

RUTLISH SCHOOL



Curriculum & Options Information

2025 – 2027

The information contained in this booklet was correct at the time of publication.
However, it may be subject to change.

CONTENTS

	Page No.
CONTENTS	1
INTRODUCTION	2
THE OPTIONS PROCESS	3
WHY CONSIDER A VOCATIONAL COURSE?	4

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

English Language - GCSE	6
English Literature – GCSE	7
Mathematics - GCSE	8
Physical Education – Core	9
PSHE	10
Science Double - GCSE	11-12
Science Triple - GCSE	13-14
Religious Studies – GCSE	15-16

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Art & Design - GCSE	18
Computer Science – GCSE	19
Drama - GCSE	20
DT- GCSE	21
Economics - GCSE	22
Enterprise – BTEC	23-24
ESOL English skills for life	25
Food and Nutrition - GCSE	26
French - GCSE	27-29
Geography - GCSE	30-31
German - GCSE	32-34
History - GCSE	35-36
IMedia – OCR National	37
Media Studies - GCSE	38
Media Studies - BTEC	39
Music - GCSE	40
Performing Arts - BTEC	41-42
Physical Education – GCSE	43-44
Spanish – GCSE	45-47
Sport - BTEC	48

TIERED EXAMINATIONS IN GCSE	49
EXAMINATIONS BOARDS	50
HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS	51
OPTION SELECTION FORM	52

INTRODUCTION

Dear Student,

Your education will help prepare you to succeed in the rapidly changing world of work and leisure in the 21st Century. In the future, you will require a sound understanding of the fundamental skills in English, Mathematics and Science and to have developed into a multi-skilled, adaptable and flexible learner who is able to adapt to different jobs and careers during your working lifetime.

As you know, Rutlish and Ricards Lodge are a joint Sixth Form (RR6) and we very much hope that the choices you begin to make now will be part of your decision to stay with us in September 2027. This booklet aims to provide you with the information you need to make an informed choice; please read it well and share the process of choosing with your parents and your teachers. Once Options have been chosen and agreed, there is an obligation for you to study them for two years. This makes your choices very important. They must be the right choices for you and you will receive guidance from your tutors and teachers.

THE EBACC

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC) is a school accountability measure which encourages students to study a strong core of *academic* subjects. If you opt to follow the EBACC pathway, then you must opt to study a humanity (History or Geography) and a language (French, German or Spanish).

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths.

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST DECISION

- Read the Options Booklet carefully
- Choose subjects which you enjoy, are good at and which you are interested in
- Choose subjects that you will succeed in
- Speak to your current class teachers and listen to their advice on whether the subject is suitable for you
- Do not choose a subject just because a friend is doing it, or because of the teacher who might teach it
- Find out which subjects are necessary for particular courses in Further and Higher Education and/or for particular careers
- Take care when choosing options that have a high percentage of coursework or preparation for controlled tests, think about the time this will take
- Talk with your parents/carers, other informed adults and other students
- Review the suggested websites on page 4

If you have any questions or concerns about the KS4 curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

All the best,
Miss H Ryan
Assistant Headteacher

At the time of producing this Options Book, we are able to run all courses. However, it is possible government announcements and other changes could impact on what courses we can run in September 2025.

THE OPTIONS PROCESS

January – Early February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option Booklet and Selection Form will be distributed to students (a digital copy of each will also be emailed to parents, and will be available on the school website)• Options Assemblies will commence to give students guidance on the process and tasters/ information on subjects that are only available in KS4• Tutor time will also have a focus on the Options process to further support students. The SEND and EAL Department will begin liaising with students and parents/carers to provide support where appropriate
Thursday 13 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 9 Options Evening• Time: 4.30pm – 7.30pm• Presentations on the Options Process will take place at various times during the evening (approximately 20 minutes)
Thursday 13 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final date for completed Options forms to be returned to tutors <i>A signed copy of the slip is returned to tutors</i>• WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR OPTION CHOICE IF YOUR FORM IS RETURNED AFTER THIS DATE
Week beginning Monday 23 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students' final Options are confirmed• If there are any issues surrounding your options, we will contact you prior to this date. Apart from amending any admin error, we are unlikely to accommodate any requests for changes after this point• Please note that confirmation of final options is sometimes dependent on Government announcements. In the past, this had led to slight delays in the process which is beyond our control

WHY CONSIDER A VOCATIONAL COURSE?

WHY CONSIDER A VOCATIONAL COURSE RATHER THAN A GCSE?

BTEC and OCR IMedia are recognised qualifications which may be better suited to students who prefer to focus on coursework and continuous assessment tasks rather than on exams. 60% of each course is assessed based on work carried out in lessons and in your own time, 40% comes from an exam. You will need to meet various coursework deadlines over the two years of the course. Depending on subject, you may be completing assessed work from the first term of Year 10.

Vocational courses can be a way of gaining good grades which will allow access to a college or sixth form, depending on the course applied for. These alternative courses to GCSEs may be particularly beneficial if you know the type of career you would like to follow.

However, students who are hoping to apply for a university place in the future should be aware that some colleges and universities do not consider these qualifications as suitable GCSEs. It may also be that some sixth form colleges do not consider them as suitable progression for A-level courses.

TO HELP YOU DECIDE:

Consider which course is best suited to your ability and way of learning

Speak with your teacher and ask their advice

Before making your decision, think beyond Years 10-13 and what you may want to do after Rutlish School.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

[Careerpilot : Parent zone](#)

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

[National Apprenticeship Service](#)

Informed Choices is provided by the Russell Group and gives guidance on what subjects you should study at A level for different degree pathways.

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ENGLISH LITERATURE

MATHEMATICS

CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PSHE

SCIENCE – Double/Triple

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE – GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
How will the course be examined/assessed?	100% Examination Spoken Language reported as a separate grade (Pass, Merit or Distinction)
Head of English	Mrs M Khan

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

1. Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing - including responding and analysing
2. Writer's Viewpoint and Perspectives
3. Non-fiction and Literary Non-fiction Texts
4. Creative, Persuasive and Descriptive Writing
5. Spoken Language (Presenting)

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

English is central to the core curriculum; an ability to express ideas clearly, accurately, concisely and sensitively is vital in many other curriculum areas and for life skills. Many employers consider communication skills, both written and oral, to be essential and use a good grade in GCSE English to give a reliable indication that these skills have been acquired. It is a vital launching pad for success in higher education.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Journalism
Law
Writing
Teaching
Publishing/Editorial work
Marketing and Advertising
Public Speaking, Lexicography
Public Relations

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Students are encouraged to get at least a grade 6 in order to apply for some courses in the 6th form: History, Psychology etc.

English supports most Post 16 subjects that require literacy and analytical skills. The content of English Language and Literature has close links to: English A Level, Media A Level / BTEC, Film Studies A level / BTEC, Creative Writing courses, Journalism, History, Sociology.

USEFUL RESOURCES

CGP AQA Study Guide Language Papers 1-9
A larger (i.e. not pocket sized) dictionary and thesaurus for home use
BBC Bitesize website
Practice exam papers at home
Revision page on o365 Teams
GCSE Pod

ENGLISH LITERATURE – GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
How will the course be examined/assessed?	100% Examination
Head of Faculty	Mrs M Khan

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

1. Shakespeare Play- Macbeth
2. 19th Century Novel- A Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and M Hyde
3. Modern Drama Text- An Inspector Calls
4. Poetry from Anthology- Power and Conflict
5. Unseen Poetry

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

English Literature is a stand-alone GCSE Subject, and a core subject in its own right. It allows the student to develop important critical, analytical, comparative and evaluative skills, as well as have the opportunity to discuss and enjoy a substantial range of Literature from different time periods, including Literary Heritage. English Literature is key in enriching students' Cultural Capital.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Journalism
Law
Writing
Teaching
Publishing/Editorial work
Marketing and Advertising
Public Speaking, Lexicography
Public Relations

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Students are encouraged to get at least a grade 6 in order to apply for some courses in the 6th form: History, Psychology etc.

English supports most Post 16 subjects that require literacy and analytical skills. The content of English Language and Literature has close links to: English A Level, Media A Level / BTEC, Film Studies A level / BTEC, Creative Writing courses, Journalism, History, Sociology.

USEFUL RESOURCES

CGP AQA Revision/study guide for each text.
A larger (i.e. not pocket sized) dictionary and thesaurus for home use
Own copy of "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson- 2024 cohort
Own copy of "Macbeth" by Shakespeare
Own copy of "An Inspector Calls" by JB Priestley
GCSE Pod
Revision page on school platform and other helpful websites e.g. BBC Bitesize

MATHEMATICS – GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	100% Exam
Head of Department	Mr P Pryce

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

The Mathematics course covers 5 main areas:

Number – including the properties of number and number operations

Algebra – including work with quadratic equations and the equation of a circle

Ratio – including rates of change

Geometry – including areas, volumes and trigonometry

Probability and statistic – including interpreting and displaying data

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

A GCSE in Mathematics is one of the most highly recognised school qualifications you can have. It shows that you are able to learn and understand abstract concepts, and at a basic level it shows that you are ready for the mathematical challenges of adult life. All level 3 courses in the 6th form will require a good pass at GCSE level Mathematics.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

A GCSE in Mathematics is one of the most valuable qualifications you can have when it comes to employability. For full details of the benefits of studying maths please use the link below.

[Linking curriculum learning to careers - AMSP](#)

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Maths supports all post 16 courses and is a prerequisite for the study of any A Level at RR6

USEFUL RESOURCES

- Suitable textbooks and other work-related resources will be provided by the department.
- CGP Revision Guide, CGP Exam Practise Workbook, GCSE Pod, Kerboodle Textbook, MyMaths, AQA past papers via www.aqa.org.uk, other online resources such as Maths Genie, Corbett Maths.
- We expect all students to provide their own calculators e.g. a scientific calculator (Casio FX-83GT PLUS).
- In addition, students will need basic drawing instruments, i.e. a ruler, compass and a protractor.

CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE is a vital part of school life and ultimately student's future well-being. It is therefore our intent to provide an inclusive, broad and balanced PE curriculum that ensures ALL students will benefit, whether through enhancing existing skills, learning new skills or being introduced to new sports, clubs, teams and organisations.

It is our intent to ensure students understand the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle and to equip them with the tools to do so through health and well-being education. They must understand how to take care of themselves both physically and mentally in order to be successful as adults.

