



Believe Achieve Succeed

Year 9

- ▲ **INCLUSIVE** - We **BELIEVE** in every child
- ▲ **ASPIRATIONAL** – Every child can **ACHIEVE** their best.
- ▲ **PROGRESSIVE** – We provide the steps to **SUCCEED**

Curriculum Choices Booklet 2026





Dear Parents and Students,

Deciding which subjects to study is an important and exciting part of being in Year 9, the choices you make will help you fulfil your future plans and aspirations. It is also necessary to recognise that things can change and studying a balanced key stage 4 curriculum between the ages of fourteen and sixteen can lead to many different routes a few years later.

Getting your pathway right is really important and so our aim is that all students and their parents should be provided with enough information to make informed choices about their future. This guide is the key source of information, but the Options Evening on Wednesday 5th February gives you the chance to speak to staff and ask your questions to find out more.

Personalised advice and guidance will be provided by Form Tutors and others; please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor, Head of year or myself by email or via the school office if you have any queries or feel you need some help in making final choices.

Once you have reached a decision, the completed option form should be **submitted online** by **Friday 27th March**. We will then start work on constructing the timetable for next year. It may be necessary for some students to make alternative choices as some subject combinations may prove to be impossible to timetable or some class sizes may be too small to run. If this does happen we will endeavour to explain the issues and the alternatives with the student promptly and give them the opportunity to discuss and make a new choice.

We continually look to develop our key stage 4 curriculum so that it achieves a balance between core subjects for all and a variety of pathways to meet the needs and interests of individuals.

The main message during the process is that if you have any questions or queries ask, so that you are able to make an informed decision.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myk Wagstaff'.

Mr Myk Wagstaff myk.wagstaff@woacademy.co.uk

Vice Principal

The Curriculum at Key Stage 4

Wodensborough Academy believes in offering all students a broad curriculum that provides access towards further education and a wide choice of career opportunities. We are offer a traditional, two-year key stage 4 curriculum focussing on external examination courses and we firmly believe that this will further enhance students' learning, progress and achievement.

The **KS4 curriculum** has been designed to enable all students the opportunity to access their chosen pathway after WOA, whether that be academic A level courses Post 16, T-Levels, and Apprenticeship or the world of work.

Some students on will also achieve the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc). This is a collection of exam results that the Government suggests show the success of a student at Key Stage 4. The Ebacc consists of: English, Maths, Sciences, History or Geography, and a Modern Foreign Language. The aim is for students to gain a grade 5 or above in these subjects. It is expected that the Ebacc will also be used by colleges, universities and employers as a part of their selection process.

Mandatory Subjects

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Maths
GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy)
BTEC Performing Arts - Acting
Core PE (Not examined)

plus

RSHE (Relationships, Social, Health and Ethics)
Study and Works Skills program, including Work Experience (not examined)

Curriculum Choices

Block 1 – either 1 humanities subject or a language

Block 2 – 1 subject

Important Considerations For Students



You should find out about:

- Qualifications obtainable
- What you will study on the course
- Entry requirements
- Implications for career choice – what you can do after the course

Remember – Our Careers Officer is always available to offer help and advice.

Advice on choosing your subjects

1. What do I want to do at 16+
 - Sixth Form?
 - Apprenticeship?
 - College?
2. Choose the subjects which will assist your intentions for 16+.
3. Choose a well-balanced timetable. Try not to choose all of your subjects from the same area.
4. It is best not to pick a subject you are poor at.
5. **Do not** pick a subject because you work well for that teacher. It may be a different teacher taking that subject in years 10 and 11.
6. **Do not** pick a subject you have not studied before just because you like the sound of it. If you have not done it before find out as much as you can about it before making your decision.
7. **Do not** choose subjects just because your friends have chosen them.
8. **Do not** be afraid to choose unusual subjects.
9. Creative subjects are very useful.
10. **Do not** specialise too much.
11. Are you more suited to GCSE or BTEC method of learning?
12. Seek plenty of advice and ask lots of questions.



Some important points for Parents & Guardians

- Talk to your son/daughter about what their interests are.
- Find out what they would like to do in the future.
- Let them know that jobs for 16 year olds are now virtually non-existent. The key to their future is in good education, good training and developing skills and abilities that employers want and are prepared to pay for.
- If in doubt about your son/daughter's option choices, please speak to somebody on Wednesday 5th February at Options Evening or contact the academy to make an appointment with your child's Head of Year, Miss Locke (SENDCO), or Mr Wagstaff (Vice Principal).
- Check that your son/daughter is choosing subjects for the right reasons.
- Try to encourage a variety in their choices – this will allow more choice at Post 16.

The wrong reasons would include:

- ✗ I like the teacher
- ✗ All the other choices are boring / too difficult
- ✗ All my friends are doing that subject
- ✗ I think it will help me get a job

The right reasons include:

- ✓ I am good at/enjoy that subject
- ✓ I know that these subjects will help my career choice, because I have found out about it
- ✓ I have achieved good marks and exam grades in a subject
- ✓ If in doubt – ask for and get help!

Attendance

Our excellent attendance levels are only achieved by working in partnership with our parents and your support to both your child and the Academy is paramount in ensuring your child receives the best education available to them.

