV adaptations of literature, helping you to develop your own interpretations.

Writing - Your creative skills will be given plenty of opportunities to flourish, with opportunities to write poetry, stories and diaries. You will be encouraged to write for a range of purposes and audiences, such as to persuade or argue. Your fluency of expression in structuring and writing essays will also be developed throughout this course.

As well as the areas mentioned above, the English Faculty also runs a series of workshops outside the normal school day. These are designed to help you perform at your best.

Targeting Gifted and Talented Students - An A* Surgery runs on a weekly basis in Year 11 to give pupils aiming towards this grade further opportunity to extend their coverage and understanding of the subject.

C/D Borderline Surgeries - To aid pupils on this borderline, extra support sessions are offered in the build up to final exams which target the key skills needed to attain a 'C' Grade.

Enrichment in English in KS4- Theatre trips are arranged, where appropriate, to support students' study of key texts.

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE English

What Will I Get At The End Of The Course?

You can expect to achieve 2 GCSE qualifications, one in English and one in English Literature.

What Will I Be Able To Do With My Qualification?

The GCSE courses offered in English and English Literature provide excellent preparation for further study at any of the sixth form colleges in the county. In particular, the following A Level courses are potential next steps if you are keen to pursue your studies of English beyond Deer Park.

- English Language
- English Literature
- English Language & Literature
- Media Studies

As well as these courses, English also provides an excellent stepping stone to subjects such as Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy, as well as developing skills in analysis and essay structure for courses such as History and Theatre Studies.

Contacts

Mrs Traylen - Head of English
Miss Pearman - Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator

How Will I Be Assessed?

As you can see from the table below, a large percentage of your final grade in both English and English Literature is assessed through controlled conditions work (formerly coursework). It is worth noting just how much significance is placed on Speaking and Listening in English: this is assessed throughout the 2 years of GCSE by means of both formal, structured tasks and through more informal discussion work.

English Language

Controlled Assessment – Unit 3 (40% of total mark)			External Assessment (Exam) – Unit 1 (40% of total mark)
Extended Reading	3-4 hours	30 marks 15%	
Creative Writing	3-4 hours	30 marks 15%	
Spoken Language Study	2-3 hours	20 marks 10%	
Controlled Assessment – Unit 2 (20% of total marks)			
Speaking and Listening		45 marks 20%	

1 exam
2 hour 15 minute exam on non-fiction.
Section A: There will be compulsory questions based on a number of non-fiction reading sources.
Section B: There will be two compulsory non-fiction writing tasks.

English Literature

Controlled Assessment - Unit 3 (25% of total mark)		External Assessment (Exam)- (75% of total mark)
Pupils will complete one Controlled Assessment task which asks them to make links between Shakespeare and any other text, or genre, from the English Literary Heritage.	3-4 hours 40 marks 25%	

2 exams
Unit 1
1 hour 30 minutes exam
Pupils will answer questions on the play and the novel they have studied.
Unit 2
1 hour and 15 minute exam
Pupils will be given an anthology of poems to study. They will answer questions on:

- The anthology – comparing two poems
- An unseen poem

- ✓ Level 1
- ✓ Level 2

GCSE Maths

Why Should I Study Maths?

(All pupils will study Maths)

The main reason for studying mathematics at GCSE is that it is interesting and enjoyable. Students like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction. You will find all these aspects in your GCSE Mathematics course.

This GCSE will equip you with many of the numeracy and thinking skills that will assist you in your future career path. You will be able to:

- use and apply mathematics to solve problems and answer questions.
- use number and algebra to solve and model real life situations.
- explore different areas of shape and space and measurement.
- use handling data skills to investigate different hypotheses and theories.

A Mathematics GCSE is desirable to both prospective employers and colleges and it may help you to enter a career in business, tourism, nursing, engineering, accountancy, insurance, the armed forces, the police service and many other fields. Analysis has shown a direct relationship between grade gained at GCSE Mathematics and salary earned.

Contacts

Mrs Stevens– Head of Mathematics
Mr Green – Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator

How Will I Learn?

You have already embarked on your GCSE Course, learning many of the skills assessed at GCSE within your current Key Stage 3 course. The lessons will follow the same format as they have done throughout your time at Deer Park with a memory jogger, main body of lesson and plenary. All courses will develop skills in Number and Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Statistics as well as functional skills being developed at the appropriate level. Mathematical skills develop in a spiralling nature, and within the course pupils will be frequently revisiting skills and then moving forward. You will have six, one-hour mathematics lessons a fortnight. One of these is timetabled in a computer room when you will have the opportunity to use computers to enhance your learning.

Setting

Pupils will continue to be set by ability in Maths to ensure each pupil is following a pathway that will enable them to achieve their potential. Setting will be informed by the level achieved in the end of Key Stage 3 assessment and professional judgement of staff.

GCSE Maths Course

All pupils will follow the Edexcel modular GCSE course at either Higher or Foundation tier dependent on their target grade;

Tier	Target Grade	Grades Available
Higher	A*-B	A* - D
Foundation	C	C – G

The modular course consists of 3 three units allowing a bite-sized approach to teaching and learning with three assessment opportunities, allowing students to bank their success along the way. Unit 1 covers all of the Statistics content and some Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measure. Units 2 and 3 cover the majority of Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measure skills. The weighting of assessment is summarised in the table below.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
30%	30%	40%

Each unit will also assess pupils' ability to tackle functional Maths problems.

Exam Timetable

Unit 1: Year 10 June
Unit 2: Year 10 November/March
Unit 3: Year 11 June

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE Maths

What Will I Get At The End Of The Course?

This will depend on your group:

Higher: GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Statistics
GCSE Additional Maths

Intermediate: GCSE Mathematics

Foundation: GCSE Mathematics

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

At all levels you can follow mathematics at a further level.

A Level Mathematics is suitable for any pupil achieving a grade B or higher.

A Level Further Mathematics is suitable for any Pupil achieving a grade C or higher at Additional Maths and preferably an A* in the GCSE Mathematics.

AS Use of Mathematics is a 2 year course suitable for pupils achieving a grade B at GCSE and who want to study a subject at AS level involving some Mathematics e.g. Sciences, Psychology, Geography.

Informal Assessment

In addition to the formal exams detailed above you will usually be tested at each half term to enable you to recognise your achievement with respect to GCSE grades and identify areas for improvement in preparation for the formal exams.

Resources

We use a range of resources to support delivery of GCSE Maths, including an extensive collection of ICT resources and websites. These are complemented by the Edexcel GCSE (Modular) textbook by Johnson and Clough for both the Foundation and Higher tiers. There are also individual revision guides and workbooks available to pupils from the finance office that can be used to support home learning and revision.

Calculators

You are expected to have your own personal, scientific calculator. We recommend the Casio fx83-ES and this is available from the finance office at a reduced price. Graphics calculators can be used in school particularly for graph drawing. However, you are not able to take these into an exam. If you are interested in purchasing one, see your mathematics teacher for advice.

Breadth of Study

GCSE Statistics

There will be an opportunity for pupils working at C grade in Maths to achieve an extra GCSE in Statistics at the end of Year 10. The Statistics GCSE complements the Maths GCSE with many of the skills assessed in GCSE Statistics also forming part of the GCSE Maths course.

Exam board: Edexcel

Assessment: 75% calculator exam (2½hr)
25% controlled assessment

GCSE Additional Maths

Pupils working at A/A* grade in Maths and hoping to pursue the subject post 16 will have the opportunity to study GCSE Additional Maths. This is an excellent bridging course between GCSE and A Level Maths and provides a real challenge for our most capable Mathematicians. This will require some after school commitment and will be entirely optional.

