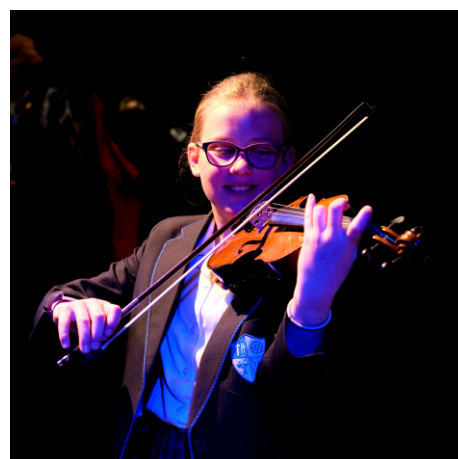




ETONBURY
ACADEMY

KEY STAGE FOUR PROSPECTUS



Preparing our children for the future

Everyone is respectful. Together we care. Always aim higher.

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Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to the Etonbury Academy Key Stage Four prospectus. We will be talking and working with you in the coming months to ensure you have as much help and guidance as you need to make these important decisions. Your Key Stage 4 curriculum will be flexible and has been very carefully designed to give you the best possible opportunities to succeed.

We have also ensured that you will have exceptional specialist subject teachers and access to amazing teaching and learning resources.

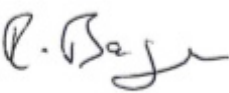
There are also many new and enhanced extra-curricular opportunities in the form of exciting course based trips, residential trips and the established Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

- Please do use the following key opportunities to gain as much information as you can:
- Direct contact with myself for KS4 information, reachable by phone, meeting or at RBaga@bestacademies.org.uk
 - Direct contact with subject leaders who can support, guide and offer any specific advice concerning their subject.
 - This booklet. This booklet will contain all the key information concerning subject specific information.

We will endeavour to provide the options that, after consultation, we feel are best for individual students. At all stages we encourage you to be proactive in your contact with the school where you have questions about the options process. Please feel free to ask your child’s tutor, Head of Year, subject leader or myself.

After a challenging past 12 months, all staff are striving to ensure every child is able to achieve to the very best they are capable of, and that every student has exceptional opportunities to make the most of their passions and talents.

My very best wishes for an exciting and successful future,



Ravi Baga
Assistant Principal – Curriculum

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

English is a core subject that is fundamental in developing students’ reading, writing and communication skills so they leave school as thoughtful, independent, and empowered members of society.

Students gain two English GCSEs, in English Language and English Literature. We study the AQA specifications for both courses, which set out to enable our students to read a wide range of texts fluently, and with good understanding.

Both English Language and Literature will be taught simultaneously, and final assessment in Year 11 will be in the form of examinations. There is no coursework for GCSE English Language or Literature.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

By the time students get to KS4, they will already have an excellent grounding of the core skills required for English study, which we endeavour to refine in preparation for their GCSE examinations.

Students will begin their GCSE study in the latter summer term of year 9, with the study of their 20th century text ‘An Inspector Calls’.

Students will develop the ability to become proficient readers, eloquent writers, and articulate speakers throughout their study of both the Language and Literature GCSEs.

YEAR 10

In Year 10, students will study their core literature texts in detail. These span a variety of genres, times and styles and will include a 19th century novel, a Shakespeare text, modern play, and a collection of poetry. Throughout their study, students will develop skills in comprehension, critical reading, and the ability to write clearly and coherently.

Students will investigate Fiction and Non-Fiction extracts for English Language, looking at how writers use language and structure to create effects on a reader. Students will use this knowledge to apply to their own crafting of descriptions, narratives, and discursive writing tasks.

YEAR 11

In Year 11, students revisit their core texts to broaden their understanding and appreciation, with a focus on developing their own personal response.

Having completed the content of both courses by the start of the spring term, students will have the time to focus on enhancing and refining their examination skills. including the ability to write academically, craft their own writing for a range of purposes and read for meaning and inference.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed on their ability to read and understand texts, as well as the quality of their writing, with a focus on spelling, punctuation, and grammar accuracy.

Throughout the course, assessment will consist of formative and summative feedback, to provide students with multiple opportunities to review their progress and understand how to develop their skills.

The linear nature of the course, and the closed book feature of the Literature GCSE, means that student assessment will also be focused on knowledge quizzes and recall in preparation for independent application in the exam.

External examinations are taken at the end of the course and assessed externally by the exam provider.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

The GCSE is a single-entry examination with no tiered entries for students.

English Language:
Paper 1: 1hr 45mins
Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing
Section A: reading (25% of GCSE)
Section B: writing (25% of GCSE)

Paper 2: 1hr 45mins
Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives
Section A: reading (25% of GCSE)
Section B: writing (25% of GCSE)

English Literature:
Paper 1: 1hr 45mins (40% of GCSE)
Shakespeare and 19th century novel
Paper 2: 2hrs 15mins (60% of GCSE)
Modern texts and poetry

Title of subject	English Language English Literature
Examination board	AQA
Syllabus Number	8700 (English Language) 8702 (English Literature)
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: AWagstaff-Sherwood@bestacademies.org.uk

MATHEMATICS

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Mathematics is a 'core subject' meaning all students study it at GCSE. The syllabus for GCSE builds upon topics students have already completed at Key Stage three, and also introduces many new ones. The delivery of the subject will allow students to apply their mathematical logic and understanding to real life situations.

The main subject areas that are covered includes:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability and statistics

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will use a variety of resources for many of the GCSE topics. Classroom teaching will be at the core of learning; this will be supported by the use of on-line resources and student independent learning.

Students will spend time studying basic topics such as angles, fractions and averages and will then develop these further. They will also learn new aspects of mathematics such as 'sine and cosine', 'cumulative frequency', 'algebraic fractions', 'travel graphs' - and many more.



YEAR 10

Students in Year 10 will continue to develop and hone their maths skills. Students will continue to develop in subject areas such as algebra, including looking at expressions and formulae, equations and inequalities in more detail.

They will also look more deeply into functional maths developing their learning of Pythagoras, Locus, time, ratio and proportion.

By the end of the year students will be fully prepared for the new topics ahead.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 students will continue to build upon learning in Year 10 and also be introduced to mathematical concepts and practice.

Students will be guided through the main subject areas through a mixture of online resources and classroom teaching.

Students will also benefit from real world scenarios to use their maths in which is fundamental to the course and undertaking the exam questions.

Throughout the two years students will be assessed to ensure they are making the progress required to successfully complete the three exams.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

As with all subjects there will be a mixture of formative and summative feedback offered both verbally and in written form. Topics will be assessed regularly as in KS3 to help monitor student progress.

Assessment objectives include:

AO1 - Use and apply standard techniques.
AO2 - Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically.
AO3 - Solve problems within mathematics in other contexts.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

There are three exams at the end of the course and no coursework element. Each exam will be marked externally by the exam board.