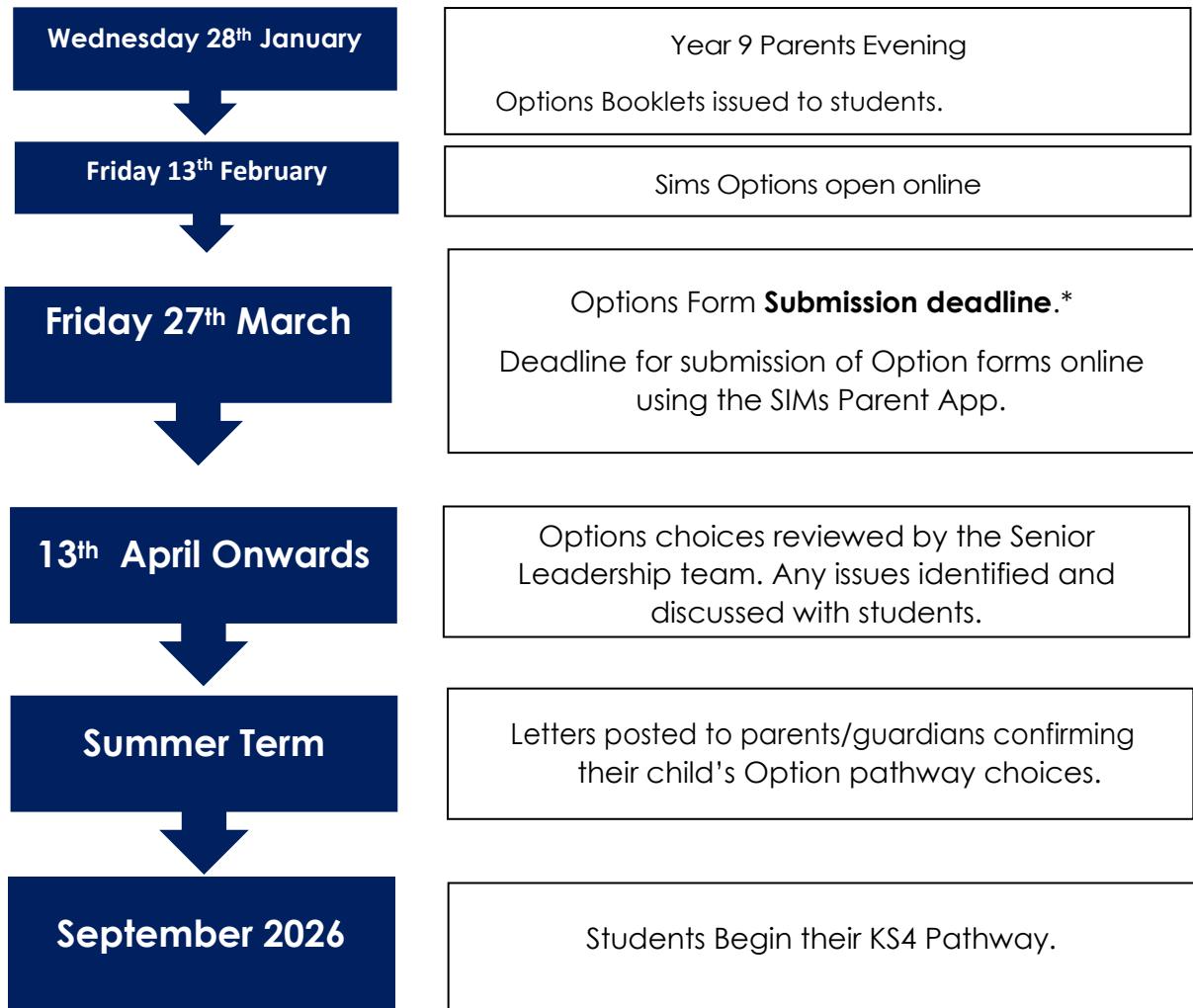
Good attendance is vital for students to achieve their full educational potential and enhance opportunities for further education and work placements.

As well as good attendance being a legal requirement, research has also proved that students with good attendance records benefit in the following ways:

- Improved performance in coursework tasks
- Enhanced performance in examinations
- Continuity of relationships and friendships
- Good references for further education or employment
- Good habits are formed for later life



Key dates



The subjects that students choose to study at Key Stage 4 are extremely important. The decisions made now, will affect the qualifications that they achieve at the end of their compulsory education and may therefore affect future opportunities and career choices.

For many students, this will be the first major decision about their future that they have to make. We hope that this decision will not be made lightly and that both students and parents will take the **opportunity to discuss the process** together and also with staff in school to enable an informed decision to be made.

The following pages of this book contain information about individual subjects, please do read these as a starting point for any decision you make.

**Please do take time to consider and finalise your choices before submitting your choices.
There is no race to be the first form handed in!**



KS4 Curriculum Choice

Mandatory
Subject
Information

English Language

COURSE OUTLINE

AQA GCSE English Language is designed to allow you to explore a range of written texts, enabling you to develop the skills you need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods. You will also explore how to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

As a 100% untiered examination course, the specification features two equally-balanced papers. Paper 1, Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers; and Paper 2, Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives, looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time. The reading sources act as a stimulus for writing tasks, providing you with inspiration for your own creative responses.

Additionally, you will complete a practical Spoken Language Endorsement that will enable you to develop skills for public speaking and presentations that will be necessary in later life.

Awarding Body: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% exam:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (1hr 45 mins – 50%) Reading and analysing an unseen Literary fiction extract Writing a piece of descriptive narrative writing

Paper 2: Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives (1hr 45 mins – 50%) Comparing two non- fiction extracts (19TH/20TH/21ST Century texts) Writing an argument/persuasive pieces.

Spoken Language Endorsement

which is an audio-visual recording of a 5-minute presentation followed by 5-10 minutes of questioning (you will receive a separate certificate at Pass, Merit or Distinction).

Skills Acquired

- Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas. • Select and synthesise evidence from different texts
- Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology.
- Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed across two or more texts.
- Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references.
- Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences.
- Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.
- Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting.

English Literature

COURSE OUTLINE

AQA GCSE English Literature has been designed to **QUALIFICATION: GCSE** allow you to study a cross section of both the Literary Heritage and contemporary authors.

