

Key Stage 4 Course Guide

2021
to
2023



Westwood
College

“Life presents many choices, the choices we make determine our future.”

Information for all Year 9 Westwood Students and Parents

At this point in your life you can begin to make some choices about what you want to study for the next two years – the next ‘Key Stage’ in your education.

What you study at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) should open up opportunities for you when you reach 16, 18 and beyond as you decide which pathway to follow over the next 10 years.

The courses we offer have been carefully designed to provide you with the range of skills, knowledge and understanding so essential for a young person in an ever changing and increasingly competitive world of work.

In addition to providing breadth and balance we hope the courses you choose will also give opportunity for your individual strengths and talents to be emphasised. In this way you will be helping yourself to become an effective lifelong learner.

How to decide on a course

This booklet has detailed descriptions of all KS4 courses.

Please read these very carefully and ask the named teacher if you have any more questions.

Talk to your parents, carers, teachers and careers staff about.....

what you can do well

what you enjoy doing

what qualifications will be useful to you in the future.

Will my choice now affect my choices later?

During Year 11 you will have to make more decisions about what you are going to do for the first part of your future.

Your choices are:-

either To move on to further study in The Westwood Sixth. (Approximately 70% of Westwood students do this.)

or To move to Further Education or training at a college in Leek, Stoke, Newcastle or Buxton. (Approximately 20% do this.)

or To leave full time education and start an apprenticeship or work based training. (Approximately 10% do this.)

You should take these choices into consideration when you request your optional subjects now. For example, if you think you will go straight into an apprenticeship or work based training at the end of Year 11 then your employer will want you to be qualified in English, Maths, Science and other GCSEs, some of which may be relevant to your chosen career pathway.

If you choose to stay in education, either at Westwood or elsewhere, then you will also have to think carefully about your requests now.

Some points are worth bearing in mind.

1. Don't assume that you have to do a particular subject to take up a specialised career. Ask your Tutor or the Head of Year 9 if you are concerned about this.
2. The English Baccalaureate recognises achievement in a collection of GCSE subjects: English, Mathematics, Science (x2), a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanity subject (either History or Geography).
3. Don't choose a subject simply because you think it may be useful. You need to consider whether you will enjoy it or whether you will be good at it. These factors may be more important to you in the long run.
4. If you wish to make a career in Modern Foreign Languages we would encourage you to study two Languages.
5. It is important to make a balanced choice as this will mean doors to a wide number of careers and further study will remain open to you – remember to consider the range of skills that your subjects will provide you with when choosing your courses.

If in doubt...

Talk to your subject teacher, personal tutor or the Head of Year 9 - be wary of relying on out of date advice and always check carefully any information which comes your way outside of college.

Course Organisation

Key Stage 4 consists of two types of course; the 'Core' and then a range of 'Options' that allow students choice and the opportunity to start along different pathways.

'The Core'

All students must take these courses. They are the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science and the core knowledge and experiences provided by Physical Education and Extension Studies which includes Religious Education, Citizenship and core IT skills.

'The Option Subjects'

These are the courses where requests are made. Students will study four Option Subjects at either GCSE or BTEC Level from the following subject areas:

Modern Foreign Languages	French, German, Spanish
Humanities	Geography, History, Religious Studies
Creative Arts	Art, Design Technology (Product), Drama, Media Studies, Music
Other	Business Studies, Computer Science, Information Technology, Physical Education, Health and Social Care

We ask students to select **six** possible subjects in preference order; from which we will allocate four Option Subjects which will best fit the needs of the student with the resources we have available.

We would recommend students maintain a balanced curriculum so ideally students will choose from a wide range of subject areas.

To complete the range of subjects included in the English Baccalaureate measure, students will need to choose a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History.

Students wishing to study either German or Spanish must have studied these subjects in Year 9.

We offer students the opportunity to study GCSE Computing or BTEC Digital Information Technology qualifications. These are very different courses and students who are interested in taking either of these qualifications can only select **one** of these subjects and **not both**. Information about how these courses differ is available in this booklet and also from the IT teachers.