There are two tiers available for the course with papers tiered as Foundation or Higher level. Grades 5-1 can be achieved from the foundation paper and grades 9-4 from the higher paper. A calculator will be permitted in 2 of the 3 papers.

All students should have their own scientific calculator as they are vital in 2 out of the 3 papers.

Title of subject	Mathematics
Examination board	AQA
Syllabus Number	8300
Tiers of entry possible	Yes (Higher & Foundation)
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: LVanner@bestacademies.org.uk

SCIENCE (TRIPLE & COMBINED)

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Science GCSE provides students with the foundations to understand the world through the specific disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Science continually evolves, changes our lives in many ways and is vital to our planets future prosperity and well-being.

Through building up a body of key knowledge and concepts, students will be able to understand how science can be used to explain, predict analyse and evaluate causes.

Science is a core course that is inclusive to all students.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

All students whether they are entered for Triple Science (worth 3 GCSEs) or the combined award (worth 2 GCSEs) will cover all three sciences.

For example, students will study cell biology, ecology and bioenergetics in Biology. They will learn about organic chemistry and atomic structure in Chemistry and forces, energy and electricity in Physics.

Students will explore science through a cycle of hypothesis, practical experimentation, observation, theory development and review.



YEAR 10

Pupils will study the topics of genes; DNA; infection; immune response; ecosystems; and the human body which include the circulatory system, cell division and structure in Biology. They will explore the chemicals of the natural environment, material science, acid and alkali reactions, and structure and bonding in compounds in chemistry. In Physics, they will be looking at electrical circuits, forces and motion, waves and sustainable energy. Triple science students go into greater coverage in these topic areas.

YEAR 11

In year 11, students will continue to develop their knowledge of various topics. For example, in year 11, students will explore areas of radioactivity through to energy changes in chemical reactions and density.

Students will complete remaining topics and will sit mock exams after they have completed all 18 of the topics in the OCR 21st Century science B syllabus.

Students will then be fully prepared to complete the end of course examinations.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will benefit from a range of assessment methods that will prepare them for the end of course exams.

They will receive formative and summative feedback throughout the two years. Students will also receive summative feedback at the end of each unit after an end of unit test has been completed. There will be 3 assessments each term.

Students will also be assessed on their practical ability and though this does not count as coursework/controlled assessment, no less than 15% of the final exams will be based on a student's practical knowledge. Learners will need to be prepared to answer questions using their knowledge and understanding of practical techniques and procedures in written papers.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

The Triple Science qualification (worth 3 GCSEs) will have 6 exams at the end of the course. There will be two for each discipline (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Each one will have a breadth and depth paper, (each worth 50%) with both papers assessing content from all six chapters. Each exam paper will be 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

Combined Science (worth 2 GCSEs) The Combined Science qualification will have 4 exams at the end of the course. There will be one for each science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each worth 26.4%) and a further one assessing the entire content over the course (worth 20.8% of the combined GCSE).

Title of subject	Combined science Separate sciences: Biology / Chemistry / Physics
Examination board	OCR (21st Century Science B)
Syllabus Number	J260 (Combined Science) J257 (Biology B) J258 (Chemistry B) J259 (Physics B)
Tiers of entry possible	Yes, for combined and separate sciences (Higher and Foundation)
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: MEvans@bestacademies.org.uk

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CORE)

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Core P.E. will provide opportunities for pupils to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness.

Our high-quality Physical Education curriculum inspires all pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically demanding activities.

Throughout the two years, there will be opportunities to compete in sport and other activities to build character, confidence and help to embed values such as fairness, respect, and teamwork.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

In core P.E. students will participate in a variety of sporting activities.

Students will be led through a quality scheme of work for each activity to ensure maximum progress is made.

They will continue with health related fitness alongside gaining the necessary knowledge to ensure there is a clear understanding about how to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. Students will also have the opportunity to play for the Academy teams.

YEAR 10

Students will follow a timetable of activities to give them the opportunity to participate in team sports such as basketball, rugby, football and also individual sports such as gymnastics, dance and table tennis.

A variety of lunchtime and afterschool clubs will continue to be available to all students of all abilities and experiences.

The P.E. course as with the other sports courses is inclusive of all.

YEAR 11

Students will continue to experience a range of sporting activities in key stage four.

Lessons will be planned to provide the students with both mentally and physically demanding tasks. Students in Years 10 and 11 will move away from just playing sport to understanding the relevance of it to health and wider contexts.

P.E. clubs will be provided for students in key stage 4 and fixtures/competitions against other schools will be arranged throughout the year.

Etonbury Academy will have its own sports teams.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be continually assessed throughout the years in a variety of different sports.

Students will be assessed on the following:

- Ability to use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in team and individual sports.
- Technique in competitive sports.
- Ability to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group.
- Ability to evaluate their performances compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement across a range of physical activities.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Not applicable for this course.



Title of subject	Physical Education - Core
Examination board	N/A
Syllabus Number	N/A
Tiers of entry possible	N/A
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	N/A

Contact information: MPullinger@bestacademies.org.uk

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Religious Studies is the only subject that explores the purpose of human existence.

A grounding in Religious Studies is invaluable for all students as they prepare for the real world. The subject will develop skills in critical reasoning and debate, whilst also providing a unique insight into a wide range of beliefs, practices, traditions and cultures.

The content is both interesting and contemporary and helps learners to make sense of the complex and ever-changing world in which we live.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of sources of authority and wisdom that underpin and connect teachings, beliefs and practices.

They will explore these in relation to Christianity and another religion. Students will then apply and evaluate these beliefs in different topics, for example relationships and families. They will be able to offer reasoned and supported arguments within their discussion about the key issues in these religions.

YEAR 10

Year 10 pupils strengthen their overall knowledge of Christianity and other main religions.

Throughout Year 10, students will also explore religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes:

- Theme A: Relationships and families
- Theme B: Religion and life
- Theme C: The existence of God and revelation
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

YEAR 11

In Year 11, students will develop an understanding of Christianity in a greater detail alongside another religion.

Students will explore differences and comparisons as they look over four key areas. Building upon their learning in Year 10 students will explore relationships, the existence of god, religion, peace and conflict and issues between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes.

Over the two years, students will acquire the learning required to sit a formal qualification though this is not compulsory.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed continuously over the two years internally and if they wish to sit a formal qualification, externally.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Students if they wish to sit a formal qualification will sit two exams based on certain themes.

Theme one will focus on beliefs and teachings & practices and be worth 50% of the overall course. This exam will be based on the two religions studied.

Theme two focuses on religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective. Again, this paper is worth 50% of the overall exam. Students will be assessed on either four religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes or two religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes and two textual studies themes.

