
Introduction



Dear Students, Parents & Carers

In this booklet you will find all the information that is relevant to the Year 8 Options & Careers process. In March 2018, you will choose the Key Stage 4 courses that you will study throughout years 9, 10 and 11. The subjects you choose could influence the courses that you then take at Key Stage 5 as well as the next steps you take to an apprenticeship, a university course and employment. So it is vitally important that you consider carefully the choices you are about to make.

Please take advantage of all the activities provided and the information given in assemblies, tutor time, PSHE, and at the Year 8 Parents Evening/ Options Information Evening which takes place on **Thursday 8th March 2018**. Talking to your parents/carers, tutor, teachers and Head of Year will also help you make your decisions.

This booklet outlines the curriculum offer and the choices open to you, as well as information about each subject and qualification.

If parents/carers would like to discuss or raise any questions about the options process before Options Evening, please contact Mr Harris via s.harris@rushden-academy.net or c.brotherston@rushden-academy.net alternatively you can discuss further with your form tutor.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Harris
Head of Year 8

Mr C Brotherston
Head of CEIAG

The Options Process

Learning For Life Day Focus on careers	Tuesday 30th January
Initial Options Assembly Outlining the process to students	Thursday 1st February
Launch of options booklet online.	Thursday 1st February
Assembly Link Learning for Life Day and Parents' Evening	Thursday 8th February
Year 8 Parents Evening	Thursday 8th February
1:1 Meetings	Week beginning 19th February
Chance for all students to meet with Staff to discuss options & careers	
Year 8 Options Information Evening/ Careers Evening	Thursday 8th March
An opportunity for parents/carers to discuss options courses course with teachers and to finalise decisions based on the latest progress and attitude data. SEND and careers guidance will be available.	
Deadline for Options Form to be handed in to form tutor.	Friday 16th March

Students will be informed of the options they have been allocated by 1st June.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum meeting the needs of Team Rushden. We aim to ensure as many students as possible get the choices they have made. This is not however a guarantee. If numbers are low, some courses may not run. This is why we ask students to pick a reserve subject. Students and parents/carers will be contacted if there are particular issues well in advance of the completed process.

The Curriculum Model

The majority of pupils follow the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) route. Every pupil studies:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science: Trilogy
- Core PE

In addition to this, students have 4 free choices, one from Option Block A, one from option Block B, one from Option Block C and one from Option Block D as shown in the table below:

Option Block A	Option Block B
GCSE History GCSE Geography GCSE French GCSE Computer Science GCSE Triple Science	GCSE Drama GCSE Religious Studies GCSE Statistics GCSE History Vocational Sport Vocational Business Vocational ICT
Option Block C	Option Block D
GCSE Art & Design GCSE Geography GCSE Dance Vocational Travel & Tourism Vocational Music Vocational Business	GCSE French GCSE Drama GCSE Business GCSE Dance Vocational Sport Vocational Food & Nutrition Vocational Childcare

Some students may benefit from extra English and Maths lessons so, rather than studying for 9 level 2 courses, they may only study 8 courses so we can support them in getting 8 quality grades. We have an opportunity to discuss this further at parents evening on the 8th February.

Qualifications

GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education

These are academic qualifications which are required to be followed in order to progress to A Levels, Post, 16 vocational courses and apprenticeships. They are graded on 1-9 (9 being the highest). They are assessed by exams only. A standard 5 is considered to be a good pass.

Vocational qualifications lead to a range of Post 16 courses, apprenticeships and employment. They are assessed by coursework and exam. You can gain a Pass, Merit or Distinction, where a pass is equivalent to a standard 4/5 at GCSE.

Hair & Beauty and Construction are additional options that may be suitable for some students. If you wish to be considered for these options you will need to speak with Mr Harris to register your interest for these courses.

How to choose your options

Do

- Pick subjects that are your strength. Which subjects are you good at? Read your reports and ask your subject teachers.
- Pick subjects you think you'll enjoy? It is important that you choose subjects that will keep you interested.
- Find out as much information as possible about each course.
- Come along to the Options and Careers Information Evening with questions to ask teachers about subjects you are interested in.
- Choose courses in which you are likely to succeed.
- Look carefully at the balance of subjects being considered. Some subjects will require more reading and writing than others whereas some subjects offer a practical element e.g. Art, Drama and Music.

