# YEAR 10 OPTIONS INFORMATION AND GUIDE

# 2019-2021

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## Information for Parents

Over the coming few weeks your child will make some important choices regarding the subjects that they would like to study for their GCSEs.

As a school we wish to do all that we can to support you and them in making the right choices.

Your child will be able to talk to teachers at school who know them well (their tutor and subject teachers) in order to seek their advice. They may also request a 1:1 appointment with our Careers Advisor to discuss choices and future aspirations. They can request this either through their tutor or by going to the school library.

Your child can also seek advice from their Head of Year or myself as Deputy Headteacher in charge of the curriculum.

There is also an evening for parents on the 16th January 2019, where there will be a short presentation about the options process and the different types of qualifications and potential pathways for students. I would encourage you to attend this evening so that you can support your child. Following this on 31st January is Year 9 Parents' Evening, where you will be able to meet your child's subject teachers and discuss their suitability for a range of GCSE level courses.

I would ask that you help your child keep to the dates set out in the timeline so that we are able to fully consider their choices as we work through the options process. It is quite possible that there will be a second (and even possibly a third) version of the options form to try and match the choices of as many students as possible. However, please remember that we are attempting to satisfy the choices of over 180 students and so there will be a need for compromise along the way. Please also be aware that there are some subject combinations (Design and Engineering, Food and Nutrition and Vocational Food, PE and BTEC Sport, GCSE and Vocational Business studies) which are not permitted.

Finally, I would encourage you to read 'A guide to choosing options' section of this booklet with your child along with the corresponding subject pages. If you have any questions during the process, please feel free to contact me to discuss them.

Mr Duncan Smith

Deputy Headteacher.

## Information for Students

Over the next few weeks you will make some important decisions regarding the next step of your education.

Please remember that you are not alone in making these decisions. You should discuss them with your parents / guardians, your tutor, your teachers and if you wish the school's Careers Advisor. (You can request an appointment either via your tutor or by seeing her in the library).

We will also put on some taster sessions for new subjects (such as Business Studies and Child Development) and if you are interested in these I would encourage you to attend them.

In order to make your choices you will need to complete the options form (a copy of which is later in this booklet). It is very possible that there will be a second (and maybe even a third) version to try and match your choices. Please remember we are trying to match the choices of all the students in your year group and it is not always possible to give everyone their first choice. The more information you give us on the options form the better!

You should remember that you may still change your mind about what you wish to do in the future so try and keep your options open by choosing a range of subjects. It may well be the case that the job you will do in the future has not even been invented yet!

I would encourage you to pick subjects that you enjoy and that you feel you have the potential to do well in, your teachers can help you with this.

**<u>Top Tips</u>**

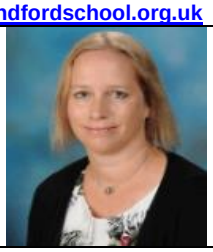
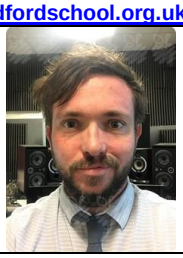
**DO**

- ✓ Select subjects that you enjoy
- ✓ Select subjects that you achieve well in
- ✓ Ask people who know you for their advice
- ✓ Find out as much information as you can
- ✓ Ensure that the final decision about your options is yours not someone else's
- ✓ Consider the different pathways available
- ✓ Pick at least one from Geography, History, French and Spanish

**DON'T**

- × Choose subjects because one of your friends is doing it
- × Choose subjects because you like the current teacher
- × Choose subjects because someone else says you should

# Who's who

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| **Mrs N Fulker**<br>**Head of Year**<br>nfulker@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Miss L Garland**<br>**Head of English**<br>lgarland@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Mrs F Copley**<br>**Head of Maths**<br>fcopley@blandfordschool.org.uk |
| | | |
| **Mrs Y Haymonds**<br>**Head of Science**<br>yhaymonds@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Ms A Bibby**<br>**Art Teacher**<br>abibby@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Mr R Opalka**<br>**Head of Business Studies**<br>ropalka@blandfordschool.org.uk |
| | | |
| **Mrs T Carter**<br>**Child Development Teacher**<br>tcarter@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Miss C Kelly**<br>**Dance Teacher**<br>ckelly@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Mr C Davidson**<br>**Head of Design and Technology**<br>cdavidson@blandfordschool.org.uk |
| |  | |
| **Mrs L Bowerman-Ellis**<br>**Head of Drama & PCA**<br>lbowermann-ellis@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Miss A Munro**<br>**Head of MFL**<br>amunro@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Mrs H Muir**<br>**Head of Geography**<br>hmuir@blandfordschool.org.uk |
| | |  |
| **Mr J Langford**<br>**Head of Humanities and History**<br>jlangford@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Mrs K Tylor**<br>**Head of ICT**<br>ktylor@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Mr G Readman**<br>**Head of Music**<br>greadman@blandfordschool.org.uk |
| | | |
| **Mr A Young**<br>**Head of PE**<br>ayoung@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Mr S Harrow**<br>**Head of RE**<br>sharrow@blandfordschool.org.uk | **Mrs K Cowley**<br>**SENCO / Learning Support**<br>kcowley@blandfordschool.org.uk |

## A guide to choosing options

All students are required to choose at least one of the following subjects; **Geography, History, French or Spanish.**

Aside from this students should choose subjects that they enjoy, are interested in and that they feel they will be successful at. In most cases future careers do not require specific GCSE subjects, however now that A levels are linear, universities are paying more attention to GCSE grades and so achieving well is important.

If a student is concerned that their future career may need specific GCSEs they can speak to our careers advisor, Mrs Norris, or a member of our sixth form team.