Here at WOA, you will study: Shakespeare's Macbeth; Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol; J.B. Priestley's An Inspector Calls; and AQA's Power and Conflict Cluster of poetry as well as an unseen poetry unit. We feel that our range of texts provides you with exam content that is accessible, inspiring and most importantly that you, as young people, can relate to.

As a 100% examination course, the specification features two weighted exam papers. Paper 1, Shakespeare and the 19TH Century Novel, will ask you to explore how writers use language and structure to impact upon readers within an extract and then more widely across the whole text. Paper 2, Modern Texts and Poetry, will explore your critical responses to a contemporary play and a selection of poetry – both seen and unseen.

As part of the Literature course, we will also read widely around our texts and explore how they fit into the social and historical contexts in which they have been written and performed.

Skills Acquired

- To read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading
- To read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- To develop the habit of reading widely and often
- To appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
- To write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English
- To acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.

Awarding Body: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% exam:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century fiction (1hr 45 mins – 40%) Analysis of a Shakespeare play, Analysis of a 19th Century novel

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (2hr 15 mins – 60%)

Analysis of a drama or novel
Analysis of a collection of poems from an Anthology
on Conflict
Exploration of an unseen poem

Mathematics

COURSE OUTLINE

GCSE Mathematics is a key requirement for many job roles, further and higher education courses and apprenticeships, as it demonstrates an understanding of numbers, the ability to work with them and uses transferable problem-solving skills.

The course covers the mathematical areas of:

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

Awarding Body: Pearson

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% exam:

Paper 1 Non-calculator

Paper 2 Calculator

Paper 3 Calculator

Students are entered for one of two tiers, Foundation or Higher

Foundation tier – Target grades 1 to 5

Higher tier – Target grades 4 to 9

The tier of entry will be determined by mock examination and other assessment results.

Skills Acquired

- To develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- To acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- To reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions.
- To comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in educational and everyday situations.

Science (Combined Synergy)

COURSE OUTLINE

The Combined synergy specification provides a challenging journey through all 3 sciences. Focusing on how science works, and your skills of scientific enquiry.

Subject content:

- 1. Building blocks
- 2. Transport over larger distances
- 3. Interactions with the environment
- 4. Explaining change
- 5. Building blocks for understanding
- 6. Interactions over small and large distances
- 7. Movement and interactions
- 8. Guiding Spaceship Earth towards a sustainable future
- 9. Key ideas

AWARDING BODY: AQA

**QUALIFICATION: GCSE
(Double Award)**

ASSESSMENT METHOD

This is a Double GCSE which will be assessed through 4 examinations (no coursework or controlled assessment)

Four papers: Topics have been outlined.

21 Required practicals. (assessed in examinations)

Duration: all the papers are 1 hour 45 minutes. Each paper has 100 marks.

Tiers: Foundation (1-5) and Higher (4-9).

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted at 25%

Students will receive an average score from the two papers for that discipline. 15% of marks on written paper will be based on practicals

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.

Skills Acquired

- Develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the scientific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.
- Develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around you.
- Develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills both in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments
- Develop ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Performing Arts - Acting

COURSE OUTLINE

It is intended that the Performing Arts course will use each student's skills & enthusiasm in acting to develop an awareness & interest in the Performing Arts, which underpins much of the theatre and film industry.

Areas of study

Component 1

Students will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance. This might include 3 contrasting theatre styles such as Physical Theatre, Naturalism and Tragedy.

Component 2

Students will develop their performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting theatre repertoire. This will include looking at 2 different styles of theatre such as Verbatim Theatre and Comedy for example.

Component 3

Students will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus from the exam board.

Skills Acquired

The course aims to give all students the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification that can be used when applying either for higher education or employment.

The Acting course will give the students the opportunity to acquire leadership and performance skills and to use these to help develop performances in the school and the local community. Other skills students will learn are leadership, responsibility, appearance, commitment and teamwork in a range of practical and academic situations.

The course will extend the students' knowledge in the organisation of performance.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Qualification: BTEC

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Component 1-Exploring the Performing Arts (Internal assessment)

Component 2- Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (Internally assessed)

Component 3- Performing to a Brief (External assessment)

All Components consist of a set of formal assessment tasks and/or assignments.



KS4 Curriculum Choice

Block 1
Subject
Information

Spanish

COURSE OUTLINE

A GCSE in Spanish allows students to develop their ability to communicate with Spanish native speakers in both speech and writing. They will study across a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of culture of Spanish-speaking communities and countries.

Pupils will be studying five key themes over four skill areas (listening, speaking, reading and writing).

Each skill is worth 25% of the final grade. . .
The five themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Awarding Body: Pearson

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% exam:

Pupils will be assessed at the end of each unit and assessments will cover all four skills.

Mock examinations will take place in year ten. In year eleven pupils will complete several mock examinations and the final assessments will take place at the end of year eleven.

The course is 100% examination based and is assessed equally over all four skill areas.

Skills Acquired

In recent years, higher education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work. Transferable skills include;

- Cognitive skills
- Non-routine problem solving
- Decision making and reasoning.
- Critical thinking
- Interpersonal skills
- Intercultural sensitivity
- Collaborative problem
- Adaptability
- Self-management and self-development.

History

COURSE OUTLINE

A GCSE in History allows students to develop their ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key features of different time periods and explain, analyse and evaluate evidence to make substantiated judgements, in the context of the historical events studied.

Content included on Paper 1 covers the causes and treatment of disease, developments in medical knowledge, surgery and public health, and key factors such as individuals, science, war and government.

Paper 2 covers Elizabeth I's government, religion and foreign policy, social life, culture, exploration, poverty and the Spanish Armada, with the second unit examining key events like the Berlin Wall and Cuban Missile Crisis, and the impact of ideology (Communism vs Capitalism) and nuclear weapons.