Beyond merely a subject, we believe that participation in sporting activity is a key element of developing a school in which students are proud of the community in which they belong. Therefore, great emphasis is placed upon additional sporting opportunities beyond the lesson within after-school clubs, inter-house and inter-school competition and festivals as well as directly trying to support the local clubs within the Merton area and our feeder schools through links with the Merton Schools Sports Partnership. This allows us to positively engage with our local community and be active citizens within it.

In Year 10 students participate in a range of activities following the National Curriculum. Students follow modules in Invasion Games (Rugby and Football), Net games (table tennis and badminton), Trampolining, Athletics and Striking and Fielding Games (softball, cricket and rounders.)

In Year 11 students can pick a sporting option to follow to promote healthy lifestyles and well-being.

Possible options:

Football, Rugby, Table Tennis, Trampolining, Fitness Badminton and Basketball.

It is essential that all students wear correct Rutlish PE kit for practical lessons.

Schools have statutory responsibilities in relation to promoting student wellbeing, safeguarding and community cohesion, as well as promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at the school and ensuring that students engage with fundamental British values. PSHE & RSE plays an important part in fulfilling all of these responsibilities

We cover core knowledge relating to issues such as online and offline safety, relationships, health and careers taught in a way which is appropriate to the age and maturity of students.

Students learn about the attributes of healthy and unhealthy relationships and the readiness for sex, as well as learning about different forms of contraception.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education focuses on the holistic development of the future citizens of modern Britain. We provide rich learning opportunities for students to discover who they are, who they want to be and strategies to help them achieve their goals.

PSHE education develops lifelong skills that will support students to become resilient, confident and ambitious members of a flourishing and diverse society.

Through PSHE & RSE students build emotional resilience, life and social skills, and will develop the qualities and attributes they need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

PSHE & RSE help students to connect and apply the knowledge and understanding they learn in all subjects to practical, real-life situations while helping them to feel safe and secure enough to fulfil their potential.

Our KS4 curriculum covers the content outlined in the “Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education statutory guidance”. Core themes explored in lessons include online and offline safety, relationships, health and careers. Subject content is taught in a way which is appropriate to the age and maturity of students. In accordance with statutory guidance, students will learn about the attributes of healthy and unhealthy relationships, including intimate relationships and sexual health. Further details of the PSHE curriculum can be found on the website in our PSHE and RSE policy.

DOUBLE SCIENCE – GCSE

A combined Science course which leads to a Double GCSE Science Award

Exam Board	AQA
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	Double GCSE Science Award consisting of two exams of <u>1 hr 15 min</u> for each science subject. 6 exams in total
Heads of Department	Biology: Ms H Nash Chemistry: Ms C Beck Physics: Ms V Nixon

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	PHYSICS
1. Cell biology	8. Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table	18. Forces
2. Organisation	9. Bonding, Structure, and the Properties of Matter	19. Energy
3. Infection and Response	10. Quantitative Chemistry	20. Waves
4. Bioenergetics	11. Chemical Changes	21. Electricity
5. Homeostasis and Response	12. Energy Changes	22. Magnetism and Electromagnetism
6. Inheritance, Variation and Evolution	13. The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change	23. Particle Model of Matter
7. Ecology	14. Organic Chemistry	24. Atomic Structure
	15. Chemical Analysis	
	16. Chemistry of the Atmosphere	
	17. Using Resources	

All students regardless of ability will study for the GCSE Double Science award (AQA Trilogy). This course is the equivalent of 2 GCSE awards in Science. Grades will be awarded on the scale 1-1 to 9-9, all exams contribute to the overall grade.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

Science provides many of the life skills that students will need when they leave school. It helps them to:

- understand the world around them and their role in that world;
- understand the role of Science plays in our society;
- develop skills of planning and conducting investigations, gathering information, team work and evaluating findings;
- act responsibly when using scientific equipment and applying scientific knowledge.

Science education enables students to:

- develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to find answers to their own questions about the workings of the biological, chemical, physical and technological world and become better informed citizens;
- attempt to find solutions to problems arising from their own needs and experiences in daily life;
- take a confident part in public debate and decision making about Science.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

The scientific skills from this course can be applied to a very wide range of careers including engineering, scientific research, animal care, finance, health and beauty.

For more information about STEM careers, please visit: <https://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/careers/stem-careers/>

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

A-levels in Science subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science

BTEC Applied Science

The course will also provide skills and knowledge useful in vocational studies such as Engineering, Healthcare, Agriculture, Animal Management, Hair and Beauty, Computer Science

USEFUL RESOURCES

Course Specifications

Trilogy:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

Revision Materials

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hvhttp://www.docbrown.info/>

<http://www.my-gcsescience.com/> (this website may require subscription)

CGP Science GCSE revision guide

TRIPLE SCIENCE - GCSE

Leading to separate GCSE awards in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Exam Board	AQA
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	Triple GCSE award Three separate GCSE awards, one each for Biology, Chemistry & Physics Two exams of <u>1hr 45</u> minutes per science subject (6 exams in total)
Heads of Department	Biology: Ms H Nash Chemistry: Ms C Beck Physics: Ms V Nixon

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	PHYSICS
1. Cell Biology	8. Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table	18. Forces
2. Organisation	9. Bonding, Structure, and the Properties of Matter	19. Energy
3. Infection and Response	10. Quantitative Chemistry	20. Waves
4. Bioenergetics	11. Chemical Changes	21. Electricity
5. Homeostasis and Response	12. Energy Changes	22. Magnetism and Electromagnetism
6. Inheritance, Variation and Evolution	13. The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change	23. Particle Model of Matter
7. Ecology	14. Organic Chemistry	24. Atomic Structure
	15. Chemical Analysis	25. Space
	16. Chemistry of the Atmosphere	
	17. Using Resources	

Higher achieving students will sit the Triple Science exams leading to a separate GCSE award in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will study the same topics as the double award (AQA Trilogy) but will sit 6 x 1hr 45mins exams instead of the 1hr 15min exams required by the Trilogy course.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

Science provides many of the life skills that students will need when they leave school. It helps them to:

- understand the world around them and their role in that world;
- understand the role of Science plays in our society;
- develop skills of planning and conducting investigations, gathering information, team work and evaluating findings;
- act responsibly when using scientific equipment and applying scientific knowledge.

Science education enables students to:

- develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to find answers to their own questions about the workings of the biological, chemical, physical and technological world and become better informed citizens;
- attempt to find solutions to problems arising from their own needs and experiences in daily life;
- take a confident part in public debate and decision making about Science.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

The scientific skills from this course can be applied to a very wide range of careers including engineering, scientific research, animal care, finance, health and beauty.

Separate science GCSEs are favoured for students considering a career in medicine or for those wanting to pursue scientific research.

For more information about STEM careers, please visit: <https://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/careers/stem-careers/>

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

A-levels in science Subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science
BTEC Applied Science

The course will also provide skills and knowledge useful in vocational studies such as Engineering, Healthcare, Agriculture, Animal Management, Hair and Beauty, Computer Science

USEFUL RESOURCES

Course Specifications

Biology:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

Chemistry:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

Physics:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463>

Revision Materials

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv>

<http://www.docbrown.info/>

<http://www.my-gcsescience.com/> (this website may require subscription)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES – GCSE

Exam Board	PEARSON EDEXCEL
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	Two examinations at the end of Year 11
Head of Department	Ms S Mates

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

Religions studied: Islam and Christianity
Units studied: Religion and Life from the viewpoint of Christianity and Islam. Each course comprises 4 modules.

Paper 1: Content overview
 Students must study all four content sections based upon their chosen religion.

- Belief in God
- Marriage and the Family
- Living the Religious Life
- Matters of Life and Death

Paper 2: Content overview
 Students must study all four content sections based upon their chosen religion.

- Belief in God
- Crime and Punishment
- Living the Religious Life
- Peace and Conflict

Assessment overview

Students must select one religion from a choice of seven (Catholic Christianity, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism). The studied religion must be different for each area of study chosen. We study Christianity for Paper 1 and Islam for Paper 2.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- develop students' knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism;
- develop students' knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts and scriptures of the religions they are studying;
- develop students' ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject;
- provide opportunities for students to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth and their influence on human life;
- challenge students to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of two religions;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key sources of wisdom and authority including scripture and/or sacred texts, where appropriate, which support contemporary religious faith;
- understand the influence of religion on individuals, communities and societies;
- understand significant common and divergent views between and/or within religions and beliefs;
- apply knowledge and understanding in order to analyse questions related to religious beliefs and values;
- construct well-informed and balanced arguments on matters concerned with religious.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support? Careers in politics Civil service industries Education sector Human resources International relations Journalism Law Law enforcement Occupational therapist Public relations Social work	Which courses will the subject support Post 16? Studying RE at GCSE equips students to pursue a variety of literacy-based post 16 subjects. These include: Sociology Philosophy History Government & Politics Geography English Literature BTEC Law
---	---

USEFUL RESOURCES

Beliefs in Action. Specification B. Victor Watton and Robert Stone. (Hodder education) ISBN 978-1-471-86659-3 Religious Studies: Paper 1 Religions and Ethics: Christianity. Lynne Gibson (Pearson) ISBN 978-1-292-13932-6	Religions and ethics through Christianity Gordon Reid and Sarah K Tyler ISBN 978-0-19-837040-6 Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B, Christianity & Islam revision guide. (Pearson) ISBN 9781292148823
---	--

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

ART & DESIGN - GCSE

COMPUTER SCIENCE – GCSE

DRAMA - GCSE

DT - GCSE

ECONOMICS – GCSE

ENTERPRISE – BTEC

ESOL

Candidates who would benefit from ESOL will be contacted by the EAL Co-ordinator

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION – GCSE

FRENCH - GCSE

GEOGRAPHY - GCSE

GERMAN - GCSE

HISTORY - GCSE

IMEDIA – OCR NATIONAL

MEDIA STUDIES - GCSE

MEDIA STUDIES - BTEC

MUSIC - GCSE

PERFORMING ARTS - BTEC

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - GCSE

SPORT – BTEC

ART & DESIGN – GCSE

Exam Board	AQA Fine Art
How will the course be examined/assessed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component 1: Coursework which includes two projects (60%)• Component 2: An externally set exam assignment (40%)
Head of Department	Mr T Adegbenle

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

1. **Workshop activities / trips** September – February (Year 10)
2. **Component 1: Me, Myself & I: Self Portrait** February – June (Year 10)
3. **Component 1: Reflection** July – December (Year 11)
4. **Component 2: Exam Project** (externally set themes) Jan – April (Year 11)

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

A two-year course leading to a GCSE in Fine Art. This GCSE encourages an adventurous and enquiring approach to Art and Design. Successful students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary art and design practice and be able to produce an original personal response that embraces a range of ideas and use of media. The subject helps students to develop a range of transferable skills including researching, analysing, recreating, developing ideas and thinking creatively.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

There are many career opportunities leading on from a fine art qualification including architecture, fine artist, muralist, fashion design, graphic design, illustration, interior design, photography, new media design, model-making, landscape architecture, jewellery design, printing, engraving, restoration, stage and set design.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

This course can lead to A Level or BTEC courses in Fine Art, Art & Design, Creative media, 3D Design, Photography and Fashion Textiles. The course gives students confidence they can apply their knowledge to succeed and have the study skills to continue learning in further and higher education courses and throughout their career.