Students are able to make 4 option choices (5 hours each, one from each column on the options form) and will need to choose a second and third choice in each column as explained on the form. While we endeavour to give students their first choices this cannot be guaranteed. There may be the need for a 2nd version of the options form to try and match student choice.

All students will also study a **Core Curriculum** alongside their options. This will include:

**GCSE English Language and Literature –** worth 2 GCSEs (8 hours)

**GCSE Mathematics –** worth 1 GCSE (9 hours)

**GCSE Combined Science –** worth 2 GCSEs (10 hours), and can be upgraded to 3 GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) if students select Science as an additional option

**Core PE –** not examined (3 hours)

**PSHE / Tutorial Programme / Character and Culture –** not examined

There are number of different pathways open to students beyond the framework above. These are described below:

1. **The English Baccalaureate (EBACC)**

   This is not an additional qualification but the description of a suite of GCSE courses. To achieve this students need to complete the Core Curriculum plus a GCSE in either Geography or History **AND** a GCSE in either French or Spanish, all of which must be achieved at Grade 4 or better. Some Universities may view the English Baccalaureate favourably and it may help students when they apply. It is a challenging academic curriculum but high ability students should give it serious consideration.

2. **Vocational Options**

   We offer a number of Vocational Courses (these are marked with ‘V’ in this booklet). These courses provide a different style of learning and assessment. They are all equivalent to GCSEs but may well suit students who struggle with exams.

### 3. Other GCSEs

We are fortunate to be able to offer a wide range of GCSEs meaning that students can access a broad curriculum and a range of opportunities that interest them. These subjects also provide a valuable balance and students choosing to study the EBACC may well want to pick other subjects to reflect the range of skills and interests that they have.

### 4. Learning Support

Some students may struggle with the demands of following examined subjects for their whole timetable. In these cases, students may access a learning support option. This is by invitation only and Mrs Cowley will speak to students and parents where this option is appropriate.

These lessons will support the development of numeracy and literacy skills and help students cope with the demands of their other courses by providing additional time and support with homework and class work.

Students may also wish to consider their progression path after they complete their GCSEs and if the school or local colleges offer suitable courses that follow on. Details of our 6th Form Curriculum can be found on the Sixth Form pages of our website.

## Options Timeline / Process

**Step 1** Read this booklet carefully.

**Step 2** Ask your parents/carer to read this booklet.

**Step 3** Talk to your parents and other people who know you well about which subjects you should do next year.

**Step 4** Talk to your teachers and to staff who teach the subjects.

**Step 5** Sign up for the taster sessions in new subjects: Child Development and Business Studies. (Week beginning 21st January 2019).

**Step 6** Attend the **KS4 Options Briefing on 16th January** and the **Year 9 Parents' Evening on 31st January (5.00pm-7.30pm)** with your parents.

**Step 7** If necessary, arrange a meeting with the school's Careers Advisor.

**Step 8** Consider a **back-up plan** in case you are unable to get your first choice subjects.

**Step 9** Complete your **KS4 Options Form Version 1** and return it to the front office for the attention of Mr Smith by **4th February.** If there is then a need to change option blocks there may be a version 2 of the options form.

**Step 10** Attend an interview with Mr Smith to discuss option choices***. This may be necessary if subjects are over-subscribed.***

*You will then receive confirmation of your KS4 options – Probably in April*

**DO**

- ✓ **Select subjects that you enjoy**
- ✓ **Select subjects that you achieve well in**
- ✓ **Ask people who know you for their advice**
- ✓ **Find out as much information as you can**
- ✓ **Ensure that the final decision about your options is yours, not someone else's**
- ✓ **Consider the different pathways available**
- ✓ **Pick at least one from Geography, History, French and Spanish**

**DON'T**

- × **Choose subjects because one of your friends is doing it**
- × **Choose subjects because you like the current teacher**
- × **Choose subjects because someone else says you should**

The Blandford School

**Year 10 Options Form 2019-2021 (Version 1)**

**Name: .....** **Tutor Group: .....**

- You must select ONE subject from each option block (A,B,C and D). You should indicate your first choice with a **1** and your second choice with a **2** and third choice with a **3** in each block.
- You must choose (at least) **ONE** of the following subjects: **French / Spanish / History / Geography.** Some students should consider the **EBACC – choosing both a Humanity and a Language.**

| A | | B | | C | | D | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Engineering (V) | | Art | | Art | | Design | |
| French | | Business Studies | | Business Studies | | Drama | |
| Geography | | Child Development (V) | | Business (V) | | Food and Nutrition | |
| History | | Dance | | Food (V) | | Geography | |
| Music | | Design | | Geography | | History | |
| RE | | History | | History | | ICT (V) | |
| Spanish | | GCSE PE | | ICT (V) | | Separate Science | |
| | | BTEC Sport (V) | | Spanish | | | |

(V) Vocational qualification.

Tick here if you would like to do LS and have been invited to do so by Mrs Cowley ☐

If there is a combination of subjects, you wish to do but cannot because of the option blocks please tell us about it here.

Please tell us what you plan to do after your GCSEs.

Please tell us if you know what your future career plan is.

Signed: ..... (Student)

..... (Parent)

Date: .....

***Please return to the school office FAO Mr Smith by 4th February 2019.***

# GCSE – Art & Design

| Subject Leader | Mrs L Bowerman-Ellis / Mrs A Bibby | Exam board | AQA | Specification link | http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/subjects/AQA-4200-W-SP-14.PDF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE Art & Design

The staff in the faculty are committed to supporting every student to achieve the best grade possible.
There are opportunities to use the extensive facilities within the Art Studios during lunchtimes and after school in extracurricular activities.

