



FLEGG HIGH
ORMISTON ACADEMY

KINDNESS • ASPIRATION • RESPECT

Options Booklet 2023



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Welcome

Welcome to your GCSE Options booklet. This is a very exciting time for you as you move into key stage 4 and start to make decisions that will affect your future. It is very important that you put time into making this decision and think hard about what subjects you are most passionate about and which subject you need to help you achieve your ambitions. Listen to advice from your family and from us here at the academy and take advantage of our excellent independent careers guidance. This could help you realise ambitions you didn't know you had! Take advantage of the taster sessions you will have whilst selecting your options and think carefully about what you will be studying, how you will be assessed and what that subject could do for you in the future.

We are very proud of our provision here at Flegg and know that whatever option you choose you will be getting an opportunity to achieve something special. We look forward to supporting you in this exciting process.

Mr Guy

Who to talk to

Who should I talk to for careers advice?

You can request to talk to our independent careers advisor Ms Watson by emailing Mr Guy and you can also talk to Mrs Aldous in the library.

Who can I ask about the course I want to take?

You should ask the subject leader (found on each subject page) or your class teacher for that subject.

Who should I ask for more information about the options process?

Ask your form tutor or Mr Guy: dguy@fleggoa.co.uk

Advice from Students

River - Head Prefect: When you first hear about the options process, it can often seem quite daunting at first when you have to pick the courses that you want to study for the next two years. My main advice would be not to stress about it – this is about you, and I found choosing my options to be an exciting process of self-discovery!

The main reason that you should choose a subject is because you enjoy it – your career aspirations may change between now and the end of year 11 and you may want to do A-Levels that are totally different to what you chose at GCSE. Although this has probably been hammered into you by the myriad of assemblies that you've had about options, it's still worth pointing out that you shouldn't pick options based on whether your friends are in that subject or because you want a specific teacher. Speaking from experience, I had completely different teachers for French and Geography when I chose to study those at GCSE and I know that the same applies to all subjects every year.

One of the subjects that I am happy that I took was History since I find it extremely interesting to learn about the past and how society used to be governed. I would recommend GCSE History to anybody who enjoyed it at Key Stage 3.

Think carefully about choosing your options but don't stress too much!

Marissa - Head Prefect: It is really important that you choose the subjects that you're interested in. This is a really exciting and scary time as you make decisions about your future. I would give the following advice;

Don't choose subjects based on your friends or favourite teacher, there are lots of classes and different blocks and you are not guaranteed to be in the same class or taught by a specific teacher.

Think about your future when picking your subjects; I'd recommend picking a language and a humanity subject because colleges and universities really value them so they will improve your chances on getting onto courses there.

Spanish, in particular, is my favourite subject, it's really interesting and I find it very useful, especially on my holidays!

There is an opportunity to take subjects that have coursework elements to them, these can be beneficial to reduce the number of exams you take, and you should think about this if it is a subject that you enjoy and would find useful.

Good luck!

Timeline

- 9th February – Options process launch, assembly, progress evening and options presentations
- 20th February – 3rd March – Options taster fortnight, experience KS4 style lessons in the options subjects
- 8th March – Options blocks confirmed in assembly, options form explained and opened
- 29th March – Options form deadline
- Week beginning 12th June – Options decisions start to be communicated

What will I study in Year 10 and 11?

At Flegg High Ormiston Academy you will study a broad and balanced curriculum made up of core subjects and your option choices. These currently fit into the school timetable as follows:

Subject	Lessons per fortnight	
	Year 10	Year 11
English	8	8
Mathematics	8	8
Science	9	9
PSHE/RE	2	2
EBacc Option Block 1	5	5
Option Block 2	5	5
Option Block 3	5	5
Option Block 4	5	5
Core Physical education	3	3

*Please note that at the time of writing, the academy is reviewing the allocated hours of subjects and these are subject to possible change in September 2023

We offer two types of qualification:

GCSEs - These are graded from 9 (the top 4% nationally achieve this grade) to 1. These are predominantly assessed through examinations at the end of year 11 and follow the academic route.