Exam board: CEA

Assessment: 50%-Pure Mathematics exam (2hr)
50%-Statistics and Mechanics exam (2hr)

Level 2

GCSE Core Science

All pupils in the UK have been following a new science specification from September 2006, authorised by Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). The general aims are:

1. To enable all pupils to extend their awareness of the ways in which their lives are influenced by science and technology.
2. To encourage pupils to adopt a questioning attitude to the way in which change occurs in the material world, by adopting a practical, investigative approach to learning.
3. To encourage pupils to acquire and make use of scientific knowledge in a creative way as far as their individual abilities allow in order to solve scientific and technological problems and to make personal judgements based on scientific and technical information.
4. To provide all pupils with the opportunity to experience the full scope of the National Curriculum Programmes of Study in Science.

Why Should I Study Science?

(All pupils will study Science)

1. It's natural to be curious about the physical world, and how things work
2. Studying Science develops important skills
3. Everyone has to make decisions in life that involve Science
4. More and more jobs use science at a range of levels of understanding

You will learn the knowledge and understanding that you need to make sense of the Science you meet through your life.

There are two main areas:

- Science Explanations - chemical reaction: a rearrangement of atoms (no creation/ loss); gene theory of inheritance; radiation; interdependence of living things
- Ideas about Science - limitations of data; correlation and cause; developing explanations; scientific community; risk; making decisions about science and technology

How Will I Learn?

The course covers a wide variety of Science topics relating to Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. You will learn about them through relevant issues.

By making sense of Science in our everyday lives you will explore actual issues that affect you, the environment and society. You will explore these using a wide range of learning activities – for example discussion, research and practical work. You will need to be prepared to take part in group work and to give your opinion on issues such as designer babies, climate change and the use of additives in foods.

The module titles are:

- You and your genes
- Earth in the Universe
- Material Choices
- Life on Earth
- Radioactive materials
- Air quality
- Keeping healthy
- Radiation and life
- Food matters

Level 2

GCSE Core Science

How Science teaching is organised?

At the end of Year 9, you will be placed into two broad bands based on ability. Your Year 9 test marks contribute to the decision about which band you should be in. However, other factors such as attitude to study are also taken into consideration when deciding in what group you should be placed.

All science GCSEs offer examination at Higher (A*-D) or Foundation (C-G) levels.

Contact

Dr Tipping – Head of Science
Mrs Brewin – Science Key Stage 4
Co-ordinator

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is made by coursework and written exam papers.

Coursework is worth 33.3% of marks and includes both:

1. Case study 20 %
2. Practical data analysis 13.3%

and

four **written papers**. The first three consisting of short answer questions (40 mins 16.7% of total per paper) taken in January and June cover the units of work.

Written papers are available at Higher and Foundation tier. These papers examine the content of three modules of work, one each from Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The fourth (45 mins, 16.7%) is based on pre-release information that will be studied in class.

What will I get at the end of the course?

If you are successful you will gain 1 GCSE grade A* - G

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

This course prepares you with the knowledge and skills that you will need as a young adult in a high technology society with many scientific issues that you may encounter after leaving school. You will study Additional Science in parallel throughout Year 10 and 11.

If you are successful in gaining Additional Science you may continue your studies at College and study a Science course at Level 3. As well as Chemistry, Physics and Biology, there are also many other science related subjects such as Sport Science and Geology.

Level 2

GCSE Additional Science

Why Should I Study Additional Science?

(for most pupils)

Additional Science concentrates on knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further study. You must study this course or Separate Sciences if you think that you might want to do a Level 3 course in one or more science subjects (AS & A level). You should also study Additional Science or Separate Sciences if you are interested in a career in science, medicine, nursing or engineering. If you are not sure about the sort of job you might like to do in the future you should study this course as it keeps your options open.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

With grade B and above (in Core and Additional Science) you would be able to go on to A level courses in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Grade C/D you could follow an applied GCSE.

Contact

Dr Tipping – Head of Science
Mrs Brewin – Science Key Stage 4
Co-ordinator

How Will I Learn?

You will learn through a wide range of activities including:

- Practical
- Research
- Discussion

The course covers a wide variety of Science topics relating to Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The module titles are:

- Homeostasis
- Chemical patterns
- Explaining motion
- Growth and development
- Chemicals of the natural environment
- Electric circuits
- Brain and mind
- Chemical Synthesis
- The wave model of radiation

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through coursework and written exam papers.

Coursework is an investigation worth 33.3% of marks

There will be four **written papers** – the first three consisting of short answer questions (40 mins 16.7% of total per paper) taken in January and June cover the units of work.

Written papers are available at Higher and Foundation tier. These papers examine the content of three modules of work, one each from Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The fourth (45 mins, 16.7%) is based on pre-release information that will be studied in class.

What will I get at the end of the course?

If you are successful you will gain 1 GCSE grade A* - G.

Level 2

GCSE Separate Sciences

Why Should I Study Separate Sciences?

(for able pupils)

Separate Sciences covers all of the content and skills of the Core and Additional courses. The extra modules cover a wider range of topics giving your science studies a greater breadth. Separate Sciences concentrates on knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further study at A level; however it is not a requirement to get a place on some A level courses, although it is necessary in many situations. You will need to check with each school or college.

You must achieve a minimum of level 6 in your Year 9 assessment to get a place on this course.

You might choose to study this course if you think that you might want to do a Level 3 course in one or more science subjects (AS & A level). You might also study Separate Sciences if you are interested in a career in science, medicine, nursing or engineering.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

With grade B and above you would be able to go on to A level courses in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Grade C/D you could follow an applied GCSE.

Contact

Dr Tipping – Head of Science
Mrs Brewin – Science Key Stage 4
Co-ordinator

How Will I Learn?

You will learn through a wide range of activities including:

Practical
Research
Discussion

The course covers a wide variety of Science topics relating to Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The modules studied include all those listed under Core and Additional Science plus:

Chemistry for a sustainable world
Biology across the Ecosystem
Observing the universe

Each of the above modules being subdivided in to 5 topics.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through coursework and written exam papers. For each of the three sciences this consists of:

Coursework is an investigation OR case study and data analysis worth 33.3% of marks in each of the sciences.

There will be three **written papers** – the first two consisting of short answer questions (40 mins 16.7% of total per paper) taken in January and June cover the units of work. The third paper is 60 mins (33.3%) is based on pre-release information that will be studied in class.

Written papers are available at Higher and Foundation tier.

What will I get at the end of the course?

If you are successful you will gain 3 GCSE grade A* - G, one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

You could select to do one or more Science A levels if you achieve grade B or above. With grade C-D you could study at GCE level in applied science.

Level 2

BTEC Science

Why Should I Study BTEC?

BTEC Science helps you understand real life work related contexts. It focuses on the procedural and technical knowledge that underpins the work of scientists and gives an insight in to what is involved in being a working scientist. The course will be based on contemporary and engaging applied contexts. Opportunities exist for extended practical and work related problem-solving exercises.

This course also covers the Core Science content

- Coursework: work-related portfolio

Contact

Dr Tipping – Head of Science
Mrs Brewin – Science Key Stage 4
Co-ordinator

How Will I Learn?

You will learn through a wide range of activities including:

- Practical
- Research
- Discussion

The course covers a wide variety of Science topics relating to Biology, Chemistry and Physics in the workplace.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through 100% coursework consisting of 33 assessments that are completed both within the classroom and at home. Before commencing each assignment there are a series of taught lessons covering the required Scientific knowledge.

The grading criteria for each assignment is Pass (P), Merit (M), Distinction (D) or Distinction * (D*)

To receive this qualification all assignments must be graded as Pass or above.