The art department aspires to support students to develop creativity, dexterity, independent thinking skills, confidence in their abilities especially with regards to decision making and analysis of theirs and others work.

It is a practical subject supported by written elements providing a different and active way of working.

**Alice Knightbridge**

## What you will study in GCSE Art & Design

Studying this GCSE will enable students to develop their creativity and technical competences using a broad range of media which could include photography, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, textiles, painting, drawing and new technologies.
Students develop responses to a specific theme or starting point with the support of the teaching staff.
Outcomes are developed into 2D and 3D which are heavily informed by investigations into the work of other practitioners.
Students who are happy to invest additional time and effort will enjoy greater success and will be able to influence their final design pieces.

## How you will be assessed in GCSE Art & Design

There are two coursework projects which are assessed collectively to secure 60% of the final GCSE grade.
The terminal art examination paper is launched with three months visual preparation prior to the students sitting a ten hour examination at the end. The examination piece is the celebration of the work undertaken prior to the exam and draws together the skills and practices into a final piece or pieces. The preparation and examination piece form 40% of the overall grade.
Work is internally marked and externally moderated using the four assessment objectives which measure students' ability to undertake primary and secondary research their ability to record design ideas and reflect and respond to the work of others.

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Art & Design

Art can be great preparation for any career that requires fine motor skills, presentation skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking. Leading to a career as:
Art historian, art critic, arts administrator, fibre artist, accessory designer, dressmaker, costume designer, advertising director/designer, typographer, animator, concept artist, digital 3D modeller, web designer, film editor, special effects designer, camera operator, jeweller, glass artist, potter, weaver, photo journalist, director of photography, book illustrator, printmaker, courtroom artist, mural artist, tattoo artist, art dealer, artist agent, art supplies retailer, stylist, sculptor, painter.

## Additional Information

Students will need to purchase from the department an Art kit which will cost no more than £35.00, this will provide a sketchbook, paints, brushes, drawing implements, lino block and a portfolio. Resources are used for homework and class work.
Access to a digital camera and colour printer is useful.
Pupil Premium students are provided with these packs at no cost.

# GCSE – Belief and Ethics

| Subject Leader | Mr S Harrow | Exam board | AQA | Specification link | http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-806 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE Belief and Ethics

Belief and Ethics makes a key and unique contribution to understanding British heritage, plurality, values and futures. It provides an excellent opportunity for young people to engage with contemporary contentious issues, developing social, cultural, political, philosophical and historical awareness. In Belief and Ethics pupils learn to respect themselves and understand their own identity, to respect others, and to understand their own and others' rights and responsibilities. At a time when communities are becoming more diverse there is an even greater need for a more religiously literate and tolerant society. Belief and Ethics plays a key role in creating social cohesion and generating genuine understanding between communities reducing friction, intolerance and social unrest.

## What you will study in GCSE Belief and Ethics

**Paper one Beliefs and Practices of Christianity and Buddhism**

For Christianity this will include the nature of God, beliefs about heaven and hell and the Resurrection, as well as Pilgrimage, festivals and the Church's response to poverty.

In Buddhism this will include the life of the Buddha, Four Noble Truths and types of Buddhism as well as meditation, festivals and Karma.

**Paper two Thematic Studies**

A study of four themes:

- Relationships and families- sexuality, contraception and gender equality.
- Religion and Life-Use and abuse of the environment and animals, Abortion and Euthanasia.
- Religion, Peace and Conflict-Violence and reasons for war, nuclear war and pacifism.
- Religion, crime and punishment- reasons for crime, aims of punishment and forgiveness.

## How you will be assessed in GCSE Belief and Ethics

**Paper one :** Two questions about Beliefs and Practices for Buddhism and two questions for Christianity. 1 hour 45 mins (50% of total marks)

**Paper two :** Four questions; one on each of the four themes above, answering from a Christian and Buddhist perspective. (50% of total marks)

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Belief and Ethics

Belief and Ethics has links to Social Work, Medicine and medical occupations, the Armed Forces, Police and Prison service, Lawyers and any other job which involves working with other people.

# GCSE – Business Studies

| Subject Leader | Mr R Opalka | Exam board | OCR | Specification link | http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-business-j204-from-2017/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE Business Studies

The world of business is an exciting and fast-moving place and it will play a major part in your life, for three reasons:

- It is where people take decisions about what products you can buy now. You are part of the important 'teen' market and millions of pounds are spent each year finding out your tastes and preferences, designing products and then persuading you to buy them.
- It is where your career is likely to be. Even if you are thinking about a career in medicine, law, engineering or the sciences, these areas must be run in a business-like way. This GCSE course will help you to learn about this world and to develop the skills that employers are looking for, such as problem solving, decision making, team-working, IT and presentation skills.
- It is where many of the moral and ethical dilemmas of today begin, such as the testing of products on animals; industrial pollution; discrimination at work and many more. This course encourages you to explore these problems and clarify your own ideas.

## What you will study in GCSE Business Studies

You will study a wide range of topics including:
Operations, Finance, Marketing, Human Resource Management and Influences on Business.

## How you will be assessed in GCSE Business Studies

You will take two 90 minute examinations at the end of Year 11. There is no controlled assessment / coursework.

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Business Studies

In terms of progression GCSE Business Studies is a very well established and respected course that will help you progress onto many level 3 courses such as A-level Business Studies, A-level Economics and CTEC Business Studies.
The range of potential careers is far too long to list, from setting up your own business to working for a host of multinational corporations in careers ranging from advertising to production. Many of our ex students have moved on to study Business or Economics at University and now find themselves working in a wide variety of occupations from working in finance in the City of London to running their own business.