BTECs/Vocational Qualifications - These are graded from Level 2 Distinction* to a Level 1 Pass. BTECs are vocational subjects which means they are more closely related to the world of work and practical skills. BTECs are assessed through a combination of coursework and external examinations.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification but a set of GCSE qualifications that are identified as the best subjects for helping students progress to University and other academic pathways. To achieve the EBacc, students must study GCSE English, mathematics, science, a humanity (geography or history) and a modern foreign language (French or Spanish). All students will study GCSEs in English, mathematics and science, it is possible to study an EBacc subject in every option block.

At Flegg, we recognise that the EBacc is a highly valued set of qualifications and we strongly encourage students to study this combination of subjects, however, we also place a high value on creative and technical subjects and we have worked hard to ensure that students also have access to these subjects in the curriculum.

We remain committed to enabling a range of clubs and opportunities for those who choose not to pursue creative options at KS4 but have an interest that they wish to continue to develop.

How to choose your subjects

When choosing your subjects, you should consider the following questions:

- Do I enjoy the subject?
- Will it help me achieve my future study or career goals?
- Will I experience success in the subject?
- What study skills will I need in the subject?

Make sure that you read the subject information carefully. Do you understand what will be expected of you? Do you understand how you will be assessed in that subject and are you prepared to complete the work required?

Choose subjects for yourself, do not base these choices on whether you like the teacher (they may leave or they may not teach you!) or if your friend has chosen the subject. Choose the subjects because they are right for you.

We ask you to select first, second and third choice subjects when picking your options. This is because some subjects are oversubscribed or there may not be enough students to run the subject and this may affect your option choices.

Where possible we will give students their first choice in each option block.

Options Blocks

You will study one subject from each of the four options blocks below. When completing your options form, you must choose your three preferred subjects in each block.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Geography	Art	Art	Drama
History	Computer Science	Dance	Geography
French	Geography	French	Hospitality & Catering
Spanish	Music	GCSE PE	BTEC Sport
	Religious Studies	History	Travel and Tourism
	BTEC Sport	Hospitality & Catering	Triple Science
	Spanish		

Subjects that contribute to the EBacc are bold in each option block

*Please note that the following rule applies for selecting your options:

- You may only study **one** of GCSE PE or BTEC Sport

We are still in the process of preparing next year's timetable and reviewing subjects and exam boards, whilst the subjects offered will not change, there is the possibility that courses may be slightly different and options blocks may be tweaked, if there are any changes, you will be informed of these changes when the options form is published.

English

Course title: **English Language & English Literature**

Exam Board: **AQA**

Specification link: English Language: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance>

AQA English Literature

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/specification-at-a-glance>

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

In order to be successful in English Language and Literature you will need to be analytical, critical and ask questions about not only what's in front of you but the wider world too. You will benefit from reading widely. A willingness to work hard and stay dedicated will go a long way.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop your analysis skills and learn how to question what you read. You will continue to improve your literacy and oracy skills all while becoming a more critical thinker.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

English opens the doors to many career opportunities. You could become an author or a poet, a lawyer, a journalist, an editor, a copywriter, a web content manager, a blogger, a marketing executive, a speech and language therapist - the list goes on!

How is the course assessed?

The Language course is assessed through two examinations at the end of Year 11. They are both equally weighted to form the final grade (9-1). There is also a speaking and listening element in which students will prepare and deliver a presentation on a topic of their choice.

The Literature course is also assessed through two examinations in which students will cover: a Shakespeare play, 19th century fiction, a modern text and a selection of seen and unseen poetry. Students will receive a 9-1 grade.

What will I study?

You will cover a range of different topics such as crime, education, health and a whole host more! while looking at both unseen fiction and non-fiction extracts for English Language. We love teaching the creative writing element of the course too! In English Literature we currently teach: *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Christmas Carol*, *An Inspector Calls* and the AQA *Power & Conflict Anthology* of poems.

What makes this subject special?

English is the most important subject you will study. It not only gives you the functional skills to help you get on in life and access whatever path you choose post Flegg, but it also helps you understand the world around you.