Title of subject	Religious Studies
Examination board	AQA
Syllabus Number	8062
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: RBaga@bestacademies.org.uk

PSHCE

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

PSHCE is short for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education and students will continue to take part in a taught PSHCE course during their form time personal development sessions. The lessons aim to focus on developing students’ individual knowledge, skills and attributes to keep them healthy and safe while preparing them for life and work.

Students will cover a variety of topics using various teaching methods and styles, including small group and class projects, research tasks, discussions and debates, along with visiting speakers and specialists.

Students will also be focusing separately on careers education and guidance during their form time careers development sessions.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will continue to look at themselves as an individual, and to learn more about themselves, their friends, relationships and the society we live in.

Students will be motivated to explore and discuss ideas open and honestly, to listen to other people’s views and experiences with tolerance and respect. They are encouraged to be an active citizen within the school and wider community.

There will be a variety of topics covered building upon learning from Year 9.

YEAR 10

In Year 10, students will continue to develop their understanding of key topics including: transition to KS4, mental health, living in the wider world, personal safety, relationships, role models, drug use, family and resilience.

Students in Year 10 will be looking more closely at careers and the different choices they have post 16. Students will explore their personal attributes and attitudes towards work, write CVs, personal statements, explore local job market information and potential routes into Universities or degree equivalent training.

They will also have the chance to attend different guest speaker talks given by people from different occupations to gain first hand advice and guidance from various specific employment sectors.

It is anticipated that students will complete work related learning through an individual placement at a place of work to gain experience of the world of work and skills needed.

YEAR 11

Students in Year 11 will continue to look closely at their post 16 options while preparing for life after school. They will be focusing on their personal skills and interests while exploring how extracurricular activities can benefit their application process. Some students will need to write personal statements and all will be given the opportunity to gain experience by participating in mock interviews.

Students will also be able to attend the Etonbury careers fair where they will be able to talk to people from different industries to gain insight and ask questions about what can be expected from the world of work.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Though there is no qualification to be obtained from this course students will however gain many life skills that will help them fulfil their full academic potential, along with knowledge that will help them to make informed choices now and in the future.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Not applicable for this course.

Title of subject	PSHCE
Examination board	N/A
Syllabus Number	N/A
Tiers of entry possible	N/A
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	N/A

Contact information: TGant@bestacademies.org.uk



CITIZENSHIP

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Citizenship Studies has the power to motivate and enable young people to become thoughtful, active citizens.

Students gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society.

They will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate an argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- Students will develop knowledge and understanding in various areas of citizenship. These include:
- 1. Citizenship skills, processes and methods
 - 2. Life in modern Britain
 - 3. Rights and responsibilities
 - 4. Politics and participation
 - 5. Active citizenship



YEAR 9

Life in modern Britain: Students will look at the make-up, values and dynamics of contemporary UK society. They will consider what it means to be British, how our identities are formed and how we have multiple identities.

Rights and responsibilities: Students will look at the nature of laws and the principles upon which laws are based, how the citizen engages with legal processes, how the justice system operates in the UK and how laws have developed over time.

YEAR 10

Politics and participation: Students will look at the nature of political power in the UK and the core concepts relating to democracy and government. This includes how government operates at its various levels within the UK, how decisions are made and how the UK parliament works and carries out its functions.

During Year 10 students will also demonstrate active citizenship and continue to develop citizenship skills, processes and methods.

At the end of Year 1, students will be given the opportunity to take the examinations for the course.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students' work will be assessed in numerous ways over the two years. Formative and summative feedback will be given both verbally and in written form from both teachers and peers.

There will be two exams for this course with these both being marked externally. Students will be given the choice to enter the examinations.

The exams for this course will be sat at the end of Year 10.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Paper 1:
Section A: Active citizenship
Section B: Politics and participation
1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks, 50% of the course

Paper 2:
Section A: Life in modern Britain
Section B: Rights and responsibilities
1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks, 50% of the course



Title of subject	Citizenship
Examination board	AQA
Syllabus Number	8100
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: RBaga@bestacademies.org.uk

COMPUTER SCIENCE

(*The course contains a large amount of maths, please contact Mr Kirkman for more information)

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Computer Science GCSE introduces students to computer programming. They will learn Visual Basic, the programming language, and use it to create a variety of programs.

The GCSE also provides an introduction into the main areas of computing. They will cover programming theory, algorithms, data representation, logic, hardware, software, networking, databases, and cyber security.

In a world that is now driven by technology, developing understanding and skills in computer science is a must.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will create programs in Visual Basic following various specifications.

Students will learn to read Binary and Hexadecimal numbers.

They will understand the fundamentals of hardware and software – the functions of the CPU, main memory, and the operating system.

They will have an introduction to computer networks and key aspects of cyber security.

They will study relational databases and SQL.



YEAR 10

In Year 10 students will start to explore the key concepts of Computer Science. They will look at the fundamentals of algorithms, programming and data representation.

They will learn about computer hardware, and the fundamentals of computer networks.

Students will build upon their knowledge obtained at KS3 and develop programming concepts such as the use of variables, selection, and iteration.

YEAR 11

Students will develop their knowledge of computer networks, and learn about different cyber security threats and how to avoid them.

They will study relational databases and how to use SQL to control them.

All the time, they will continue to develop programming skills, creating programs with more complexity as they move through the course.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The course is assessed by two exams, both sat at the end of year 11.

Paper 1: A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.

Paper 2: A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Computational thinking & programming skills

Written exam: 2 hours
90 Marks
50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Computing Concepts
Written Exam: 1 Hour 45 Minutes
90 marks
50% of GCSE

Title of subject	Computer Science
Examination board	AQA
Syllabus Number	8525
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%
Contact information: RKirkman@bestacademies.org.uk	

GEOGRAPHY

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Geography is about the world around us, and the connections between the physical and human landscapes.

Physical Geography is learning about how processes that create landforms and how humans try to live and manage these processes.

Human Geography is learning about how, over time, we have shaped our environment and how we manage our resources into the future.

The course covers lots of different aspects of Physical and Human Geography, which will be explored in and out the classroom.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Through the study of Geography students will develop: communication, graphical and cartographical skills, technological skills including ICT and GIS, and interpersonal skills through debate and discussion.

Students will develop understanding in four main areas:

- Living with the physical environment
- Challenges in the human environment
- Geographical applications
- Geographical skills



YEAR 10

In Year 10 students cover 3 physical topics and 1 human topic. Students will begin the year with the human topic; Urban Issues and Challenges with case studies covering London and Mumbai in detail. The physical topics include Natural Hazards focusing on both Tectonic and Weather Hazards alongside Climate Change. They will then study Ecosystems, with the focus on Hot Deserts and Tropical Rainforests. The last physical topic is the Physical Landscape of the UK, where the focus is on Coasts and Rivers. Over the year, they will continue to develop key geographical skills and exam technique in preparation for GCSE. The knowledge and understanding are taught through recent contextual case studies and events.