## Additional Information

For further information please see Mr Opalka, Mr Dorey, Mrs Orchard or Miss Davidson.

# Vocational– Business Studies

| Subject Leader | Mr R Opalka | Exam board | Edexcel | Specification link | https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/enterprise.html |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Why Choose Vocational Business Studies**

Business a very popular choice in the UK as a level 2 vocational course. Many of the concepts and issues that are dealt with in the course are ones that you will face in the world outside of education, helping to prepare you for the world of work. The skills that you will develop through this course are highly sought after by both employers and colleges. You will not only develop your knowledge of the business world but your analytical and decision-making skills will be greatly enhanced through your work. The course is an excellent choice to either give you a head start in the career that you choose to go into or as a stepping stone into advanced level education.

**What you will study in Vocational Business Studies**

You will complete three units of work:

1. Exploring enterprises.
2. Planning for and pitching an enterprise activity.
3. Promotion and finance for enterprise.

**How you will be assessed in Vocational Business Studies**

Units one and two are assessed through internally assessed units whilst unit three is an externally assessed examined unit.

**Progression and Careers linked to Vocational Business Studies**

In terms of progression Vocational Business Studies is a very well established and respected route that will help you progress onto many level 3 courses such as CTEC Business Studies and A-level Business Studies, along with a wide range of college courses.
The range of potential careers is far too long to list, from setting up your own business to working for a host of multinational corporations in careers ranging from advertising to production. Many of our ex students have moved on to study Business at university or college and now find themselves working in a wide variety of occupations from finance in the City of London to running their own business.

**Additional Information**

For further information please see Mr Opalka, Mr Dorey, Mrs Orchard or Miss Davidson.

# Cambridge National Level 2 - Child Development

| Subject Leader: | Mrs Carter and Mrs Moore | Exam board | OCR | Specification link | http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/258579-cambridge-nationals-child-development-summary-brochure.pdf |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Why Choose Cambridge National Level 2 Child Development**

We have all developed from babies and many of us will probably go on to become parents. This qualification will help students investigate the developmental needs of babies, learn 'life skills' for the future and consider some of the important topics related to childhood health.

Students will research and investigate a range of topics from reproduction, pregnancy, parenting skills and dietary needs.

**What you will study in Cambridge National Level 2 Child Development**

**Unit 1:**

- Reproduction
- Parental responsibility
- Antenatal care
- Birth
- Postnatal checks
- Conditions for development
- Childhood illnesses
- Child Safety

**Unit 2:**

- Equipment needs of babies and young children
- Knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices
- Evaluation of dietary choices

**Unit 3:**

- Skills in developing activities for young children
- Observe development norms in children up to the age of 5.

**How you will be assessed in Cambridge National Level 2 Child Development**

**Unit 1:** Written exam

**Units 2 and 3:** Both units are coursework based.

**Progression and Careers linked to Cambridge National Level 2 Child Development**

This course will enable students to move onto Health and Social Care at Level 3, further education, an apprenticeship or work.

# Cambridge Nationals Certificate in Creative iMedia

| Subject Leader | Mrs K Tylor | Exam board | OCR | Specification link | http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/115888-specification.pdf |
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## Why Choose Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia

From personal computers to smart phones, from apps to websites, all of our lives, every day, are enhanced through the use of technology. Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia is media sector-focused, including units on film, television, web development, gaming and animation, and has IT at its heart. The course provides knowledge in a number of key areas in this field and develops skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace, such as team working, working from a prescribed brief, working to deadlines and presenting information effectively.

Cambridge Nationals deliver skills across the whole range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things.

## What you will study in Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia

You will have to complete **four** units. There are **two core units** which have to be completed. There are two further units which are selected from a range of available units.

**Core units** include:

**R081: Pre-production skills:** You will learn how to plan pre-production effectively including understanding of client requirements and reviewing pre-production briefs. You will develop excellent transferable skills such as project planning which will be useful in a wide variety of contexts.

**R082: Creating Digital Graphics:** Digital graphics are a key part of most digital products. You will learn the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector, considering client requirements.

**Two Optional units** from:

**R085: Creating a multipage website:** You will investigate the features and uses of websites and how their integrated components and applications interact with each other. You will create a functional, intuitive and aesthetically pleasing website to meet a client brief.

**R086: Creating Digital Animation:** You will learn about tools/techniques and processes that are used commercially when creating computer animation. You will plan and create a digital animation, using a range of techniques and fulfilling the requirements of a client brief.

**R087: Creating interactive multimedia products:** You will learn where and why interactive products are used and their different features. You will plan and create interactive multimedia products, reviewing their solution against a client brief.

**R092: Developing digital games:** You will plan a digital game, create and edit and then test the game with a focus group, identifying any areas for improvement.

## How you will be assessed:

Unit R081: Pre production skills: Externally assessed by written exam.

Unit R082: Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Optional Units: Internally assessed and externally moderated.

## Progression and Careers linked to Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia

This course will prepare you for BTEC or CTEC Level 3 courses, apprenticeships and working life. It is a good introductory level course for a wide range of careers including: IT technical support, Systems Management, Web Design, Games Authoring, Graphic Design, Advertising, Broadcasting and Film industries.