USEFUL RESOURCES

GCSE Art and Design- Bitesize
GCSE Art sketchbook videos on Youtube
Art and Design AQA GCSE
Exam Help- Student Resource- Tate

COMPUTER SCIENCE – GCSE

Exam Board	OCR (J277)
How will the course be examined/assessed?	External Exam: 2 x Theory papers: Paper 1: Computer Systems 50% Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming 50%
Head of Department	Ms S Salad

We strongly suggest that students who choose to take Computer Science are working at a strong Grade 3 in Maths due to the high demand of Mathematical skills needed in the course. Individual cases will be considered carefully and students will receive appropriate guidance to help ensure their success.

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

- The year will begin by learning how computers actually work; student will discover what binary numbers are and how computers store data. Students will do some binary conversions, binary addition and hexadecimal conversions. There will be exciting opportunities to learn some methods to write Caesar Cypher Messages (secret code) and how computers compress images and sound.
- Student will have a good look at the inside of a computer and all the components of it, as well as learn about the function of all the components inside a computer and how it is possible for a computer to do so many things at once! There will be a focus on computer networks, including a demonstration and talk about the school's network. Students will have the opportunity to have a look inside the server room where all of the network comes together, and find out how networks are set up and how networks can be breached by learning about viruses and security threats.
- Towards the end of your course, students will learn how the internet works and how the different protocols ensure that they can access websites and send and receive e-mails. They will learn about micro-controllers and how these work whilst debating the ethics of using certain technologies.
- During the year, we also build on programming skills in Python to allow students to write some exciting programs of their own. By the end of the year, students will be able to code a large program consisting of many subprograms, iteration and selection constructs.
- During a two-week cycle, there will be 3 theory lessons and 2 practical programming lessons.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

GCSE Computer Science is part of the EBAC subjects and provides wonderful high earning career opportunities in the technology industry. During every lesson, students will discover new things about computers and how it impacts our everyday life. The technology industry is the fastest growing industry in the world; students will be assured of a wide variety of careers to choose from. GCSE Computer Science offers enjoyable challenges and it is seen as one of the prestige GCSE's to take.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

After the successful completion of GCSE Computer Science, students can continue to study A-level Computer Science at Rutlish. They will have the opportunity to code their own computer game using Pycharm and continue to learn more in depth about the topics covered in KS4. Computer Science provides individuals with the skills to become a Game Designer, App Creator/Designer, Software Programmer, IT Network Manager, and work in the technology department of the biggest companies in the world. Other careers include: Computer Technicians; Computer Engineers and Data Managers. Many jobs are also available in the Media industry. Why not even begin your own tech business!

USEFUL RESOURCES

Programming: Download the latest version of the free programming software - Python.

<http://www.learnpython.org/>

Text book: OCR GCSE Computer Science 9 – 1 (J277): ISBN: 978 – 1 – 910523-21-6 (provided by the department)

DRAMA - GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
How will the course be examined/assessed?	Component 1- Students complete the study of set play- Blood Brothers . 40% Component 2- Students are allowed the creative freedom to develop a play based which is entirely devised and based on their own ideas. Inspiration for their story/play may come from magazines, newspaper articles, films, poems etc. They track their progress through devising a logbook as the play develops. - 40% Component 3- In this component, students perform 2 monologues, duologues or short extracts from a play with their peers. 20%
Head of Department	Ms C Dawkins

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

The course provides many opportunities for students of all abilities to develop their practical skills as well as utilise contemporary issues to influence their choice of plays. This course also provides students with the opportunity to work in groups, in order to create different plays/theatrical works. Students will develop their self-confidence and public speaking skills, as well as learn about different playwrights. All students will also take part in a live theatre visit and will also enjoy visits from other local schools and colleges. Students will also develop an understanding of Brecht, Artaud and Stanislavskian theatre styles and acting techniques which will be particularly useful in Component 2 and 3. Students will draw inspiration by watching recent movies, performances and published plays. They will explore the lives of famous actors and playwrights as part of the exploratory process.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be many opportunities for assessment to take place during the course, both practically and in written form. Video recordings of the work/ evidence will allow for peer and self- assessment at various intervals during the course. Written logs at different intervals will also allow for note-taking on developing scenes. There will be a final exam which assesses the practical exploration of the play Blood Brothers. Prior to this, students will watch the live performance of the play as well as YouTube clips of key scenes to develop their understanding of the genre. Students will also be assessed on their understanding of a broad range of themes including social class, family relationships and peer pressure.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

On completion of the qualification, you will have developed a good practical understanding of the performing arts sector including the various job roles and opportunities. This qualification will also form the basis for those students who wish to progress to the A Level Drama and Theatre Studies course. Future job roles include but are not limited to lighting engineer, set designer, front of house staff, theatre manager, actor, drama teacher, drama tutor. Drama builds the student holistically and provides many opportunities to develop public speaking skills and self-confidence. Students learn how to work cooperatively with others and are introduced to a broad range of themes and issues affecting society. They are able to make critical judgements while developing good analytical and oratory skills and techniques.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Students who study Drama can take advantage of a wealth of opportunities as it will support job roles including Drama teacher, theatre manager Script Writer, Director, Actor, Stage Hand and Front of House Staff.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Students who take this course often progress onto the A Level Drama and Theatre Studies Course at college. Others may wish to develop their Practical skills with a BTEC Level 3 in Production /Performance.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Further information about this qualification can also be accessed at:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261>

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY – GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	Non Exam Assessment 50% Exam 50%
Head of Department	Ms N Bhaga

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

The GCSE emphasises understanding and applying iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. Students will learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices.

- **Rutlish School Design and Technology Department will offer two pathways, majoring in two key areas of DT; Resistant Materials and Graphics. It is important that you opt for the correct pathway on the Option Form, please speak with your teachers for guidance.**
- All Students will learn core aspects of DT from the following disciplines: Resistant Materials and Graphic Products.
- **Graphical skills and practical techniques:**
 - Students will communicate their ideas in 2D and 3D, leading to 3D outcomes such as promotional products, posters, packaging design. Products will be made from compliant materials – card, paper and plastic
- **Resistant Material skills and Practical techniques:**
 - using a variety of hand tools and machines. Students will learn and perform a range of practical skills in order to create three-dimensional outcomes made from woods, metals and plastics such as furniture, storage units and lighting.
- All students will produce a coursework folder covering the following areas: identifying the problem, the development of the design proposal, the make and testing and evaluation. This would normally comprise 20 A3 sheets.
- They will look at industrial processes in order to understand 'real life' design.
- The course will allow students to develop their key skills in communication, application of number and information technology (students will be required to make effective use of IT, in particular CAD/CAM) and identify opportunities for working with others, improving their own learning and performance and problem solving.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

Design & Technology combines learning in both creative and technological areas. The ability to organise work independently is also developed, encouraging students to be autonomous learners, using the teacher as a facilitator. Skills which are of use in many areas of study and employment will also be developed, particularly problem solving. The course may lead you to further education in design and/or a career in illustration, advertising, architecture, display and exhibition design, IT, fashion design or furniture design, product design, industrial design, engineering, display and exhibition design or architecture.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Engineering, Architect, Robotics, Web Designing, Furniture design, Industrial design, Graphic Design, Product Designer, Entrepreneur, Gaming, Web Design and many more!

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Graphic Design, Product design, Engineering, Art & Design, Architecture and many more!

USEFUL RESOURCES

Access to a computer, the library, LRC and other information sources such as the Internet, TV/video. Basic graphic equipment such as a pencil, black fine-liner, set square, compass, eraser, sharpener, craft knife, scissors, glue stick and coloured pencils.

ECONOMICS – GCSE

"I was curious about everything that happens around me. Studying economics satisfies my curiosity." – RR6 Economics Student

Exam Board	AQA
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	Paper 1 - 50% Examination Paper 2 - 50% Examination
Subject Leader	Mr M Dunn

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

This course studies the world through the lens of consumers, producers and government, in order to understand how these groups of people make decisions. What are they trying to achieve? And how might they achieve those objectives? As students go through the course they're presented with opportunities to focus on real-world events and consider the moral and ethical concerns that arise as a result of economic activity. Students will need to be able to make relevant calculations from economic data and be able to interpret data presented in the form of graphs and charts.

Section 1: How markets work

Students will look at how choices are made by economic agents, and how resources are allocated using a market mechanism. They will gain an appreciation of how prices are determined, and be introduced to concepts such as supply and demand, intermarket relationships and price elasticity.

Students will investigate the significance of costs, revenue and profit for producers, leading to an understanding of the concepts of production, productivity and economies of scale. Students will then explore the importance of competition in relation to resource allocation, leading to an investigation of the factors that lead to market failure.

Section 2: How the economy works

This section largely focuses on the UK government's objectives and how it manages the economy. A range of policies will be explored in relation to these objectives, highlighting the fact that pursuing one objective can have a detrimental effect on other objectives.