Maths

Course title: **Mathematics**

Exam Board: **AQA**

Specification link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300/specification-at-a-glance>

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

You will need to have the ability to be fluent in both problem solving and reasoning with mathematics, and a good grasp of number, ratio and proportion as well as algebra.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop your numeracy and literacy skills - being able to read, understand and apply what a question is asking and apply maths to relevant scenarios and varying problems

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

Accountancy, Actuary, Data Analyst, Banking, Engineering

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed at the end with 3 x 1.5 hour exams with both higher and foundation tiers. 1 non-calculator and 2 calculator exams.

What will I study?

The percentage break down for each topic area is in the table below. More information can be found on the AQA website

Topic area	Foundation (%)	Higher (%)
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability and statistics	15	15

What makes this subject special?

Maths is the most important subject. It is the explanation of science and the search for truth. A good grasp of numeracy is also the most important skill needed to get by in life.

Science

Course title: **Combined Science (double award)**

Exam Board: **AQA Trilogy**

Specification link: [AQA](#) | [GCSE](#) | [Combined Science: Trilogy](#) | [Specification at a glance](#)

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

Science is an exciting and engaging subject that revolves around problem solving, collaboration and determination. To be most successful you will need to be resilient, inquisitive and the ability to think like a scientist

What skills will I develop?

You will develop your numeracy and literacy skills - being able to read and understand what a question is asking and apply maths to relevant scenarios. You will develop the ability to draw conclusions from information given and evaluate the effectiveness of a process. You will develop your practical skills, knowledge of key scientific information and the ability to think critically.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

There is a whole range of career opportunities that you can go into with science including (but not limited to):
Medicine/Health professionals, Scientific Research, Engineering, Sport science, Astronomer, Science Journalist, Meteorologist, Environmental scientist, Radiation Protection Practitioner, Nanotechnologist, Water Chemist, Pharmacologist

How is the course assessed?

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

	Bio Units	Chem Units	Phys Units
Paper 1	1-4	8-12	18-21
Paper 2	5-7	13-17	22-24

What will I study?

Biology:

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

Chemistry:

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table
9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
10. Quantitative chemistry
11. Chemical changes
12. Energy changes
13. The rate and extent of chemical change
14. Organic chemistry
15. Chemical analysis
16. Chemistry of the atmosphere
17. Using resources

Physics:

18. Energy
19. Electricity
20. Particle model of matter
21. Atomic structure
22. Forces
23. Waves
24. Magnetism and electromagnetism

What makes this subject special?

Science is the most important subject that you will study. The awe and wonder of science that ties theory to practical skills. Within this subject we answer some of the big questions about the world around us and beyond.

Science

Course title: Triple Science

Exam Board: AQA

Specification link: [AQA](#) | [GCSE](#) | [Biology](#) | [Specification at a glance](#)
[AQA](#) | [Science](#) | [GCSE](#) | [Chemistry](#) | [AQA](#) | [Science](#) | [GCSE](#) | [Physics](#)

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

To be successful in triple science, you will need to show a real determination and passion for the subject. This is a demanding course, and you are rewarded with 3 GCSEs. Therefore, you will need to be proactive with independent study to support your success.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop your numeracy and literacy skills - being able to read and understand what a question is asking and apply maths to relevant scenarios. You will develop the ability to draw conclusions from information given and evaluate the effectiveness of a process. You will develop your practical skills, knowledge of key scientific information and the ability to think critically.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

There is a whole range of career opportunities that you can go into with science including (but not limited to):
Medicine/Health professionals, Scientific Research, Engineering, Sport science, Astronomer, Science Journalist, Meteorologist, Environmental scientist, Radiation Protection Practitioner, Nanotechnologist, Water Chemist, Pharmacologist

How is the course assessed?

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

There is a paper 1 and paper 2 for biology, chemistry and physics (6 in total)

What will I study?

Biology:

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology
8. Key ideas

Chemistry:

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

Physics:

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics (physics only)

What makes this subject special?