Paper 3 focuses on civil rights, protest and social change, and includes the impact of the Vietnam War.

The four assessment objectives are:

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the period studied
- AO2: Explain and analyse using second-order concepts (e.g. change and continuity, significance)
- AO3: Analyse and evaluate sources
- AO4: Analyse, evaluate and make substantiated judgements about interpretations

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% exam:

Paper 1 (30% of overall grade)

Thematic Study with Historic Environment: **Medicine in Britain, c1250-present** with a focus on injuries, treatment and trenches during WW1

Paper 2 (40% of overall grade)

British Depth Study: **Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588.**

AND Period Study: **Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991.**

Paper 3 (30 % of overall grade)

Modern Depth Study: **The USA, 1954-1975 – conflict at home and abroad**

Skills Acquired

GCSE History helps students develop a wide range of valuable skills that are useful far beyond the subject itself. Through analysing sources and interpretations, students learn to think critically, evaluate evidence, and construct well-reasoned arguments, while extended writing builds strong communication and literacy skills. History also encourages independent research, problem-solving, and an understanding of different perspectives, which supports empathy and informed decision-making. These skills provide a strong foundation for further education in subjects such as A-level History, Politics, Law, Sociology, English, and International Relations. GCSE History can also lead towards career pathways in law, journalism, teaching, archaeology, civil service, politics, heritage and museum work, research, marketing, and management, as employers value the analytical thinking, organisation, and communication skills developed through the study of history.

Geography

COURSE OUTLINE

Geography is a subject that has seen increasing popularity in recent years. It is one of the key subjects that counts towards the English Baccalaureate and is a subject increasingly desired by colleges and universities for entry to further and higher education.

Geography is however more than this. It is a subject that unlocks understanding of the world around us and beyond. Throughout the course there is the opportunity to study a wide range of places and events around the globe as well as how the people influence changes over time.

There will also be a range of opportunities for those studying Geography to enjoy learning outside of the classroom with at least two fieldwork investigations that pupils need to venture beyond the classroom to complete.

Awarding Body: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% exam:

Unit 1 – Living with the Physical Environment. Exam 35%. This paper includes the study of tectonic hazards, weather hazards, ecosystems; rainforests and hot deserts and the UK Physical Landscapes of rivers and coasts.

Unit 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment. Exam 35%. This paper includes the study of Urban Issues and Challenges, The Changing Economic World and The Challenge of Resource Management, including global management of food as a resource.

Unit 3 – Geographical Applications. Exam 30%. Issue evaluation based on resource booklet released and studied just before the exam date. There is also a fieldwork section based on the fieldwork undertaken within the course and that of an exam board experience.

Skills Acquired

A GCSE in Geography is a pre-requisite for a number of Post 16 qualifications including A-Level in Geography, Geology, Environmental Science and Economics, to name a few. It is also highly valued for entry to social science courses such as Sociology. This GCSE also develops a range of skills that will benefit students in a wide range of both academic and vocational based qualifications post-GCSE. The skills developed in the study of Geography lend themselves well to most jobs and careers pupils may want to pursue.



KS4 Curriculum Choices

Block 2
Subject Information

3D Design

COURSE OUTLINE

The GCSE 3D Design course allows students to develop and acquire new skills and techniques in Wood, Metal and Plastics. Students will participate in a series of workshops to develop the practical skills, knowledge and understanding of materials. Projects will include; puppets, celtic art, food and the garden. Following these workshops, students will undertake their unit 1 portfolio at the start of year 10 where they will work on a body of work to submit for their portfolio submission.

The course aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore and experiment with a wide range of techniques and materials including joint work, finishing techniques, mosaic work, enamelling and pyrography.

The 3D Design course gives students the opportunity to be creative in their response to given briefs and themes. The course allows them the freedom and independence to let their creative skills flourish.

AWARDING BODY: OCR

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Coursework: 60 % of final mark

Unit 1: 3D Design in Craft Portfolio

Students will be asked to produce a portfolio of work developed from a theme. The focus is on including work that shows exploration, research, acquisition of techniques and skills in a range of Craft processes.

Final Exam: 40% of final mark

Unit 2: Art and Design OCR-set Task

THIS IS NOT A WRITTEN EXAM IT IS A PRACTICAL TASK

Students will be given an exam paper with a series of themes to choose from. Students will select one theme that you will base a project on.

A period of time in which to plan and prepare a project that will be sketchbook based. Again, the work will explore a range of Textiles techniques.

Students will be given ten hours of controlled time in which to work on a final piece.

Skills Acquired

- Students will learn how to present their work in a sketchbook or as a portfolio. Students will be assessed on their research skills. In both units, students will be asked to gain inspiration from the work of other artists and designers. From the work they produce on paper, students will then develop these ideas, using a wide variety of techniques. Once a body of work has been produced and developed, students will then produce a final piece using the skills they have learnt through the process. The course also enables students to extend on their evaluation skills. Part of the course assessment is how students can evaluate their own and others work through annotation, forming an opinion, comparing and critical analysis.

Animal Care

COURSE OUTLINE

Over the course you will study a variety of units based on the handling and observations of various species of animals. The course will allow you to understand the basic needs of animals such as hamsters, rabbits, bearded dragons as well as farm animals and allow for practical demonstration.

Over the course you will have the opportunity to visit a working farm and spend the day cleaning animal accommodation and meeting the needs of the farm animals. Visits to a zoo or rehoming are required in order to monitor the behaviour of animals in captivity and compare your findings with research about their behaviour in the wild.

This course relies heavily on your participation with feeding and cleaning the animals, it is not suitable if you have no interest in daily handling. Students will need to be mindful of health and safety regulations and agree to working within the rules of the course.