What will I get at the end of the course?

If you are successful at the Pass level or above you will gain a level 2 Certificate in Applied Science.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

You can progress to the full Diploma in Applied Science by completing a further three units.

This course is **not suitable** if you wish to go on to study 'A' level Sciences.

GCSE Art

How Will I Learn?

Art is a practical subject, and you will develop your skills in varied media throughout the course. Coursework starts from the beginning of Year 10 and is handed in before the controlled test in Year 11.

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences using a range of media, processes and techniques. Your knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design will be developed through the practical activities of designing and making. Evaluating your own work, and the work of artists and designers, will also develop your skills.

How Will I be Assessed?

Assessment is through both coursework and a controlled test.

Unit 1 (coursework) – This consists of 60% of your final mark. You will be required to complete different coursework units. A coursework unit will include preparatory work and sketchbooks, which will lead to a final piece(s). All covering the four assessment criteria set by the exam board.

Unit 2 (controlled test) – This is a controlled test of 10 hours and counts for 40% of your final mark. You will be required to respond to one starting point set by the exam board.

There will be a preparatory period of up to 3 months, followed by 10 hours of supervised time. You will be expected to develop your own work to resolve your investigations, producing a final piece or pieces based upon preparatory studies and research. The controlled test will be centre assessed and moderated by AQA.

What will I get at the end of the course?

If you are successful you will be awarded a full GCSE award with a grade ranging from A* to G.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

It is an ideal qualification to have if you wish to study art beyond the age of 16 or are considering a future career in one of the art specialisms. Post 16 Art and Design courses are available at a number of local FE Colleges at AS, A2, Applied A level and BTEC/AVCE levels. Areas of study include: Fine Art, Ceramics, Textiles, Art & Design (general), Graphics, Photography

Why Should I Study GCSE Art & Design?

- You will be able to extend your Art and Design skills through understanding how professional artists and designers work
- You will be able to express ideas, using your imagination and creativity, whilst learning new skills
- Colleges and employers look upon Art favourably as a qualification as it shows you can think creatively, independently and are able to present yourself and your work professionally
- The course allows you to focus on your interests and explore both 2D and 3D media studying drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics and textiles, exploring and developing a wide variety of new advanced skills.

Contact:

Ms Rose – Acting Art Co-ordinator

Mrs Carter – Art Teacher

BTEC First Certificate in Art & Design

How Will I Learn?

Art is a practical subject and you will develop your skills in varied media throughout Year 10, completing three mandatory units of work before covering a fourth specialist unit in Year 11.

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences using a range of media, processes and techniques. Your knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design will be developed through the practical activities of designing and making. Evaluating your own work, and the work of artists and designers, will be a continuous part of this process.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is through 100% coursework. The course consists of three mandatory units, plus a fourth specialist unit. The four units require you to complete a number of assignments over the two years for which you will develop sketchbooks and a portfolio of evidence.

You will be offered the choice of several specialist units including working in 3D, graphics, ceramics and textiles.

Whichever specialism you choose you will cover a range of skills outside that specialist area throughout the course.

What Will I Get at the End of the Course?

On successfully completing the course you will achieve two GCSE grades between A* - C. The grading criteria for each assignment is Pass (P), Merit (M), Distinction (D). To receive this qualification all assignments must be graded as pass or above.

What Will I be able to do with my Qualification?

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Contact:

Ms Rose – Acting Art Co-ordinator

Mrs Carter – Art Teacher

Level 1

Level 2

GCSE Catering

Why Should I Study Catering?

This is a two year course leading to a full GCSE, and deals in depth with the details of cooking and food service. You need to be prepared to cook often, and a wide variety of dishes, from soups and starters, through meat and vegetarian dishes and their vegetable accompaniments, to desserts, cakes and hot and cold drinks. Most practical lessons involve making more than one dish, so you need to be well organised. In the two years we also decorate Christmas cakes, we watch a demonstration by a visiting chef, and we also cater some school functions for large numbers.

This is an exciting and challenging course, which can be either a great introduction to a career in the hospitality industry, or a very good grounding in the skill and knowledge you need to put beautifully cooked food on the table.

How Will I Learn?

In lessons, as well as a lot of cooking, we will cover theory work on the Catering Industry, health and safety, food hygiene, careers in the food industry, food production and technological developments in cooking. We look in detail at commodities such as meat, fish and eggs etc, nutrition and menu planning.

How Will I be assessed?

You will take two practical exams, one in Year 10 based on commodities – fruit and vegetables, rice and pasta or dairy products – and you will need to put a number of dishes on the table in a set amount of time, and one in Year 11 based on meal preparation where you will be asked to focus on international cookery, vegetarian cookery or healthy eating. Presentation is very important. These take place under exam conditions, although you have plenty of time to practice your dishes in class, and you can choose what to cook yourself. Between them, they are worth 60% of your final grade. You also enter the national Future Chef competition.

The final 40% is by written paper at the end of the course.

What Will I get at the end of the course?

If successful you get a full GCSE award with a grade from A* to G.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

At the end of Year 11 there will be a variety of opportunities open to you. You may continue your Catering course at Gloscat or Swindon or go on to study Food Design and Technology at various schools in Gloucestershire. You may also consider looking for an Apprenticeship with an employer or wide variety of other courses in the Hospitality industry.

Contacts

Mrs Parker – Design Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator

Mrs Evans – Head of Design

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE Graphic Products

Why Should I Study Graphic Products?

GCSE Graphic Products can be undertaken as a full course GCSE. The Year 10 GCSE course involves working with **six modules of work** involving a full range of Graphic Product processes and techniques.

Modules include:

1. **Drawing and illustration techniques** together with **Digital Photography**.
2. **Printing technology** including a stamp design and promotional folder design exercise.
3. **Packaging design**, using computer aided design and manufacture together with the opportunity to make the product i.e. jewellery, T shirt etc.
4. Designing and working with **plastics**. A multi media exercise.
5. Product design briefs. Students take **one** brief from five set, including mobile, book, calendar, board game or greeting items design.
6. A **coursework task** set in agreement with the teacher.

How Will I Learn?

This is a practical subject and you will be based in a design Graphics specialist room, using technology appropriate to the course. You will work independently, exploring a range of techniques that will help you improve your learning. This course gives pupils the opportunity to work in two and three dimensions. Using a range of techniques such as **digital photography, drawing and illustration and modelling**.

How Will I be Assessed?

The two year full GCSE Graphic Products course requires pupils to undertake the Year 10 course together with a coursework project worth 60% and a final theory examination worth 40% of the final grade in Year 11.

Year 10 modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 have end of module tests. Modules 5 and 6 are related to the coursework task in Year 11.

What will I get at the end of the course?

If successful you get a full GCSE award with a grade from A* to G.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

You will be able to continue your interest in Design following various courses, such as Graphic AS and A2, Design and Technology Product Design, Photography and Art and Design and Media related courses.

Contacts

Mr Richer - Graphics Design Teacher – Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Haines - Graphic Design Teacher & Food Technology Teacher
Mrs Carter - Graphics Design Teacher & Resistant Materials Teacher

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE Resistant Materials

Why Should I Study Resistant Materials?

This subject area is designed to encourage candidates to be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. A working knowledge of woods, metals, plastics and composite materials will be required, but other materials may be used in addition.

In Year 10 you will be taught through module based work. Some of the modules are very prescriptive aimed specifically at acquiring skills. Others allow for a greater input from you.

You will study Designers and their work and hopefully gain inspiration from them and apply this to your own creative work.

The course is designed to foster awareness of the need to consider sustainable and environmental impact of design and apply it to the products that you make.