YEAR 11

In Year 11, students will learn about the challenges in the human environment, they will study the challenges of resource management and the changing economic world. We then focus on geographical application through the pre-release material which the students find really interesting as they can focus on one topic in depth.

Students will be able to explore more practical elements of the course through trips and fieldwork, which will broaden the learning environment.

Throughout the two years, students will develop the skills and understanding to tackle the three exams at the end of course.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed continuously in all years. They will benefit from regular formative and summative assessments both verbally and in written form from both teachers and peers.

They will also be given regular mock exam style questions to ensure they are best equipped to tackle the end of course exams.

There is a compulsory one-night residential fieldtrip at the end of Year 10 to North Norfolk to fulfil the course requirements.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

There are three exams for the course and no controlled assessments/coursework.

Papers one and two are worth 35% each (70% in total) with paper three being worth the remaining 30%.

Papers one and two feature multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose questions.

Paper three is based upon fieldwork and a pre-released resource that will be made available prior to the exam.

Title of subject	Geography
Examination board	AQA
Syllabus Number	8035
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: LHarbour@bestacademies.org.uk

HISTORY

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

GCSE History informs students about the past, major events that occurred and the impact that these have had on the modern world. With this knowledge and understanding, students will explore change and what drives change and how the past influences the present.

Students will learn a broad range of history. There will be a period study, a thematic study, a modern depth study and British study.

A GCSE in history provides students with a wide variety of future career choices and pathway to higher education.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

GCSE history provides a wide range of time periods for students to enjoy.

These will be:

- Medicine through time, c1250-present
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

Students will also develop a wide range of transferable skills, including source analysis, understanding of different interpretations and the ability to construct an argument.

YEAR 10

Year 10 will study Medicine through time and early Elizabethan England.

Superpower relations will develop understanding from the 20th century unit in year 9 and focuses on conflict between the USA and USSR.

Elizabethan England focuses on problems that Elizabeth faced, including poor, Armada and religion, and how she attempted to solve them. We will also look at everyday Elizabethan life, such as leisure and education.

YEAR 11

Year 11 will study Weimar and Nazi Germany and Superpower relations.

Weimar and Nazi Germany focuses on the issues faced after the First World War, the development of the Nazi Party and Hitler in power.

Medicine through time covers a broad range of history, focusing on the believed causes, treatments and development of medical care.

During the GCSE course there will be numerous additional sessions put on for students to attend if they wish to. These sessions will continue to develop course material and general passion for the subject.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Internal assessment, for the purpose of showing pupils how they have progressed, and the recommend further opportunities, will take place throughout the course and will focus on exam style questions. Frequent knowledge based quiz style questions will also be a feature.

External examinations are taken at the end of the course and assessed externally by the exam provider.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Students will sit three exams at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 will be worth 30% of the overall GCSE. Paper 2 will be worth 40%, and paper three the remaining 30%.

There is no coursework/controlled assessment for this course and all examinations are marked externally.

Title of subject	History
Examination board	EDEXCEL
Syllabus Number	1HI0
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: WYoung@bestacademies.org.uk



MFL
(FRENCH & GERMAN)

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The study of languages offers students opportunities to communicate with others, to learn about different cultures and to acquire language patterns.

Students will continue to learn how to understand, speak, read and write in the chosen language.

They will also learn about life in countries where the studied languages are spoken.

The course builds on the work covered so far and is excellent for students that will acquire a life skill that is very important in today's world.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will develop their language skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of the five set themes.

They will complete and take part in role plays, picture tasks and conversations to broaden their language skills. They will also develop basic and more advanced vocabulary.

Students will also develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

Through the study of a foreign language, students will develop a range of sought-after skills such as listening, effective communication, multi-tasking, creativity, logical thinking and problem-solving.

YEAR 10

From September, students of MFL will build upon the language skills and grammar already covered at KS3 and begin to focus on the five key themes which are the basis for the four examination sections.

The themes are:

- Identity and Culture
- Local Area, Holiday and Travel
- School
- Future aspirations, Study and Work
- International and Global Dimension

Students will be taught using a wide variety of teaching methods and activities which are designed to promote independence as language learners and to prepare for GCSE. Vocabulary and grammar will be extended and consolidated.

YEAR 11

In year 11, students will continue to focus on five key themes that are the basis for the four examination sections.

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into the five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics.

Students will perfect their writing and speaking skills through regular practise, enabling them to communicate effectively and with confidence.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed both internally and externally during the two years.

Internally this will include formative, summative and written assessment as well as peer assessment.

There will be regular opportunities throughout the two years and particularly in year 11 to practice for the final speaking test.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Four externally marked examinations are taken in Year 11 in the key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each examination is worth 25% of the final GCSE grade.

The speaking test is conducted by the subject teacher and marked externally by Edexcel.

Title of subject	MFL – French & German
Examination board	EDEXCEL
Syllabus Number	1FR0, 1GN0, 1SP0
Tiers of entry possible	Yes Foundation / Higher tier
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: CMwamatandala@bestacademies.org.uk

ART & DESIGN

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The GCSE will centre on Fine Art. The course will include aspects such as drawing, painting, sculpture, print making and lens/light based media.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of Art and look at contemporary and historical situations and the impact on Art. The work and approaches of artists from a range of historical contexts, periods, societies and cultures.

Students along with the above will develop the practical skills needed for the course.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will develop knowledge and understanding through a range of projects. They will create a personal portfolio that will include a body of practical research and development along with the finished pieces of art.

Students will develop ideas, explore ideas and be given a degree of freedom to express their creative flair.

Contextual trips will give the students the opportunity to take their own photographs of subject matter relevant to their themes and visit a gallery to source inspiration.



YEAR 10

In Year 10, students will work on a 2D project the will contribute to their coursework portfolio. The theme will be guided by their teacher and they will take part in a relevant art trip to help start their studies.

Throughout the year, they will build their knowledge and practice of a range of materials and media and investigate the work of other artists in order to inspire and develop their own independent ideas. Their project will conclude in a focus and sustained final piece.

YEAR 11

In Year 11, students will complete the coursework portfolio with a second project which will also be supported by a second art trip to research and gather resources. They will continue to develop and refine their practical skills and further their understanding of artists and their work.

The externally set assignment is released in the spring term and is guided through lesson time until the final piece is created in exam conditions at the end of the unit. The focus and theme of the project is set by Edexcel.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Assessment will take place throughout the course. It will consist of both formative and summative feedback. The work will be internally set and internally marked for the personal portfolio, with a sample of this work being externally moderated.

Students will be assessed against the following assessment objectives.

Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.(AO1)

Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. (AO2)

Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. (AO3)

Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.(AO4).

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Component 1:
Students will create a personal portfolio throughout year 10 and 11 that is worth 60% of the qualification. The portfolio will be marked out of 120.

Component 2:
Students will also be assessed via an externally set assignment, which will be worth 40% of the GCSE qualification. This will have a preparation period which is teacher lead and a sustained period of 10 hours, in exam conditions to create their final piece. The externally set assignment be marked out of 80.



Title of subject	FINE ART
Examination board	Eduquas (WJEC)
Syllabus Number	C651QS
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	60% coursework/ 40% exam

Contact information: KParsons@bestacademies.org.uk

BUSINESS STUDIES

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Business is a course designed to allow students to develop their knowledge and understanding of business contexts. These include businesses ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts.

Students will explore various areas of business such as Business Ownership, Influences on Business, Marketing, Finance, Business Operations and Human Resources.

They will be expected to develop as effective and independent students, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

During the course, students will be required to know and understand various areas of a business. A small sample includes:

What business aims and objectives are, how and why these differ between businesses, and how and why these change as businesses evolve.

The impact of the economic climate on businesses, including changing levels of consumer income and unemployment.

YEAR 10

Students in Year 10 will begin to acquire knowledge concerning business activity. Students will learn about different types of business, business ownership and the factors that influence business such as location, market and materials. They will also look at business aims and objectives.

Students will also focus on External Influences on Business, Human Resources and Business Operations.

YEAR 11

In Year 11, students will focus on Finance and Marketing whilst consolidating their knowledge of External Influences on Business.

Whilst students are furthering their knowledge they will also be developing new skills which they will be expected to use. These include:

- Use business terminology to identify and explain business activity.
- Apply business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- Develop problem solving and decision making skills relevant to business.
- Investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be internally assessed continuously over the two years. In years 10 and 11 students will be given support throughout the course and assessment will be given in a number of ways including formative, summative, written, and verbal by both teachers and peers. Internal assessment will frequently focus on exam style questions.

External examinations are taken at the end of the course and assessed externally by the exam provider.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

2 Written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes
90 marks each

Paper 1: 50% of GCSE
Topics assessed are: Business in the real world, Influences on business, Business operations, Human resources

Paper 2: 50% of GCSE
Topics assessed are: Business in the real world, Influences on business, Marketing, Finance
There will be a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions along with case study/data response stimuli with questions.

Title of subject	Business Studies
Examination board	AQA
Syllabus Number	8132
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: BKirkman@bestacademies.org.uk

DANCE

(*The course is taken during core P.E. lessons and is an additional GCSE)

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Dance contributes to students’ aesthetic and social development. As a physical activity it promotes fitness and well-being. Dance also supports learning across a range of subjects.

As performers, students develop confidence and self-esteem. They develop self and body awareness as well as sensitivity to others and team- working skills.

As choreographers, students employ the skills of problem-solving and creativity.

As critics, students make informed decisions about the dances they see.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will understand how to achieve high quality performances through:

- Planning the rehearsal schedules
- Commitment to rehearsal
- Identification of the technical and expressive skills necessary for effective performance
- Awareness of the characteristic features of the dance
- Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of their own and others’ performance and capacity to improve.



YEAR 10 & 11

For the practical element (60%), students will learn 2 set dances, a group dance and choreograph their own dance.

They will learn two set pieces to demonstrate their physical competence and effectiveness as performers and their knowledge of safe working practice.

For the performance unit, students will choreograph a 3-minute group dance along side Miss Hilton.

For the final unit, students will choreograph their own dance to showcase their use of choreographic devices, actions, space, dynamics and relationships.

For the theory element, over the two years students will study six professional dance works and safe practice in dance through a written exam. This will include analysing their own dance performance and choreography. This exam will take place at the end of Year 11 and be worth 40% of the qualification.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed throughout the three years with a mixture of formative and summative feedback.

Performances will be assessed frequently to ensure students are making progress in preparation for their final performances.

There will also be a clear focus on written work and reflecting on performances as this will be the focus assessing this to the standard expected for a GCSE.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

There are two elements to the course. A written exam, at the end of Year 11, that is worth 40% of the GCSE. Questions for the exam will be based on students’ own practice in performance and choreography and the GCSE Dance anthology.

Coursework/controlled assessment based on performance and choreography. This will be internally marked and externally moderated and account for the remaining 60% of the course.

Title of subject	Dance
Examination board	AQA
Syllabus Number	8236
Tiers of entry possible	N/A
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	60%

Contact information: SHilton@bestacademies.org.uk

ENGINEERING DESIGN – CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The Cambridge National in Engineering Design develops students’ understanding of the processes involved in creating a design from which a prototype can be manufactured.

This will then be tested and evaluated in terms of fitness for purpose. They will learn about design, manufacture and theory through both academic and practical sessions through various projects and activities.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Learners are provided with the knowledge and skills required to take an idea from brief, through the design stage and then manufacture a working prototype.

Learners will develop their understanding of the processes and systems required to transfer a design concept into a product.

Learners will investigate theoretical concepts such as health and safety in the workplace, standard components, sustainability, specification and manufacturing supply chains.

Practical elements will include CAD/CAM, general workshop tools, electronics, cardboard engineering, plastic moulding, brazing, pewter casting and assembly.



YEAR 10 & 11

The units include:

1. R105 Design Briefs, Design Specifications and User Requirements. Students develop their understanding of how a design brief relates to the specification and the user needs, how these create a suitable product and its role and impact in society.
2. R106 Product analysis and research. Students research and analyse other products and gain an understanding of the function and the success criteria their product needs.
3. R107 Developing and presenting engineering designs. Students begin to design and evaluate a range of ideas that could be used for a final outcome. This will include CAD, 3D hand drawn sketches, 2D working drawings and 3D model making.
4. 3D design realisation. Students create a production plan and manufacture their final prototype out of various materials using tools and processes. Afterwards they will evaluate the prototype and their performance.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be given support throughout the course and assessment will be given in a number of ways including formative, summative, written, and verbal and by both teachers and peers.

Three of the four units will be assessed within school with a sample being moderated externally.

There is ONE exam for this course which will be sat at the end of the course in line with other GCSEs.

The grading outcome is different to a GCSE. Grades will be awarded for each unit as a Level 1/2 PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

For this course there is ONE 1-hour exam. The exam will be based on R105: Design Briefs, Design Specifications and User Requirements. Pupils will work through various theory tasks, both as standalone lessons and also as part of their various pieces of coursework throughout the Key Stage.

Their progress will be assessed in regular mock exams every half term to get the pupils used to the exam format and to monitor their progress.

The remaining three units will be completed during the course, internally marked with a sample being externally moderated.