All our Option choices are Level 2 qualifications; most subjects are GCSE (General Certification of Secondary Education). However with Business Studies, Health and Social Care, Information Technology and Vocational Physical Education students follow a BTEC course. BTECs are work related qualifications that provide a real world approach to learning and offer progression along a vocational path as well as allowing access to university courses.

'An Alternative Pathway'

We appreciate that for a few of our students, studying 4 Option subjects may not be appropriate and as such we offer an Alternative KS4 pathway. In addition to three Option subjects, students will also study towards an Award of Personal Effectiveness at Level 1. In the Core subjects (English, Maths and Science) students will study both GCSEs and Entry Level Certificates at Levels 1-3. This Alternative pathway is usually by invitation or through discussion with Mr. Turnbull (SENCO) or Mr. Morgan (Head of Year 9)

Assessment Changes – New GCSE Grading System

Over the last few years ‘reformed’ GCSEs have gradually been introduced into the school curriculum and these new courses are assessed using a new grading system. Students awarded GCSEs in 2023 will only attain numeric grades from 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest and 1 is the lowest grade awarded.

The new grading system compares to the previous GCSE A*-G grades as follows:

New GCSE Grading System									
U	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	1 = G			4 & = C & above above			7 = A		
U	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*	
Current GCSE Grading System									

Under the new system, a grade 4 and above is equivalent to a grade C and above and is referred to as a ‘**standard pass**’. The grade 5 is recognised as a ‘**strong pass**’ and is used by the government as a headline measure of school performance. Attaining at least a grade 4 in English and Maths is necessary in order for students not to be required to continue to study English and Maths post 16. Where employers, FE providers and universities currently accept a grade C it is expected for them to recognise a grade 4.

In addition, the grade 1 is equivalent to the baseline of a grade G and the grade 7 is equivalent to the baseline of a grade A, thus providing three top grade bands instead of two. Those who perform exceptionally will be awarded a grade 9.

Completing the 'Request' form

- You will be given a cream form to fill in your final Options requests.
- You should complete the request form and return it to your Tutor by **no later than Monday April 26th**.
- If you have any questions or concerns you should speak to your Tutor or Mr. Morgan (Head of Year 9).
- We will keep a copy of your form as a record of your choices.
- You will be informed of your 4 allocated Option Subjects in the Summer Term.

Please note, places on some courses are limited because of the rooms and numbers of teachers available and some courses may not run if not enough students choose them.

English

Core

Specification	AQA GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language
Course Structure	<p>English Language topics: the study of literary and non-fiction texts from 19th, 20th and 21st centuries; the study of how writers use language, structure and literary devices to make meaning; the study of writers' viewpoints and perspectives; creative reading and writing and spoken language.</p> <p>English Literature topics: The study of drama including Macbeth and An Inspector Calls; prose including A Christmas Carol; and a range of poetry.</p> <p>The English course results in two separate GCSEs and is assessed by examination at the end of Year 11.</p>
Assessment	<p>English Language: 100% exam (split between 2 x exams). No tiered entry.</p> <p>English Literature: 100 % exam (split between 2 x exams). No tiered entry.</p>
Additional opportunities	In lessons you will be expected to exchange ideas in a variety of ways with lots of opportunities for drama, debate and group work. You will also develop your skills through regular written assessments.
Skills Developed	You will develop your communication skills in all areas; speaking and listening, reading and writing.
Progression Routes	GCSE English prepares you for a range of further study, particularly where clarity of communication and the ability to reason and discuss information is important. Further study might include A-Level English Literature, English Language, History, Religious Studies, Psychology, and Modern Foreign Language etc....
For more information	Ms J Dunn

Mathematics

Core

Specification	GCSE Mathematics
Course Structure	The GCSE Mathematics course has a two-tier structure that gives all students the opportunity of achievement. The higher tier course assesses work from grades 4 to 9 and the foundation tier course assesses work of grades 1 to 5.
Assessment	100% External Examination (three written papers, two with a calculator, one without).
Additional opportunities	The Mathematics curriculum offers a comprehensive range of experiences, activities, challenge and learning opportunities to meet the needs of individual students.
Skills Developed	You will develop a range of useful skills including logical thought, analytical techniques, accuracy, reasoning skills and the ability to think in abstract ways.
Progression Routes	GCSE Mathematics is an essential qualification for many jobs and is needed to meet entry requirements to access to Further and Higher education courses.
For more information	Mrs T Lewis