Don't

- Don't select subjects just because your friend is - there is no guarantee you will be in the same class.
- Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher. Most subjects have more than one teacher, you are choosing the subject not the teacher.

You will get a final chance to make sure you have chosen the right subjects for you on Options and Careers Evening on 8th March. Your tutor and other key staff will be available to support you with those last minute decisions.

Staff Contacts

Staff Member	Email Address
Mr S Harris Head of Year 8 Mr C Brotherston Head of CEIAG Computing & Business	s.harris@rushden-academy.net c.brotherston@rushden-academy.net
Miss E Green Head of English Mrs S Evans Head of Mathematics Mr A Johnson Head of Science Mr B Street Head of Physical Education Mrs K Peel Head of AD & T Mr R Berardi Teacher of Business Mrs J Ede Head of Performing Arts Mrs G Brainwood Head of Languages Mrs C Johnson Head of Humanities	e.green@rushden-academy.net s.evans@rushden-academy.net a.johnson@rushden-academy.net b.street@rushden-academy.net k.peel@rushden-academy.net r.berardi@rushden-academy.net j.ede@rushden-academy.net g.brainwood@rushden-academy.net c.johnson@rushden-academy.net

Compulsory Subjects

The following pages give further information about the courses all students will take.

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Core)
- Physical Education (Core) (non-examined)

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) English Language

Website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/english-language-2015.htm>

QAN 601/4836/6

What will I learn?

You will be given ample opportunity to develop skills in interpreting and evaluating a diverse range of texts within the reading component of this specification. This will include extracts from both 19th century fiction and a range of non-fiction genres.

You will also learn to examine the writer's craft and apply your understanding to your own writing. Your teacher will help you develop the skills needed to write effectively for different purposes and audiences; this will include both fiction and non-fiction writing.

In addition, you will develop confidence through spoken language presentations.

What do you need from me?

An enquiring mind - you will need to be ready to make judgements as to whether what you read can be taken at face value.

Attention to detail – accurate writing and use of Standard English is vitally important in this subject.

Creativity and imagination – you need to be ready to develop your ideas in reading, writing and spoken language.

What skills will I develop?

Ability to read critically, expressing personal opinions and evaluative judgements in an academic style. Fluency in both reading and writing. Keen proof-reading and editing skills.

How will I be assessed?

Two examination papers make up 100% of the mark. There is also a spoken language endorsement.

Paper 1 – Fiction and Imaginative Writing

Paper 2 – Non Fiction and Transactional Writing

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A good pass in GCSE English Language is a requirement for a range of courses. In addition, A-Level English Language and English Literature are on offer at a range of sixth form colleges. The East Northamptonshire College offers two A-Levels:

A Level English Language and Literature

A Level English Literature

Possible careers

Journalist, writer, teacher, editor, advertising, public relations.

Any future career will require a good grounding in English Language

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) English Literature

Website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/english-literature-2015.html>

QAN 601/4789/1

What will I learn?

You will study some of the greatest works in English Literature including a play by William Shakespeare, 19th Century fiction, Post 1914 drama and a collection of poetry.

Throughout the English Literature course, you will explore the importance of context when considering the author's intentions in writing a text as well as developing your ability to critically evaluate what you read.

What do you need from me?

Motivation and interest – you need to be motivated and interested to make the necessary links between context and literary texts.

Precision of expression – it is important that you use words to express your exact opinions and thoughts about what you read.

Critical judgement – you need to be able to evaluate what you read and be critical, explaining why writers are not always successful in their intentions.

What skills will I develop?

Ability to read critically, expressing personal opinions and evaluative judgements in an academic style.

Contextual understanding of how politics and historical events can influence writers and their subject matter.

Ability to make inferences, comparative judgements and analyse literary language precisely.

How will I be assessed?

Two examination papers make up 100% of the mark.

Paper 1 – Shakespeare and Post-1914 Drama

Paper 2 – 19th Century fiction and Poetry (including unseen poetry)

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A-Level English Language and English Literature are on offer at a range of sixth form colleges. The East Northamptonshire College offers two A-Levels:

A Level English Language and Literature

A Level English Literature

Possible careers

Teacher, editor, writer, literary researcher, critic, acting and other stage careers.