How Will I Learn?

Resistant Materials is a practical subject but it does involve theory work and coursework. You will be based in a workshop with all the facilities you will need for making. You will work independently, exploring a range of techniques that will help you gain skills and improve your subject knowledge.

Areas of study include woods, metals and plastics, learning about the origins of the materials and the different processing techniques. You will have the opportunity to use CAD / CAM to develop your design ideas and to realise them through using the laser.

How Will I be assessed?

The GCSE course has two elements. The first is coursework, which accounts for 60% of the final mark. The remaining 40% is accounted for by way of a written exam which is 2 hours long.

What will I get at the end of the course?

One full award GCSE. This will be graded between A* to G.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

At the end of Year 11 there will be a variety of opportunities open to you. You will be able to continue your interest in Design following various Design courses, such as Product Design, Engineering and Manufacture either at 'A' Level or a Vocational course.

Contacts

Mrs Evans – Head of Design
Mr Hoare – Design KS3 Co-ordinator

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE Textiles

Why Should I Study Textiles?

You will gain experience of a wide range of textile techniques, processes and materials. You will also develop your design skills. The first term is spent designing and making a cushion cover with a zip. We concentrate on surface decoration, to include screen printing, appliqué, hand and machine embroidery. The work of an artist provides inspiration for this project.

Homework involves research and design, and we explore construction and surface decoration techniques.

The second term gives you the opportunity to design and make a bag (or other suitable container). This project follows guidelines set by the examining board (AQA) and is a scaled down version of a Year 11 project. Researching existing products is an important first stage, followed by design and manufacture. You are encouraged to develop techniques used in the first term, and in addition gain experience of pattern cutting, and 3-D construction using the sewing machine. Written evaluation of the design work and product form a vital part of the project, in addition to suggestions for modifications, and a time plan. Homework is closely linked to the individual project that you are undertaking.

Fashion Design and Garment Construction are the themes for the final term. You will modify a paper pattern, having looked at fashion illustration and designed relevant modifications for their garment. The emphasis is on construction technique and the sewing machine. Evaluation and analysis are ongoing, and take the form of both design and written work. Homework includes research into social and environmental aspects of textiles, in addition to Industrial Practice including Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture.

During the Summer term, we aim to visit the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, to gain inspiration from the work of a wide range of designers and craftspeople.

You will take a mock exam in Year 10, which involves both design and written work. Prior to the summer break, you will start to formulate ideas for your final individual GCSE project, which you will undertake in Year 11. You will be expected to start important research over the summer.

In Year 11 you will undertake the final project, which is a more detailed version of Year 10 work. It will encourage you to:

- a. Demonstrate fully your design and technology capability, which requires you to combine skills with knowledge and understanding in order to design and make quality products in quantity
- b. Acquire and apply knowledge, skills and understanding through
 - Analysing and evaluating products and processes
 - Engaging in focused tasks to develop and demonstrate techniques
 - Engaging in strategies for developing ideas, planning and producing products
 - Considering how past and present design and technology, relevant to a designing and making context, affects society
 - Recognising the moral, cultural and environmental issues inherent in design and technology

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE Textiles

What Will I Get At The End Of The Course?

If successful, you will get one GCSE graded between A* to G.

What Will I Be Able To Do With My Qualification?

You will be able to continue your interest in Textiles following various courses, such as A Level Textiles.

Contacts

Mrs Cato – Design Teacher
Mrs Evans – Head of Design

How Will I Learn?

This is a practical course and you will be expected to explore different techniques required to meet the criteria of the tasks set. You will be expected to work on your own, managing your own time, both in and outside of the classroom.

As Textiles is a highly visual course, you will be expected to keep your eyes open when you are out and about and bring your ideas into the classroom and integrate them into your work where necessary.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The coursework comprises of 60% of the final mark. The examination board will set a choice of questions for the practical coursework. Pupils should select one of these and will have 45 hours to complete the work. The remaining 40% coming from a 2 hour written exam.

- ✓ Level 1
- ✓ Level 2

ICT - DiDA

Why Should I Study DiDA?

This qualification is suitable for those of you who wish to become efficient users of ICT. It integrates many of the common applications you might expect to use in the future, such as Office Suite, Publishing Packages, Image manipulation software, Multimedia editing software, Web Design & Publishing software. It is suitable for creative users of ICT, who are able to plan and work independently. Unit 1 is compulsory, but it is anticipated that you will have a choice of one further unit from the list below:

Unit 1: Using ICT (compulsory)

You will use commonly used software such as word processing, database and web publishing to solve a problem set by the exam board. You will use the software in an integrated manner and organise your work into web pages to form an eportfolio.

Unit 2: Multimedia

Unit 3: Graphics

Unit 4: ICT in Enterprise

Each unit is equivalent to 1 GCSE. Most pupils will gain 2 GCSEs in ICT.

Contacts

Mr C Elliott - Head of ICT and Business Studies

How Will I Learn?

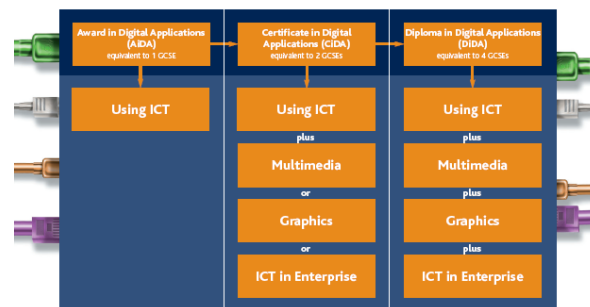
You will be taught the course content through ICT lessons. You will be assessed on the production of an e-portfolio. An e-portfolio is a project presented as a group of web pages, with links to evidence of your work. There is no exam. The e-portfolio (coursework) constitutes 100% of the assessment for each unit.

What will I get at the end of the course?

A GCSE for each unit that you take. Most pupils will take the level 2 qualification and will achieve 2 GCSEs in ICT. Selected pupils may sit the level 1 qualification which contains more guidance. If you follow the Level 1 course you are still able to achieve a GCSE grade C in each unit. The table below shows the grades accessible to each level:

Level 1	Level 2	GCSE
	Distinction	A*
	Merit	A
	Credit	B
Distinction	Pass	C
Merit		D
Credit		E
Pass		F/G

What will I be able to do with my qualification?



Many schools are using the DiDA qualification to deliver ICT. It is a practical, vocationally related exam in which pupils can show their practical skills.

- Level 1
- Level 2

ICT – OCR Nationals

Why Should I Study Nationals?

This qualification is suitable for those of you who wish to become efficient users of ICT, demonstrating skills that are essential in today's workplace. Work is completed in small chunks, which means that students can see how they are progressing.

Unit 1: Using ICT (compulsory)

You will demonstrate skills necessary for the modern work place, such as organisation, file management, downloading from the internet, sending and receiving emails, using spreadsheets and database management.

One further unit will yield a single GCSE (First Award)

Three further units will yield two GCSEs (Award)

Four further units will yield three GCSEs (First Certificate)

Five further units will yield four GCSEs (Certificate)

Most pupils will gain 2 GCSEs in ICT.

Contacts

Mr C Elliott - Head of ICT and Business Studies

How Will I Learn?

You will be taught the course content through ICT lessons. You will be assessed on a number of discrete assignments that are internally marked.

What will I get at the end of the course?

You will achieve a qualification graded at a Pass, Merit or Distinction, roughly equivalent to GCSE grades A* to C. Depending on how many units you cover, you will either achieve a "First Award", an "Award" or a "First Certificate" equivalent to one, two or three GCSEs respectively.

What units are available?