Science is the most important subject that you will study. The awe and wonder of science that ties theory to practical skills. Within this subject we answer some of the big questions about the world around us and beyond.

French

Course title: **GCSE French**

Exam Board: **Edexcel**

Specification link: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.html>

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

This is an academic subject which requires effort, dedication and commitment. Students should enter the course knowing that they will be required to learn and remember extensive answers by heart. Homework is set regularly, but students are expected to complete independent study to retain vocabulary across the two year course.

What Skills will I develop?

Students will develop their understanding of grammatical structures, expand their knowledge of vocabulary and broaden their awareness of cultural differences.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

A language qualification is highly recognised by colleges and further education institutes. Learning a foreign language helps with your understanding of English. It will help with careers in the following sectors: travel, diplomatic, education, business, hospitality, and journalism.

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE French course comprises of four examinations: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each component is worth 25% of the overall grade. Pupils will be entered for either Foundation or Higher level.

What will I study?

Students will study eight topics (family and friends, hobbies, daily routine and celebrations, my local area, holidays, school, the world or work, the environment and global dimension), which will be assessed at the end of the 2 year course. Students will learn through a variety of resources, and develop their four skills over the two year course.

What makes this subject special?

In an ever-changing global market, people need the ability to not only speak in a foreign language, but also understand other people and cultures. The language curriculum provides students with a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality language education fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. It enables pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It also provides opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes and learn new ways of thinking.

Spanish

Course title: **GCSE Spanish**

Exam Board: **Edexcel**

Specification link: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/spanish-2016.html>

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

This is an academic subject which requires effort, dedication and commitment. Students should enter the course knowing that they will be required to learn and remember extensive answers by heart. Homework is set regularly, but students are expected to complete independent study to retain vocabulary across the two year course.

What Skills will I develop?

Students will develop their understanding of grammatical structures, expand their knowledge of vocabulary and broaden their awareness of cultural differences.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

A language qualification is highly recognised by colleges and further education institutes. Learning a foreign language helps with your understanding of English. It will help with careers in the following sectors: travel, diplomatic, education, business, hospitality, and journalism.

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE Spanish course comprises of four examinations: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each component is worth 25% of the overall grade. Pupils will be entered for either Foundation or Higher level.

What will I study?

Students will study eight topics (family and friends, hobbies, daily routine and celebrations, my local area, holidays, school, the world or work, the environment and global dimension), which will be assessed at the end of the 2 year course. Students will learn through a variety of resources, and develop their four skills over the two year course.

What makes this subject special?

In an ever-changing global market, people need the ability to not only speak in a foreign language, but also understand other people and cultures. The language curriculum provides students with a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality language education fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. It enables pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It also provides opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes and learn new ways of thinking.

Geography

Course title: **GCSE Geography**

Exam Board: **AQA**

Specification link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification-at-a-glance>

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

A GCSE Geographer has a keen interest in the world around them and an appreciation towards moving towards a more sustainable future. The GCSE is a challenging yet rewarding course and students are expected hard achieve their goals.

What skills will I develop?

You will gain skills in communication, information analysis, decision making while unwrapping the world around you.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

GCSE Geography is a desired qualification due to the wide range of themes and skills learnt. Particular careers may include: Environmental management, town planning, hazard monitoring, education, meteorological services, construction and many more.

How is the course assessed?

3 External examinations during the year 11 summer examinations.

What will I study?

1. Living with the physical world
 - a. Challenge of Natural Hazards (earthquakes, tropical storms and climate change)
 - b. The Living World (rainforests and cold environments)
 - c. Physical Landscapes
 - i. Coastal Environments
 - ii. River Systems

1. Challenges of the Human Environment
 - a. Urban Issues and Challenges (urbanisation, developing cities, UK cities and sustainable futures)
 - b. The Economic World (migration, trade and political relationships)
 - c. Resource Management (natural resources and future alternatives)

1. Geographical Applications
 - a. Fieldwork (practical geographical skills)
 - b. Issue Evaluation (decision making tasks)

What makes this subject special?

Geography helps us understand the world around us and holds the key to our futures. Without geography you are nowhere.