Students also examine why countries trade, and the significance of the global economy, including free-trade agreements. Finally, students will explore the role of money and the significance of the financial markets in modern economies.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

Economics helps you to look more deeply into the world around you – how and why it functions as it does. It can also give you new perspectives on some of the most pressing and challenging problems facing the world today. Economics is not about money. Fundamentally, the subject is about human nature and behaviour. Economic decisions and activities impact on many different areas of society and on our own everyday lives – interest rate fluctuations, personal taxation, unemployment and labour force migration to name but a few. In a world where there is increasing debate about scarcity of resources, economics plays a key role in that it is fundamentally concerned with how to allocate those resources most efficiently.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Economics is a well-regarded academic subject which is useful for any career. If you intend to study Economics at university then it is often advisable to study Mathematics to AS or A Level. Students who go on to complete a degree in Economics may find employment opportunities in the public sector (public enterprises), the private sector, and regional and international organizations.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Economics, Geography, Computer Science, Politics, Health & Social Care, Mathematics, History, Psychology.

USEFUL RESOURCES

As this is a new course, the textbook has yet to be published by AQA.
Resources specifically tailored by the Department

ENTERPRISE - BTEC

(Previously Business Studies)

Exam Board	PEARSON EDEXCEL - Level 1 & 2 Tech Award
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	Non-Exam Assessment: 60% Internal Controlled Assessment External Assessment: 40% Exam
Subject Lead	Mr Redzepagic

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED – Year 10

In Year 10, students will be completing two units. These units are a non-exam internal assessment delivered through Pearson-set Assignment. This assignment is set by Pearson, marked by the teacher and moderated by Pearson.

Component 1 – Exploring Enterprises

In this unit students will:

- Examine the characteristics of local SME
- Explore how market research helps enterprises to meet customer needs and understand competitor behaviour
- Investigate the factors that contribute to the success of an enterprise.

Component 2 - Planning and Presenting a Micro-Enterprise Idea

In this unit students will:

- Explore ideas and plan for a micro-enterprise activity
- Pitch a micro-enterprise activity
- Review own pitch for a micro-enterprise activity.

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED – Year 11

In Year 11 students will be completing one unit. This unit will consist of a written exam that will be externally assessed by Pearson.

Component 3 – Promotion and Finance for Enterprise

In this unit you will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of promotion and financial records
- Interpret and use promotional and financial information in relation to a given enterprise
- Make connections between different factors influencing a given enterprise
- Be able to advise and provide recommendations to a given enterprise on ways to improve its performance

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise has been developed to provide learners with a stimulating and engaging introduction to the business world. This new qualification will help learners to develop their knowledge of business theory and allow them to use their creativity and entrepreneurship.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise prepares them to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the business sector. At Level 2, learners might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as BTEC National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move to higher education by studying a degree in the business sector.

At Level 1, learners might consider progression to:

- Study at Level 2 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, employment, apprenticeships or further study at Level 3
- Study business enterprise post-16 through a technical Certificate designed to lead to work, progression to employment via apprenticeships or further study at Level 3.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business, Applied Science, Creative Digital Media Production, Computer Science, Dance, Information Technology, Mathematics, Music, Production Arts and Sport

USEFUL RESOURCES

BTEC Tech Award Enterprise Student Book 3rd Ed

- ISBN: 9781292279343 - Revise BTEC Tech Award Enterprise Revision Guide
- ISBN: 978 1 292 44461-1

Tutor2U website

GCSE Bitesize
Business Review magazines
The Guardian/ business news
The BBC/ business news
Independent/ business news

**Students recommended for this course will be provided with an amended Options Selection Form*

Exam Board	PEARSON EDEXCEL
How will the qualification be examined/ assessed?	<p>QCF qualifications offer a certificate-sized qualification at each level comprising 3 units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing • Speaking and listening <p>Each of the units is also an award-sized qualification in its own right. This means that learners who achieve a single writing or reading unit will get a qualification award.</p> <p>Students can study at different levels depending on their ability. Many learners will not be ready for assessment of all modules at the same time or level. This flexibility enables the pupils to progress at their own rate and be assessed when they are ready.</p> <p>No portfolio of work is required.</p> <p>Choosing this course will be in consultation with Ms Batchelor.</p>
Head of Department	Ms Batchelor

COURSE CONTENT

Our Edexcel ESOL qualifications support learners whose first language is not English, helping them gain the communication skills needed to progress in the workplace, education and beyond. They are available from Entry 1 to Level 2.

ESOL qualifications give learners the competence and confidence to use their English skills in their studies and employment and other areas of their life. They give learners the opportunity to:

- develop their English language knowledge and skills
- achieve a nationally recognised qualification
- develop personal growth and engagement in learning
- develop English skills for personal and employment-related application.

Topics are broad and balanced and celebrate students' backgrounds, cultures and other spoken languages. Foci include: personal histories, celebrations and life events, the local community, people of influence / interest, careers and futures, sport and leisure, current affairs, narrative writing and study skills.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Personal bilingual dictionary (if literate in other spoken language)

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION – GCSE

Exam Board	WJEC Eduqas
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	Non Exam Assessment 50% Exam 50%
Head of Department	Ms N Bhaga

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

- Food commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

By studying food preparation and nutrition learners will:

- Be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Catering manager, Chef, Food scientist, Product developer, Dietician, Sports scientist, Food safety officer, Food and beverage manager, and many more

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Catering, Food science, Human nutrition, Sport and exercise science, Hospitality, many apprenticeship

USEFUL RESOURCES

- CGP Food Preparation and Nutrition revision guide (WJEC)
- Calculator
- Access to a kitchen and food products to practise food preparation skills

FRENCH – GCSE

Exam Board	PEARSON EDEXCEL – new specification (first exams 2026)
How will the course be examined/assessed?	Exam - Speaking 25% Exam - Listening 25% Exam - Reading 25% Exam - Writing 25%
Head of French	Ms T Minier

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

The new Edexcel GCSE French qualification has been designed to focus on the important ways that languages foster communication, broaden perspectives, introduce new cultures and develop students into global citizens.

More than words - the course promotes culture, communication and connection. From the design of speaking tasks, where communication is privileged, through to the use of images to provide cultural context, students understand that words are a springboard to discovering much more.

Language learning for today's world - vocabulary and assessment content reflect and represent diverse student experiences, so that all students feel included and will be able to speak and write about the things that interest them most. Compassionate assessments in a clear and familiar structure – our assessments are accessible and transparent, rooted in testing what students know and ensuring they can attempt the whole assessment confidently, with no surprises.

The vocabulary in this qualification has been made based on the most used vocabulary in French - 85% from the top 2000 most frequent words and 15% of extra key vocabulary on the themes of the GCSE course.

There are **six thematic contexts** across the course:

- **My personal world:** family, friends, relationships and equality.
- **Lifestyle and wellbeing:** physical and mental well-being, food and drink, sports
- **My neighbourhood:** places in town, shopping, the natural world and environmental issues.
- **Media and technology:** music, TV, film, social media and gaming.
- **Studying and my future:** school and future opportunities.
- **Travel and tourism:** transport, accommodation and tourist attractions.

Each paper is available at Foundation or Higher tier. **Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers.**

Paper 1 - Speaking

There are three tasks which must be conducted in the following order:

Task 1 – a read aloud task on one topic that is allocated by Pearson Edexcel.

Task 2 – a role play task on one topic that is allocated by Pearson Edexcel.

Task 3 – a picture task with conversation on a “thematic context” chosen by the student ahead of the assessment, from 2 options given by Pearson Edexcel.

Foundation: 7–9 mins + 15 mins preparation time. **Higher:** 10–12 mins + 15 mins preparation time.

Paper 2 - Listening

The paper is in two sections:

A - questions that are set and responded to in English.

B – a dictation task testing the students’ ability to transcribe spoken French into written French.

Foundation: 45 minutes, including 5 minutes reading time. **Higher:** 60 minutes, including 5 minutes reading time.

Paper 3 - Reading

The paper is in two sections:

A - questions that are set and responded to in English.

B – a translation task from French into English.

Foundation: 45 minutes. **Higher:** 1 hour.

Paper 4 - Writing

The **Foundation** paper is in four sections:

- 1 – picture task to describe
- 2 – a shorter formal writing (choice of two)
- 3 – a longer informal writing (choice of two)
- 4 – a translation into French – 5 sentences.

Foundation: 1 hour 15 minutes.

The **Higher** paper is in four sections:

- 1 – a shorter informal writing (choice of two)
- 2 – a longer formal writing (choice of two)
- 3 – a translation into French – 5 sentences.

Higher: 1 hour 20 minutes.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

Imagine being able to communicate with 81 million native speakers around the globe and 72 million in Europe, making it Europe's 3rd most widely spoken mother-tongue language. Imagine the job opportunities that open up by speaking the language of Europe's second largest economy (after Germany) and the world's 5th largest economy (after USA, China, Japan and Germany). Imagine the benefits of being able to speak the language of the world's number-one tourist destination with 90 million visitors a year. And with an average of six weeks of vacation a year and high living standards, imagine being able to spend time living in one of Europe's French-speaking countries. Imagine the ways your outlook and life might change when you meet and communicate with people whose cultural background differs from yours. Learning a language also boosts your problem-solving, multitasking and decision-making skills, helps improve your memory and also improves your English language skills.

Here are fifteen things studying a new language might do for you. Language study...