Ability to read and interpret text will support a diverse range of future careers.

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics

Course student Book:

Edexcel GCSE Maths Foundation ISBN 978-0-19-835150-4

Edexcel GCSE Maths Higher ISBN 978-0-19-835151-1

Website: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

QAN 601/4700/3

What will I learn?

There are 5 main topics within the math's curriculum, number, algebra, ratio, proportion, geometry and probability. Not only will you develop your numeracy skills, but will be able to use these skills for problem solving leading to mastery skills.

What do you need from me?

A thirst for learning new things, a willingness to develop personal skills and determination to succeed and achieve.

What skills will I develop?

Numeracy skills, problem solving, logically thinking.

These numeracy skills will help in other subjects across curriculum, for example Geography, Science, Computer Science and Business.

How will I be assessed?

There will be 3 exam papers, 1 non calculator and 2 calculator papers.

All papers are 1 hour and 30 mins long and will be worth 80 marks each.

There are 2 tiers, foundation and higher:

Foundation – number makes up 25% of the exam, algebra 20%, ratio, 25%, geometry 15% and probability 15%

Higher - number makes up 15% of the exam, algebra 30%, ratio, 20%, geometry 20% and probability 15%

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Core maths students who achieve standard 4, 5 or 6

A level maths students who achieve a standard 7

Further maths students who achieve a standard 8 or 9

Possible careers

All college courses and employers will be looking for at least a grade 4 in mathematics at GCSE. Possible careers – here are just a few examples of jobs that would need a good grade at GCSE in mathematics, Accountant, Data Analyst, Teachers, Financial Traders, Insurance underwriter, working in ICT.

Official Course Name Combined Science

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>

Course student Book:

AQA GCSE (9-1) Biology for Combined Science ISBN 0008175047

AQA GCSE (9-1) Physics for Combined Science ISBN 0008175063

AQA GCSE (9-1) Chemistry for Combined Science ISBN 0008175055

QAN 601/8758/X

What will I learn? CORE Science is taught as combined Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs. You will explore living things, natural resources and the way we use them. You will apply this knowledge and understanding to ethical issues. You are encouraged to consider how science may affect you in everyday life and to explore and research these topics in great depth. There is a higher demand for strong Math skills in this new course.

What do you need from me?

Hard work, everyone has to do this course if they don't do separate science.

A passion and enthusiasm for Science

What skills will I develop?

To analyse and evaluate scientific issues.

Development of practical skills.

Debating science issues and formulating ideas.

Formulate opinions on ethical issues.

Additional reading on contemporary science issues.

How will I be assessed? 100% Examination (*Each science is taught, examined and awarded separately*)

Potential progression at Sixth Form If you complete the higher tier exams:

A Level Biology. A Level Chemistry. A Level Physics.

Possible careers

Medical Research, Medicine or Dentistry.

Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industry.

Physics research.

Computing and electronics

What will I learn?

Once you reach Year 9, you have an idea about what activities you like more than others, and we allow you to choose a “pathway” based on your preferred activities. Typically there are “games-based” pathways that include traditional school team sports such as football, netball, and basketball or “individual-based” pathways that include activities that you perform on your own. Within each pathway are options for groups to choose, with their teacher, activities that they would like to pursue that they may not have covered before. Examples of these may include Australian Rules Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Inclusive Sports, Tchoukball, as well as other Fitness activities.

What do you need from me?

Students must take part in core PE and it is an expectation that students have correct kit and are “Ready to Present” for each lesson.

A positive attitude to taking part is essential, we aim to make PE as enjoyable as possible, and being prepared to do anything is an important part of this.

What skills will I develop?

As well as the core skills and tactics of the activities you choose, you will learn a wide range of “soft-skills” that enable you be successful in more areas than just PE. Team-work and leadership skills for example will be developed as you work with others to personalise your PE journey and improve your performance.

How will I be assessed?

There is no exam or assignments in core PE, however, you will still be assessed by your teacher. This assessment is ongoing and geared to making improvements in your performance in every single lesson.

Optional GCSE & Vocational Subjects

The following pages give further information about the courses students can choose as an option.