History

Course title: **History**

Exam Board: **Edexcel GCSE History**

Specification link: [Edexcel GCSE History \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

You will be expected to have a good understanding of history, along with good literacy skills and an analytical and investigative approach to learning. The History GCSE is a demanding, but rewarding, course which will require you to work hard, but will leave you with a much wider understanding of the modern world.

What skills will I develop?

A history qualification develops a broad range of skills, such as investigation, communication, analysis, writing and the ability to contextualise the world around you.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

Those who study history go on to pursue a wide range of careers, including (but not limited to) law, politics, journalism, teaching, television and film work, business leadership, archaeology and museum curation.

How is the course assessed?

You will sit three external exams at the end of year 11.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Thematic Study and Historic Environment

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present
- Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.

Unit 2: Period Study and British Depth Study

- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91
- Henry VIII and his Ministers 1509–40

Unit 3: Modern Depth Study

- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918–1939

What makes this subject special?

Studying history is very important because it offers us the chance to study how society and individuals have behaved and to understand new ideas, and the reasons for tolerance conflict. As Theodore Roosevelt put it ‘the more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.’

Computer Science

Course title: **Computer Science**

Exam Board: **AQA**

Specification link: [AQA | Computer Science and IT | GCSE | Computer Science](#)

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

You will need to be prepared to work hard at problem solving and computational thinking. A good strong understanding of mathematics will be beneficial. This is a demanding course with great rewards for future prospects in a computing world.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop skills in computational thinking, analysis, Python programming, logical thinking and problem solving amongst others.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

Studying Computer Science empowers you to solve complex, challenging problems, enabling you to make a positive difference in the world. Computers are everywhere so understanding them puts you in charge of your world.

Computing skills are essential in a wide range of professions, from self-employed to astronomy and sports to financial analysis – not just in IT related jobs!

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1:

Computational thinking and programming skills
1 hr 45 mins

Written exam, 80 marks, 50% of final grade

Paper 2:

Computing concepts

2 hours

Written exam, 80 marks, 50% of final grade

What will I study?

- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Programming (Python and HTML)
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer networks
- Cyber security
- Relational databases and SQL
- Ethical, legal & environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy

What makes this subject special?

The future possibilities for people with Computer Science skills are unlimited, and these skills are only going to become more important in today's and tomorrow's world.

Art

Course title: **GCSE Fine Art**

Exam Board: **Edexcel**

Specification link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.html>

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

Strong drawing and painting skills, a creative imagination, and an independent work ethic is useful for those interested in taking this course. Although heavily based on practical work, the course will require some areas of writing. Also, a passion for the subject is obviously an important attribute.

Having your own digital camera or camera phone would be helpful and a USB stick to upload the photos to a school computer. Sketchbooks and canvases will be needed. They can be purchased at various points throughout the course using the school online payments.

What skills will I develop?

Students will experiment, discover, and create a range of artwork using a variety of skills and disciplines. These will include painting, drawing, printmaking and digital photography.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

Some of the largest growing industries in the world centre around art and design and this subject can lead to an enormous range of career prospects. These include:

Designer (fashion, graphics, website, interior, film set, etc), Artist, Illustrator, Architect, Photographer, Teacher or Art/exhibition curator

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE, Fine Art course requires students to produce a portfolio of work (60% of the marks) and an externally set project (40% of the marks). Both the portfolio and external project will require a final outcome at the end. The students will be marked under 4 assessment objectives. These are:

AO1: Develop

AO2: Refine

AO3: Record

AO4: Present

What will I be doing?

This course will begin with a project titled 'Forms'. We will create artwork inspired by forms within nature, humans then a direction of the students choice. This will be displayed within sketchbooks and include artist research, experimentation, photography and the developing ideas and artwork. These developments will lead to a final outcome which is usually created within the departments studio space.

The same format will then be followed with the externally set project, but this time the final outcome will be created within a 10 hour exam (over 2 days).

What makes this subject special?

Art can be an amazing opportunity to explore your creative aspirations and develop a variety of skills within a supportive and inspirational environment. Taking art will require lots of work but will also be lots of fun!