Science

Core

Specification	AQA Combined Science or Separate Sciences (Triple Award)
Course Structure	All students follow the same syllabus from the Autumn Term in Year 9 culminating in a Christmas Exam. From there, a few students will follow TRIPLE Science and gain 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The majority will follow Double Combined Science and gain 2 GCSEs in Science. All courses have a two-tier structure that gives all students the opportunity of achievement. The higher tier course assesses work from grades 4 to 9 and the foundation tier course assesses work of grades 1 to 5.
Assessment	100% External Examination
Additional opportunities	Lessons will involve a variety of learning activities with an emphasis on practical skills. Students will apply their understanding to the real world.
Skills Developed	You will develop reasoning, application, practical skills, and mathematical techniques and improve all your communication skills.
Progression Routes	GCSE Science courses can lead to a variety of future studies including A-Levels in Science, providing a minimum standard is reached.
For more information	Mr D Smith

PSCHE (Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education)

Core

Specification	National Curriculum – Compulsory non-examination subject
Course Structure	<p>PSCHE is a planned developmental programme of learning through which students acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and in the future.</p> <p>Over this three-year course, from Year 9 to 11, students will study a range of topics reflecting issues in contemporary 21st century society, including: Relationships and Sex education, Health and Wellbeing, Crime and Punishment, Violence and Gangs, Diversity, Human Rights, Politics, Online Safety, and Finance. Our PSCHE curriculum makes an important contribution to the safeguarding of our young people.</p>
Assessment	<p>No external assessment required, however student performance is reported home to parents.</p> <p>Performance is assessed through teacher, peer and self-assessment and end of Key Stage statements are used to inform the assessment process.</p>
Additional opportunities	The course involves a number of guest speakers who help to deliver topics, giving students vital input from specialists.
Skills Developed	A variety of skills are developed throughout the course including; communication skills, presentation skills, group work, individual written tasks, personal reflection and debate.
For more information	Miss S Burns

Core IT Skills

Core

Specification	National Curriculum – Compulsory non-examination subject
Course Structure	<p>You will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities.</p> <p>Year 10: Multimedia Product Development, Networking and its Principles, Network Topologies protocols and layers, Basic spread sheet skills, Introduction to text based Programming; Developing basic Python (programming Language) skills.</p> <p>Year 11: Problem solving with spreadsheets, Binary and Hex Numbers system, Binary Logic Gates and their applications, Computational logic, further development of Python.</p>
Assessment	Teacher assessment of progress.
Skills Developed	Develop practical skills and tactics in several areas of Computing and ICT. Gain a knowledge and understanding of Computing and ICT and the impact of these elements in their practical lives.
Progression Routes	This course improves both skills and confidence while working on computers and can lead to a lifelong participation in the subject for future profession and/or further studies.
For more information	Mr H Khan

Physical Education

Core

Specification	National Curriculum – Compulsory non-examination subject
Course Structure	You will participate in a range of activities and sports as a performer, official or leader.
Assessment	Teacher assessment of progress
Additional opportunities	Extracurricular clubs, Sports Leaders Award, Inter-house Competition and Inter-school competition.
Skills Developed	Develop practical skills and tactics in several sports, develop leadership and team working capabilities. Gain a knowledge and understanding of health and fitness through Health Related Exercise.
Progression Routes	This course will aid your ability to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle by encouraging regular physical activity. It improves both skills and confidence and can lead to a lifelong participation in sport.
For more information	Mrs A Moore

Modern Foreign Languages

Languages

Specifications	AQA GCSE French, GCSE German and GCSE Spanish.
Course Structure	Students need to have studied the language in Year 9 to progress onto the GCSE course. Students can study up to two languages from French, German and Spanish.
Assessment	100% External Assessment (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing each make up 25%)
Additional opportunities	Multimedia and an ICT suite Usually a study visit to Spain and France and a German exchange. Peer mentoring
Skills Developed	Students develop Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills in another language.
Progression Routes	Qualifications in Modern Languages enhance future career prospects, competitiveness in the jobs market and extend communication skills which impact positively on other subject areas, as well as being highly sought after by employers. A GCSE in French, German or Spanish makes up part of the English Baccalaureate. Up to date information about the range of careers that value a qualification gained in Languages can be found at: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/modern-languages
For more information	Mr S Phillips