Title of subject	Engineering Design
Examination board	OCR
Syllabus Number	J841
Tiers of entry possible	N/A
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: RReeves@bestacademies.org.uk

GCSE P.E.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

GCSE P.E. provides students with the knowledge and understanding of how to live a healthy and active lifestyle, enabling them to make informed choices about their own physical development.

The course includes practical assessments (30%), coursework (10%) and two written exams (60%).

This course is divided into four main areas:

- Fitness and body systems
- Health and performance
- Practical performance
- Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will develop knowledge in the following areas; applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences and health, fitness and well-being.

Students will then apply all of their knowledge to practical situations.

They will also learn how to assess and evaluate practical performance effectively in order to create a PEP.



YEAR 10

Students will acquire knowledge in the following three areas; methods of training, components of fitness and principles of training. They will carry out fitness tests in order to assess and evaluate their practical performance in a chosen sport.

With this data, students will begin to create a PEP that will be developed in Year 10 and then into Year 11 before submitting as coursework.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 students will develop their understanding of Fitness and body systems along with health and performance. Their will be a mixture of theory and practical lessons to ensure students are developing a deep understanding of the content. This knowledge will be essential for the examinations at the end of Year 11.

The practical performance part of the course will be carried out in Year 11. Students will be moderated on their physical skills in three sports of their choice.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed continuously over the two years internally and externally on both their practical skills and understanding of the theory content.

The coursework will be submitted in year 11 and will be assessed both internally and externally. The examining board will mark the Year 11 exams externally.

Practical performance will be assessed internally and externally. Students will be given guidance and support when selecting their three sports to be assessed in. The three sports must include one individual sport and one team sport. The final sport can be selected from either category.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

The coursework will be a controlled assessment. Although students are completing this at school, they will be monitored thoroughly to ensure this work is completed to the guidelines which are set by the examination board.

The exams will be completed at school and will be controlled by external moderators.

Practical performance will also be carried out as a controlled assessment at school.

Outdoor pursuits and other sports which cannot be assessed at school will still require a controlled assessment. These details will be given nearer the time of the practical assessments.

Title of subject	GCSE P.E.
Examination board	EDEXCEL
Syllabus Number	1PE0
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	40%

Contact information: MPullinger@bestacademies.org.uk

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Hospitality and catering equips students with an array of culinary techniques and knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety.

Students are encouraged to use ideas from a range of traditions and cultures to show diversity in their cooking.

The students are encouraged to work independently, but will also carry out collaborative work for academy events.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

The course consists of two units - one unit concentrates on the theoretical knowledge, which is assessed through a written exam.

The second unit is a portfolio of work, which includes practical assessments. The students will gain a broader understanding of the different roles that are available in the hospitality industry.



YEAR 10

At KS4, students follow a vocational course in Hospitality and Catering that encourages students to look at this industry in more detail.

The practical element focuses on food in action, with each student selecting a theme to work to before they each decide on the different dishes that they would like to cook.

YEAR 11

Through the two units, the students will gain an overview of the hospitality and catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression.

Successful completion of this qualification could support entry to qualifications that develop specific skills for work in hospitality and catering.

They will also learn technical skills and learn how to work effectively as an individual as well as in a group to prepare them for work in the industry.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

A single written examination paper, one hour and thirty minutes in duration. The exam is worth 40% of the final overall grade.

A portfolio of coursework including written assignments and a practical assessment, the practical assessment and coursework are worth 60% of the final overall grade.

Students will be given support throughout the course and assessment will be given in a number of ways including formative, summative, written, and verbal and by both teachers and peers.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

The course is marked as Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction star with the grades awarded based on the student's performance in each unit to achieve an overall grade.

The course is made up of 3 internally assessed and externally moderated units and one examination.

Title of subject	Hospitality and Catering
Examination board	WJEC
Syllabus Number	601-7703/2
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	60%

Contact information: RReeves@bestacademies.org.uk

MEDIA STUDIES

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Media studies is a creative course that allows students to demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision making and analysis.

Students will look into four main areas, media language, representation, media industries and the role of the audience.

Students in Media studies will also develop practical skills through the creation of media productions. Students will learn how to use software such as Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Premiere to edit, along with hardware such as SLR cameras and Panasonic camcorders.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will recognise the fundamental relationship between theory and practice. Students will be able to develop and apply their understanding of the media through both analysing and producing media products. Students will be required to study examples of media products including:

- Television
- Newspapers
- Video Games
- Music Video
- Online media

YEAR 10

From September students will acquire knowledge in the four main areas of learning, media language, representation, industry and audience.

Students will create numerous media products to ensure they acquire skills in Photoshop, film editing and the use of camera equipment.

They will combine practical skills with developing understanding of the set texts which amongst others include Luther, The Sun newspaper and Fortnite.

YEAR 11

Students will continue to learn about the set texts with a focus on music videos and websites. They will develop in their understanding of media theory and debates such as moral panics and the uses and gratification theory.

Coursework will be completed in the autumn term. Students will be required to complete one individual media production in response to a brief set. This production will require students to apply their knowledge and understanding of representation and media language.

Two exams will be taken in the summer term completing the GCSE Media studies course.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed continuously over the two years both internally and externally.

The examining board in Year 11 will moderate students' coursework along with the end of course exam being marked externally.

Students will be given support throughout the course and assessment will be given in a number of ways including formative, summative, written, and verbal and by both teachers and peers.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Paper 1:
Set texts. Analysis and evaluation of different industries.
1 hour 30 minutes
40% of the course

Paper 2:
Luther and The Sweeney. Katy Perry, Pharrell Williams.
1 hour 30 minutes
30% of the course

Coursework:
Set brief. A brief is released during Year 10 and completed at the end of Year 10 and early into Year 11.
30% of the course.

Title of subject	Media Studies
Examination board	WJEC
Syllabus Number	C680QS
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	30%

Contact information: RBaga@bestacademies.org.uk

MUSIC

(*This course requires the pupil to play a musical instrument or sing, please speak to Mrs Hardy for more information)

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Music GCSE is a very practical course allowing students to perform and be creative both collectively and individually.

It is essential that students play an instrument or sing though all activities are suited for any ability and are an excellent preparation for AS and A level Music or Music Technology.

The course provides a real music focus, breadth and depth, a look at diverse music heritage and continuous progression.

Overall the course is a must for students who have a passion for music and want to progress with their instrument or singing.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- Students will:
- perform both as a soloist and part of a group.
 - increase their understanding and appreciation of a range of different styles of music.
 - extend their own interests and increase their ability to make judgements about music in depth.
 - develop their understanding of compositional techniques.



YEAR 10

From September, students will begin an up-skilling term to focus on acquiring knowledge and experience in the three main areas of performing, composing and appraising.