## Additional Information

"The pencil and computer are, if left to their own devices, equally dumb and only as good as the person driving them." Norman Foster

# GCSE – Dance

| Subject Leader | Miss C Kelly | Exam board | AQA | Specification link | http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/dance/specifications/AQA-8236-SP-2016.PDF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| Why Choose GCSE Dance | |
|---|---|
| Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject. This specification recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and students will study a range of dance styles including Urban, Contemporary and Jazz dance. | |

**What you will study in GCSE Dance**

**Component 1**

- Set phrases through a solo performance
- Duet/trio performance
- Solo or group choreography

**Component 2**

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works

**How you will be assessed in GCSE Dance**

| Component 1 | Component 2 |
|---|---|
| Internally marked and externally moderated<br>**Performance**<br>30% of GCSE<br>40 marks<br>**Choreography**<br>30% of GCSE<br>40 marks<br>Total component 60% of GCSE | Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes<br>Questions are based on students' own practice in performance and choreography and the GCSE Dance anthology.<br>80 marks<br>Total component:<br>40% of GCSE |

**Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Dance**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Teaching (primary/secondary) | Media | Journalism |
| Coaching | Professional Dance | Theatre and studio work |
| The fitness and health industry | Musical Theatre | Dance therapy |

**Additional Information**

In addition to your studies the dance department runs regular and exciting trips and provides opportunities for you to meet and work with professionals in the dance industry.

Watch the link for examples of professional works you will study:
http://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/dance/gcse/dance/teach/dance-anthology

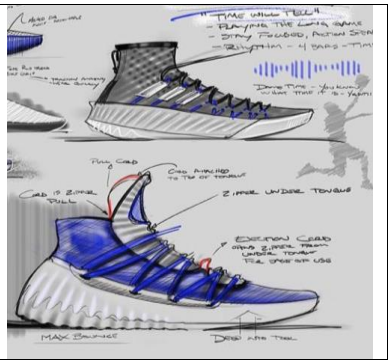
# GCSE Design and Technology

| Subject Leader | Mr C Davidson | Exam board | AQA | Specification link | AQA 8552 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE Design and Technology

This new, refreshed qualification replaces the previous separate subject qualifications for Product Design, Graphic Products and Textiles Technology. It is modern and relevant, so students can learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices.

The new GCSE places greater emphasis on understanding and applying iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.



## What you will study in GCSE Design and Technology

We will investigate how designers solve problems through a variety of different approaches, develop our own sketching and designing methods and experience a wide range of making and modelling techniques and practices.
We will consider:

- How to select the right materials for different needs based on their properties and physical characteristics.
- How to make design more inclusive.
- How to minimise the environmental effect of manufacturing and supply.
- How historical factors have influenced design movements.
- How designers carry out research and product analysis.

Students will look at how design and manufacture takes place in a range of materials and fields. This will prepare them for the final NEA coursework task. This can be completed in a material area of the students choice, including Product Design, Graphic Products or Textiles Technology.

## How you will be assessed in GCSE Design and Technology

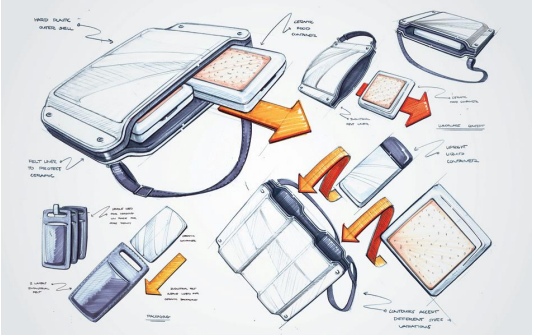
1) Students will sit a 2 hour written exam in their final year. This Is worth 100 marks and Is 50% of the final grade.
2) Students will complete an NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) task of approximately 30-35 hours duration. This contributes the remaining 50% of the final grade awarded to students. This takes the form of a design Investigation and development activity, a manufactured practical piece and relevant evaluative activities throughout.

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Design and Technology

Successful completion of the course can lead to further studies at Advanced and then Degree levels, with a wide range of career choices open to you. Blandford School students are currently studying Design and Technology courses at Bournemouth, Plymouth, Brunel and Loughborough Universities. One of our third year university students, in his third year is undertaking an Internship with Disney as part of their 'Star Wars' design team!

## Additional Information

This subject choice is for students that are interested in learning more about designing and making in a range of design disciplines.
It will suit students that wish to have a career in a very broad range of design fields including Fashion, Automotive Design, Architecture, Graphic Design, Web Design, Engineering, Product Design etc.



# GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

| Subject Leader | Miss K Channon | Exam board | AQA | Specification link | http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

- This new GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.
- At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

## What you will study in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition specification sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.
Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

## How you will be assessed in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

- Written exam:
- 1 hour 45 minutes 100 marks 50% of GCSE
  Non-Exam Assessment (coursework) 50% of GCSE
- Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks) Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.
- Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks) Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.

## Additional Information

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a new course that started it's first teaching in Sept 2016. It replaces the previous Food Technology Course.

# Level 2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery

| Subject Leader | Miss K Channon | Exam board | TBC | Specification link | TBC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose Food and Cookery

This qualification is designed for students who have an interest in food and cookery. It will provide you with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable you to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give you a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in food.

## What you will study in Food and Cookery

The course will incorporate a number of areas:

- **Preparing to Cook** – You will learn about the safe and hygienic preparation of the cooking environment and ingredients.
- **Understanding Food** – You will gain an understanding of food sources and the factors that can affect food choices. You will be able to apply these factors when selecting and cooking dishes.
- **Exploring Balanced Diets** – You will gain an understanding of the individual requirements of a balanced diet and how to change recipes to make them healthier.
- **Planning and Producing Dishes in Response to a Brief** – In this unit you will have the opportunity to bring together the learning and skills developed throughout the course to produce a menu in response to a brief.

## How you will be assessed in Food and Cookery

- Assessment will be by a mixture of exam and portfolio / coursework.