Geography

Humanities

Specification	AQA GCSE Geography
Course Structure	The course includes in-depth study of physical and human environments. Topics include Natural Hazards, Rivers and Coasts, Ecosystems, Climate Change, Urbanisation, Resource Management and Economic Development. The content of the course is selected so that it tackles 'big' issues such as environmental responsibility, global interdependence and cultural understanding and tolerance. Assessment will involve traditional style examinations on key geographical themes as well as a problem solving exercise based on a resource booklet. This component will develop real-life skills relevant to future decision making.
Assessment	100% External Examination
Additional opportunities	Students will take part in fieldwork and research activities via a relevant fieldtrip
Skills Developed	The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains 'why' and helps to prepare you for these changes. Geography is a subject that enables students to make sense of their environment and how people interact within it. It can provide the knowledge, skills and understanding essential for experiences in adult life. Lessons are interactive and include a wide range of activities. There is a strong emphasis on thinking skills and exam technique.
Progression Routes	The transferable skills which Geography fosters in are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography is about the future and encourages flexible thinking. It complements subjects within both science and humanities and opens up a wide range of career options.
For more information	Miss D Timony

History

Humanities

Specification	OCR GCSE History Syllabus B Schools History Project
Course Structure	<p>Major topics included are: Crime and Punishment over time, Elizabethan England 1580-1603, American History 1789-1900 and Nazi Germany 1933-1945. There is also a 'History around Us' unit, which allows students to study a local historical site and explore the fascinating history around them.</p> <p>The external examination consists of three papers, one on 'British History', one on 'World History' and one covering 'History around Us'.</p>
Assessment	100% External Examination
Additional opportunities	The lessons are very interactive in that you are encouraged to develop your own ideas and communicate them to others. We use a range of different resources to help learning, including DVDs and on-line resources. There will be lots of opportunities for role play and debate.
Skills Developed	The topics you study will give you the chance to explore the significance of historical events and changes. Most importantly you will get to study real people – what motivated them and what they thought and felt. You will develop a range of crucial skills including research, source evaluation and verbal and written communication.
Progression Routes	The great thing about History is that it works well with a wide range of other subjects, because the skills you learn in History transfer very well, like evaluating evidence and constructing arguments. History is a very useful subject for a huge range of careers because it teaches you vital skills that universities and employers want.
For more information	Mr D Morgan

Religious Studies, Philosophy, Ethics

Humanities

Specification	AQA GCSE Religious Studies A
Course Structure	<p>Students will study the beliefs and practices in both Christianity and Islam.</p> <p>In Christianity, students will study the nature of God, the incarnation and crucifixion of Jesus whilst learning about different forms of worship and Christian festivals.</p> <p>In Islam, students will study the nature of God, the role and nature of angels and the importance of the prophets Adam, Ibrahim, and Muhammad, in addition to learning about worship, duties and festivals.</p> <p>Students will use this knowledge, of both religions, to engage with key ethical and philosophical themes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religion and life• Religion, peace and conflict• Religion crime and punishment• Religion human rights and social
Assessment	100% External Examination – no coursework requirement
Additional opportunities	In lessons you will be encouraged to explore your own ideas and opinions on the philosophical and ethical themes. As part of the course, you will consider and debate some of our most important cultural questions.
Skills Developed	You will develop a range of useful skills including research, source evaluation and verbal and written communication. You will be able to consider a range of views and present them as a reasoned argument.
Progression Routes	GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics prepares you for a range of further study, particularly where there is a demand for abstract thought and an appreciation of viewpoints that may be different to your own.
For more information	Miss E Maunders