Unit 1	ICT Skills for business
Unit 2	Webpage creation
Unit 3	Digital Imaging
Unit 4	Multimedia
Unit 5	Desk-top publishing
Unit 6	Spreadsheets
Unit 7	Databases
Unit 8	Innovation & e-commerce
Unit 9	Customer Support
Unit 10	Supporting Telecommunications
Unit 11	Career Planning
Unit 12	Work experience
Unit 13	IT systems and user needs
Unit 14	Installation of applications
Unit 15	System testing and maintenance
Unit 16	Repair and decommission of equipment
Unit 17	CAD & CAM
Unit 18	Application of computer control
Unit 19	Application of data logging
Unit 20	Creation of animation for the WWW
Unit 21	Creating computer graphics
Unit 22	Creating sound using ICT
Unit 23	Creating video

Many schools are using the National qualifications to deliver ICT. It is a practical, vocationally related course in which pupils can show their skills.



OCR Nationals

- Level 1
- Level 2

First Diploma for ICT Practitioners

Why Should I Study BTEC?

If you want to know how computers and the internet works, then this is the course for you. This option is suitable for talented pupils who wish to follow a "Developer/Technician" route in their ICT careers.

During the course you will learn how to build a computer, and how computers interact via networks.

Contacts

[Mr Elliott](#) - Head of ICT and Business Studies

How Will I Learn / be Assessed?

One third of the course is delivered through our Cisco Academy programme. You will learn about computers and computer networks. You will be able to log on to the Cisco Academy and access course materials, activities, practical assignments and tests. You will be assessed through online testing and a practical assignment. This section of the course is recommended to take 120 guided learning hours (GLH).



The remainder of the course is accessed via four coursework assignments which include a practical element.

Below are some of the available units, with compulsory core units making up a further third of the qualification.

Edexcel Level 2 BTEC First Diploma for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Practitioners			
Unit	Core units	GLH	Level
1	Using ICT to Present Information	60	2
2	Introduction to Computer Systems	60	2
Unit	Specialist units		
3	ICT Project	60	2
4	Website Development	60	2
5	ICT Supporting Organisations	60	2
6	Networking Essentials	60	2
7	Software Design and Development	60	2
Unit	Specialist units (continued)	GLH	Level
26	IT Essentials (cannot be studied with Units 12, 22 and 23)	120	2

What will I get at the end of the course?

You will achieve a PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION equivalent to four GCSE grades

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

Having achieved your BTEC qualification you are able to progress to other Level 3 qualifications. For example, Cirencester college will accept entry to Level 3 BTEC or similar. Distinction grades will allow entry to A level.

- ☑ First Extended Certificate
- ☑ First Certificate

BTEC First Business

Why Should I Study Business

Richard Branson	Alan Sugar
Tesco	Glastonbury

- Have you ever wondered what these people and organisations have to get to grips with to make their organisations successful?
- Are you a people person?
- How has Tesco become so powerful?
- Can Chelsea carry on spending million of pounds on new players?
- Did you know Richard Branson started his business in a small flat above a shop?

These questions and others will be answered throughout the course.

You will not have studied this subject before, so it will be worth reading the information to see what the subject is about.

The course will have 5 periods per fortnight, and the assessment is very different to what you have been used to.

What Will I Learn?

The BTEC requires the successful completion of different units. These include:

- Business Purposes
- Business Organisations
- People in Organisations
- Business Enterprise
- Personal Selling in Business (optional)
- The Marketing Plan (optional)

The business world comprises an enormous variety of different careers. The BTEC First in Business aims to give you a practical understanding of what “being in business” entails and it will help you to develop the knowledge, understanding and competency needed when considering entering employment in this sector.

The course is designed to enable you to study other subjects alongside your BTEC First. There are two core units plus other specialist units totaling 180 guided learning hours to gain the BTEC First Extended Certificate.

The course is structured to permit you to develop your existing interests as well as giving you a broad foundation and introducing you to new areas in the business sector, such as business communication, starting a small business or developing customer relations.

The course will help you to begin to understand the business world, with all its complexities and differing interests. It introduces you to the range and variety of business activity to be found in the local community and at national, European and global levels. The course enables you to discuss your understanding and knowledge of businesses in your local environment.

This course begins to develop your knowledge and understanding of the importance of businesses and how they operate. You will be able to explore business purposes and relate this to different types of ownership.

The BTEC First **Extended Certificate** is a level 2 qualification equivalent to 2 GCSEs A* to C.
The BTEC First **Certificate** is a level 2 qualification equivalent to 1 GCSE A* to C.

BTEC First Business

- First Extended Certificate
- First Certificate

The Exploring Business Enterprise unit begins by helping you to understand your own strengths and weaknesses, which will have a clear impact on both your ability to prepare for business and actually run the business itself. You will need to consider the contribution you can make to a business and what the benefits are.

You also need to develop your knowledge and understanding of different aspects that affect preparing for business. These include the implications of regulations and laws that impact on small businesses, the marketing and sales function and the critical importance of a range of financial issues.

How Will I Learn?

This course is a very practical one and you can expect to put your learning into practice throughout the course.

You will use a wide variety of learning styles including:

- Group work
- Video
- Role play
- PC based
- Presentations
- Business Reports
- Business visits
- Guest Speakers

How Will I be Assessed?

The BTEC course is mainly coursework based. On this course you will complete a series of assignments that are assessed in school and moderated by the exam board.

The assignments will be tailored to your preferred learning style and may include business reports, presentations, discussions or artefacts. The BTEC course will involve visits to businesses and visits by business people. The assessments will be set in a real life business context.

What Will I get at the end of the course?

If you are successful you will be awarded a BTEC First Certificate in Business, graded at Distinction, Merit or Pass.

What Will I Be Able To Do With My Qualification?

There are a range of different qualifications that you are able to follow beyond school. A Level courses as well as BTECs exist in a wide range of related subjects, such as Business, Accountancy and Law to name but a few. You can progress straight into employment studying an Apprenticeship scheme if you wish.

Contacts

Mr Alsaigh – ICT and Business Studies Coordinator

Mr Germaine – 14–19 Curriculum Co-ordinator

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE Geography

Why Should I Study Geography?

As our planet becomes increasingly interconnected it is increasingly important to find out more about the world around us. GCSE Geography allows you to investigate a range of human and physical issues in a variety of places.

GEOGRAPHY - The study of the earth and its peoples

EDUCATES you about the world you live in

ORGANISES information logically

GIVES you a wide range of skills

REAL WORLD problems and examples are studied

ATTITUDES and **VALUES** are an important element

PLACES and **PERSPECTIVES**

HUMAN IMPACT on the planet

YOU'RE nowhere without it!

How Will I Learn?

You will find out about the Geographical issues and places in a number of ways. The GCSE is divided into four core units:

Unit One: Dynamic Planet – In this unit we look at important physical geographical processes including climate, wild weather, coasts and tectonics.

Unit Two – People and the Planet - This unit looks at how people interact with the planet and the relationship we have with our world. We investigate sustainability, population, living spaces and world of work.

Unit Three – Making Geographical decisions - This unit is all about making decisions linked to geography. You will use information provided to help you put forward the best solutions to problems.

Unit Four: Researching Geography – This unit is all about going into the real world and seeing how geography is having an impact.

As part of the course you will also be involved in fieldwork to a major city to investigate urban change and also given the opportunity to take part in a residential trip within the UK to investigate geographical processes.

In lessons you will take part in debates, use thinking skills, group work and ICT in order to find out more. As well as learning in the classroom you will also be given the opportunity to carry out fieldwork in both your local area and also on a residential trip.

How will I be assessed?

Each of the units is worth 25% of your GCSE grade.