## Progression and Careers linked to Food and Cookery

Careers linked to food are many and varied. For some the appeal is in hospitality and catering – maybe you would like to work in a busy city centre restaurant or run your own local coffee shop? If you have an interest in health and well-being you might consider becoming a personal trainer working in a leisure centre or perhaps a hospital based dietician advising patients on how to modify their eating patterns. There is also the world of food development and production to consider – you have lots of choices here from research and development technologist in a food firm laboratory to food hygiene officer on the factory floor. You could also combine an interest in business with your interest in food and follow a career pathway into food retail – maybe as an independent baker or as a supermarket manager. The scope of career choices is almost endless as we all have to eat to live and to stay fit and healthy; we eat at home, school, work, on the go, and as a social activity.

## Additional Information

We aim to make this course as practical as possible and students will be expected to provide their own ingredients.

# Level 2 Technical Award in Engineering

| Subject Leader | Mr C Davidson | Exam board | NCFE | Specification link | https://www.ncfe.org.uk/schools/subject-areas/engineering/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose Materials Technology Technical Award

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in engineering. It will provide learners with experience of using different tools and materials to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give them a basic understanding of what engineering may involve.

This qualification is appropriate for learners who are looking to develop a significant core of knowledge and understanding in engineering and apply that knowledge through a project.

## What you will study in Materials Technology Technical Award

This qualification shows learners how to:

- develop a broad understanding of the engineering sector
- research a new idea
- use tools and equipment
- perform a range of techniques and processes using selected materials
- draw, develop and take part in an engineering project.

## How you will be assessed in Materials Technology Technical Award

This qualification consists of:
Unit 01 Introduction to engineering - Mandatory - Internally assessed portfolio of evidence
Unit 02 Introduction to engineering drawing - Mandatory - Externally set and marked written exam
Unit 03 Tools and equipment for engineering - Mandatory - Internally assessed portfolio of evidence
Unit 04 Engineering materials and their properties - Mandatory - Internally assessed portfolio of evidence

To be awarded the NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Engineering Studies, learners are required to successfully complete 4 mandatory units.

## Progression and Careers linked to Materials Technology Technical Award

This Technical Award is designed to equip learners with the practical and theoretical skills that they need to progress to further general or vocational study. They'll develop a broad understanding of the sector, so they can make informed decisions about their career opportunities. Learners will also develop valuable transferable skills including communication and collaboration.

## Additional Information

The objectives of this qualification are to help learners to:

- understand how drawing is applied in engineering
- understand and use appropriate tools and equipment
- understand and use appropriate materials.

# GCSE – Drama

| Subject Leader | Mrs L Bowerman-Ellis | Exam board | Edexcel | Specification link | http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/drama-2016.html |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE Drama

Drama is about creating theatre and communicating meaning to an audience as a performer or a designer. It provides a creative and practical learning environment for personal exploration, social criticism, celebration, and entertainment. It is explored through the dimensions of forming, presenting, and responding. Students who study Drama are actively participating in an experiential mode of learning that blends intellectual and emotional experience and offers a unique means of enquiry that contributes to knowing and understanding themselves and the world. Drama provides students with a wide range of skills which are transferable to all future career pathways. Drama creates learners who are confident, reflective, and resilient.

## What you will study in GCSE Drama

**Component 1: Devising**
Create, develop, and perform an original piece of theatre as a performer or designer.
**Component 2: Performance from Text**
Perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.
**Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice**
Practical exploration of one complete performance text.
Live theatre evaluation.

## How you will be assessed in GCSE Drama

**Component 1: Devising**
Coursework – 40% of the GCSE – internally assessed and externally moderated

**Component 2: Performance from Text**
Coursework – 20% of the GCSE – externally assessed by a visiting examiner

**Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice**
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 40% of the GCSE

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Drama

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Acting: Theatre, Film, and TV | Production | Drama therapy |
| Directing | Teaching | Arts administration |
| Costume Design | Stage management | Set Design |

## Additional Information

Students who study Drama GCSE will have lots of opportunities to go on trips to the theatre and work with professionals either in school or on site in performance spaces.
GCSE Drama students are actively encouraged to take part in extra-curricular Drama events, for example, the school production or a Drama club.

# GCSE – French

| Subject Leader | Miss A Munro | Exam board | AQA | Specification link | www.aqa.org.uk/8658 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE French

Success in GCSE French means you could gain the EBACC qualification.

GCSE French will open the door to a range of interesting careers both in the UK and overseas. French is the official language of many international organisations and is spoken in over 40 countries.

Most of the top universities value language skills very highly. A qualification in French may give you the edge over other applicants.

## What you will study in GCSE French

You will study the following topics

- Family and friends, technology and free time activities
- Your local area, holidays, social issues and global issues
- School, jobs, career choices and ambitions.

You will also develop your skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation and learn the grammatical structures needed to communicate effectively.

## How you will be assessed in GCSE French

100% examination. There is no controlled assessment or coursework element.

You will sit 4 exam papers at the end of year 11.

- Listening / Speaking / Reading / Writing

It is possible to sit either the Higher or Foundation Tier papers.

- Higher Tier gives access to grades 4-9
- Foundation Tier gives access to grades 1-5

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE French

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Teaching | Sales and Marketing | Armed Forces and Foreign Service |
| Translating | Travel and Tourism | Multinational companies |
| Interpreting | International Law | International organisations |

## Additional Information

There may be an opportunity to participate in a residential trip to France.

# GCSE – Geography

| Subject Leader | Mrs H Muir | Exam board | Edexcel B | Specification link | http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/geography-b-2016.html |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Why Choose GCSE Geography**

We see Geography happening every day of our lives. It has happened since time began and will continue to happen long after we are gone. The study of Geography enables you to develop a vast amount of knowledge about both physical features and processes shaping our earth, and the human factors influencing the way we live our lives today. Our students are offered the unique opportunity to investigate geographical instances at a wide range of scales, both that are local to home and that take place throughout the world. Not only is it a fascinating and exciting subject, but it will provide you with a vast number of skills including map reading, data collection, analysis and presentation, ICT skills and problem solving. These skills are highly transferable and will really help you when looking beyond GCSE to further study and employment.