Students have the opportunity to take animals home over the holidays providing they have parental permission.

THIS COURSE IS NOT SUITABLE FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES TO ANIMALS.

Awarding Body: Pearson

Qualification: BTEC

ASSESSMENT METHOD

You will be assessed using a variety of methods including written assignments, presentations, posters and practical competency assessments.

Component 1: Animal Handling Learners develop their animal handling skills and gain an understanding of the principles of animal behaviour, enabling them to handle and restrain animals safely.

Component 2: Animal Housing and Accommodation Learners develop their understanding of the accommodation and housing requirements of animals by carrying out the preparation, checking and cleaning out of animal accommodation.

Component 3: Animal Health and Welfare Learners develop their understanding of how looking after animals' wellbeing helps maintain their strength and vigour, as well as exploring how animals are used in society and how they are protected by legislation.

All units must be passed in order to gain the full qualification.

Skills Acquired

- Maintain animal accommodation
- Undertake practical animal feeding
- Maintain animal health and welfare
- Introduction to the principles and practices of animal behaviour and handling
- Understanding the basic principles of animal biology
- Contribute to the nursing of animals

Art

COURSE OUTLINE

The GCSE art and design course focusses initially on the development and acquirement of new skills and techniques. Students will undertake a number of workshops where they will learn how to develop ideas and improve their understanding and application of formal elements. Following these workshops students will undertake their unit 1 portfolio at the start of year 10 where they will work on a body of work to submit for their portfolio submission.

The course aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore and experiment with a wide range of art and design techniques.

The GCSE Art course gives students the opportunity to be creative in their response to a given brief. The course allows them the freedom and independence to let their creative skills flourish.

AWARDING BODY: OCR

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Coursework: 60 % of final mark

Unit 1: Art and Design Portfolio

Students will be asked to produce a portfolio of work developed from a theme. The focus is on including work that shows exploration, research, acquisition of techniques and skills in a range of Art processes.

Final Exam: 40% of final mark

Unit 2: Art and Design OCR-set Task

THIS IS NOT A WRITTEN EXAM IT IS A PRACTICAL TASK

Students will be given an exam paper with a series of themes to choose from. Students will select one theme that you will base a project on.

A period of time in which to plan and prepare a project that will be sketchbook based. Again the work will explore a range of Art techniques.

Students will be given ten hours of controlled time in which to work on a final piece.

Skills Acquired

Students will learn how to present their art work in a sketchbook. Students are also assessed on their research skills. In both units, students will be asked to gain inspiration from the work of other artists and designers. From the work they produce on paper, students will then develop these ideas, using a wide variety of techniques. Once a body of work has been produced and developed, students will then produce a final piece using the skills they have learnt through the process. The course also enables students to extend on their evaluation skills. Part of the course assessment is how students can evaluate their own and others work through annotation, forming an opinion, comparing and critical analysis.

Citizenship

COURSE OUTLINE

Citizenship is at the heart of everyday debates about the kind of society we are striving to build and our role in the process. During this GCSE course, you will learn about your rights, roles and responsibilities as a young citizen in Britain and in the world. You will develop in your knowledge and understanding of how different communities and society works.

Citizenship education will equip you with the skills you need to participate as a responsible and active citizen of our democracy and of wider society.

Citizenship thus ensures your personal, intellectual, spiritual and social development as a young citizen in Britain.

Why is this course important for everyday life? This course is crucial as it develops your knowledge and understanding of the structures that govern your everyday life. It will make you aware of your moral rights and responsibilities in places such as school, the workplace and the local community. You will also become knowledgeable about politics, law and the media and will be given the opportunity to explore current issues of debate.

In order to achieve the best possible grade in GCSE Citizenship, you will need to:

- Participate actively during discussion and debate.
- Keep up with current affairs and apply this knowledge and understanding to exams.
- Prepare fully for tests and exams.
- Maintain a responsible and proactive approach.

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Paper 1 Section A (Active citizenship) & B (politics & participation). 1 hour 45 mins written exam with 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

Paper 2 Section A (life in modern Britain) & Section B (Rights and responsibilities). 1 hour 45 mins written exam with 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

At the end of the course, you will receive a grade 9-1, with 9 being the highest. A Grade 5 is the minimum the Government expects for a 'strong pass'.

Skills Acquired

A good GCSE grade in Citizenship provides the backbone and skills necessary for any career in life. It will allow you to choose A Levels and a degree that can lead to careers in law, journalism and teaching. A good qualification in Citizenship also speaks volumes about your character as a responsible, aware and active citizen in society.

You may choose to pursue A-levels in Citizenship, Law, Politics and related subjects. This full course will however be welcomed by any further education option and the knowledge, understanding and skills developed throughout Citizenship will be fundamental in your future progression in education.

Dance

COURSE OUTLINE

It is intended that the Performing Arts course will use each student's skills & enthusiasm in dance to develop an awareness & interest in the Performing Arts, which underpins much of the performing arts industry.

Areas of study

Component 1

Students will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance. This may include practitioners such as Akram Khan or Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy & Michael 'Mikey J' Asante of Blue Boy Entertainment.

Component 2

Students will develop their performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting theatre repertoire. This will include looking at 2 different genres of dance such as Hip Hop and contemporary dance.

Component 3

Students will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus from the exam board.

Skills Acquired

The course aims to give all students the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification that can be used when applying either for higher education or employment.

The Dance course will give the students the opportunity to acquire leadership and performance skills and to use these to help develop performances in the school and the local community. Other skills students will learn are leadership, responsibility, appearance, commitment and teamwork in a range of practical and academic situations.

The course will extend the students' knowledge in the organisation of performance.