1. broadens your experiences; expands your view of the world
2. encourages critical reflection on the relation of language and culture, language and thought; fosters an understanding of the interrelation of language and human nature
3. develops your intellect; teaches you how to learn
4. teaches and encourages respect for other people
5. contributes to cultural awareness and literacy, such as knowledge of original texts
6. builds practical skills (for travel or commerce or as a tool for other disciplines)
7. improves knowledge of your own language through comparison and contrast with a foreign language
8. exposes you to modes of thought outside of your native language
9. a sense of relevant past, both cultural and linguistic
10. balances content and skill (rather than content versus skill)
11. expands opportunities for meaningful leisure activity (travel, reading, foreign language films)
12. contributes to achievement of national goals, such as economic development or national security
13. contributes to the creation of your personality
14. enables the transfer of training (such as learning a second foreign language)
15. preserves (or fosters) a country's image as a cultured nation

A world of opportunities:

Almost any job can benefit from your knowing another language. More and more of the UK population speak languages other than English and employers in social services, business, communications and the government all recruit people with language skills. Language skills set you apart from other workers, making you a better candidate for promotion and work on new projects. Beyond that, there are a huge number of jobs that absolutely require that you speak a second language. These include working in the Foreign Service, serving as a translator and/or interpreter for the government or the private sector, working at international institutions such as the UN or UNICEF, teaching foreign languages, literatures and cultures in schools or universities in the UK or abroad and working for international business corporations.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Business and finance: accountant, administration, human resources director, economist, stockbroker

Communications: reporter, journalist, publisher, editor, interpreter, tour guide, public relations, film producer or director, sports agent

Science and Technology: Engineer, chemist physicist, anthropologist, archaeologist, geologist, biologist **Education:** library science, elementary, secondary, and college level teaching in the US and abroad

Government: translator, interpreter, law enforcement, diplomatic foreign service, customs official, advisor

Social services: social worker, probation officer, criminology and law enforcement, school counsellor, drug abuse counsellor, occupational health care, income maintenance counsellor

Other jobs include: Advertising Copywriter, Book Reviewer, Columnist/ Commentator, Passenger Service Staff, Public Relations Representative, Radio Announcer, Production Manager, Technical Writer, Bilingual Educator, Peace Corps Volunteer, Researcher, World Bank, FBI Agent, State Department or Foreign Service, and Exchange Program Coordinator.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Further study with languages

Literacy based subjects including English and humanities

USEFUL RESOURCES

- Edexcel GCSE French revision guide and workbook
- GCSE vocabulary lists: booklet and Memrise.com
- Intermediate topics on linguascope.com
- Languages online websites for grammar practice

GEOGRAPHY – GCSE

Michael Palin: "Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future"

Exam Board	PEARSON EDEXCEL
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	100% exam
Head of Department	Mr A Redzepagic

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

The world is always changing. This specification gives students the chance to learn about the changes. There are three components:

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues

This will give learners a sound understanding of important physical and human processes and how they interact with each other. Topics will range between the hazardous earth, development dynamics and challenges of an urbanising world.

Component 2: UK Geographical Issues

This focuses on the UK's evolving physical landscape that include coastal change and the conflict and river processes and pressures. The component 2 also include the UK's evolving landscape and investigates closely the dynamic UK cities. In addition, the focus is also on geographical investigation including one physical fieldwork investigation into the coastal change and conflict and one human fieldwork investigation of dynamic UK cities.

In order to maximise achievement, the Department expects that each student opting for GCSE Geography commits to the residential trip to Juniper Hall in order to conduct fieldwork investigation on the coastal landscape (Saltdean) & urban areas (Dorking). The fieldwork investigation is integral part of syllabus and constitutes the compulsory element of Unit 2 worth 36 exam marks.

Component 3: People & Environmental Issues - Making Geographical Decisions

This is a decision-making exercise that explores the inter-relationship between the people and the biosphere and investigates how forests are under threat. This component further explores the issues surrounding the consuming energy resources.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues is a written examination and will last 1 hour and 30 minutes. It is worth 37.5% of the qualification, is out of 94 marks available of which up to 4 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology.

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions on Section A: Hazardous Earth; Section B: Development Dynamics and Section C: Challenges of an Urbanising World.

Component 2: UK Geographical Issues is a written examination and will last 1 hour and 30 minutes. It is worth 37.5% of the qualification, is out of 94 marks available of which up to 4 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology.

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions on Section A: The UK's Evolving Physical Landscapes; Section B: The UK's Evolving Human Landscapes and Section C: Geographical Investigation which is divided into C1 – students choose one from two optional questions i.e. Coastal Change & Conflicts or River Processes & Pressures and C2 – students choose one from two optional questions i.e. Dynamic Urban Areas or Changing Rural Areas.

Component 3: People & Environmental Issues – Making Geographical Decisions is a written examination and will last 1 hour and 30 minutes. It is worth 25% of the qualification, is out of 64 marks available of which up to 4 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology.

The four key sections that will be assessed are: Section A - People and the biosphere; Section B - Forests under threat; Section C - Consuming energy resources and Section D - Making a geographical decision.

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions. Section C will include 8-mark extended writing questions and Section D will offer a choice of **one** from three decisions assessed through a 12-mark extended writing question.

WHAT DO STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW, OR BE ABLE TO DO, BEFORE TAKING THIS COURSE?

Students will have learned a number of geographical skills and a body of geographical knowledge at Key Stage 3. These will be developed further during the GCSE course to give them a deeper understanding of the world. Much will be new but previous study of Geography will have helped prepare the learners to think like a Geographer, so the development of new skills and concepts will be easy.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Studying Geography is a brilliant step towards a wider range of HE courses and/or employment opportunities.

Further education: Geographers can go on to study higher level courses, including foundation degrees, Under graduate degrees and/or BTEC Higher Nationals.

Employment: Geographers can go into a wide range of jobs, including; advertising, education, environmental work, climate research, hazard management, business management, finance, law, marketing, retail / sales, social / health services, travel and tourism.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Geography, Economics, Biology, Business Studies, Further Mathematics, Politics, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages and Sport.

USEFUL RESOURCES

GCSE (9-1) Geography specification B: Investigating Geographical Issues ISBN: 9781446927762

Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Geography B Revision Guide ISBN: 9781292133782

The National Geographic magazine website www.nationalgeographic.com/index.html or

[GCSE Geography - BBC Bitesize](#)

The WorldMapper website. www.worldmapper.org

The Royal Geographical Society's Geography in the News website

[Home | Geography in the News](#)

GERMAN – GCSE

Exam Board	PEARSON EDEXCEL – new specification (first exams 2026)
How will the course be examined/assessed?	Exam - Speaking 25% Exam - Listening 25% Exam - Reading 25% Exam - Writing 25%
Head of German	Ms E Pye

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

The new Edexcel GCSE German qualification has been designed to focus on the important ways that languages foster communication, broaden perspectives, introduce new cultures and develop students into global citizens.

More than words - the course promotes culture, communication and connection. From the design of speaking tasks, where communication is privileged, through to the use of images to provide cultural context, students understand that words are a springboard to discovering much more.

Language learning for today's world - vocabulary and assessment content reflect and represent diverse student experiences, so that all students feel included and will be able to speak and write about the things that interest them most. Compassionate assessments in a clear and familiar structure – our assessments are accessible and transparent, rooted in testing what students know and ensuring they can attempt the whole assessment confidently, with no surprises.

The vocabulary in this qualification has been made based on the most used vocabulary in German - 85% from the top 2000 most frequent words and 15% of extra key vocabulary on the themes of the GCSE course.

There are **six thematic contexts** across the course:

- **My personal world:** family, friends, relationships and equality.
- **Lifestyle and wellbeing:** physical and mental well-being, food and drink, sports
- **My neighbourhood:** places in town, shopping, the natural world and environmental issues.
- **Media and technology:** music, TV, film, social media and gaming.
- **Studying and my future:** school and future opportunities.
- **Travel and tourism:** transport, accommodation and tourist attractions.

Each paper is available at Foundation or Higher tier. **Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers.**

Paper 1 - Speaking

There are three tasks which must be conducted in the following order:

Task 1 – a read aloud task on one topic that is allocated by Pearson Edexcel.

Task 2 – a role play task on one topic that is allocated by Pearson Edexcel.

Task 3 – a picture task with conversation on a “thematic context” chosen by the student ahead of the assessment, from 2 options given by Pearson Edexcel.

Foundation: 7–9 mins + 15 mins preparation time. **Higher:** 10–12 mins + 15 mins preparation time.

Paper 2 - Listening

The paper is in two sections:

A - questions that are set and responded to in English.

B – a dictation task testing the students’ ability to transcribe spoken German into written German.

Foundation: 45 minutes, including 5 minutes reading time. **Higher:** 60 minutes, including 5 minutes reading time.

Paper 3 - Reading

The paper is in two sections:

A - questions that are set and responded to in English.

B – a translation task from German into English.

Foundation: 45 minutes. **Higher:** 1 hour.

Paper 4 - Writing

The **Foundation** paper is in four sections:

- 1 – picture task to describe
- 2 – a shorter formal writing (choice of two)
- 3 – a longer informal writing (choice of two)
- 4 – a translation into German – 5 sentences.

Foundation: 1 hour 15 minutes.

The **Higher** paper is in four sections:

- 1 – a shorter informal writing (choice of two)
- 2 – a longer formal writing (choice of two)
- 3 – a translation into German – 5 sentences.

Higher: 1 hour 20 minutes.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

Imagine being able to communicate with 155 million native speakers around the globe, making German the world's eleventh most widely spoken mother-tongue language. Imagine the job opportunities that open up by speaking a language which is spoken in 6 countries in Europe. Imagine the benefits of being able to speak the language of one of the most economically important countries in Europe. Imagine the ways your outlook and life might change when you meet and communicate with people whose cultural background differs from yours. Learning a language also boosts your problem-solving, multitasking and decision-making skills, helps improve your memory and also improves your English language skills.

Here are fifteen things studying a new language might do for you. Language study...

1. broadens your experiences; expands your view of the world
2. encourages critical reflection on the relation of language and culture, language and thought; fosters an understanding of the interrelation of language and human nature
3. develops your intellect; teaches you how to learn
4. teaches and encourages respect for other people
5. contributes to cultural awareness and literacy, such as knowledge of original texts
6. builds practical skills (for travel or commerce or as a tool for other disciplines)
7. improves knowledge of your own language through comparison and contrast with a foreign language
8. exposes you to modes of thought outside of your native language
9. a sense of relevant past, both cultural and linguistic
10. balances content and skill (rather than content versus skill)
11. expands opportunities for meaningful leisure activity (travel, reading, foreign language films)
12. contributes to achievement of national goals, such as economic development or national security
13. contributes to the creation of your personality
14. enables the transfer of training (such as learning a second foreign language)
15. preserves (or fosters) a country's image as a cultured nation

A world of opportunities:

Almost any job can benefit from your knowing another language. More and more of the UK population speak languages other than English and employers in social services, business, communications and the government all recruit people with language skills. Language skills set you apart from other workers, making you a better candidate for promotion and work on new projects. Beyond that, there are a huge number of jobs that absolutely require that you speak a second language. These include working in the Foreign Service, serving as a translator and/or interpreter for the government or the private sector, working at international institutions such as the UN or UNICEF, teaching foreign languages, literatures and cultures in schools or universities in the UK or abroad and working for international business corporations.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Business and finance: accountant, administration, human resources director, economist, stockbroker

Communications: reporter, journalist, publisher, editor, interpreter, tour guide, public relations, film producer or director, sports agent

Science and Technology: Engineer, chemist physicist, anthropologist, archaeologist, geologist, biologist

Education: library science, elementary, secondary, and college level teaching in the UK and abroad

Government: translator, interpreter, law enforcement, diplomatic foreign service, customs official, advisor

Social services: social worker, probation officer, criminology and law enforcement, school counsellor, drug abuse counsellor, occupational health care, income maintenance counsellor

Other jobs include: Advertising Copywriter, Book Reviewer, Columnist/ Commentator, Passenger Service Staff, Public Relations Representative, Radio Announcer, Production Manager, Technical Writer, Bilingual Educator, Peace Corps Volunteer, Researcher, World Bank, MI6 Agent, State Department or Foreign Service, and Exchange Program Coordinator.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Further study with languages

Literacy based subjects including English and humanities

USEFUL RESOURCES

- Edexcel GCSE German revision guide and workbook
- GCSE vocabulary lists: booklet and Memrise.com
- Intermediate topics on linguascope.com
- Languages online websites for grammar practice

HISTORY – GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
How will the GCSE be examined/assessed?	<u>Two</u> written exams: 2 hours each Each paper is worth 40 marks (however two papers also have 4 additional marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar) Each paper is, broadly, of equal weight
Head of Department	Mr H Davut

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

On the basis that the boards revert to two separate exams covering two topics each:

Section A1: Period study - 1B Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

Section B1: Wider world depth studies - Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950–1975: Korea and Vietnam

Section A2: Thematic study – 2B Britain: Britain, Power and the People.