Specification	AQA GCSE Art & Design
Course Structure	<p>There are 2 components to the course. A controlled Coursework unit and an Externally Set Task. Both units of work cover the four assessment objectives, which are equally weighted.</p> <p>Throughout each unit you will be assessed against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ability to develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.• The ability to refine and develop ideas through experimenting with and selecting materials, media, processes and techniques.• The ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.• The ability to present a personal, informed and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates an understanding of the visual language.
Assessment	60% Controlled Assessment 40% External Examination
Additional opportunities	The coursework unit includes an educational visit to a UK gallery or primary source experience. Students will have the opportunity to develop personal ideas and themes as they progress through the course. Extra sessions are offered to support students and allow access to specialist equipment.
Skills Developed	Students will build an extensive visual vocabulary through practical skills using a wide range of materials, including digital manipulation, photography, textiles and clay amongst others.
Progression Routes	GCSE Art prepares you for a range of further study, particularly where the exploration and passion for aspects of Art is important. Further study might include A-Level Art, Photography or Textiles, leading to university courses in a wide variety of disciplines.
For more information	Mrs J Rylands

Design Technology (Product)

Creative Arts

Specification	AQA GCSE Product Design
Course Structure	Design and Technology is a subject that provides students with the opportunity to be curious, creative, collaborative and individual with their work through the process of designing and making. It encourages students to think for themselves and develop their ability to solve problems with confidence.
Assessment	50% Written Paper 50% Controlled Assessment
Additional opportunities	Lunchtime, afterschool and holiday sessions are offered to all students to help hone their existing skills as well as developing new and advanced ones.
Skills Developed	Logical thinking, communication, conceptual and presentation drawing, photography, model and prototype making, analytical and critique skills make up a part of the Design course. Understanding manufacturing principles of the consumer society in which we live.
Progression Routes	<p>A Design and Technology GCSE is excellent preparation for further study where logical and analytical thinking are required, also a level of creativity when problem solving.</p> <p>A-Level Design and Technology facilitate further study in these areas.</p>
For more information	Mr B Rushton

Drama

Creative Arts

Specification	OCR GCSE Drama
Course Structure	Students develop their skills as actors/directors/designers through exploration of a variety of stimulus materials and texts. Topics vary and could include Crime and Punishment and Sweeney Todd. Students visit the theatre and develop skills in reviewing live performances. Students perform scripted work in front of an examiner, create a devised piece and produce a written portfolio. There is a written examination at the end of the course.
Assessment	60% Performance and portfolio 40% Written examination
Additional opportunities	Students are encouraged to attend a variety of live theatre performances as part of the course. Students will also be given opportunities to perform in front of an audience and work with professionals in a variety of theatre disciplines.
Skills Developed	Drama students develop their performance skills and their ability to analyse text. They create original drama material, respond to and analyse live theatre, are able to engage an audience and work effectively in groups.
Progression Routes	GCSE Drama provides a logical route to A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies. Students could move on to a Drama related University course and career e.g. Acting; Stage Management; Drama Teaching; Directing; or use their A-Level as a part of a broad package of qualifications.
For more information	Mrs S Hansell

Media Studies

Creative Arts

Specification	OCR GCSE Media Studies
Course Structure	<p>The course covers nine different media areas and looks at them from both an analytical and historical perspective; ensuring that students have a range of knowledge of various areas of the media.</p> <p>For example, with regards to the TV unit of the examination, students will study the Crime Drama television genre. Identifying conventions of the genre, textually analysing an extract to see how and why specific techniques have been used, discussing target audiences and television scheduling are amongst the skills that will be developed. These skills and concepts are then applied to other media forms, analysing the meaning created in a variety of media texts.</p> <p>Students will create a coursework portfolio. This will involve researching, planning and creating a media text for a specific audience, as well as developing practical skills.</p>
Assessment	70% External Examination 30% Controlled Assessment
Additional opportunities	Documenting events and contributing to the Westwood News.
Skills Developed	You will develop the ability to analyse a variety of different texts, as well as identifying conventions of a range of different media products. Additionally, you will learn how media platforms and production processes have developed over recent years. Students often find that the writing in Media Studies is similar to that in English, helping them develop their written communication.
Progression Routes	GCSE Media Studies provides a sound basis for further studies in a variety of different areas such as film, TV, radio, drama and journalism. It is also an ideal preparation for any activity which requires creativity and teamwork. It is a good starting point for those interested in Psychology and Sociology too.
For more information	Mr T Edwards

