

INTRODUCING OPTIONS

Year 9 into Year 10

Summer 2018

W/C Monday 16th April	Introducing options leaflet sent out, with Options letter, Option form and information booklet Option assemblies with Year 9
Wednesday 2nd May	Parent Evening and Options Event
Monday 14th May	Deadline for completion of Options Form
W/C Monday 2nd July	Confirmation given to all parents of option choices.

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.

INTRODUCING OPTIONS

In Years 10 and 11 your child has to study:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- PE

Your child will need to study FOUR more subjects;

<p>ONE or MORE of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Geography▪ History▪ Spanish▪ French▪ Computing	<p>ONE or MORE of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Art▪ Catering▪ Dance▪ Drama▪ ICT▪ Computing▪ Media Studies▪ Music▪ French▪ Health and Fitness▪ Construction (limited spaces) <p>These subjects continue from Year 9. Your child should only choose these if they are already doing them in Year 9.</p>
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HOW SHOULD YOUR CHILD DECIDE?

You and your child need to think about:

1. What subjects do they find interesting?
2. What subjects do they have a particular talent in?
3. Any possible career plans they may have?

But whatever they choose does not stop them doing any course when they leave us at 16 and go to college or on to apprenticeships or university.

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance is vital for good examination grades. Missing 2 days means missing 3 HOURS of GCSE English and Maths.

An attendance rate of even 90% means your child will be missing 38 GCSE English and Maths lessons in a year.

OPTION CHOICES

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.
Important Information:	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%.

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

Course:	Pearson BTEC Level1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts. Dance Option
Areas of study:	Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts Component 2 - Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts Component 3 - Performing to a Brief
Assessment:	This is an ongoing assessment where students are assessed throughout years 10 and 11. Practical assessments will take place both in lesson time and through participation in performance showcases. Written assessments will take place throughout the two years in the form of technique and rehearsal diaries, in-depth self-evaluations and a coursework based assignment. All practical work will be filmed then marked and internally verified by examiners. As part of the new Tech Award, students are required to choreograph and

perform in a group workshop performance, which will be externally examined by Pearson examiners.

Students will be expected to perform in front of a range of audiences as a part of the assessment process. Students will cover a range of diverse dance styles and MUST take part in all workshops. All students taking the BTEC Dance course will be expected to bring in appropriate dance kit to every lesson - this includes leotard and footless tights as well as working in bare feet (the use of foot thongs is allowed).

There will be opportunities to complete Arts Award courses, Dance Leadership Awards and both Contemporary and Jazz Syllabus exams for students who successfully complete the BTEC Course to a high standard.

ONLY STUDENTS WHO ARE CONFIDENT IN PERFORMING PUBLICLY SHOULD TAKE THIS COURSE. IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO PERFORM IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE, THIS IS NOT THE COURSE FOR YOU.

Important

Information:

Some important information about the course:

Throughout the course, students will be expected to work as a professional dance company, taking class, creating and performing pieces in regular showcases. They will develop a broad understanding of three performance works and their influences to help them understand the requirements of being a dancer. They will develop performance skills and techniques which will enable them to reproduce professional repertoire and will create their own workshop performance to a given brief.

DRAMA

Course: Pearson BTEC Level1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts. Drama Option

Areas of study: Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts
Component 2 - Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts
Component 3 - Performing to a Brief

Assessment: This is an ongoing assessment where students are assessed throughout years 10 and 11. Practical assessments will take place both in lesson time and through participation in performance showcases. Written assessments will take place throughout the two years in the form of technique and rehearsal diaries, in-depth self-evaluations and a coursework based assignment. All practical work will be filmed then marked and internally verified by examiners. As part of the new Tech Award, students are required to devise and perform in a group workshop performance, which will be externally examined by Pearson examiners.

Students will be expected to perform in front of a range of audiences as a part of the assessment process. Students will cover a range of diverse acting styles and MUST take part in all workshops

Important

Information:

Throughout the course, students will be expected to work as a professional theatre company, taking part in acting workshops, creating and performing plays in regular showcases. They will develop a broad understanding of three performance works and their influences to help them understand the requirements of being an actor. They will develop performance skills and techniques which will enable them to reproduce professional repertoire and will create their own workshop performance to a given brief.
ONLY STUDENTS WHO ARE CONFIDENT IN PERFORMING PUBLICLY SHOULD TAKE THIS COURSE. 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 <i>30% total</i> Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes – American West and Anglo-Saxon and Norman England 40% total marks Paper 3 - 1hour 20 minutes – Germany <i>30% total marks</i>

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:	BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production.
Areas of study:	Area of Study Audio/Moving Image. Publications. Interactive. TV & Film. Newspapers and Magazines. Websites, games, Apps, Social media.
Assessment:	Assessment 60% Will be coursework based. Task 1 Exploring media productions. Research based project. Audience, genre, narrative, media language, representation, institutions. Task 2 Developing digital media production skills. Researching, planning and producing your own magazine. 40% Task 3 – Responding to a brief. Research Collecting and sourcing resources Creating your practical production
Important Information:	All pictures and film footage needs to be taken by the students throughout the course, there is not copying and pasting from the net for developing production skills. However students don't need to appear in any footage, just create it.

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.

FRENCH

Course:	GCSE French
Areas of study:	<p>Speaking – Students will develop their skills by taking part in conversations and longer presentations, using the three tenses and demonstrating good pronunciation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Listening – Students can recognise and respond to spoken passages and can pick out the main points and details.</p>
Assessment:	Students will be assessed in the four skills mentioned before