Students will compose and perform, offering feedback to each other, and also in groups. They will compose using a variety of techniques and strategies. Students will also begin to listen to and analyse music from the four areas of study.

YEAR 11

Students will continue to gain experience of performing individually and in groups. Performances will be recorded and assessed.

Students will complete a number of compositions to fit the given briefs, recording and notating work, as appropriate.

Students will listen to the eight set works from the four areas of study and will learn how to compare these with other music from each of the areas. There will be a final exam for this aspect of the course.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students receive regular feedback from ongoing formative and summative assessment during the course. The main assessment of the GCSE is split 40% examination and 60% coursework. This is divided as follows;

- 30% internally assessed, externally moderated **performance** coursework.
- 30% internally assessed, externally moderated **composition** coursework.
- 40% externally **marked listening and appraising** examination.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Performance and composition work is completed and assessed internally and moderated externally.

Performing (30%)

- Students are assessed both as a solo performer and as part of an ensemble (group).
- Students can either sing or perform on any instrument.

Composing (30%)

- Submit two compositions. One ‘free’ in style and one written to a chosen brief.

The listening and appraisal exam takes place at the end of Year 11.

Listening (40%) (Written exam)
Music is studied across a variety of styles and genres with eight set works covering four areas of study.

Title of subject	Music
Examination board	EDEXCEL
Syllabus Number	1MU0
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	60%

Contact information: EHardy@bestacademies.org.uk

PERFORMING ARTS BTEC

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The BTEC course is very practical and allows lots of opportunities to present and work in teams. This course provides students with a vocational knowledge and understanding of the Performing Arts Industry. Some people think that the only worthwhile reason to be studying this subject is to become an actor or director. That's NOT true. Most students don't go on to be performers, they choose it because they enjoy it and because of the huge range of life skills developed. What people forget is that this practical subject allows students to develop hugely valuable skills which students will continue to use throughout their lives, in and out of work. Students will use live and prerecorded theatre to inform their knowledge throughout the course.

Drama can lead to careers such as actor, barrister, journalist, teacher, tv producer, interior designer, set/props/costume designer, stage-manager, choreographer, youth worker, DJ, writer arts management and production.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- Unit 1- Exploring the Performing Arts**
Students examine professional practitioners work including Blood Brothers, Woman in Black and Curious Incident as set texts.
- Unit 2 - Developing Skills and techniques** in The Performing Arts. Students develop skills and techniques for performance. They will then apply skills and techniques in rehearsal and performance.
- Unit 3 - Responding to an externally set brief** and create a group devised drama and a research log.

YEAR 10

Students will complete 1 coursework written research portfolio unit in Year 10 (internally marked, worth 30% of final grade).

Students will carry out activities that will allow them to demonstrate and apply knowledge and skills in real life contexts and provide evidence of what they can do. Masterclasses, performance outcomes, skills audits and a log book form an important part of the assessment process.

The knowledge and understanding in Year 10 will provide a good introduction to both practical and theory elements in the Performing Arts.

YEAR 11

In September students complete their second piece of coursework (worth 30%) and apply skills and techniques in their chosen pathway (students may work as a designer or actor) through rehearsal and performance. This work is videoed for assessment and a research log is also created.

At the end of December students are introduced to their final exam unit 3 - responding to a brief, worth 40% of their final grade. The exam paper brief is released in January and there will be a preparation period of 48 guided learning hours in order to respond and create their final response for a devised drama. Students can choose their pathway as a designer or a performer. During the supervised time in lessons students must include an ideas log, skills log, a workshop performance and an evaluation report. This is an externally assessed unit and completed under supervised controlled conditions in school with after school rehearsals.

Unit 3 will be completed in April.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The BTEC course is very practical and allows lots of opportunities to perform. BTEC Performing Arts provides students with a vocational knowledge and understanding of the Performing Arts Industry. The course includes practical assessments and evidencing through a log book.

This course is divided into 3 main components:
Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts -30% (internal).
Component 2 - Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts - 30% (internal).
Component 3 - Responding to a brief - 40% (external) .

For more information on course content and videos - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts.html>

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

In January in year 11 students will be provided with the component 3 exam brief from the exam board. Students will have 48 guided learning hours to prepare for the performance and log book. They can choose to work as either a designer or performer.

Students will select a specific audience, work as part of a small group to create a workshop performance, participate in discussions and practical activities and shape an original devised drama, present their performance to a invited audience and finally evaluate the performance.

Students will perform their devised performance workshop in April (TBC) as well as a ideas log notes words), skills log notes and evaluation log notes (approx 600 words for each).

Title of subject	Performing Arts Tech Award BTEC
Examination board	PEARSON
Syllabus Number	603/0406/6
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	60% COURSEWORK 40 % PRACTICAL EXAM (controlled).

Contact information: JBrahmacharilimb@bestacademies.org.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Photography has been defined as the creative journey through the process of lens- and light-based media.

Students in the course will explore:

- The use of formal elements to communicate a variety of approaches
- The camera and its functions, including depth of field, shutter speed, focal points and viewpoints
- The application of observational skills to record from sources and communicate ideas.
- Digital applications.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will have the chance to explore the above in many various fields. They will look at Documentary photography, Photo-Journalism, Studio photography, Location photography and moving image. Students will also look at the role of a photographer in a professional climate.

Contextual trips will give the students the opportunity to take their own photographs of subject matter relevant to their themes and visit a gallery to source inspiration.

Just as the Fine Art qualification, the course will conclude with an exhibition of their student's best work.

YEAR 10

In Year 10 students will start to work on their portfolios. Students will explore narrative in photography through documentary photography, cinematic portraiture as well as still life photography.

Students will also learn to control the camera by investigating shutter speed to capture movement, aperture to control depth of field as well as macro mode to capture close up detail.

YEAR 11

In year 11 students will complete a 3rd and final coursework project which will involve a resource gathering trip before starting their externally set assignment.

This is released after the Christmas Holidays and is guided through lesson time until the final piece is cr d in exam conditions at the end of the unit.

The focus and theme of the project is set by Edexcel.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Assessment will take place throughout the course. It consists of both formative and summative feedback. Work is internally set and internally marked for the personal portfolio, with a sample of this work being externally moderated.

Students will be assessed again the following assessment objectives.

Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources (AO1)

Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes (AO2)

Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses (AO3)

Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language (AO4).

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Component 1:
Students will create a personal portfolio throughout year 10 and 11 that is worth 60% of the qualification. The portfolio is marked out of 72.

Component 2:
Students will also be assessed via an externally set assignment, which will be worth 40% of the GCSE qualification. This will have a preparation period which is teacher lead and a sustained period of 10 hours, in exam conditions to create their final piece. The externally set assignment is also be marked out of 72.