Section B2: British depth studies including the historical environment – Restoration England 1660-1685

There is no longer a coursework element to the GCSE.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

'It is a fascinating course, and we get to understand how society has developed. The teaching is excellent, and the teachers here at Rutlish are determined go the extra mile to help us achieve our best.'

From a student who went on to study History in the 6th form.

'Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.'

George Orwell

Studying GCSE History gives students opportunities to assess and analyse the world around them, by developing their knowledge and understanding of the past. However, History is not a static topic and the events of 2020 has illustrated this to great effect, whether it be as a result of the Black Lives Matter Movement, the revival of Nationalism or the inevitable comparisons with historic pandemics, we are able, through studying History, to provide, at least some, historic comparisons and furthermore some context to those events.

History will develop the student's ability to write descriptively, discuss analytically and present fluently. Students will develop a wide range of skills, such as, Interpretation, Evaluation and Analysis, skills that are essential outside of the History classroom and will form the basis of many careers such as law, journalism and business. It gives them skills of critical analysis, writing skills and the ability test the reliability of sources of information; a vital skill in the modern world.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Law, journalism, civil service, academia, teacher, archaeologist, heritage industry

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Many of our pupils go on to study History and Politics at A Level and from there many will go on to study History, Politics, International Relations, Law, and Media and Journalism at university.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Classroom textbooks:

- Understanding the Modern World Ferriby, Martin and Walsh ISBN 978 1 471862946. This book covers both Conflict in SE Asia and Germany.
- Oxford AQA GCSE History: Germany 1890-1945
- Oxford AQA GCSE History: Conflict in Asia 1950-1975
- Oxford AQA GCSE History: Britain: Power and the People, c1170 – Present Day Bruce, Wilkes, Cloake:
- Oxford AQA GCSE History: Restoration England British Depth Study 1066 – 1685 Waterson and Williams Lena Clarke ISBN 978 0 19 8370123

Revision Guides

In addition, there are a range of revision guides but we would ask pupils to discuss with us which they should buy.

On-line resources

Our students should be familiar with a variety of on-line resources that are often used by teachers in class. One particular useful one is BBC Bitesize that follows the curriculum closely. Another is GCSE pod. Students will also be provided with revision booklets the department have created.

<https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/>

IT IMEDIA - OCR NATIONAL

Creative Interactive Media

Exam Board	OCR - Level 1 & 2 Equivalent to 1 GCSE (J834)
How will the course be examined/assessed?	Mandatory Units: R093: Creative I Media in the Media Skills Industry (Mandatory) Externally Assessed Exam of 1 hour 30 minutes R094: Visual Identity and Digital Graphics (Mandatory) Centre Assessed Tasks R097: Unit R097 Interactive Digital Media
Head of Department	Ms S Salad

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

R093: Creative I Media in the Media Skills Industry (Externally Assessed Exam)

- In this unit, students will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. They will learn the legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products. They will learn how media codes are used within the creation of media products to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. They will learn to choose the most appropriate format and properties for different media products.

- Completing this unit will provide students with the basic skills for further study or a range of creative job roles within the media industry.

The aim of this unit is for learners to understand the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and media sector. Students will create new digital graphics using a range of editing techniques and review a completed graphic against a specific brief.

R094: Visual Identity and Digital Graphics (Centre Assessed Coursework)

- In this unit, students will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. They will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate their visual identity (branding logos and slogans) to engage a target audience.

Unit R097 Interactive Digital Media (Centre Assessed Coursework)

course focuses on interactive digital media products, giving students practical skills and knowledge highly relevant to the modern creative industries. This unit equips students with the ability to design, create, and evaluate interactive products like websites, multimedia presentations, or apps. They will learn about planning and pre-production techniques, considering client requirements, target audience, and technical limitations. Students will also develop technical skills using specialist software to bring their ideas to life, ensuring their designs are functional and engaging. This unit not only helps build digital confidence but also fosters problem-solving and creativity—skills valued across many careers.

WHY STUDY THE COURSE?

This course will develop students' ability to select and use digital applications appropriately and produce high quality outcomes. It enhances creativity and communication skills, as well as equips students with some of the skills they will need in the workplace or in further education or training. Students will work on various projects by planning, developing and reviewing work, therefore enhancing skills to reflect critically on their own work as well as those of others. Students who take this subject thoroughly enjoy creating their multimedia projects and do very well in this course.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Advertising Manager, Animator, Art Director, Digital Graphic Designer, Digital Imaging Manager, E-business Consultant, Multimedia Designer, Public Relations Manager, Project Manager, Social Media Content Manager Technology Support Specialist Web Developer / Manager, Video Games Designer, Theatre Set Designer.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

BTEC ICT, A level Media, A level Photography

USEFUL RESOURCES & Software

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Office Packages Adobe cc Photoshop Photopea Adobe cc Dreamweaver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adobe cc Audition HTML & CSS Lesson videos KnowItAll Ninja - YouTube 	<p>Textbook Hodder Education Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia (J834) ISBN 978-1398350564 (provided by the dept)</p>
---	--	--

MEDIA STUDIES – GCSE

Exam Board	AQA
How will the course be examined/assessed?	Non-Exam Assessment: 30% Exam: 70%
Head of Department	Mr D Neesham

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

In this course, students will be exposed to different forms of Media and are asked to consider their impact on society as a whole. It is a course that looks at contemporary examples of media, including advertising, television, newspaper, gaming, music production and film.

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course. Therefore, the first year of study will allow students to grasp the core content. The core content for the course covers four key concepts:

1. Media language
2. Media representations
3. Media industries
4. Media audiences

The assessment takes the form of two exams at the end of the second year of the course, one with a focus on three areas of the theoretical framework: (industries, audiences and representation) and one with a focus on media language and contexts of the media. These allow the students to understand how the Media is constructed and how to make informed decisions based on what they consume.

Students will also complete an assignment for their 'Non-Exam Assessment' for which they will be given a theme by the exam board. They will then be given the opportunity to create their own media product based on that theme using one of eight platforms (including print advertising, television, radio and online).

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

- The course encourages an awareness of the role of the media in today's society, an increasingly significant quality to develop
- To develop a critical understanding of media texts that are read and understood by different audiences
- To gain a critical awareness of media representations of individuals, groups and issues
- To develop an understanding of the relationship between media industries, institutions, technologies, products and audiences
- To enable students to explore and represent their own ideas and experiences by developing practical production skills, including use of filming equipment, Adobe packages and online production.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

GCSE Media supports progression into more conceptual media industries such as direction for film and TV. It also lends itself well for those that wish to move into the advertising or journalism industries.

Students that progress post-16 in this curriculum area often go on to study A Level Film Studies or A Level Media Studies. Some students move into more vocational courses such as BTEC Level 3 Media Studies.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Access to a digital camera / camcorder Access to a television / radio Access to a computer / tablet with a quality processor and graphics card	Access to the internet Access to a colour printer All Rutlish students have access to the full ADOBE suite – just download 'Adobe CC' to your computer and log in using your school credentials
--	---

MEDIA STUDIES – BTEC

Creative Media Production

Exam Board	PEARSON BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2
How will the course be examined/assessed?	Non Exam Assessment: 2/3 of course Exam: 1/3 of course
Head of Department	Mr D Neesham

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

In this course, students will be exposed to different forms of media and must show how these can be used in the business world to effectively communicate with an audience. It is a course that looks at contemporary examples of Media, including Advertising, Television, Gaming, Print Media and Film in the context of the workplace, with a digital, online focus.

Students will study 3 Units:

- Component 1 is internally assessed in a course work portfolio. This Component – ‘Investigating the Media’ – allows students to explore and analyse a number of different media products, including film trailers, sci-fi television, action video games and digital magazines.
- Component 2 is internally assessed in a course work portfolio. This Component – ‘Developing Media Skills and Techniques’ allows students to experiment with pre-production, production and post-production activities including planning, scripting, storyboarding, use of cameras, editing using Adobe software, and programming.
- Component 3 is externally assessed in 3 controlled sessions. Students are required to apply all they have learnt in Components 1 and 2 in order to ‘Respond to a Brief’ set by the exam board, creating an Ideas Log, Planning Materials and a final media product of their choice.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

- to give you the opportunity to build a portfolio of digitally published and video products
- to learn about the future of technological development
- to provide you with opportunities to link your understanding of the media and the world of work
- to support your development of transferable interpersonal skills, including working with others, problem-solving, independent study, and learning and thinking skills
- to provide you with a route through education that has clear progression pathways into further study or an apprenticeship.
- to enable you to enhance your English and mathematical competence in relevant, applied scenarios

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

BTEC Media supports progression into Media industries that require creative and technical skills; jobs such as scriptwriter, director, editor, camera operator, lighting specialist, special effects co-ordinator, editing for TV or Film, sound effects/foley etc.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

More technical Post-16 courses such as BTEC Level 3 Media Studies will be a good place for a student to extend their experiences of this course and begin to specialise in a particular area.