Dance

Course title: **GCSE Dance**

Exam Board: **AQA**

Specification link: www.aqa.org/uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

You must have a keen interest in performing and be willing to perform on your own and as part of a group.

You must be keen to develop your performance ability as well as create your own dance work.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop your skills not only as a performer but also as a choreographer, performing and creating your own dance pieces. You will develop your ability to critically appraise professional dance work.

What career opportunities can this subject lead to?

You will develop the necessary skills to continue dance at a higher level. You will have the opportunity to experience what it would be like to be part of the performing arts industry. Transferable skills such as teamwork, confidence in performance and communication will support you in all of your studies.

How is the course assessed?

Performance: Solo and group performances that are recorded and assessed in school before being externally moderated.

Choreography: Solo or group piece created by you, recorded and assessed in school before being externally moderated.

Dance Appreciation: 90 minute examination at the end of the course.

What will I study?

Performing (30%), Choreography (30%) and Appreciation (40%).

As a performer you will be required to dance two solo's and one duet/trio.

As a choreographer you will be required to create either a solo or group dance based on one of the stimuli given by the exam board.

You will be required to answer questions on professional dance works as well as your own performance and choreography.

What makes this subject special?

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity.

Drama

Course title: **GCSE Drama**

Exam Board: **Edquas**

Specification link: www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-gcse/#tab_overview

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

You must have a keen interest in performing and be willing to perform on your own and as part of a group. You must be willing to take part in extra-curricular productions and performances which will form part of your classwork.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop both your skills as a performer, designer and director. You will have the opportunity to devise your own work as well as perform professional play texts and demonstrate your ability to interpret texts for performance.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

You will develop the skills needed to study drama at college and university. Alongside these skills you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills such as teamwork, confidence, communication, develop as a creative, reflective and independent learner.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio and performance of devised piece, internally assessed.

Component 2: Performance from a play text for external moderator.

Component 3: 90 minute written paper.

What will I study?

Component 1: Devising Theatre 40%
You will be assessed on either acting or design. You will participate in the creation of a devised piece of theatre using either the techniques of an influential practitioner or a genre in response to a given stimulus.

Component 2: Performing from a Text 20%
You will study two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the centre.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre 40%
You will complete a 90 minute written paper on questions on a set text and a live theatre review.

What makes this subject special?

Drama provides students with the opportunity to build confidence, become more creative, gain knowledge of the theatre, directing, acting, set/lighting design and experience being part of a performance, directing and watching live theatre.

Music

Course title: **GCSE Music**

Exam Board: **Eduqas**

Specification link: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab_overview

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

You need to be prepared to perform on your own as either a singer or instrumentalist. There is no starting requirement but you need to be able to perform to grade 3 standard by the end of year 11 so it is important to understand that you will need to practise your instrument or singing regularly away from school. Instrument or singing lessons are an advantage but they are not essential.

What skills will I develop?

By the end of the music GCSE course you will be a skilled performer and composer. You will understand music from a huge range of genres and you will have the skills to analyse music in detail. You will also gain a range of transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, research skills, planning and critical thinking.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

During the GCSE course, you will gain the knowledge and skills needed to continue music on to further vocational and academic study at college, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships. What's more, the transferable skills you will master during their studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support your progress in other areas.

How is the course assessed?

Performing: Solo and group performances that are recorded and assessed in school before being externally moderated.

Composing: Two pieces written by you that are recorded and assessed in school before being externally moderated.

Listening and Appraising: 90 minute examination at the end of the course.

What will I study?

Performing (30%), Composing (30%) and Listening and Appraising (40%).

As a performer you will be required to play or sing at least one piece on your own and one piece in a group.

As a composer you will be required to write two pieces; one piece is your own choice and the other piece is to a task given by the exam board.

The listening and appraising part of the course gives you the opportunity to learn about music from a variety of genres including pop, classical and film music. You will also learn more about music theory.

What makes this subject special?