Title of subject	Photography
Examination board	EDEXCEL
Syllabus Number	1PY0
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	60%

Contact information: KParsons@bestacademies.org.uk

PSYCHOLOGY

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human brain and behaviour. It is a popular subject which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable academic and life skills, including critical analysis, research skills and independent thinking. These are useful for a wide range of other academic subjects, and are highly desirable for employers.

Students will be equipped with knowledge that enables them to apply psychology to their everyday lives, to understand how and why people (including themselves!) think and behave, and how to learn, remember and revise more effectively.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will follow a linear course that will include the following topic areas:

- Criminal Psychology
- Child development and learning
- Psychological problems and mental health
- Social influence (such as conformity and obedience)
- Memory and forgetting
- Sleep and dreaming
- Research methods

Included in each topic are elements of learning about the brain – its structure, function, and how we investigate it.



YEAR 10

In Year 10 students start with the Research Methods topic. They will plan, conduct and analyse a research project of their choice. Past students have chosen to observe whether boy/girl seating helps behaviour, used questionnaires to find out if gender stereotypes are true, and experimented to see if listening to music helps them to learn.

They will study the first three topic areas, and start to consider key psychological debates such as nature v nurture (are we born as we are, or a result of our life experiences?). They will start to develop their analysis skills by learning and criticising key psychological research.

YEAR 11

In Year 11 students will cover the remaining three topics and continue to develop their application and analysis techniques. They will also consolidate their research skills by replicating the psychological research that they study wherever possible – for example by experimenting to find out if wearing different uniforms can encourage people to obey them.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Student progress will be assessed regularly through informal tasks and formal end of topic tests, which reflect the format of their final exam papers.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Final examinations consist of two papers. Each paper will examine three of the ‘content’ topics plus half of the research methods topic. Both are worth 90 marks and 50% of the total GCSE.

The papers contain a variety of multiple choice and short answer questions, plus two extended written (13 mark) questions. There is no coursework element.



Title of subject	Psychology
Examination board	OCR
Syllabus Number	J203
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	0%

Contact information: CClarke@bestacademies.org.uk

CHILDREN’S PLAY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (BTEC)

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

This BTEC was designed to provide much of the underpinning knowledge and understanding of skills associated with Child Development. Different to GCSEs, the BTEC course on offer focuses on employability skills and developing practical skills in preparation for the work place.

Students will complete three units over the two years and look into the core of Child Development.

- Unit 3: The principles of Early Years Practice
- Unit 1: Patterns of Child Development (exam)
- Unit 2: Promoting Children’s Development through play

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students learn about the physical, emotional and social needs of children along with how children are expected to develop and the additional support that can be given.

Students also explore aspects of play and the importance of this in the development of a child. The course consists of three units, two of which will be assessed internally with Unit 1: Patterns of Child Development externally assessed by examination.

YEAR 10 & 11

Students start the course by looking at Unit 1: Patterns of Child Development. This unit focuses on how children develop, looking at social, emotional, physical and cognitive aspects.

Students will explore and learn about how children benefit from early years support. They will develop strategies that could be used in a real world setting, exploring this unit over the two years as it is the fundamental topic in the end of course exam.

In year 10, students complete Unit 3: The Principles of Early Years Practice. Students learn about inclusive and non-inclusive practice, how the early years sector plays a vital role in development and the various job roles and responsibilities there are.

In January of Year 11, students sit the Unit 1 exam (Patterns of Child Development).

In Year 11, students will also complete Unit 2: Promoting Children’s Development through Play. Students will learn about the effectiveness of play and how it is structured in early year’s settings to promote children’s development.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be given support throughout the course and assessment will be given in a number of ways including formative, summative, written, and verbal and by both teachers and peers.

Two of the three units will be assessed within school with a sample being moderated externally.

There is ONE exam for this course which will be sat at the end of the course in line with other GCSEs.

The grading outcome is different to a GCSE. Grades will be awarded for each unit as a PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

For this course there is ONE exam. The exam will be based on Unit 1: Patterns of Child Development. For this exam students will explore and learn about the growth and development of children, characteristics of children’s development from birth up to eight years and how adults in early years setting can support development.

The remaining two units will be completed during the course, internally marked with a sample being externally moderated.

Title of subject	BTEC Children’s play, learning and development – Award
Examination board	PEARSON
Syllabus Number	600/6814/0
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	75%

Contact information: JYoung@bestacademies.org.uk

SPORT (BTEC)

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

- To encourage students’ development through their theoretical understanding of the human body and how this is affected by exercise and sport.
- Give learners a wider understanding and appreciation of health-related fitness, sports and exercise through a selection of optional specialist units
- To give learners the opportunity to develop their understanding nutrition and diet and how these have an impact on sporting performance and lifestyle.
- Give learners the opportunity to progress to other vocational qualifications, such as the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences, or on to GCE AS or A level, and, in due course, to enter employment in the sport and active leisure sector

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Students will develop their understanding of sport and fitness in a number of different ways. Developing knowledge in sports leadership, fitness and training principles, personal fitness and sports performance.

Learning in a practical environment: students will be able to deliver their own coaching sessions, develop their own training plans and apply this knowledge into their own sporting performance. Giving students the opportunity to develop skills required for a number of different areas in sporting careers.

YEAR 10 & 11

Year 10

Students being the year looking at Component 1: understanding the body and supporting technology for sport and activity. Students will look into the impact of sport and activity on the body and explore common injuries. Students will build an understanding of how technology impacts sport and activity.

Students end the year by looking at Component 3: Applying the principles of sport and activity. Students will be looking into the fundamentals of sport and activity leadership.

Year 11

Students begin the academic year by looking at their Component 2 content: the principles of training, nutrition and psychology for sport and activity. This will then be taken by students in the January of this academic year.

Students then continue with their Component 3 work, this involves students planning activity sessions for targeted groups and the delivery and reviewing of these sessions. This component of work is largely based on practical delivery of a planned sporting session.



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students are be given support throughout the course and assessment will be given in a number of ways including formative, summative, written, and verbal and by both teachers and peers.

Two of the three units are assessed within school with a sample being moderated externally.

There is ONE exam for this course which will be sat at the end of the course in line with other GCSEs/BTECs.

The grading outcome is different to a GCSE. Grades will be awarded for each unit as a PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION.

EXAMINATIONS/CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

For this course there is ONE exam. The exam will be based on Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise. For this exam students will

The remaining two units are completed during the course, internally marked with a sample being externally moderated.



Title of subject	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport
Examination board	EDEXCEL
Syllabus Number	600/4779/3
Tiers of entry possible	NO
% of marks for coursework/controlled assessment	75%

Contact information: MPullinger@bestacademies.org.uk

**Curriculum leaders have designed
and planned the curriculum well in all subjects.
There are many opportunities for pupils to
develop their knowledge and understanding.
Ofsted 2020.**

Principal: I Evason

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