In Year 10 you will complete two examinations in June focusing on Unit Two (People and the planet) and Unit Three (Making Geographical Decisions).

In Year 11 you will complete Unit Three (Controlled Assessment) following a trip to a local city and also an examination on Unit One.

You will be given full guidance and support on all assessment elements.

GCSE Geography

- Level 1
- Level 2

What will I get at the end of the course?

Geography is divided into two tiers. If you are entered for Higher Tier you can gain any grade between A*- D. On the Foundation Tier you can gain any grade between a C and G. The tiering system allows you to meet your true potential with the support that you need, the modular nature of the course also allows you to benefit from resitting some aspects of the course if you under perform.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

After core subjects, Geography is considered to be one of the most valuable GCSE qualifications by prospective employees as it involves using a variety of skills. To enter many jobs and vocational courses you will need maybe four or five examination passes. For many jobs it is a real help if you have taken Geography, particularly in combination with other subjects so think seriously about the subject if you are interested in any of these types of work.

- Advertising
- Estate Agency
- Leisure & Tourism
- Farming / Forestry
- GIS specialist
- Writer/Researcher
- Map Making (Cartography)
- Climatologist
- Surveying
- Teaching
- Urban planner/ Community Developer

Contacts

Miss Lillington – Geography
Co-ordinator

- ✓ Level 1
- ✓ Level 2

GCSE History

What Will I Be Able To Do With My Qualification?

Apart from being interesting, History is very useful. Employers who see that you have a qualification in History know certain things about you. They will know that you have taken on certain key skills which, learned through History, can be applied to all sorts of situations.

They know that:

- You can understand how people tick
- What motivates them
- What they think and feel
- You are able to gather and read different kinds of information
- You are able to look carefully at this information and can check it for bias or propaganda
- You can read maps, graphs and other diagrams
- You are able to communicate clearly and have learned to express yourself verbally and in the written form.

Contacts

Mr Owen – Head of Humanities.
Miss Dovey – History Advanced Skills Teacher.
Mr Woodrow – History Co-ordinator.

How will I learn?

A variety of teaching and learning styles are used, including:

- Drama
- Independent research using The PLC and Intelidesks
- Use of video and Feature Films
- Group work
- Project work.

There are a range of fieldwork opportunities available: for example the trip to Munich and Local investigations into Heritage and Culture.

There are many opportunities to use ICT in this course. We will provide you with information and resources through our website as well as promoting your own independent research skills. We are sure you will enjoy the research and the variety that this course offers.

How Will I Be Assessed?

There will be no formal written exam. Instead you will study 4 separate units of History which will be assessed by a mixture of teacher assessment, coursework tasks and an extended written assessment over a series of lessons. This means that you will accumulate marks as you progress through the course.

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE History

Why should I study this subject?

How else can you make sense of the present unless you have a good understanding of the past? How else can you change the world if you have not looked at how it got in the state it's in already?

What Does the Course involve?

There will be no formal written exam. Instead you will study 4 separate units of History which will be assessed by a mixture of teacher assessment, coursework tasks and an extended written assessment over a series of lessons.

Medieval History.

How the Saxons, Vikings and Normans raided and invaded Britain. You will look at the impact of these cultures on Britain and their legacy for the nation in modern times.

Nazi Germany.

An in depth study of the rise of Adolf Hitler, life in Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. You will be able to study how people resisted the Nazis. You will also have the opportunity to visit Munich, Berchtesgaden (the Eagles Nest – Hitler's Headquarters on the German/Austrian border) and Dachau Concentration camp.

Local Heritage.

A module which investigates the challenges and benefits of managing local history. You will make judgements about how to manage sites of local heritage and how to promote their historical significance to the public.

A study of an issue of international significance.

Terrorism: its causes and consequences. You will investigate the origins of terrorism and investigate its significance and impact on our world today.

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE Religious Studies Short Course (Philosophy and Ethics)

Why I Study RP?

Religion is all around you.

It is in school, at home, in books, in newspapers, on television, and in your local and global community.

Religious Studies - Philosophy and Ethics goes deeper than looking at the beliefs and practices of religious believers, it looks at ethical issues, which you will face at sometime in your life. These include issues surrounding relationships, sex, life and death, equality and the environment. By looking at these topics you will be able to make sensible and informed decisions in the future.

Philosophy and Ethics encourages you to ask questions and form opinions of your own, but also shows you that you need to justify your position if you challenge someone's belief. To do this, you will develop skills in critical reading and forming an argument that is based upon sound facts. You will improve your questioning and listening skills, which will help you in your GCSEs, further studies and in getting a job.

REMEMBER

If you are considering 'A/S or A' at Cirencester College RS counts as one of the five!

Religious Studies (**Philosophy and Ethics**) will allow you to consider those controversial issues that are important to you, and will help you go through your life showing tolerance and understanding to the world around you. All students study this subject and you will have started the course in Year 9.

You will cover the following topics:

Topic	Title
1.	Religion and Human Relationships
2.	Religion - Equality, Poverty and Wealth
3.	Religion – Life and Death Issues
4.	Religion and the Environment

How Will I Learn?

You will learn the units through a variety of ways. There will be thinking skills, discussions, debates, creative and enquiry work. A wide range of resources will be used in lessons.

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE Religious Studies Short Course (Philosophy and Ethics)

Contacts

Miss Hope – RP Co-ordinator
 Miss Quinn – RP Teacher
 Mr Johnson – Head of Citizenship

How Will I be Assessed?

Remember that staff will always make time to help you BEFORE and AFTER your exam. If you need extra help... just ask.

At the end of Year 10 you will have one examination.

Component	Title	Duration	Weighting
1	Religion and Life Issues	1 hour 45 minutes	50%

ASSESSMENT and HOMEWORK

Homework offers opportunities for preparation, completion, extension and consolidation of work done in class, as well as for individual research. Homework enables you to develop a sense of self-discipline and self-motivation, and the opportunity to expand your learning. You will sit end of unit tests from past papers.

What will I get at the end of the course?

You will gain a GCSE grade A*-G qualification in WJEC GCSE Religious Studies short course B.

What will I do with the qualification?

You are able to progress to study RP at a higher level if you wish. It would be useful for other subjects, such as Philosophy and Ethics.

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages

Why Should I Study Languages?

- If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying a language GCSE is an excellent choice for you.
- Knowledge of a foreign language and how to learn it is not only a useful GCSE qualification; it is also something many future employers and higher education providers, such as Sixth Form Colleges or Universities look for.
- If you think there is a chance you will **travel abroad**, **meet someone from a different country** or be **looking for employment** in the next few years, you will get much more respect if you can make yourself understood in someone else's language.
- A poll by the exam board OCR found that more than 90% of adults want their children to learn a language. 8 out of 10 Britons said they wished they could speak a foreign language better.
- The Director of CILT, the national centre for languages, believes that, "Britain needs fluent linguists. Employers want evidence of good communication and analytical skills, confidence and outward-looking attitudes, so a language qualification is an important addition to anyone's CV. It's incredibly important to ensure our young people have as level a playing field as their European neighbours in this global market. By giving them the same skills as their contemporaries we are making them more employable."
- Many schools and 6th Form Colleges are offering the International Baccalaureate as well as, or instead of, A levels and this always has a language element
- Many university courses have either a language element or work experience abroad. Be sure you do not cut yourself off from your chosen pathway. Check ahead
- Above all, we live in a multicultural society where we need to understand and appreciate that other people in our country may have a different culture and language.

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages

What Will I Get At The End Of The Course?

- GCSE in French, German or Spanish, graded A* - G.