Studying music is a brilliant opportunity to be creative in a practical, social and supportive environment. Also, not only do you become more intelligent when playing an instrument or sing, you also maintain good physical health, mental health and well-being.

Physical Education (GCSE)

Course title: **GCSE Physical Education**

Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**

Specification link: [Edexcel GCSE Physical Education \(2016\)](#) | [Pearson qualifications](#)

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

You will need to have a passion for PE and be willing to perform with maximum effort in all lessons. The theory aspects will require pupils to retain a great amount of detail, high English and literacy levels will be beneficial.

You will need to be confident to perform practically in a variety of contexts and be determined to develop individual skills. It is desirable for pupils to perform at least one sport away from the academy and attend extra-curricular clubs.

What skills will I develop?

Individual skills will be developed over the course and this will lead to the development of tactics and strategies being applied.

Pupils will develop analysis skills to outline the impact of a range of factors on performance.

Throughout the course communication, confidence and resilience will be developed.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

This course supports the progression to A Level due to the similar approaches of assessment and content. Students can go on to work at the cutting edge of elite sport, supporting top athletes as sports scientists, sports psychologists, strength and conditioning coaches, sports therapists, coaches and in many other roles.

How is the course assessed?

- Two written examinations combined worth of 60% of the final grade.
- Externally moderated practical assessment - three sports to be performed, combined worth of 30% of the final grade.
- Externally moderated Personal Exercise Plan - coursework worth 10% of the final grade.

What will I study?

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

- develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge and understanding to improve performance
- understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport
- understand the contribution that physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and wellbeing
- understand the key socio-cultural influences that can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

What makes this subject special?

The course is unique due to the course covering a wide range of content that allows the learners to develop a holistic understanding of Physical Education. It is a high demanding subject that requires you to perform to a high standard in order to achieve highly.

Physical Education (BTEC)

Course title: **BTEC Tech Award: Sport, Activity and Fitness**

Exam Board: **Pearson**

Specification link: [Sport, Activity and Fitness | BTEC Tech Award | Pearson qualifications](#)

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

You will need to possess a passion for sport and always participate in PE lessons. As the units have practical elements, you will be required to participate in these through a variety of sports and roles e.g. coaching, leadership, and performer. You also need to be organised and apply the theory to assessments. Written coursework and an exam is how this course is assessed.

What skills will I develop?

You can develop transferable skills while focusing on improving sports and personal fitness. Use of Investigations, problem solving and teamwork, will improve your confidence and leadership qualities. Independent learning, written presentation and research skills can be developed through the theoretical content.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

Students can go on to work at the cutting edge of elite sport, supporting top athletes as sports scientists, sports psychologists, strength and conditioning coaches, sports therapists, coaches and in many other roles. On the other hand, students may opt to pursue a career in teaching, community coaching or working within the health and leisure sectors. Opportunities in sport today are exciting and vast. You may even decide on a non-sport related field.

How is the course assessed?

Two of the components are non exam interval assessments, each worth 30% of the final grade. One unit is assessed externally and is worth 40% of the final grade. At the end of the course the final grade is calculated by adding the points from each component together.

What will I study?

Component 1: Students explore the impact of sport and activity on body systems, common sports injuries and technological advances in the sector.

Components 2: Students develop an understanding of the principles of training, nutrition and psychology factors that help contribute to engagement in sport and activity.

Component 3: Students will apply their learning to plan and lead an engaging session.

What makes this subject special?

Sport, activity and fitness is a growing industry, it is also one of the very few subjects that has a positive impact on the health of the nation.

Religious Studies and Ethics

Course title: **Religious Studies**

Exam Board: **AQA**

Specification link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

An interest in the 'Big Questions.' For example, why am I here? What is the meaning of life? How do we decide what is right and wrong?

Also, if you are interested in philosophy, morality and ethics, then RE will be a good option choice for you. If you have strong opinions on a number of topics, then you will enjoy the more in-depth debates we have in KS4 RE.

What skills will I develop?