Option Block A	Option Block B
GCSE History GCSE Geography GCSE French GCSE Computer Science GCSE Triple Science	GCSE Drama GCSE Religious Studies GCSE Statistics GCSE History Vocational Sport Vocational Business Vocational ICT
Option Block C	Option Block D
GCSE Art & Design GCSE Geography GCSE Dance Vocational Travel & Tourism Vocational Music Vocational Business	GCSE French GCSE Drama GCSE Business Vocational Sport Vocational Food & Nutrition Vocational Childcare

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel Level1/Level2 GCSE (9-1) in Art, Craft and Design

Website:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Art%20and%20Design/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/GCSE_ArtDesign_Spec_2016.pdf

QAN 601/8069/9

This course also offers alternative pathways such as Three Dimensional Design please discuss these options with members from the AD & T Department, or alternatively view the specification link above.

What will I learn?

You will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of media and processes both 3D and 2D. You will have the opportunity to explore working in different media by producing work using: pencils, paints, clay, wire, photography, textiles, print making, as well as completing large and small scale work. Exploration of art through investigation and experimentation is documented in sketchbooks and throughout the portfolio you will create whilst on the GCSE course.

Alongside your practical work, you will undertake research into a range of artists and artistic practices to help inform your own progress.

What do you need from me?

- An ability to draw from first hand observation.
- Strong and sound motor skills.
- Reasonable level of literacy.
- Ability to keep up to date with work.
- Enthusiasm for the subject.

What skills will I develop?

- Creative and imaginative ability and practical skills.
- Investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretative capabilities.
- Cultural understanding of art and design and of the media and technologies used.

How will I be assessed?

60% Coursework 40% Practical Examination

Both elements are assessed on 4 assessment objectives:

- AO1: Develop
- AO2: Refine
- AO3: Observe
- AO4: Present

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A Level Art A level Textiles Graphic Design

Possible careers

Architecture Games Designers
Jewellery Design Graphic Designer

Official Course Name AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Business

Course student Book:

AQA GCSE (9-1) Business, Second Edition ISBN 978-1-4718-9938-6

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business-subjects/gcse/business-8132>

QAN 603/0304/9

What will I learn?

You will consider the practical application of business concepts. The units provide opportunities to explore theories and concepts in the most relevant way, through the context of events in the business and economic world.

What do you need from me?

Good communication skills, including digital literacy.

Good extended writing skills. Interest in Business.

The ability to ask questions about Business.

Ability to research.

Staying up to date with current news stories.

A determination to succeed and meet deadlines.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn about business concepts, business terminology, business objectives, the integrated nature of business activity and the impact of business on individuals and wider society. You will apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary business issues and to different types and sizes of businesses in local, national and global contexts. You will further develop as an enterprising individual with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen, and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems. You will develop as effective and independent students, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. You will use an enquiring, critical approach to make informed judgments while also investigating and analysing real business opportunities and issues to construct well-argued, well evidenced, balanced and structured arguments, demonstrating your depth breadth of understanding of business. You will finally develop and apply quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination 2 papers of 1 hour and 45 minutes each both looking at Business skills, terminology and case studies.

Potential progression at Sixth Form

BTEC Level 3 Business, A Level Business.

Possible careers

We live in a corporate world and the markets operate around us constantly. Because of this, business is a universal subject. There are few, if any, careers for which an understanding of business would not be of some benefit.

Vocational Course Business

What will I learn?

This course covers the essential knowledge and skills required in the business sector such as, branding and promotion, customer service, sales, retail business, recruitment and career development, and business support. It will provide you with the opportunity to develop materials and activities to meet the needs of both local and national employers.

What do you need from me?

Learners will be required to reflect on the learning experiences they have encountered throughout their course of study. They will be assessed on their knowledge, skills and understanding of key areas of the Business sector and also on how they have applied this knowledge and understanding to their own work.

What skills will I develop?

You will have opportunities to develop the communication skills needed for working in the business sector, as you progress through the course. This can be achieved through presentations and in discussions where you have the opportunity to express your opinions.

How will I be assessed? You will be assessed by a mixture of both internal and external assessments.

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Level 3 BTEC Business Certificate/Extended Certificate A Level Business

Possible careers

We live in a corporate world and the markets operate around us constantly. Because of this, business is a universal subject. There are few, if any, careers for which an understanding of business would not be of some benefit.

What will I learn?