Awarding Body: Pearson

Qualification: BTEC

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Component 1-Exploring the Performing Arts (Internal assessment)

Component 2- Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (Internally assessed)

Component 3- Performing to a Brief (External assessment)

All Components consist of a set of formal assessment tasks and/or assignments.

Geography

COURSE OUTLINE

Geography is a subject that has seen increasing popularity in recent years. It is one of the key subjects that counts towards the English Baccalaureate and is a subject increasingly desired by colleges and universities for entry to further and higher education.

Geography is however more than this. It is a subject that unlocks understanding of the world around us and beyond. Throughout the course there is the opportunity to study a wide range of places and events around the globe as well as how the people influence changes over time.

There will also be a range of opportunities for those studying Geography to enjoy learning outside of the classroom with at least two fieldwork investigations that pupils need to venture beyond the classroom to complete.

Awarding Body: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% exam:

Unit 1 – Living with the Physical Environment. Exam 35%. This paper includes the study of tectonic hazards, weather hazards, ecosystems; rainforests and hot deserts and the UK Physical Landscapes of rivers and coasts.

Unit 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment. Exam 35%. This paper includes the study of Urban Issues and Challenges, The Changing Economic World and The Challenge of Resource Management, including global management of food as a resource.

Unit 3 – Geographical Applications. Exam 30%. Issue evaluation based on resource booklet released and studied just before the exam date. There is also a fieldwork section based on the fieldwork undertaken within the course and that of an exam board experience.

Skills Acquired

A GCSE in Geography is a pre-requisite for a number of Post 16 qualifications including A-Level in Geography, Geology, Environmental Science and Economics, to name a few. It is also highly valued for entry to social science courses such as Sociology. This GCSE also develops a range of skills that will benefit students in a wide range of both academic and vocational based qualifications post-GCSE. The skills developed in the study of Geography lend themselves well to most jobs and careers pupils may want to pursue.

History

COURSE OUTLINE

A GCSE in History allows students to develop their ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key features of different time periods and explain, analyse and evaluate evidence to make substantiated judgements, in the context of the historical events studied.

Content included on Paper 1 covers the causes and treatment of disease, developments in medical knowledge, surgery and public health, and key factors such as individuals, science, war and government.

Paper 2 covers Elizabeth I's government, religion and foreign policy, social life, culture, exploration, poverty and the Spanish Armada, with the second unit examining key events like the Berlin Wall and Cuban Missile Crisis, and the impact of ideology (Communism vs Capitalism) and nuclear weapons.

Paper 3 focuses on civil rights, protest and social change, and includes the impact of the Vietnam War.

The four assessment objectives are:

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the period studied
- AO2: Explain and analyse using second-order concepts (e.g. change and continuity, significance)
- AO3: Analyse and evaluate sources
- AO4: Analyse, evaluate and make substantiated judgements about interpretations

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% exam:

Paper 1 (30% of overall grade)

Thematic Study with Historic Environment: **Medicine in Britain, c1250-present** with a focus on injuries, treatment and trenches during WW1

Paper 2 (40% of overall grade)

British Depth Study: **Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588.**

AND Period Study: **Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991.**

Paper 3 (30 % of overall grade)

Modern Depth Study: **The USA, 1954-1975 – conflict at home and abroad**

Skills Acquired

GCSE History helps students develop a wide range of valuable skills that are useful far beyond the subject itself. Through analysing sources and interpretations, students learn to think critically, evaluate evidence, and construct well-reasoned arguments, while extended writing builds strong communication and literacy skills. History also encourages independent research, problem-solving, and an understanding of different perspectives, which supports empathy and informed decision-making. These skills provide a strong foundation for further education in subjects such as A-level History, Politics, Law, Sociology, English, and International Relations. GCSE History can also lead towards career pathways in law, journalism, teaching, archaeology, civil service, politics, heritage and museum work, research, marketing, and management, as employers value the analytical thinking, organisation, and communication skills developed through the study of history.

Health & Social Care

COURSE OUTLINE

In this course you will study how individuals grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to old age. You will explore how individuals develop:

- Physically
- Intellectually
- Emotionally
- Socially

And investigate the different factors that may affect individuals throughout their lives.

An individual's development can be affected by expected and unexpected life events, such as marriage, parenthood or moving house, and you will learn about how people adapt to these changes.

You will learn more about formal and informal support and the different sources that can help individuals to cope with unexpected life events.

You will have opportunities throughout this qualification to demonstrate your knowledge and skills through community events and be able to reflect on your own life experiences.

Awarding Body: Pearson

Qualification: BTEC

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Component 1-

Human lifespan development- internally assessed
– 30% of the final grade.

Component 2-

Health and social care values – internally assessed- 30% of the final grade.

Component 3-

Health and well-being- externally assessed- 40% of the final grade.

Skills Acquired

- You will develop transferable skills, such as written communication skills, which will support your progression to level 2 or 3 vocational qualifications and pathways to University.
- You will acquire listening skills, team building skills, research and investigative skills, ICT skills, time management skills.
- Your knowledge and skills developed will support future employment as this is a pathway to apprenticeships in the NHS and within the many jobs in the health and social care sector.

Food and Cookery

COURSE OUTLINE

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery is made up of 7 content areas.

Content areas:

- Content area 1: Health and safety relating to food, nutrition and the cooking environment
- Content area 2: Food legislation and food provenance
- Content area 3: Food groups, key nutrients and a balanced diet
- Content area 4: Factors affecting food choice
- Content area 5: Food preparation, cooking skills and techniques
- Content area 6: Recipe amendment, development and evaluation
- Content area 7: Menu and action planning for completed dishes

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery is designed for learners who want an introduction to food and cookery that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the food industry or progress onto further study.