The Content

Out and About

Visitor information, Weather, Local amenities, Accommodation, Public transport, Directions

Customer Service

Cafes and restaurants, Shops, Dealing with problems

Personal Information

General interests, Leisure, Family and friends, Lifestyle

Future plans

Language of the internet, job adverts, job applications and CVs, School and college, Work and work experience

As you can see, much of this builds on what you have already covered in KS3.

You will expand, refine and strengthen your linguistic ability to ensure that you can confidently take your place in the world.

How will I learn?

- You will learn through the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, as you have done throughout KS3.
- We want to build your confidence to be able to understand and communicate in French, German or Spanish for everyday purposes and give your personal opinions.
- You will be taught 5 lessons per fortnight over the two years.
- You will have increased access to our Language Assistants to prepare you for the Speaking coursework and our suite of computers in L3 to prepare for the written coursework .
- There is a weekly Revision Top Up session always available to help you through.

How will I be assessed?

- Our Edexcel Specification has a simple modular structure, more accessible papers and better support for controlled assessment.
- You will have plenty of access to sample papers and will have a real feel for the exam before you take it in June 2013.
- The written and spoken coursework is prepared in school under controlled conditions within a specified length of time.
- Your Listening and Reading skills will be assessed at the end of Year 11 – halving the number of terminal examinations.

Please note you should have studied your chosen language in KS3.

Contacts

Miss Wright – Head of Languages (stlwright@deerparkschool.net) more information can be found on www.edexcel.com

- ☑ Level 1
- ☑ Level 2

GCSE Drama

Why Should I Study Drama?

Studying Drama will arm you with many skills that are used in everyday life beyond Deer Park.

- **COMMUNICATION** – the need to communicate ideas to people, to present yourself in different situations and with people who you may not be familiar with.
- **PRESENTATION** - being able to present yourself in situations such as interviews and presentations.
- **TEAM WORK** - being able to work as an efficient and reliable member of a team
- **ANALYSIS** - being able to think through a situation on the spot and decide the best course of action

As part of the course you will work with staff from Cirencester College and with professional performers. This will give you the opportunity to refine your performance skills.

You will be expected to:-

- 1 Take part in some sort of evening presentation
- 2 Go on at least one theatre trip

What Will I Get At The End Of The Course?

On successfully completing the course you will achieve a GCSE grade between A* and G.

Contact:

Mr Anzalone – Drama Co-ordinator

How Will I Learn?

The course will build upon the skills you have learned at Key Stage 3. It is a very practical subject, with 80% of the course involving practical Drama work both in a classroom situation and as performance work.

The exam is split into the following ways of working:-

- **Improvisation within class time 30%** - Normal class work from a theme.
- **Improvisation using a text 30%** - The practical study of a play script
- **Performance 40%** - The performance of prepared work in groups to an audience

Coursework for Drama involves work centred on the improvised units and a piece of evaluation of a live theatre performance - which will be arranged as part of the course. This work is **compulsory** and must be completed for you to pass the course. As with all coursework, this will be done in controlled conditions.

There is no final written exam in Drama because it is best assessed in a practical way.

How Will I Be Assessed?

You are assessed in three ways:-

You will be assessed in lesson time on **two** occasions

1. This is **Practical Class Work** and you are assessed on how you:

- Respond to an idea using drama skills
- Develop an idea using drama skills
- Evaluate your own work and that of others

You will be practically examined for 2 series of three 1 hour lessons. You will be expected to hand in a portfolio for each set of lessons. Each assessment, together with your coursework, will count for 30% of the marks (**60% in total**).

2. You are assessed on your **coursework**

3. You are assessed on the **performance** work you do

The remaining **40%** will be generated by a prepared performance that you will be expected to perform in front of an examiner. You will be assessed as an individual. There will be no group mark.

- ☑ Level 1
- ☑ Level 2

BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (Performance)

Why Should I Study BTEC Performing Arts?

Studying Performing Arts will provide you with many vocational skills that will serve you beyond Deer Park.

The qualification will provide you with a broad foundation which will help enable you to proceed into further training or education, or to consider employment in the performing arts world.

The course aims to give you a practical understanding of what a career in the performing arts world can entail, from business to performance, and it has a specific focus on combining three performing Arts disciplines: Drama, Dance and Music.

The structure of the course allows you to focus on your talents and interests and explore new areas, such as devising plays.

What Will I Get At The End Of The Course?

On successfully completing the course you will achieve 2 GCSE grades between A* and C.

Features

- ◆ QCA accredited NQF Level 2 work-related qualifications
- ◆ BTEC Level 2 extended certificate equivalent to 2 GCSEs grades A*-C
- ◆ It is made up of 3 units and is 100% Coursework

Advantages

- ◆ Prepares young people for careers in performing arts theatre and related sector
- ◆ Provides a broad educational base for further training, further education or for employment within performing arts
- ◆ Motivates learners via applied learning and assessment
- ◆ BTEC qualifications are recognised by employers and education institutions
- ◆ Provides a good progression route to more advanced qualifications eg BTEC Nationals & Diplomas

The 3 units that will be covered are:-

The Development of Drama (60 GLH)

Learners will understand about the development of drama, the key characteristics of drama and the structure it uses. They will also explore the process of putting a drama performance together.

Musical Theatre Performance (60 GLH)

Learners will develop their acting, music and dance skills and learn to combine them in the manner that they are used in Musical Theatre.

Performing Scripted Plays (60 GLH)

Learners will develop the skills to interpret a role was written by a playwright. Learners will rehearse a role within a group and perform it to an audience.

This course has a very strong performance element and emphasis on theatrical and stage technique.

Student Progression

BTEC Extended Certificates offer direct progression on to BTEC Diploma and National programmes. On completion of a BTEC Nationals, students can progress to a BTEC Higher National or BTEC Foundation Degree programme. A BTEC First also prepares students for employment in their chosen career.

- ☑ Level 1
- ☑ Level 2

GCSE Music

Why Should I Study Music?

Music GCSE is suitable for any pupil who enjoys music making. The course encourages you to develop your understanding and appreciation of a range of different kinds of music. Studying Music will give you opportunities to:

- Develop your compositional and arranging skills
- Learn how to use the music technology software Sibelius and Garageband
- Develop your instrumental skills
- Study music from different times, places and cultures

If you choose to follow the Music GCSE you will be examined through the Edexcel Exam Board specification.

Following the music course will enable you to develop broader life skills and attributes including critical and creative thinking, teamwork and leadership skills and the ability to work to long and short term deadlines.

Contacts

Miss Norman – Head of Expressive Arts
Mr Cook – Music Co-ordinator

To find out more about the structure and content of the course have a look at the Deer Park School Intranet site under the Expressive Arts Faculty.

How Will I Learn?

You will learn through a balance of practical tasks and study. For example, often a concept is learnt and explored through a practical task. During the course candidates will cover four areas of study:

- Western Classical Music 1600-1899
- Music in the 20th Century
- Popular Music in Context
- World Music

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is mostly coursework based and is a continual process.

30% Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition of 2 contrasting pieces with a total playing time not exceeding 5 minutes. • Written evaluation of composition process and connections with area of study. • Internally assessed, externally moderated
30% Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singing or playing a solo, accompanied or unaccompanied, with technical control, expression and interpretation. • Performing a significant individual part which is not doubled, in an ensemble. • Internally assessed, externally moderated
40% Listening and Appraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening paper (June of Year 11) - 1½ hours • Analysing and evaluating music using a musical terminology

What will I get at the end of the course?

If you are successful you will gain 1 GCSE (A* to G) in Music at the end of the course.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

The music GCSE can lead on to post 16 courses in Music and Music Technology at both AS and A2 level or BTEC (Level 3) Music Practice.