**What you will study in GCSE Geography**

Topic 1 – Hazardous Earth
Topic 2 – Development dynamics
Topic 3 – Challenges of an urbanising world
Topic 4 – The UK's evolving physical landscape
Topic 5 – The UK's evolving human landscape
Topic 6 – Geographical investigation (*within this unit you will draw on the knowledge you have gained from Topics 4 & 5 to investigate one case study linking to either coasts, rivers, urban or rural areas*)
Topic 7 – People and the biosphere
Topic 8 – Forests under threat
Topic 9 – Consuming energy resources

**How you will be assessed in GCSE Geography**

**Component 1: Global Geographical Issues**
You will have a written exam lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes which will cover all that you have learnt in Topic 1, 2 & 3. It constitutes 37.5% of your final GCSE.
**Component 2: UK Geographical Issues**
You will have a written exam lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes which will cover all that you have learnt in Topic 4, 5 & 6. It constitutes 37.5% of your final GCSE.
**Component 3: People and Environment Issues (making geographical decisions)**
You will have a written exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes within which you will cover all that you have learnt in Topics 7, 8 & 9, as well as have an additional question whereby you will be required to make a decision about a geographical issue. It constitutes 25% of your final GCSE.

**Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Geography**

Geography is uniquely placed to offer a wide range of transferable skills to students wishing to progress to a wide range of different further education and career paths. It is highly respected by employers and by further education establishments. Some examples of career paths and fields that geographers have chosen to follow include:

- Renewable energy
- Sustainable environmental management
- Surveying
- Town and transport planning
- Finance
- Engineering
- Marketing and research

# GCSE – History

| Subject Leader | Mr J Langford | Exam board | Edexcel | Specification link | http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446925867_GCSE2016_L12_History_Web.pdf |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE History

Learning about past events and the people who have influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it is at now and how it will continue to develop in the future.

Not only is History one of the most fascinating subjects around, it is also well respected by universities and employers alike. It is important in developing key skills, such as the ability to analyse, think independently and write fluently.

The History topics at GCSE are interesting and attention grabbing. If you have an inquisitive mind, you are argumentative and overall interested in the periods that we offer, then History is the subject for you.

## What you will study in GCSE History

**Paper One**: **Thematic study and historic environment**:

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

**Paper Two**: **Period study and British depth study:**

- Early Elizabethan England 1558–88.
- Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941–91

**Paper Three**: **Modern depth study**

- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918–39

## How you will be assessed in GCSE History

**Paper One:** A written exam lasting 1 hour 15 minutes- 30% of the qualification.

**Paper Two:** A written exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes- 40% of the qualification.

**Paper Three**: A written exam lasting 1 hour 20 minutes- 30% of the qualification.

Papers One and Two will assess knowledge and understanding.

Paper 3 will assess knowledge and understanding and also include questions based on sources and interpretations.

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE History

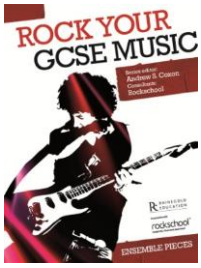
Studying History can lead to exciting career options including: Journalism, Law, Business, Politics, Archaeology, Marketing and Teaching

# GCSE – Music

| **Subject Leader** | Mr G Readman | **Exam board** | Edexcel | **Specification link** | http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Music/2016/specification/Specification_GCSE_L1-L2_in_Music.pdf |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Why Choose GCSE Music**

GCSE Music aims to engage students in music-making and project-planning, providing a real focus for creativity and performance skills. The course will also widen students' understanding of the world of Music through interesting studies of particular genres and in-depth studies of special pieces.
Students who opt for Music are expected to play an instrument or sing.




**What you will study in GCSE Music**

To enable the improvement of knowledge, skills and use of musical language, the subject is structured into four Areas of Study (AoS):
AoS 1: Instrumental Music: 1700 to 1810
AoS 2: Vocal Music
AoS 3: Music for stage and screen (Musical Theatre and Film Music)
AoS 4: Fusions (World Music)
Two 'set works' (pieces of music) are studied from each Area of Study.

**How you will be assessed in GCSE Music**

Skills in performing, composing and listening/appraising will be assessed.

**Performing (30% - non-examined content**): Students must perform at least one solo and one ensemble piece lasting for a total of 4 minutes (minimum). This can be on any instrument (or voice) in any genre.

This part of the course is entirely practical and students can use their rehearsal time to work on their performance skills independently or to collaborate with each other to make bands/ensembles of any genre.

**Composing (30% - non-examined content):** Students must compose two pieces of music. One composition is in response to a set brief (choice of 4) and the other is a free composition. Both compositions can involve any instrument or voice and the combined time is 3 minutes (minimum).

**Appraising (40% - examined content):** Throughout the course, students will study set works on the four areas of study listed above including Queen, "Defying Gravity", Bach and Beethoven as well as music from Star Wars. Knowledge of set pieces will be tested in a listening examination lasting for 1 hour and 45 minutes. This involves a mixture of multiple choice and extended writing questions.

Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Music

- Studying Music A Level, Music Technology A Level or BTEC Music
- Studying Music, Music Production, Sound Engineering at university
- Careers in theatre, performance, composing, music therapy, education and music production.