You will learn about aspects of child development from birth to age 8. This will include looking at how children learn through exploration, which forms the basis of early years frameworks, such as the Early Years Foundation Stage, (England). You will also look at inclusive practice and empowering children.

What do you need from me?

An interest in learning about and working with children.

To be able to work independently to complete tasks.

To be able to meet deadlines consistently.

What skills will I develop?

Communication skills such as extended writing and drafting.

Critical skills of analysis, team working, planning, working from a prescribed brief.

Working to deadlines, presenting information effectively, accurately completing tasks and processes.

Study skills such as research and time management.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by both external examinations and assignments that are marked by your class teacher.

Potential progression at Sixth Form

BTEC Nationals in Children's Play, Learning and Development.

Possible careers

Early Years Educator, Child psychologist, Nursery Nurse, all careers which involve contact with children.

Official Course Name AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Computer Science

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science-and-it/gcse/computer-science-8520>

Course student Book:

AQA 9-1 Computer Science for GCSE Student Book ISBN-13: 978-1-4718-6619-7

QAN 601/8301/9

What will I learn?

The examined unit will help you understand digital devices and logic systems. You will develop an awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies and the global impact of computing. The controlled assessment will allow you to demonstrate your research ability, analysis of problems, and evaluation skills.

The programming project will assess your understanding of standard programming techniques to create a coded solution, fully annotated to explain its function, and tested to show how it meets design criteria.

What do you need from me?

Confident maths and digital literacy skills.
Logical problem solving.
Good communication skills.
Interest in technology.
Determined to succeed and meet deadlines.

What skills will I develop?

Computational thinking, problem solving, code tracing and applied computing as well as theoretical knowledge of computer science. You will also focus and develop your skills in the following subject areas: Fundamentals of algorithms, Programming, Fundamentals of data representation, Computer systems, Fundamentals of cyber security & Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy.

How will I be assessed?

80% Exam over two 1 hour 30 minute papers (40% each) and 20% Controlled Assessment.

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Level 3 BTEC IT – Double. A Level Computing / Computer Science. A Level Sciences

Possible careers

Computer Systems Engineering, Software Engineering, Web design, Game / App programming & Network manager.

AS THIS COURSE REQUIRES A HIGH LEVEL OF MATHEMATICAL AND LOGICAL SKILL. MR BROTHERSTON WILL DISCUSS YOUR INTEREST IN THIS COURSE IN AN INTERVIEW IF YOU WISH TO STUDY THIS COURSE.

Official Course Name AQA GCSE (9-1) in Dance

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236>

QAN 601/8549/1

What will I learn?

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages you to develop your creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity. The study of Dance contributes to pupils aesthetic and social development as it promotes fitness and wellbeing. This course covers physical and expressive technique, performance and choreography, working in a range of dance styles. It also allows you the opportunity to study a wide range of diverse professional dance works.

You will be required to present solo performance and work as a group, producing original choreography in the style of contemporary dance and a style of your choosing.

What do you need from me?

Good level of artistic ability.
Enthusiasm and willingness to learn.
Willingness to perform in front of an audience.
Desire to explore and try new styles.
Commitment and team work.

What skills will I develop?

Physical
Expressive
Technical
Communication.
Choreography
Presentation
Analysis and Evaluation

How will I be assessed?

60% Assessment 40% Examination

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Dance A-Level, BTEC Performing Arts

Possible careers

Dancer performer, Choreographer, Dance Teacher, Physical Therapist, Arts Administrator

Official Course Name OCR GCSE (9-1) in Drama

Website: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-drama-j316-from-2016/>

QAN 601/8975/7.

What will I learn?

This is a practical, engaging and creative subject to study and it provides opportunities to understand and create drama as a practical art form. You will explore a range of texts and create original devised performances and showcase your work regularly in front of an audience. You will work in a number of different styles, including physical theatre and also have an opportunity to visit theatres to watch live theatre by professionals in the industry.

What do you need from me?

Willingness to perform in front of an audience.
Willingness to explore and try new styles.
Commitment and team work.
Good level of literacy.
The ability to give and receive constructive criticism.
Determination to produce work to the highest standards.

What skills will I develop?

Performance.
Communication.
Devising.
Team work.
Text analysis.
Social awareness.
Presentation.
Organisation.

How will I be assessed?