Level 1

Level 2

NCFE Music Technology

Why Should I Study Music Technology?

This NCFE vocational course is designed for those of you who are interested in music and the music industry and wish to develop and practice skills using a variety of sound equipment and software. By studying this qualification you will also explore the types of employment available within the industry. You will develop an awareness of business practice and employment skills.

To deliver the course the school has invested in a purpose built recording studio, suite of Apple Mac computers and digital recording software.

The course is structured in to separate units:

Mandatory units

- Set up and operate audio/MIDI sequencing software
- Create music using audio/MIDI sequencing software

Optional units

- Multi-track audio recording
- Use multi-track sound mixing techniques
- Using DJ Skills
- Dance Music Production
- Audio Editing
- Sound and music production
- Sound effects techniques for music production
- Microphone use in music production
- Location recording

Contacts

Mr Cook – Music Co-ordinator

How Will I Learn?

The course is very practical and you will have the opportunity to use all of the sound equipment needed to facilitate the process of recording. For example, you will know the answers to the following questions.

- Should I use a condenser or dynamic microphone?
- Where should I place the microphone for the best sound?
- What channel should I use on the mixing desk?
- Is the level of sound at the optimum level?

The qualification combines knowledge (things to learn) and skills (things you must learn to do).

How will I be assessed?

You will have to submit a portfolio of evidence at the end of the course showing that you have met all of the learning outcomes. Sources of evidence may include; recordings, video footage, written reports or teacher statements. Assembling the portfolio is a constant process throughout the duration of the course. You need to be a well organised person who can work independently as well as part of a team.

What will I get at the end of the course?

The course is structured in separate units. To achieve the Level 2 Extended Certificate in Music Technology you would need to successfully complete 2 mandatory units and 4 optional units. Upon successful completion of the course the qualification would be equivalent to two B grades at GCSE.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

The qualification aims to provide progression into:

- AS and A level Music Technology
- NVQs in Sound Engineering and Live Sound Work
- BTEC Music Technology Level 3

- Level 1
- Level 2

GCSE Physical Education – 3 Hours Practical – 2 Hours Theory

Why Should I Study PE?

If you enjoy or have a talent for sport, and if you are hard working and are willing to study thoroughly topics such as the Body Systems, Sponsorship, Methods of training and Drugs in Sport, then this is a course that you will find rewarding and challenging.

This subject covers both a practical and theoretical element which means it is an extremely varied and demanding course. The course is run over 5 hours during the fortnight and is split with 2 hours of theory and 3 hours of practical sessions.

Contacts

Mrs Hacker – Head of PE

How Will I Learn?

Within the practical course you will work to improve you own skills and use of tactics within a game situation. You will also learn to improve your coaching skills by working on your observation skills and knowledge of how people learn skills, to show improvement in yourself and others.

The theory aspect is classroom based but is also delivered practically at times. There is a lot of content to get through so be prepared for some serious studying.

How will I be assessed?

Your practical work, which is worth 60% of the final marks, is assessed internally at school. The theory aspect, worth 40% of the final marks, will end with a 1 ½ hour written exam.

What will I get at the end of the course?

If you are successful you will achieve one or two GCSE grade ranging from an A* - G.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

It will prepare you for further studies in PE or other related courses such as Physiotherapy, coaching, or work within the leisure industry. The facilities for sport are excellent in the County and this will improve further with the 2012 Olympics in London. There are numerous Academies that you can progress to such as Football Academies, the Rugby Academy at Hartpury College and the Golf Academy at Hartpury College.

Practical PE - 5 x Practical Sessions Per Fortnight

How Will I Learn?

You will have five hours of practical PE spread over the two week timetable. Two of the lessons will be taught as a double lesson to enable the faculty to access sporting facilities and coaches within the community eg: golf coach at Cirencester Golf Club, squash court at the Cotswold Leisure Centre and the fitness coaches at the RAC Gym. Within the other three lessons you will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of different sports over the 2 years. Also, you will experience coaching opportunities with primary pupils through the JSLA course, football and netball Young Leaders' Awards.

What Will I Get Out Of It At The End?

An opportunity to have a JSLA award, plus either a nationally recognised or school coaching award. Also you will have experienced a wide variety of sports which will prepare you for sports post school. Within the two years you will study activity in more depth and have different opportunities to coach, referee, organise tournaments and participate.

Level 1

Level 2

BTEC First in Sport

How will I learn?

This is a theoretical and practical course which is assessed on coursework and in practical situations. Four different units will be covered over the two years, two of which will be of a practical nature. You will work in a variety of ways: on your own, within a group situation or in pairs and you may present your work in a variety of different ways eg: reports, posters, work sheets and presentations.

How will I be assessed?

Your work is assessed totally on written coursework and has set deadlines throughout the course. A lot of this work will be covered within lessons. Your work will be graded as pass, merit or distinction. You will be awarded a grade based on the points that you collect for each piece. If any units are not completed you will fail the course.

What will I get at the end of the course?

Either one or two GCSEs from A* – C if the course is passed.

What will I be able to do with my qualification?

It will be a stepping stone to other BTEC qualifications, further education or for employment within the Leisure Industry.

Why should I study BTEC?

- If you enjoy sport and work best within a supportive environment in order to complete the course
- Also if you are organised and hardworking and would like to continue either further studies to do with sport or maybe a career to do with sport
- The subject is run over 5 hours a fortnight. Depending on the module, some lessons will be practical and some theoretical

Contact:

Miss Smith – PE Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator

Level 2

BTEC Workskills

Why Study BTEC Workskills?

This programme of study is for pupils interested in gaining extra skills in joining the careers market and gaining confidence, advice, information and experience in the various tasks required when you leave the school environment.

You will experience many of the tasks and opportunities to enable you to be confident in the adult wider world of work.

The course is very flexible and includes the opportunity to develop key skills such as your organisational skills and communication skills while allowing opportunities to develop real world work skills for when you leave school.

The tasks you complete are set with you in mind by staff in school and they are wide and varied.

What will I learn?

This qualification is very pupil centred so it will revolve round you. You will complete credits by completing challenges, providing a portfolio evidence of completion of all the activities you have undertaken.

You will need to demonstrate that you are competent in the following areas.

- Personal Financial Capability
- Working as a team
- Learning from work experience
- Planning for Enterprise

How Will I Learn?

You will be based in the school for the majority of the time. Often you will work in different size groups (and on your own). You will learn through practical work, research and with visitors from outside organisations and business. Some of the outside agencies will deliver financial advice experience and help develop skills for employability such as applying for Jobs and managing personal and business finances.

BTEC Workskills



Level 2

How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is assessed on a continuous basis, so you can monitor your success as you progress through the course. Each unit is structured so you can see what you have to do to achieve the credit at the end of the unit. Each unit will be monitored and moderated internally by your teacher which will be confirmed by an external assessor.

There are no exams involved in this qualification but you will have to build evidence to keep a record of what you have achieved. This evidence can come in many forms and may be written, photographic, illustrative or via teacher observation. The nature of the evidence for each unit will be discussed with your teacher.

This qualification is very much focused on the ability to achieve things and the ability for you to demonstrate that you are competent in completing the challenges given to you in each unit of work.

This qualification is highly recognised as part of the BTEC family of qualifications and provides a good route for progression towards a variety of Level 2 and 3 qualifications in Further and Higher education.

Contact

Mr Johnson – Citizenship and PSHE Co-ordinator
Mrs Greenaway – Course Leader

What will I get at the end of the course?

The BTEC Workskills qualification is a Level 2 and is equivalent to GCSE grades A* to C.