



OPTION CHOICES FOR YEAR 10 2017-18

English, Maths, Science, and PE are compulsory in Year 10.

In addition, all students will need to study 4 more subjects:

One or more from Geography, History or Spanish.

One or more from Art, Catering, Dance OR Drama, ICT Skills, Media Studies, Music, Computer Science or Triple Science.

Students need to take great care in choosing their options for Year 10.

They will NOT be able to change subjects once they have started their Year 10 courses.

ART

Course:	Edexcel GCSE Art and Design
Areas of study:	Students will develop their skills in 2D and 3D techniques such as clay, mixed media, print making, sculpture, painting and drawing using a variety of materials.
Assessment:	For their Art portfolio students will need to produce a minimum of 2 pieces of coursework (2D or 3D) and a number of back up work pieces such as sketchbooks and samples. Students will have a practical exam at the end of the course. Coursework is worth 60% and exam 40% of the final grade.
Some important information about the course:	There will be opportunities to visit museums and art galleries and take part in workshops with visiting artists. There will be a final exhibition of the work at the end of the course.

CATERING

Course:	WJEC GCSE Catering
Areas of study:	Students will develop skills such as making different types of pastry, cake decorating, baking with rich yeast dough and cooking safely with high risk foods. Students will also learn how to present dishes for a paying customer. This will involve testing flavours, checking consistency and decorations/garnishes.
Assessment:	The GCSE consists of 2 practical exams, the subject of which will be set by the exam board. One exam is 2 hours cooking two courses for two people and the other exam is 4 hours cooking four dishes, two of which pasta and two being rice bases. Coursework is worth 60% and the written exam is worth 40%.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Course:	Edexcel BTEC First award in Children's play, Learning and Development.
Areas of study:	Students will use their investigative skills to explain the importance of play in a child's development between the ages of 0 to 8 years. We will look in detail at physical, Intellectual, social and Emotional development of children. We will explore how all children can be fully included and have access to learning environments regardless of their individual needs. This is single vocational qualification, which offers opportunities for creative presentations, using case studies, visiting speakers and possibly work experience.
Assessment:	The BTEC First award has one external exam which is 25% of the course. There are then two units which are coursework. The first (25%) is promoting child development through play. The second (50%) is the Principles of early years practice. Which such a high weighting for coursework it is essential that students have an outstanding attendance and a commitment to independent working.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course:	AQA GCSE Computer Science
Areas of study:	There are two components to this course: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Practical Programming – students work individually to code a solution to a particular problem.2. Fundamentals of Computing – including Structures, Procedures & Functions, Hardware, Software, Processors, Error Handling, Algorithms, Networking, and Databases.
Assessment:	Component 1: Coursework = 60% of marks (2 tasks : 25 hours each) Component 2: Written examination = 40% of marks (1 hour 30 minutes)

DANCE and DRAMA

Course:	BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts.
Areas of study:	BTEC Level1/ Level 2 Award in Performing Arts This will consist of three assessment components. Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts - this is an internally assessed examination. To develop as a performer you will need a broad understanding of performance work and influences. To gain a realistic overview of performing arts repertoire, you will learn about the skills and techniques of singing, dancing and acting. This component will help you to understand the requirements of being an actor, dance or musical theatre performer across a range of performances and disciplines. You will develop knowledge and understanding of a range of performance styles and disciplines. You will look at elements such as roles, responsibilities and the application of relevant skills and techniques. Component 2 - Developing skills and techniques in Performing Arts Working as a performer requires the application of skills, techniques and practices that enable you to produce and interpret performance work. In this component, you will develop performance skills and techniques. You will have the opportunity to specialise in the following disciplines: dance. You will take part

in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process.

Component 3 - Performing to a Brief

Live performance can happen in a number of places and for a range of reasons. For example, you may perform in a traditional performance space to an audience, this could be to communicate ideas about a particular theme or issue, or you may be part of a group that tours a performance to a community setting, such as a local school to teach a young audience a safety message. In this component, you will have the opportunity to respond to a brief.

Assessment: Throughout the course, students will be expected to work as a professional dance company, creating and performing pieces in regular showcases. Practical assessment will take place both within lessons and through participation in performance showcases. Written assessments will take the form of technique diaries, in-depth self-evaluations and a 3-hour written assignment.

Important Information: Students will be expected to perform in front of a range of audiences as part of the assessment process. Students will cover a diverse range of dance styles and must participate in all workshops. All students taking the BTEC dance course will be expected to bring appropriate dance kit to every lesson, this will include leotard and footless tights as well as working bare-footed. **If you are not willing to perform in front of an audience, this is not the course for you.**

GEOGRAPHY

Course: AQA GCSE Geography B

Areas of study: Specification B seeks to grasp the interest of the students, giving them an insight into future challenges through the study of current geographical issues of local, national and global importance and their future management. The GCSE Geography B specification gives students the opportunity to develop research and presentation skills. It allows for the content to be delivered using a range of teaching techniques, including teacher-led tasks and independent self-study, which encourages the development of both teacher and student. The Units studied are Coasts, Urban Geography, our Hostile World and the Geography of Tourism.