Progression opportunities

Depending on the grade the learner achieves in this qualification, they could progress to level 2 and level 3 qualifications and/or GCSE/A Levels. Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 Applied Certificate/Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition
- Advanced Technical Diploma in Professional Cookery
- T Level in Catering (this will support progression to higher education)

Skills Acquired

Learners will develop the following knowledge:

- an understanding of health and safety in a cooking environment and how to prepare and cook food safely
- where food is sourced, seasonality and food production processes
- food groups and the role of key nutrients to maintain a healthy, balanced diet
- factors that impact on food choice (to include health conditions, allergies and intolerances) and how dishes can be adapted
- developing, honing and applying food preparation skills and techniques to achieve a consistent standard of the product over time

AWARDING BODY: NCFE

QUALIFICATION: NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The course is a mixture of practical and theoretical work.

EA: Examined assessment

40% of the technical award Written examination:

- 80 marks
- 1 hour 30 minutes
- a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended response questions

The written EA is a terminal assessment and will assess your knowledge and understanding of all content areas

NEA: Externally set Internally marked and externally moderated.

- 60% of the technical award 96 marks The completion time for the NEA is 16 hours 30 minutes.
- The NEA will assess the learner's ability to effectively draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the whole vocational area.

Grading: Students receive a final combined grade for both assessments.

The course is graded L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D*

ICT - Creative Immedia

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry

In this unit students will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. Students will learn the legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products.

Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics

In this unit students will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. You will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate your visual identity to engage a target audience. Completing this unit will introduce the foundations for further study or a wide range of job roles within the media industry.

Unit R097: Interactive digital media

In this unit students will learn to design and create interactive digital media products for chosen platforms. You will learn to select, edit and repurpose multimedia content of different kinds and create the structure and interactive elements necessary for an effective user experience. Completing this unit will provide you with the basic skills for further study or a range of creative and technical job roles within the media industry.

AWARDING BODY: OCR

**QUALIFICATION: National
Level 1/Level 2 -J834**

ASSESSMENT METHOD

**R093 - Creative iMedia in
the media industry -
External Exam in year 11
(40%)**

**R094 - Visual identity and
digital graphics -
Mandatory Unit (Non
Examined Assessment)
(25%)**

**R097 - Interactive digital
media (Non Examined
Assessment) (35%)**

Skills Acquired

This qualification will assess the application of creative media/ICT skills through their practical use. It will provide learners with essential knowledge and transferable skills such as problem solving, analytical skills, digital presentation, planning and creative thinking as well as the tools to improve their learning in other subjects with the aims of enhancing their employability when they leave education, contributing to their personal development and future economic well-being. Students will acquire skills of using various software applications to develop digital solutions for a user; these include Adobe Photoshop and Dreamweaver.

MUSIC

COURSE OUTLINE

Developing and applying the musical knowledge, understanding and skills set out in this Music GCSE course can ensure students form a personal and meaningful relationship with music. They will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities. The course will be split into three components:

As part of this course, you are required to perform including in school productions.

This specification enables learners to develop knowledge and understanding of music through four interrelated areas of study:

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3: Film Music

Area of study 4: Popular Music.

The specification has three components based on the three skills of performing, composing and appraising. Learners are also required to perform and compose music using conventions, styles or idioms linked to at least one area of study. Learners may choose the same or different areas of study for Components 1 and 2. Learners will also have the opportunity to follow their own musical interests in composition and performance.

Awarding Body: Eduqas

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Component 1 – Performing

Solo & Ensemble Performance

30% of grade

Component 2 – Composing

Create two compositions that respond to a brief

30% of grade

Component 3 – Appraising

Written Exam

40% of grade

Skills Acquired

- Engage actively in the process of music study.
- Develop performance skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control of the resources used.
- Develop composing skills to organise musical ideas and make use of appropriate resources.
- Recognise links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising and how these inform the development of music.
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- develop knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians

Photography

COURSE OUTLINE

The GCSE Photography course allows students to develop and acquire new skills and techniques in Photography. Students will participate in a number of workshops where they will learn how to develop ideas and pieces of work combining their new skills and processes in Photography. Following these workshops students will undertake their unit 1 portfolio at the start of year 10 where they will work on a body of work to submit for their portfolio submission.

The course aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore and experiment with a wide range of techniques; one stop motion photography, studio portraits and use of Photoshop to develop and explore presentation of images.

The Photography course gives students the opportunity to be creative in their response to given brief and themes. The course allows them the freedom and independence to let their creative skills flourish.

AWARDING BODY: OCR

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Coursework: 60 % of final mark

Unit 1: Photography Portfolio

Students will be asked to produce a portfolio of work developed from a theme. The focus is on including work that shows exploration, research, acquisition of techniques and skills in a range of Photography processes.

Final Exam: 40% of final mark

Unit 2: Art and Design OCR-set Task

THIS IS NOT A WRITTEN EXAM IT IS A PRACTICAL TASK

Students will be given an exam paper with a series of themes to choose from. Students will select one theme that you will base a project on.

A period of time in which to plan and prepare a project that will be sketchbook based. Again the work will explore a range of Photography techniques.

Students will be given ten hours of controlled time in which to work on a final piece.

Skills Acquired

Students will learn how to present their work in a sketchbook or as a portfolio. Students will also be assessed on their research skills. In both units, students will be asked to gain inspiration from the work of other artists and designers. From the work they produce on paper, students will then develop these ideas, using a wide variety of techniques. Once a body of work has been produced and developed, students will then produce a final piece using the skills they have learnt through the process. The course also enables students to extend on their evaluation skills. Part of the course assessment is how students can evaluate their own and others work through annotation, forming an opinion, comparing and critical analysis.