Music

Creative Arts

Specification	Edexcel GCSE Music
Course Structure	You will learn how to compose music and extend your skills in performance. You will study set works which cover a wide range of musical styles, through which you will develop understanding of how and why people create music. Lessons will be both practical (composing and performing) and theory-based (listening and learning about set works). You will learn how to use computer software and recording equipment to create your own music.
Assessment	60% Non-Examined Assessment (performance and composition) 40% External Assessment (listening/written exam)
Additional opportunities	Beyond Music lessons you may become involved in extra-curricular activities including orchestra, vocal group and other performance events. You could also form your own band, using the Music Department's facilities for rehearsals.
Skills Developed	Study of Music develops a wealth of skills including: creativity; project-management; attention to detail; forming and expressing opinions; group-work; independent study; practising and refining; presentation skills; building confidence; interpersonal skills; listening and analysing.
Progression Routes	GCSE Music prepares you for a range of further study as it develops such a wide variety of skills. Following GCSE study, students can progress onto Level 3 courses in Music and Music Technology.
For more information	Miss S Burns

Specification	BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise
Course Structure	<p>This course is a practical introduction to life as an entrepreneur and covers 3 components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Exploring Enterprise: understand the characteristics of different enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs; 2) Plan and pitch an enterprise idea: select an enterprise idea to plan and pitch; 3) Promotion and Finance for enterprise; explore promotion methods, financial records, planning and forecasting.
Assessment	<p>Internally assessed – Components 1 & 2 (60%)</p> <p>Externally assessed activities – Component 3 (40%)</p>
Additional opportunities	<p>Throughout this course, you will focus on small to medium sized enterprises, with a focus on the local area. You will be involved in a variety of activities, such as group discussions, research, paired work, whole class debate, presentations or guest speakers from local enterprises.</p>
Skills Developed	<p>You will develop key business skills – these include planning and presenting an enterprise activity, interpreting numbers in business finances or using your creative skills in business promotion.</p> <p>You will also develop attitudes and ways of working that are important to enterprise, including research skills, organisation, independent learning, analysis of a given situation, verbal and written communication.</p>
Progression Routes	<p>Studying for a BTEC Tech Award gives students a good foundation for any chosen route into further education or employment, helping students progress onto A-Levels, BTEC Nationals or an apprenticeship.</p>
For more information	Mrs K Percival

Computer Science

Other

Specification	GCSE Computing J277
Course Structure	Major topics/units included are: Understanding Computer systems and standard programming techniques; Network and topologies associated with Networks; Computer Architecture and ethical/legal aspects of data storage; Computing and Programming for the exam; Investigative task of researching and analysing a programming problem; Developing computing algorithms and programs to a functional level for the coursework
Assessment	Examination 100% - Component 1 and Component 2 Coursework internally assessed and externally moderated
Additional opportunities	On this course, you will be involved in a variety of activities, such as group discussions, independent research, paired work, whole class debate but all work is to be done independently.
Skills Developed	You will develop a range of useful skills including: research, computer programming, organising a coded solution to a problem, identifying test procedures to check the functionality of the input and output systems. You will also learn technical writing skills, have a real in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and be able to recommend practical changes to computer programs.
Progression Routes	The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area.
For more information	Mr H Khan

Information Technology

Other

Specification	BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology
Course Structure	<p>In this qualification, you will develop technical skills in data interpretation, presentation and protection. You will cover aspects of user interface design and development, and learn how to develop a project plan for your own UI designs.</p> <p>Key topics studied include: cyber security, the importance of legal & ethical considerations when using modern technologies, what a virtual work environment is and how cloud technologies allow remote teams to work together more effectively.</p> <p>This qualification will also enable you to use project-planning tools, models and techniques within a digital context</p>
Assessment	<p>The qualification has 3 components.</p> <p>In Components 1 and 2 you will carry out assignments that your teacher will mark.</p> <p>Component 3 is externally assessed by Pearson and assesses the knowledge and skills you have developed, including applying them to realistic scenarios and situations, across all three components.</p>
Additional opportunities	On this course, you will be involved in a variety of activities, such as group discussions, independent research, paired work, whole class debate and presentations.
Skills Developed	You will develop your digital and technical skills as well as further your understanding of business.
Progression Routes	Once successfully completed, you may wish to progress to further study with a BTEC National in IT or Computing at Level 3. You could also progress to a Computer Science AS or A level.
For more information	Mr H Khan