Assessment: The GCSE has two final exams in Year 11- each lasts 1.5 hours. Exams contribute 75% of the final grade; the remaining 25% comes from Controlled Assessment. This is made up of a fieldwork component (15%) and an issue investigation (10%).

HEALTH FITNESS & SPORT

Course: NFCE Level 2 Certificate in Health and Fitness (VRQ)

Areas of study: Students will develop both practical and academic skills through the compulsory modules Principles of health and fitness; Healthy lifestyles; Preparing and planning for health and fitness; Develop a personal health and fitness programme. Each of these modules will require the application of research and presentation skills, and the acquisition of how to use and apply practical methods and equipment.

Assessment: This course is assessed by 100% controlled assessment. Each of the compulsory modules is worth 25%, with the 'Preparing and planning for health and fitness' module being externally set and assessed. The remaining three modules are internally set and assessed, then externally moderated. Controlled assessments can be presented in a variety of ways, whether this is a written essay or poster, a presentation of a practical demonstration.

HISTORY

Course: EdExcel GCSE History

Areas of study: Students will be required to use their investigative skills and be expected to analyse a range of different historical sources to reach substantiated conclusions. They will have to read in depth and be able to write detailed explanations of past events in essay form. Students will use historical enquiry to examine reasons why History can be interpreted in different ways.

Assessment: Students will study four areas of History, each worth 25% of the final GCSE grade. They will study a breadth study, 'Medicine and Injuries on the Western Front in WW1', a depth study, Norman and Saxon England '1060-88', 'Westward Migration, The American West 1840-1895', and a Depth study: 'Hitler, Nazi Control and dictatorship 1933-39'.

Assessment: three examinations all sat at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 – 1 hour 15 minutes – Medicine and the Western Front *30% total*

Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes – American West and Anglo-Saxon and Norman England 40% total marks

Paper 3 - 1hour 20 minutes – Germany 30% total marks

ICT SKILLS

Course:	Cambridge Nationals ICT
Areas of study:	Students will develop their skills using data handling software, understand the legal implications when using ICT and will improve their creative skills designing systems for Business use. Students will also improve their programming techniques and understand the technical uses of ICT.
Assessment:	Students will be assessed on 3 externally set controlled assessments based on how ICT is used in different contexts (Business Solutions, Creative uses, and Technical uses). There will be one external exam during the course – Understanding Computer Systems. Coursework is worth 75% and the exam is 25% of the final grade.

MEDIA STUDIES

Course:	Edugas GCSE Media Studies 1 - 9
Areas of study:	Media is now all set texts that the exam board has set out for students to study and analyse. In the new component strands students look at Quality Street advertising and the This Girl Can marketing campaign. Film Posters – Bond File Spectre. Magazine Analysis GQ & Pride magazine. Crime Drama unit we focus on the first episode of Luther. Within these texts we look at audience, industry issues, Representation, media language and a new historical element to the study.
Assessment:	70% Exam. There will be two exams set. One will be about media language, representation. Exam two will focus on media forms and products. 30% on the course is made up of the coursework element and the details of this is set out by the exam board at the start of the course.
Some important information about the course:	Written work is more extensive than year 9 as textual analysis is at the heart of the course now. Although there is no written essay for coursework the expectation is that you take your learning of this subject into the exam with you. Pupils will need to take their own pictures for their practical work. You are not allowed to take pictures from the Internet to use, they must be original from the student. This is mandatory and you must take it into consideration before you opt for this subject.

SPANISH

Course:	Edexcel GCSE Spanish
Areas of study:	Speaking – Students will develop their skills by taking part in conversations and longer presentations, using the three tenses and demonstrating good pronunciation. Reading – Students aims at being able to understand longer passages, picking out the main points, specific details and opinions. They are also expected to work out the meanings of new words and phrases. Writing – Students learn to write confidently and at length, describing past, present and future events. They also learn how to change phrases to enable them to write about new topics. Listening – Students can recognise and respond to spoken passages and can pick out the main points and details.
Assessment:	Students will be assessed in the four skills mentioned before. 25% attributed to each skill.

MUSIC

Course:	RSL is a vocational course and is similar to BTEC in that students will receive a Pass, Merit or Distinction following successful completion of the course. It is the equivalent to a GCSE for students. RSL is more a vocational music course than the traditional GCSE, allowing students with a passion for performing to excel. The course is divided into four units, Live Music Performance, Instrumental Study, Music Rehearsal Skills and Music Style Development.
Assessment:	All units are internally assessed with the exception of Live Music Performance which involves students performing 15 minutes worth of material to an audience as a group, soloist or a combination of both of these.
Important Information:	Students who wish to choose this as an option should be a confident musical performer who would be happy to participate in numerous performances and rehearsals outside the school curriculum.