60% Assessment 40% Examination

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts (Acting) & A-Level Drama

Possible careers

Actor Stage Manager Director Theatre in Education Drama Therapist

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel Level1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in French

Course student Book:

Studio for Edexcel (9-1) French Higher ISBN 978 1292 117836

Studio for Edexcel (9-1) French Foundation ISBN 978 1292 117829

Website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.html>

QAN 601/87086/5650

What will I learn?

GCSE French is an engaging and inspiring course which enables students to manipulate and use the target language effectively, independently and creatively. The course covers both familiar and new topics across five themes: Identity and Culture; Local Area, Holiday and Travel; School; Future aspirations, Study and Work; International and Global Dimension. The authentic resources enable students to see language in context and learn about the culture of the French speaking world.

What do you need from me?

Enthusiasm for languages and learning about the cultures of other countries.

Good levels of literacy.

A Growth Mindset – the willingness to keep trying and practicing.

Regular learning of vocabulary.

What skills will I develop?

To be able to understand and respond to a variety of texts, questions and real-life scenarios in a foreign language.

Problem solving & Analytical skills

Appreciation of other cultures

An understanding of how languages work

Communication skills

How will I be assessed?

100% exam across four skills/papers: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (25% per paper)

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A Level French

Possible careers

Teacher, Translator/ Interpreter, Leisure/ Travel / Tourism, working for international companies

What will I learn

Vocational food and nutrition is designed to provide pupils with the skills, knowledge and understanding of using different cooking techniques and methods required for further study, apprenticeships or a career in food. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing your practical cookery skills to give you a strong understanding of nutrition and food preparation skills.

What do you need from me?

An interest in food and trying new foods.
An interest in investigation and development.
An interest in nutrition.
A good level of written English and written communication.
A good ability in cooking.

What skills will I develop?

Prepare and cook food using basic skills
Understand food and its functions in the body and in recipes
Understand balanced diets and modification of recipes
Plan and produce dishes for a purpose
Ensure a safe and hygienic environment

How will I be assessed?

Preparing to cook – internally assessed portfolio of evidence
Understanding food - internally assessed portfolio of evidence
Exploring balanced diets – externally assessed through a 2 hour written paper
Plan and produce dishes in response to a design brief - internally assessed portfolio of evidence

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A-level Food Technology.
Level 2 Safe Food Hygiene Certificate.

Possible careers

Food scientist. Nutritionist and Dietician. Sports and Leisure. Catering-Chef, Restaurants. Food and Retail Industry.

Official Course Name AQA Level1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Geography

Course student Book:

AQA GCSE 9-1 Geography ISBN 978-1-5992-2
GCSE Geography AQA ISBN 978-0-19-836661-4

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

QAN 601/8410/3

What will I learn?

GCSE Geography is an inspiring course which allows you to explore your place in the world, your values and responsibilities to other people and to the environment. The course includes a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments and hazards. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect, shape and change our world. The course will also involve you carrying out several fieldwork investigations.

What do you need from me?

The ability to ask questions about the world around you.
Good extended writing skills.
Ability to research.
Staying up to date with current news stories.

What skills will I develop?

Communication and presentation skills.
Independent researching.
Effective team work.
Time management.
Combining information from a variety of sources.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam spread across three papers:
Paper 1 – Living with the Physical environment 35%
Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human environment 35%
Paper 3 – Geographical Applications 30%

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A Level Geography A Level Sociology A Level Government and Politics.
A Level Citizenship Studies.

Possible careers

City/town planning Tourism Officer Meteorologist
Land and water management Geologist

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in History

Course student Book:

Edexcel GCSE History (9-1) Anglo Saxon and Norman England, c1060-1088 ISBN 978-1-292-12723-1
Edexcel GCSE History (9-1) Medicine through time, c1250 ISBN 978-1-292-12737-8
Edexcel GCSE History (9-1) Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939 ISBN 978-1-292-12734-7
Edexcel GCSE History (9-1) The American West, c1835-c1895 ISBN 978-1-292-12730-9

Website: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

QAN 601/8069/9

What will I learn?

In British Thematic Study with Historical Environment you will learn about the history of Medicine through time from 1250 to the present day. This includes looking at the British sector of the Western Front: Injuries, treatment and the trenches. For the Period Study you will learn about The American West. In the British Depth Study you will learn about Anglo Saxon and Norman England and finally for the Modern Depth Study you will learn about The Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany, 1918-39.