RE develops critical thinking, a wider world perspective and the ability to evaluate multiple viewpoints.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

RE is a respected academic pathway and would greatly benefit pupils looking to study the Social Sciences (Psychology etc) at college. RE compliments careers such as counselling, law, & public services.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed via two written exams. Both exams are 1hr 45mins in length.

What will I study?

Component 1: The study of religions, beliefs and practices. Christianity and Buddhism are the two religions that will be studied.

Component 2: Thematic Studies - Religion, Philosophical and Ethical Studies. These themes include the following units: Relationships and families, Religion and Life (Abortion, Euthanasia & Animal Rights), Peace & Conflict and Crime and Punishment.

What makes this subject special?

You can get marks for arguing your own viewpoints.

If you have strong opinions, you get to put the world to rights!

You will learn to question the world around you in an analytical and thorough manner.

It is open to people of all views – atheists, agnostics and theists will all benefit from studying RE and developing their worldviews.

Technology

Course title: **Hospitality & Catering**

Exam Board: **WJEC**

Specification link: <https://wjec.co.uk/qualifications/hospitality-and-catering/hospitality-and-catering-level-1-2-award.html>

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

You need to have a **real interest** in food and cooking.

Be **well organised** in providing the ingredients, dishes and containers for practical lessons.

Be willing, not only to prepare and make the dishes each week, but to wash up and clear away appropriately.

Realise that although the course has a practical element there is a large proportion of written work too.

Excellent behaviour is essential for this course due to the large health and safety implications of the working environment and the equipment used.

What skills will I develop?

It will provide learners with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

Chef, receptionist, restaurant manager, sommelier, pastry chef, restaurant owner, head waiter, sous chef. Environmental Health officer.

How is the course assessed?

Pupils are assessed using the following gradings:

- Level 1 Pass
- Level 2 Pass
- Level 2 Merit
- Level 2 Distinction

40% of the qualification is assessed through a written examination, focussing on The Hospitality Industry, Health safety and Hygiene, Menu Planning and Hospitality Operations.

60% of the qualification is assessed through internal assessment. Pupils will have to show an understanding of Nutrition, the Environment and menu planning within the coursework portfolio, as well as a range of high-level practical skills.

What will I study?

This qualification is designed for learners who have an interest in Hospitality and Catering.

You will cook once every 2 weeks (in your double lesson) with the remaining 3 hours (single lessons) focusing on theory.

Within the theory lessons you will cover a wide range of topics including:

- The Hospitality Industry
- Health, Safety and Hygiene
- Menu Planning
- Nutrition and Special Diets
- Environmental Factors

What makes this subject special?

Hospitality and Catering will give you an opportunity to make, experiment with a wide range of practical techniques, to create your own unique dishes.

Travel and Tourism

Course title: **BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism**

Exam Board: **Pearson**

Specification link: [Travel & Tourism \(2022\)](#) | [BTEC Tech Awards](#) | [Pearson qualifications](#)

What attributes will I need to be successful in this subject?

In order to be successful in this course you will need to be resilient and work independently. The qualification requires learners to develop transferable skills, such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements.

What skills will I develop?

The employability skills that can be developed during this course includes communication skills, organisation and planning skills and this will include budgeting. Pupils will also develop research skills and the ability to work independently.

What careers opportunities can this subject lead to?

BTEC Travel and Tourism opens doors to careers as a travel agent, working as cabin crew, Tourist information representatives or to study the subject at college or University. You could eventually gain travel experience through voluntary work overseas or in a work placement at a travel company.

How is the course assessed?

Two of the components are assessed internally and each are worth 30% of the final grade. One unit is assessed externally and is worth 40% of the final grade. At the end of the course the final grade is calculated by adding the points from each component together.

What will I study?

Component 1: Learners will investigate travel and tourism organisations , the different types of tourism and different types of visitor.

Component 2: Learners will investigate how organisations use market research to identify travel and tourism trends and identify customer needs and preferences.

Component 3: Learners will explore the different factors that may influence and impact global travel and tourism, and how travel and tourism organisations and destinations respond to these factors.

What makes this subject special?

The travel and tourism sector is the UK's third largest employer. Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK in employment terms, employing nearly 3 million people.