USEFUL RESOURCES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to a digital camera / camcorder• Access to a television / radio• Access to a computer / tablet (ideally with Microsoft Office) with a quality processor and graphics card | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to the internet• All Rutlish students have access to the full ADOBE suite – just download ‘Adobe CC’ to your computer and log in using your school credentials |
|--|--|

MUSIC – GCSE

Exam Board	PEARSON EDEXCEL
How will the course be examined/assessed?	Non Exam Assessment 2 x recorded performances 30% 2 x compositions 30% Listening exam 40%
Head of Department	Mrs D Steele

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

Unit 1: Performance (30%)

Students will record two performances, one to be a solo and one as part of an ensemble.

Unit 2: Composition (30%)

Each student will submit two pieces of Music that they have written. One of them is in a style of their choice, using instruments of their choice. The other is in response to a brief set by the exam board. Students can notate this using traditional staff notation or sequencing software such as GarageBand or Logic.

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising Exam (40%)

GCSE Edexcel Music is split up into four areas of study:

1. Instrumental Music of 1700-1820
2. Vocal Music
3. Music for Stage and Screen
4. Fusions

For each area, students will study two set works which exemplify key features of that genre. The listening exam is based on these set works and some unfamiliar pieces.

Students will be at a disadvantage if they are not currently learning a musical instrument. This is due to the fact that their practical music ability forms part of their final grade. For further guidance please contact Mrs Steele, Head of Department.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent." - Victor Hugo

- To develop performance skills on your instrument
- To develop your understanding of how a piece of Music is constructed and to put this into practice yourself
- To spend time studying the finest examples of Music, which put all of these principles into play
- The study of Music is proven to sharpen memory, reduce stress and improve analytical thinking skills.

Candidates are encouraged to speak to their Music teacher if they have any further questions.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Teaching, The Music Industry, Sound Production, Sound Recording/Engineering, Studio Work, Performing, DJing, Music Therapy, Film Music Writing, Performing, Theatre Productions Private Music Lesson, Composer.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

BTEC 3, A Level Music.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Access to a keyboard, piano or chosen instrument.

Individual instrumental lessons which can be arranged through MMF or subject teachers.

PERFORMING ARTS – BTEC

Exam Board	PEARSON BTEC - Tech Award Level 1/2
How will the course be examined/assessed?	3 Components: 1-2 Internally Assessed and Externally Moderated 3- Externally assessed (exam)
Head of Department	Ms C Dawkins

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

Learners will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining the work of performing arts professionals and the processes used to create performance. Students will respond to a brief.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

Learners will develop their performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting, and/or musical theatre repertoire as performers. Students will respond to a brief.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

Learners will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance as either a performer in response to a brief and stimulus.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students who study our new BTEC award in Performing Arts will enjoy all the practical elements afforded to GCSE Drama students but without the rigours of the written exam. Instead students will respond to a brief or imaginary scenario and from this they will create a series of short plays in groups. They may also be required to explore the elements of a live performance.

Students will work in small groups to devise / create plays on a number of contemporary themes and issues and conduct their own research. They will engage in creating different plays based on a character of their choice, and will include props and costumes as required. Students do well on this course not least because of the freedom they are afforded in relation to the evidence that is required. Evidence towards their final grade will be collected over time from rehearsals which may be recorded. Written logs or notes taken after practical session may also support the final outcome. Students will be given the opportunity to create performances, film and assess their work, then develop them further prior to the recording of their final pieces of work. Peer and self-assessment will support student progress towards achieving good marks for all components. There is no formal written exam within BTEC. The learning approach is more hands-on and is a great way to build practical knowledge of theatre making practices.

Logbooks will be collated over a period of time, until the final outcome is realised and devised plays will be built over a period of time until a good devised or scripted play/ performance is achieved). Students are in charge of their own learning at all times.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

This qualification is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSEs that will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in the performing arts sector. This course enables learners to develop the foundational skills that are integral to a wide range of roles (from performing to designing and directing) across the creative industries, including film and television, theatre etc. Learners will receive a general introduction to the sector, lots of opportunities to learn and try out new skills, techniques, and styles, allowing them to make an informed decision about their future learning and career. Throughout this course, learners will acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying professionals' work and processes used, the skills and techniques used in different roles, and how to contribute to the creation of a performance in a performance role.

Learners will also have the opportunity to develop their own technical, practical and interpretative skills through workshops and classes, and to apply them in the internal and external assessments. In addition, learners will develop transferable and employability skills such as responding to a brief, self-development, planning, time management and communication. As a creative subject with a focus on application, there is no written exam. All components, including the externally assessed synoptic component, are assessed through engaging, open, and flexible set tasks, designed to give learners as much freedom as possible in how they respond, allowing them to work to their own strengths and interests, and to focus on the area of the performing arts sector that most excites and appeals to them.

This Tech Award complements the learning in GCSE programmes such as GCSE Drama by broadening experience and skills participation in different types of performance activities, with the opportunity to practically apply knowledge and skills through project work, such as developing ideas and performing for specific audiences. It is a great stepping-stone into further vocational or academic study in the Performing Arts sector.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Students will be better equipped to take on the challenges within the Performing Arts industry. Job roles include Front of House Staff, Actors, Drama Teachers, and Script Writers among others.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Students can progress onto The BTEC Level 3 Tech Award in Performing Arts or The BTEC Level 3 Production.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Further information about this qualification can also be accessed at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts.html>

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – GCSE

Exam Board	PEARSON EDEXCEL
How will the course be examined/assessed?	Non Exam Assessment for practical and personal exercise programme 2 external exams
Head of Department	Mr T Joyce

Please be aware that student's practical ability is directly assessed in this course and contributes to their final grade alongside his academic ability

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

There are four components to the GCSE Physical Education Course, these components are:

1. Theory - Fitness and Body Systems
2. Theory - Health and Performance
3. Practical Performance
4. Personal Exercise Programme

Examinations 60% of Final Grade

COMPONENT 1

Fitness and Body Systems

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Use of data

Assessment :

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes
36% of the qualification
90 marks

COMPONENT 2

Health and Performance

1. Health, fitness and well-being
2. Sport psychology
3. Socio-cultural influences
4. Use of data

Assessment :

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes
24% of the qualification
70 marks

Non examination Assessment 40% of Final Grade

COMPONENT 3

Practical Performance

The assessment consists of students completing three physical activities from a set list.

1. One must be a team activity
2. One must be an individual activity
3. The final activity can be a free choice

Skills in isolation

Skills in a competitive/formal situation

Assessment :

Non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated
30% of the qualification
105 marks (35 marks per activity)

Possible Sports

Please be aware that not all of the sports below will be offered in lessons and liaison with outside coaches may be needed to facilitate this assessment.

Team Sports

Rugby
Football
Cricket
Hockey
Handball
Basketball
Table Tennis(doubles)
Tennis (doubles)
Badminton(doubles)

Individual sports

Athletics
Trampolining
Tennis(singles)
Badminton(singles)
Table tennis(singles)
Swimming
Skiing

COMPONENT 4

Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

1. Aim and planning analysis
2. Carrying out and monitoring the PEP

Evaluation of the PEP

Non-examined assessment:

Internally marked and externally moderated
10% of the qualification
20 marks

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

To have a good range of practical skills
To have a good understanding of science

The course could lead to:

Employment in a sport related sector

Apprenticeships and other training

Vocational courses such as the BTEC Nationals in Sport and Sport and Exercise Sciences

Further study of physical education at AS and A Level

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers this subject will support?

Sport related careers linked to coaching, teaching, physiotherapy

Which courses will this subject support Post 16?

BTEC Sport level 3, A Level PE

USEFUL RESOURCES

Edexcel GCSE PE

Edexcel PE GCSE Revision guides and course books

www.topendsports.com

www.brianmac.co.uk

SPANISH – GCSE

Exam Board	PEARSON EDEXCEL – new specification (first exams 2026)
How will the course be examined/assessed?	Exam - Speaking 25% Exam - Listening 25% Exam - Reading 25% Exam - Writing 25%
Head of French	Ms F Holloway

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

The new Edexcel GCSE French qualification has been designed to focus on the important ways that languages foster communication, broaden perspectives, introduce new cultures and develop students into global citizens.

More than words - the course promotes culture, communication and connection. From the design of speaking tasks, where communication is privileged, through to the use of images to provide cultural context, students understand that words are a springboard to discovering much more.

Language learning for today's world - vocabulary and assessment content reflect and represent diverse student experiences, so that all students feel included and will be able to speak and write about the things that interest them most. Compassionate assessments in a clear and familiar structure – our assessments are accessible and transparent, rooted in testing what students know and ensuring they can attempt the whole assessment confidently, with no surprises.

The vocabulary in this qualification has been made based on the most used vocabulary in Spanish - 85% from the top 2000 most frequent words and 15% of extra key vocabulary on the themes of the GCSE course.

There are **six thematic contexts** across the course:

- **My personal world:** family, friends, relationships and equality.
- **Lifestyle and wellbeing:** physical and mental well-being, food and drink, sports
- **My neighbourhood:** places in town, shopping, the natural world and environmental issues.
- **Media and technology:** music, TV, film, social media and gaming.
- **Studying and my future:** school and future opportunities.
- **Travel and tourism:** transport, accommodation and tourist attractions.

Each paper is available at Foundation or Higher tier. **Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers.**

Paper 1 - Speaking

There are three tasks which must be conducted in the following order:

Task 1 – a read aloud task on one topic that is allocated by Pearson Edexcel.

Task 2 – a role play task on one topic that is allocated by Pearson Edexcel.

Task 3 – a picture task with conversation on a “thematic context” chosen by the student ahead of the assessment, from 2 options given by Pearson Edexcel.

Foundation: 7–9 mins + 15 mins preparation time. **Higher:** 10–12 mins + 15 mins preparation time.

Paper 2 - Listening

The paper is in two sections:

A - questions that are set and responded to in English.

B – a dictation task testing the students’ ability to transcribe spoken Spanish into written Spanish.

Foundation: 45 minutes, including 5 minutes reading time. **Higher:** 60 minutes, including 5 minutes reading time.

Paper 3 - Reading

The paper is in two sections:

A - questions that are set and responded to in English.

B – a translation task from Spanish into English.