What do you need from me?

Good written communication.
The ability to use a range of evidence.
Excellent reasoning skills.
A keen interest in historical inquiry.
Good retention of facts and figures.

What skills will I develop?

How to analyse and use primary and secondary source materials.
How to explain and analyse historical events and periods.
Articulate writing techniques
Research skills.
Recognising and explaining different interpretations.
Placing single events in a greater historical context.

How will I be assessed?

100 % Examination
Paper 1 – Medicine through Time and the Historical Environment 30%
Paper 2 – Anglo Saxon and Norman England and the American West 40%
Paper 3 – Nazi Germany 30%

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A Level History A Level Government and Politics A Level Philosophy/ Ethics.

Possible careers

Museum curatorship Archivist Archaeology Research and analysis Civil services.

Vocational Course Information Communication Technology

What will I learn?

We use computers all the time, but what makes them work? How do all the pieces fit together? What is an IT system? How are IT systems created? Vocational ICT will allow learners to investigate these questions and find answers to them. Learners will find out how to make IT systems secure from the common threats that affect so many systems these days. They'll also learn how to configure IT systems so that they meet user requirements.

What do you need from me?

Learners will be required to reflect on the learning experiences they have encountered throughout their course of study. They will be assessed on their knowledge, skills and understanding of key areas of the IT industry and also on how they have applied this knowledge and understanding to their own work.

What skills will I develop?

During this course you will further develop your digital literacy skills vital in most careers in today's world and gain an understanding of how computers work looking at both hardware and software elements of a computer system.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by a mixture of both internal and external assessments.

Potential progression at Sixth Form

Level 3 BTEC IT Extended Certificate

Five possible careers

Network Manager, Computer Systems Engineering, Network Technician, Web designer, Office based IT work.

What will I learn?

You will learn about a range of areas to do with music production, performance and the industry. This is a practical course that will allow you to develop your performance skills as well as learn about what it takes to produce a concert or CD and different roles within the industry.

What do you need from me?

To be enthusiastic about music.
Regular focused practice.
Ability to work with others.
Have an interest in all elements of music and its production.
The ability to perform in front of your peers.

What skills will I develop?

Music theory.
Solo performance skills.
General musicianship skills.
Composition skills.
Ensemble Skills.
Teamwork Skills.
Organizational Skills.

How will I be assessed?

75% Internal Assessment 25% External Assessment

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A-Level Music, A-Level Music Technology, BTEC music.

Possible careers

Teaching	Radio Presenter	Sound Engineer	Musician	Composer Producer
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What will I learn?

This course will provide you with an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of sport and PE through various units of work. You will explore the fitness required for excellence in sport, the practical elements of performance and analysis to succeed in sport, the effects of exercise on the sports performer in action and how to lead a sporting activity. You will also look at the historical and social contexts of sport and PE.

What do you need from me?

An interest and desire to study and take part in sport and PE.

An understanding that the course is significantly theory based, however this is taught through practical sessions wherever possible.

To be able to work independently to complete tasks.

To be able to meet deadlines consistently.

What skills will I develop?

To plan and carry out research on different topics.

To explore various aspects of sport, looking at current and past issues.

To use extended writing to complete assessment tasks.

To develop your practical, leadership and organisational skills.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by both external examination set by awarding bodies and assignments that are marked by your class teacher.

Potential progression at Sixth Form

BTEC Nationals in Sport.

A-Level Physical Education

Possible careers

PE teacher

Physiotherapy

Sports Coaching

Occupational Therapy

Sports Journalism and Photography

Official Course Name Edexcel GCSE 9-1 Religious Studies B

Course student Book:

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B Religion and Ethics: Christianity ISBN 978-1-292-13932-6
Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B Religion, Peace and Conflict: Islam ISBN 978-1-292-13936-4

Website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-b-2016.html>

QAN 603/0063/2

What will I learn?

GCSE RE is an inspiring course which allows you to explore the beliefs and practices of different people in the society in which we live. You will be able to examine two key religions, Christianity and Islam as well as discuss and debate the ethical issues we face as we grow into young citizens of the world. You will cover ideas about living a religious lifestyle and the key beliefs of both religions as well as debating questions about evil and suffering, the death penalty, Euthanasia and weapons of mass destruction.