Sport

COURSE OUTLINE

If you enjoy sport, play a sport at club, county or national level and have a genuine passion for physical activity, then this course is perfect for you. Combining both theoretical units with practical based experiences enables you to enhance your knowledge and contextualise you're learning through a vocational course. **Please note that as a course requirement you will be expected to be video recorded delivering sports sessions, and, participating in competitive game scenarios that will be used for your formal assessment.**

A popular alternative to GCSE study, a BTEC Tech Award course uses a range of different assessment methods, allowing you to broaden your skills in assignment writing, practical skill set, presentations and an external written exam. Independent research, which will support you throughout your educational journey and into working industries will help develop your self-sufficiency.

This course provides a specialist, applied programme of vocational study for those students who have a real interest in the theoretical and practical aspects of anatomy and physiology, physical and psychological sports performance, coaching and fitness. It will give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and investigate a wide range of sport, exercise and coaching aspects. This qualification is particularly appropriate for learners who are interested in progressing to a career in sport and physical activity development eg teaching, coaching, physiotherapy, sports management and sports analysis.

AWARDING BODY: Pearson

QUALIFICATION: BTEC

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

Learners will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance

Learners will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance.

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

Learners will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing.

All components are graded Pass, Merit and distinction.

Skills Acquired

Learners will:

- Develop knowledge of the body systems, common sports injuries and technological advances that impact on sport and activity
- Embed key skills that support their theoretical understanding of the training, nutrition and psychological factors that influence and impact on engagement in sport and activity
- Gain an understanding of the underpinning principles of leadership and the physical and psychological benefits for session participants.
- Learners will investigate methods of planning, delivering and reviewing sessions for a range of target groups.
- Learners will gain confidence through their application of skills and knowledge

Religious Education

COURSE OUTLINE

GCSE Religious Studies is made up of 2 components, each component covers two religions- Christianity and Islam.

Students will be aware that Christianity is one of the diverse religious traditions and beliefs in Great Britain today and that the main religious tradition in Great Britain is Christianity.

Students will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam and their basis in Islamic sources of wisdom and authority.

Students will study four themes. A) Relationships and families, B) Religion and life, D) Peace and Conflict and E) Crime and punishment.

Throughout theme A

Students will look at topics such as; marriage, divorce, contraception, sexual relationships.

Theme B covers the following topics; Abortion, Euthanasia and Animal experimentation.

Throughout topic D students will look at; war, weapons of mass destruction, pacifism and terrorism.

Topic E involves the following topics; Corporal punishment, Death penalty, Forgiveness.

Skills Acquired

Religious Studies is a widely recognised GCSE by both universities and employers. You will develop the skills of investigation, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, communication and debate. This course encourages students to: develop their interest in a study of religion and its relation to the wider world, adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion, reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes. The skills that you will learn in Religious Studies will be useful to you in any number of careers; teaching, youth work, journalism, civil service or government to name a few.

Awarding Body: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

ASSESSMENT METHOD

100% examination

Paper 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices (50%)

Paper 2: Thematic studies (50%)

How to submit your choices

- Students and Parents can log on to their account at <https://www.sims-options.co.uk>.
- Students will have completed the registration for their account in their ICT lesson.
- Parents will receive a registration email from noreply@sims.co.uk. If you have any difficulty registering please contact student.data@woacademy.co.uk. Parents can also access the options process from within SIMS Parent App.

A number of lists will be displayed; Make your choices from these lists. At the top of each list advice on the number of subjects or reserves which can be chosen is given. To see all lists the student should scroll down the screen.

Open List 1
Please choose 2 subjects and 2 reserve subjects from the list.

You have chosen 0 of 2 courses and 0 of 2 reserves from this list

Animal Care BTEC Award Level 1 & 2	Reserve	Fine Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Business BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
Dance BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Health & Social Care BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	ICT Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2	Reserve	Music GCSE GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Drama BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	RE GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Sport BTEC Award Level 1 & 2	Reserve
Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve				

A subject is chosen by clicking on the subject; it changes colour to blue and the display of choices made is updated:

You have chosen 1 of 2 courses and 0 of 2 reserves from this list

Animal Care BTEC Award Level 1 & 2	Reserve	Fine Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Choice	Reserve
Dance BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	

To remove a choice, click on the subject and the colour will change to grey. To choose a Reserve subject click on the word Reserve to the right of the subject; it changes colour to orange and the display of choices made is updated:

You have chosen 1 of 2 courses and 1 of 2 reserves from this list

Animal Care BTEC Award Level 1 & 2	Reserve	Fine Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Choice	Reserve
Dance BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	

If too many subjects are chosen a warning is displayed:

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 4)
To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 Fine Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open List 1
2 French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBACC
3 ICT Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 Open List 1
4 Statistics GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open List 2

My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 4)
To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

1 Dance BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 Open List 1
2 Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course EBACC
3 Music GCSE GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open List 1
4 Travel & Tourism BTEC Award Level 1 & 2 Open List 2

You have chosen 2 of 1 !

The choices the student makes are also displayed on the right of the screen as shown here.

In this panel the order of these choices can be changed by clicking on the subject and then clicking on which course the student wishes to replace in the order.

Following the last list there is a Student Comments area where comments can be added.

When all choices have been made, click on the **Save** icon to the top left and then logout.





Use this page to help you record your choices before you enter them online.

Mandatory Subjects	GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Maths, GCSE Science, BTEC Performing Arts – Acting, Core PE (not examined)		
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Block 1: (pick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a reserve 'R')	Spanish	Geography	
		History	

Block 2: (pick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> And one reserves 'R')	Animal Care		ICT (iMedia)	
	Art		Music	
	Dance		Photography	
	Geography		Religious Education	
	Health & Social Care		Sport	
	History		Citizenship	
	Food and Cookery			