Foundation: 45 minutes. **Higher:** 1 hour.

Paper 4 - Writing

The **Foundation** paper is in four sections:

- 1 – picture task to describe
- 2 – a shorter formal writing (choice of two)
- 3 – a longer informal writing (choice of two)
- 4 – a translation into Spanish – 5 sentences.

Foundation: 1 hour 15 minutes.

The **Higher** paper is in four sections:

- 1 – a shorter informal writing (choice of two)
- 2 – a longer formal writing (choice of two)
- 3 – a translation into Spanish – 5 sentences.

Higher: 1 hour 20 minutes.

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

Imagine being able to communicate with 480 million native speakers around the globe, making Spanish the world's fourth most widely spoken mother-tongue language. Imagine the job opportunities that open up by speaking a language which is spoken in 44 countries across all major continents. Imagine the benefits of being able to speak the language of one of the most visited tourist destinations in Europe, with over 80 million visitors a year. And with an average of six weeks of vacation a year and high living standards, imagine being able to spend time living in Spain. Imagine the ways your outlook and life might change when you meet and communicate with people whose cultural background differs from yours. Learning a language also boosts your problem-solving, multitasking and decision-making skills, helps improve your memory and also improves your English language skills.

Here are fifteen things studying a new language might do for you. Language study...

1. broadens your experiences; expands your view of the world
2. encourages critical reflection on the relation of language and culture, language and thought; fosters an understanding of the interrelation of language and human nature
3. develops your intellect; teaches you how to learn
4. teaches and encourages respect for other people
5. contributes to cultural awareness and literacy, such as knowledge of original texts
6. builds practical skills (for travel or commerce or as a tool for other disciplines)
7. improves knowledge of your own language through comparison and contrast with a foreign language
8. exposes you to modes of thought outside of your native language
9. a sense of relevant past, both cultural and linguistic
10. balances content and skill (rather than content versus skill)
11. expands opportunities for meaningful leisure activity (travel, reading, foreign language films)
12. contributes to achievement of national goals, such as economic development or national security
13. contributes to the creation of your personality
14. enables the transfer of training (such as learning a second foreign language)
15. preserves (or fosters) a country's image as a cultured nation

A world of opportunities:

Almost any job can benefit from your knowing another language. More and more of the UK population speak languages other than English and employers in social services, business, communications and the government all recruit people with language skills. Language skills set you apart from other workers, making you a better candidate for promotion and work on new projects. Beyond that, there are a huge number of jobs that absolutely require that you speak a second language. These include working in the Foreign Service, serving as a translator and/or interpreter for the government or the private sector, working at international institutions such as the UN or UNICEF, teaching foreign languages, literatures and cultures in schools or universities in the UK or abroad and working for international business corporations.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers the subject will support?

Business and finance: accountant, administration, human resources director, economist, stockbroker

Communications: reporter, journalist, publisher, editor, interpreter, tour guide, public relations, film producer or director, sports agent

Science and Technology: Engineer, chemist physicist, anthropologist, archaeologist, geologist, biologist **Education:** library science, elementary, secondary, and college level teaching in the US and abroad

Government: translator, interpreter, law enforcement, diplomatic foreign service, customs official, advisor

Social services: social worker, probation officer, criminology and law enforcement, school counsellor, drug abuse counsellor, occupational health care, income maintenance counsellor

Other jobs include: Advertising Copywriter, Book Reviewer, Columnist/ Commentator, Passenger Service Staff, Public Relations Representative, Radio Announcer, Production Manager, Technical Writer, Bilingual Educator, Peace Corps Volunteer, Researcher, World Bank, FBI Agent, State Department or Foreign Service, and Exchange Program Coordinator.

Which courses will the subject support Post 16?

Further study with languages

Literacy based subjects including English and humanities

USEFUL RESOURCES

- Edexcel GCSE Spanish revision guide and workbook
- GCSE vocabulary lists: booklet and Memrise.com
- Intermediate topics on linguascope.com
- Languages online websites for grammar practice

SPORT BTEC

Exam Board	PEARSON BTEC Tech Award- Level 1 and 2
How will the course be examined/assessed?	The BTEC is a modular course. Students achieve a qualification equivalent to 1 GCSE Exam and Coursework
Head of Department	Mr T Joyce

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1 and 2 First Award in Sport has been designed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of sport. The qualification builds on learning from Key Stage 3 for those who may wish to explore a vocational route throughout Key Stage 4. In addition to this, the qualification provides opportunities for learners to develop the communication skills needed for working in the sport sector, as they progress through the course. This is achieved through presentations and in discussions where they have the opportunity to express their opinions. Work is assessed through a mixture of practical performances, presentations and written assignments.

Over the course of the two years' students will be required to complete three units of work. Two units are internally moderated coursework which makes up 30% for each unit. The external examination unit is worth 40%.

Students will study the following units over the course of the two years:

- Unit 1 Preparing participants to take part in Sport and Physical Activity.
- Unit 2 Taking part in Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance.
- Unit 3 Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity.

Unit 1 and 2 are marked internally

Unit 3 is externally marked through an exam

WHY STUDY THE SUBJECT?

This BTEC is an academic qualification for those who wish to study further, either in the leisure industry or for A Level Sports Science or Physical Education. It is also a personal education in the need for and benefits of regular involvement in physical activity.

CAREERS AND POST 16 PROGRESSION

What careers this subject will support?

Sport related careers linked to coaching, teaching, physiotherapy

Which courses will this subject support Post 16?

BTEC Level 3 Sport. A level PE

TIERED EXAMINATIONS IN GCSE

- Some GCSE subjects divide their examinations into different tiers or levels of entry. In most subjects these tiers are called the Higher tier examination and the Foundation tier examination. It is very important that each student is entered for the correct Tiered Paper.
- The decision on the appropriate tier for each student will be taken by the Head of Department. They will take into account all relevant information. The most important information will be the results of any relevant assessments over the two years of the GCSE course.

9 TO 1 GRADES COURSES

- In GCSE subjects students will be studying courses that use the 1-9 criteria. A Grade 4 will be equivalent to the previous C standard.



Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5 STRONG PASS	B
4 STANDARD PASS	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

BTEC & OCR National GRADES COURSES

BTEC and OCR National courses are awarded different grades to GCSE. There is no direct comparison for each grade, however, the table below provides an indicator of the standards achieved.

BTEC Grades	GCSE Equivalence
Level 2 Distinction *	
Level 2 Distinction	Equivalent to a Grade 7
Level 2 Merit	
Level 2 Pass	Equivalent to a Grade 4
Level 1 Distinction	
Level 1 Merit	
Level 1 Pass	Equivalent to a Grade 1
U	U

EXAMINATION BOARDS

BOARD	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	WEBSITES & EMAIL
AQA Formerly SEG Board	Stag Hill House Guildford Surrey GU2 7XJ	0800 197 7162	www.aqa.org.uk
OCR Formerly Cambridge & MEG Boards	Syndicate Buildings 1 Hills Road Cambridge CB1 2EU	01223 553998	www.ocr.org.uk Email: 0344 463 2535 support@ocr.org.uk
Pearson Edexcel Formerly London Board	190 High Holburn London WC1V 7BH	0344 463 2535	Pearson qualifications Edexcel and BTEC Pearson qualifications
WJEC/Eduqas (for UK centres)	24 Western Avenue Cardiff CF5 2YX	029 2026 5000	www.wjec.co.uk

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS

You must select **ONE** subject from **EACH** Option Group A, B, C and D

You cannot choose **BOTH**:

- Drama GCSE and Performing Arts BTEC
- DT Graphics and DT Resistant Materials
- Physical Education GCSE and Sport BTEC
- Economics GCSE and Enterprise BTEC
- Media Studies GCSE and Media BTEC
- iMedia and Media BTEC
- Computer Science GCSE and iMedia

Your teacher will guide you in your choice.

To follow the **English Baccalaureate** you must select a humanity, ie: History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language (MFL), ie: French, German or Spanish. MFL students should only opt for the course they have studied in KS3, unless exceptional circumstances apply, please see Miss Ryan

Make sure you complete both Option Selection Forms:

- **Student copy** (*only for your information and is at the back of this booklet*)
- **School copy** - (*separate sheet*) parents/carers must sign and students to hand to their tutor no later than **Thursday 13 March 2025**.

OVER-SUBSCRIBED GCSE COURSES

If there is an over-subscription in any subject, the following criteria will be used to inform the school's decision on the composition of the GCSE group.

1. Aptitude and ability for the subject
2. Overall choice of Options
3. Potential for benefiting from the course

We try to offer our students as wide a choice as possible. However, we are limited by the need to maintain classes of a reasonable size. Therefore, whilst we will try our best to offer your choice of Options, it may not always be practical. In the case of this happening, we will speak to you about alternative Options. We will also talk to you and your parents/carers if we feel that your choice of Options does not meet your individual needs.

OPTION SELECTION FORM

STUDENT'S FULL NAME: (please print) TG:

STUDENT COPY

For students who wish to follow the English Baccalaureate two of your choices must contain either Geography or History AND either French, German or Spanish

OPTION A	✓	OPTION B	✓	OPTION C	✓	OPTION D	✓
Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)		Art GCSE		Art GCSE		Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)	
French GCSE (EBACC)		DT GCSE Graphics Pathway		Computer Science GCSE (EBACC)		Drama GCSE	
Geography GCSE (EBACC)		DT GCSE Resistant Materials Pathway		DT GCSE Graphics Pathway		DT GCSE Graphics Pathway	
German GCSE (EBACC)		Enterprise BTEC Vocational		Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE		DT GCSE Resistant Materials Pathway	
History GCSE (EBACC)		Geography GCSE (EBACC)		Economics GCSE		Economics GCSE	
Spanish GCSE (EBACC)		History GCSE (EBACC)		Geography GCSE (EBACC)		Enterprise BTEC Vocational	
		Media Studies BTEC Vocational		IT – iMedia Cambridge National		History GCSE (EBACC)	
		Media Studies GCSE		Media Studies GCSE		Performing Arts BTEC Vocational	
		Sport BTEC Vocational		Music GCSE		Physical Education GCSE	
				Physical Education GCSE			

Signed: (Student) Date:

Signed: (Parent/Carer)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR TUTOR BY Thursday 13 March 2025

(This form and the booklet can also be found on the Rutlish Website: <http://www.rutlish.merton.sch.uk>)