What do you need from me?

The ability to articulate your opinions.
The willingness to listen to other perspectives.
Good extended writing skills.
Ability to research.
Staying up to date with current news stories.

What skills will I develop?

An awareness of the world we live in.
Communication and presentation skills.
Effective team work.
Time management.
Combining information from a variety of sources.
Making judgements.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam spread across two papers:
Paper 1 – Religion and ethics: Christianity
Paper 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict: Islam

Potential progression at Sixth Form

A Level Philosophy and Ethics A Level Sociology A Level History A Level Law

Possible careers

Teacher Social Work Police Law

Official Course Name Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Statistics

Website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/statistics-2017.resources.html>

QAN 603/1084/4

What will I learn?

There are 3 main topics:

- Collection of data
- Processing, representing and analyzing data
- Probability

What do you need from me?

A thirst for learning new things, a willingness to develop personal skills and determination to succeed and achieve.

What skills will I develop?

The GCSE statistics qualification incorporates numerous examples of real-life data and contexts, which build skills that students will use in other subjects, such as science and Geography.

Based on the principles of statistics, students gain a rounded understanding of how to interpret and apply data to a number of scenarios, both across subjects and in the real world.

How will I be assessed?

There will be 2 exam papers, both calculator papers.

Both papers are 1 hour and 30 mins long and will be worth 80 marks each.

There are 2 tiers, foundation and higher.

The papers contain short, medium, and extended response questions.

Questions cover statistical methods, familiar and unfamiliar contexts and the component parts of statistical enquiry cycle.

Potential progression at Sixth Form

This will help support Sixth Form work in Geography, Sociology, Psychology, part of the Maths A level, Science

Possible careers

Possible careers – here are just a few examples of jobs that would need a good grade at GCSE in Statistics: Mathematician, Market Research, Scientist, Financial Analyst

What will I learn?

This course will inspire and enthuse you to consider a career in the travel and tourism sector and give you the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the industry.

What do you need from me?

An interest in learning about, and working in the travel and tourism industry.

To be able to work independently to complete tasks.

To be able to meet deadlines consistently.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop communication skills such as extended writing and drafting, critical skills of analysis, team working, planning, working from a prescribed brief, working to deadlines, presenting information effectively, accurately completing tasks and processes and study skills such as research and time management.

All these will support study at level 3 in any course chosen.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed by both external examinations set and marked by awarding bodies and assignments that are marked by your class teacher.

Potential progression at Sixth Form

BTEC Nationals

Possible careers

Travel and tourism industry, for example posts in travel agencies, visitor attractions and the tourist information centre, leisure and activity centres.

Official Course Name Biology Chemistry and Physics

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>

Course student Book:

AQA GCSE Chemistry ISBN 0008158762

AQA GCSE Biology ISBN 0008158754

AQA GCSE Physics ISBN 0008158770

QAN 601/8752/9 601/8757/8 601/8751/7

What will I learn?

Triple Science is taught as separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs. You will explore living things, natural resources and the way we use them. You will apply this knowledge and understanding to ethical issues. You are encouraged to consider how science may affect you in everyday life and to explore and research these topics in great depth. There is a higher demand for strong Math's in this new course.

What do you need from me?

High grades in Science

A passion and enthusiasm for Science.

A commitment to an extremely demanding course.

Excellent mathematics and English skills.

The aspiration to pursue a career in Science or the associated industries.

What skills will I develop?

To analyse and evaluate scientific issues.

Development of practical skills.

Debating science issues and formulating ideas.

Formulate opinions on ethical issues.

Additional reading on contemporary science issues.

How will I be assessed?

100% Examination (*Each science is taught, examined and awarded separately*)

Potential progression at Sixth Form A Level Biology. A Level Chemistry. A Level Physics.

Possible careers

Medical Research, Medicine or Dentistry.

Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industry.

Physics research.

Computing and electronics

AS THIS COURSE REQUIRES A HIGH LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC AND MATHEMATICAL SKILL MR JOHNSON WILL DISCUSS YOUR INTEREST IN THIS COURSE IN AN INTERVIEW IF YOU WISH TO STUDY THIS COURSE.