Physical Education

Other

Specification	AQA GCSE Physical Education
Course Structure	<p>Major theory topics included are: Physical factors such as training, fitness, body systems, injury and diet; Social factors such as drugs, hooliganism and psychological factors such as motivation.</p> <p>Practical activities available – football, netball, hockey, rugby, basketball, cricket, badminton, squash, tennis, table tennis, volleyball, rowing, horse riding, dance, boxing, athletics, cycling, diving, golf, gymnastics, rock climbing, canoeing, skiing, snowboarding, swimming, trampolining.</p>
Assessment	<p>60% External Examination - Theory exam</p> <p>40% Controlled Assessment - 3 practical activities</p> <p>- Written coursework</p>
Additional opportunities	Extracurricular opportunities include team practices, inter-house competition and interschool competition.
Skills Developed	You will develop a range of useful skills including practical ability, verbal and written communication, teamwork and leadership.
Progression Routes	Further study might include A-Level Physical Education or BTEC Level 3 in Sport. It will also prepare you to lead an active and healthy lifestyle in your leisure time.
For more information	<p>Mrs A Moore</p> <p>Level 2 BTEC Sport could be available for some students.</p>

Health and Social Care

Other

Specification	BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care
Course Structure	Students study a wide range of health and social care related subjects. The three mandatory units studied are: human lifespan development, health and social care services and values, and health and wellbeing.
Assessment	60% coursework assessment and 40% external set task.
Additional opportunities	Students are encouraged to take part in discussions and may have the opportunity to be involved with service users and local health and social care providers. Students will also take part in physiological measurements including peak flow and blood pressure.
Skills Developed	<p>You will develop your: communication, numeracy and ICT skills, research skills, independent study and decision making.</p> <p>You will also develop knowledge and understanding through applying your learning to work-related contexts, and gain the skills you need for further study and employment.</p> <p>Why choose this course?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Care values are at the heart• The components build on each other so that you grow in confidence• Coursework tasks alongside a written exam• There's a world of opportunities open to BTEC students
Progression Routes	<p>Further study might include the Level 3 BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care or a range of A-Levels including Social Science and Science subjects.</p> <p>It could also prepare you for employment and training in the Health and Social Care sector.</p>
For more information	Miss P Hemmings

Award of Personal Effectiveness

Alternative

Specification	ASDAN AoPE Level 1
Course Structure	All students produce a portfolio of skills based work to demonstrate their achievement in: teamwork, independent learning, problem solving, research, discussion and oral presentation. It involves engaging challenges across a choice of 12 modules including communication; independent living; and science and technology.
Assessment	100% coursework
Additional opportunities	In addition, students will also follow a programme involving Volunteering, Physical and Skills based activities.
Skills Developed	Students will develop a range of useful life skills, such as communication, problem solving and research techniques that will be of great benefit to them in college, in the workplace and in adult life in general. Students will also continue to develop their numeracy and literacy skills.
Progression Routes	The learning and life skills gained from this course prepare students for further study, employment or vocational training and apprenticeships.
For more information	Mr Turnbull

Next Steps – Year 9 Options Programme

w/c 15 March	Year 9 Options process begins
15 March - 1 April	Research and Fact Finding Students make provisional choices and discuss their Options with subject teachers and their personal tutor. Students may seek careers advice from the Head of Year 9 too
Thursday 25 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
19 April – 23 April	Finalising Choices Students confirm their choices and complete the Options Course Request form
Monday 26 April	Final deadline for the return of the Options Course Request form to your Tutor.
Summer Term	Students will receive notification of their 4 allocated Option subjects

Useful Websites:

www.careerpilot.org.uk/

www.careersbox.co.uk

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