Additional Information

Students who study Music GCSE will have lots of opportunities to use the music technology facilities in school.
GCSE Music students are actively encouraged to take part in extra-curricular music events, for example, the school production, Band Bash or one of our many ensembles.

# GCSE – Physical Education

| Subject Leader | Mr A Young | Exam board | Edexcel | Specification link | http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/physical-education-2016.html |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE Physical Education

If you have an interest in:

The human body, the human mind, how to train the body and improve fitness and health, the role of sport in our society, how science and sport work together.

If you enjoy physical education, practical activity, human biology, psychology and want to provide a balance to your options.

## What you will study in GCSE Physical Education

**Theory:**
Applied Anatomy & Physiology, Sport Psychology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training, Health, Fitness & Well-Being, Socio-cultural influences on sport, Analysis of data from physical activity.

**Practical:**
You will cover a range of team and individual sports and will submit 3 to your practical portfolio.

## How you will be assessed in GCSE Physical Education

- 60% theory assessment – 2 x 1 ¼ hour written papers
- 30% practical performance
- 10% Coursework (Personal Exercise Plan)

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Physical Education

**Progression to:**
- A-Level Physical Education
- Extended Certificate in Sport (New for 2017)

**Also Compliments:**
- GCSE & A-Level Biology, Psychology

**Leading to a career in:**
- Exercise Physiology
- Sport Psychology
- Coaching
- Consulting
- Physiotherapy
- Leisure Management
- Fitness Instructing
- Teaching
- Elite Sport Science

## Additional Information

The list of accepted practical activities and breakdown of the assessment criteria is available on the Edexcel website.

You will benefit if you are regularly involved in sport outside of PE lessons. Students are expected to attend extra-curricular clubs and are encouraged to join clubs outside of school in order to achieve their performance targets.

# GCSE – Separate Science

| Subject Leader | Mrs Y Haymonds | Exam board | AQA | Specification link | http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Why Choose GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics**

- An opportunity to study the sciences in more depth
- An excellent starting point for A-level sciences (although not essential)
- A chance to work with like-minded students with a passion for science

**What you will study in GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics**

- You will study all the topics that are covered in the Combined Science course. However, many of these will be done in more depth and will include more challenging work.

**How you will be assessed in GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics**

- All assessment towards your GCSE grades are through terminal exams
- 6 exam papers, 1hr 45 mins each
- Exam papers will have questions on both theoretical and practical work
- You will be awarded a grade for each of the 3 sciences. These could all be different grades, so any particular strengths can be seen

**Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics**

- Separate Sciences are an excellent start to any of the A-level sciences and will make the transition easier
- Careers in Science are extensive, from traditional, highly competitive careers such as Veterinary Science and Medicine, to research, forensics, environmental studies, conservation and cutting edge jobs such as development of nanoparticles. The list is endless!

**Additional Information**

This is a very academic course and so is not suitable for all students. Students that teachers feel are suitable for the separate science course will be guided to take this option. If you / your child has not been guided, but is still interested in the course, they should speak to Mrs Haymonds who will discuss their choices with them.

# GCSE – Spanish

| Subject Leader | Miss A Munro | Exam board | AQA | Specification link | www.aqa.org.uk/8698 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose GCSE Spanish

Success in GCSE Spanish means you could gain the EBACC qualification.

GCSE Spanish will open the door to a range of interesting careers both in the UK and overseas. Spanish is now the second most spoken language in the world.

Most of the top universities value language skills very highly. A qualification in Spanish may give you the edge over other applicants.

## What you will study in GCSE Spanish

You will study the following topics

- Family and friends, technology and free time activities
- Your local area, holidays, social issues and global issues
- School, jobs, career choices and ambitions.

You will also develop your skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation and will learn the grammatical structures needed to communicate effectively.

## How you will be assessed in GCSE Spanish

100% examination. There is no controlled assessment or coursework element.

You will sit 4 exam papers at the end of year 11.

- Listening / Speaking / Reading / Writing

It is possible to sit either the Higher or Foundation Tier papers.

- Higher Tier gives access to grades 4-9
- Foundation Tier gives access to grades 1-5

## Progression and Careers linked to GCSE Spanish

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Teaching | Sales and Marketing | Armed Forces and Foreign Service |
| Translating | Travel and Tourism | Multinational companies |
| Interpreting | International Law | International organisations |

## Additional Information

There may be an opportunity to participate in a residential trip to Spain

# BTEC Sport

| Subject Leader | Mr A Young | Exam board | Edexcel | Specification link | https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/sport-2012-ngf.html |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## Why Choose BTEC Sport

If you enjoy physical education, have an interest in health and fitness or are interested in a career in the leisure or sports industry.

If you prefer to complete coursework rather than follow entirely examined courses.

To balance other options and retain a practical element to your studies.

## What you will study in BTEC Sport

Students will complete:

- Unit 1 – Fitness For Sport and Exercise
- Unit 2 – Practical Sport
- Unit 5 – Training for Personal Fitness
- Unit 6 – Leading Sports Activities

## How you will be assessed in BTEC Sport

Learners must complete four units – two core units and two optional units. This course contains units that the school assess (internal) and a unit that the exam board assesses (external). The external assessment takes the form of an online exam.

## Progression and Careers linked to BTEC Sport

- Progression to A-Level Physical Education and Level 3 Sport are possible through this course.
- Can lead to careers in Coaching, Leisure Management, Fitness Instructing and Teaching.

## Additional Information

- Although we aim to make the course as practical as possible, due to the final evidence having to be written, a high percentage of lessons take place in the **computer rooms**.
- We do expect the written part of the course to be completed as homework.
- A **lunchtime club** in the computer room is run throughout the year to help support students who may struggle with written coursework or require extra help.

# NOTES