



Devizes School  
& Sixth Form College

Raising aspirations, building futures

# Making the **RIGHT CHOICES** for **YOUR FUTURE**

Key Stage 4 - Options 2023 -2025

# Welcome

to Key Stage 4 at Devizes School and 6th Form College.

At Devizes our aim is to ensure that every student is well-educated, has the opportunity to attend university and is able to lead a happy and fulfilled life. Our aims are underpinned by our core values Courage, Pride and Resilience.

As our Year 9 students begin to make important decisions that will affect their future, **we aim to ensure that each child has the right guidance to put them on a path to reach their potential.**

We know what a truly amazing experience it is to be part of the Devizes School community, how highly our students can achieve and how successful they can be in the classroom and beyond. We believe that all students are capable of making outstanding progress and attaining at the highest level, whatever their starting point. This is the case for every year group, and we are aware that this success is, in part, based on making the right curriculum decisions in these early stages of Key Stage 4.

We have incredibly supportive pastoral and academic teams who are looking forward to working with our Year 9 students in making these important choices. The support and encouragement parents can provide at this important stage of a child's education is also critical. We are looking forward to working directly with the parents of every child in the year and working together to ensure all our students at Devizes School are successful.

We hope that you find what you are looking for in this booklet, if not, please do contact us for further information.

With very best wishes.

Devizes School



"If you can **DREAM** it,  
you can **DO** it."

Walt Disney



"The **best way** to predict the  
future is to **create it.**"

Abraham Lincoln

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I START?

At Devizes, we want you to be in the best possible position to prepare you for your future. You may have a very clear idea of what you want that future to look like, but most students in Year 9 aren't completely sure what direction they want to take yet. This is usual at this stage, so it is important to keep your options open to give you the widest range of opportunities later on.

You will know which subjects you achieve well in, and those you enjoy – these should be the main factors when choosing your options.

You should also be aware that most universities require three or more good A-Level grades. In order to get on to most A-Level courses (or equivalent), you will need 5 good GCSE grades (which means grades 9-5), including english and mathematics.

You should also take into account that studying a language is highly valued, as are history and geography. These subjects demonstrate that you are a student with broad interests, and the skills you develop are considered to help your overall learning. They are well-respected qualifications which can open doors and opportunities in the future. These subjects appeal to universities, colleges, employers and many more students are taking them now.

It is also important to remember that both universities and employers value a range of subjects and that you should seek to balance the courses you study. Practical and arts subjects can help you develop a wide range of valuable experiences and skills.

All of the information you need is in this booklet, and staff are available to discuss decisions and options with you.

### Miss Alice Leigh

Raising Achievement Leader Year 9  
email: aleigh@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

### Mr Daniel Fiddament

Vice Principal, Curriculum  
email: dfiddament@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

### Mrs Rachel Edwards

Personal Development – Careers  
email: redwards@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

All students in Year 10 study a core of required subjects. These include

- English language and english literature
- Mathematics
- Science (triple or combined)
- French or spanish
- Geography or history
- Core PE
- Core PSHE / religious studies

Most students at Devizes will continue to study a language. This will be the language they have studied in Y9 and will sit alongside either geography GCSE or history GCSE. They will then have two choices from a wide range of options.

A small number of students will have the choice of whether they continue with a GCSE in languages. This is mainly for those students who have not studied a language at Devizes as they joined us after September 2020. These students will choose either geography GCSE or hstory GCSE. They will then have three choices from a wide range of options.

## THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (Ebacc)

The Government introduced the English Baccalaureate in order to ensure that students follow a broad and balanced curriculum and to recognise the achievements of students who obtain GCSE grade 5 or above across a suite of academic subjects from across the academic

spectrum. To accomplish the Baccalaureate, you need to achieve grade 5 or above in english, mathematics, combined or triple science, geography or history and a foreign language.

The Ebacc subjects are also the same set of subjects called 'facilitating subjects' by universities; they are the ones most regularly asked for by college and university courses.

You don't need to have studied all of these to go to university, but having your GCSE mix steered towards the English Baccalaureate subjects will help keep your options open. At present, universities are continuing to base their offers on A-Level grades. We are not aware of any universities that are expecting students to have passed the Baccalaureate. We are not aware of it being used by employers, although this could of course change in the future.

## WHAT WILL MY TIMETABLE LOOK LIKE?

From September this year we will be following a one-week timetable and students in year 10 will study 30 lessons per week. 16 of these will be english, mathematics and science. All students will have a PSHE / religious education lesson and a double lesson of PE every week.

In Year 10 the school day will finish as normal; however, this will change slightly in Year 11 as you will be expected to attend extra, targeted support sessions as a Period 7.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT COURSES ON OFFER?

### GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)

With a GCSE you gain a grade from 9 – 1 (with 9 being

the highest). The course consists of mostly examinations taken at the end of Year 11 but there are some elements of coursework or controlled assessments in some subjects. Some GCSE courses are very practical such as GCSE Art or Drama.

### BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council award) / OCR National

With these courses you learn about a subject in a more practical, work-related manner. Assessment is spread out across Years 10 and 11. These courses are for those who prefer to do more coursework, and who enjoy independent learning and practical activity. There will also be an examination and you must pass this in order to pass the course. You can achieve Pass, Merit or Distinction. These Level 2 courses are the equivalent to one GCSE.

You can find out more about a particular course by reading the page in this booklet or speaking to the teacher leading the course.

## HOW DO I MAKE MY OPTIONS CHOICES?

What should you **consider when choosing** option subjects?

- Which subjects are you successful in?
- Which subjects do you enjoy (as you will be studying them for the next two years)?
- What skills do you want to learn?
- What might you want to study afterwards? Do you need a GCSE in a subject if you want to take it at A Level?
- What do you study in the subject, and is it right for you? Can you find out more from the teacher(s)?
- Are there any entry requirements for the subjects you want to study?



What are the **common mistakes** when choosing options subjects?

- Choosing an option because all your friends are doing it
- Choosing it based on a teacher(s)
- Choosing because you’ve never done the subject before, so it must be good
- Deciding without reading this booklet, asking questions, and speaking to teachers
- Deciding without discussing it with your family
- Deciding against a subject because you don’t want a career in it

HOW DO I COMPLETE MY OPTIONS FORM?

All options are now completed online using online forms. Your parents will receive an email on Friday 10th March 2023 with a link to your personalised options form. This will be sent to your parents email address. Please make sure you can access this in advance.

Read the following before clicking the link as the form can only be completed once.

1. Discuss the different choices on offer with your parents / carers. Remember that most students will choose either geography or history plus a language and then two further courses.
2. The form will ask you to select a reserve choice so please make sure you have thought about this, too.
3. When you are happy with your decisions click the link sent to you in the email.
4. Complete every question in the options form.
5. Carefully read the sections at the bottom before ticking that you have understood them.

The form is personalised to each student so please do not forward the link.

If you want to study PE or Sport, please choose the PE option on the form. Once all applications are complete the PE Department will assign you to the most suitable course. This is either GCSE PE or the Cambridge National

in Sport. You can discuss this with your PE teacher once the applications are submitted.

We do not operate a “first come – first served” policy with options so do not rush to complete the form. The deadline for completion is Wednesday 15th March 2023. You will receive a letter at the beginning of term 5 with the courses you have been allocated. Every effort is made to ensure all students get the courses they have selected but please be aware that this may not be possible for all students. We may remove any of the options in this book if student numbers are low and the course is no longer viable. In these instances, we will have individual conversations with students to ensure they can pick another suitable course (your reserve choice or another).

If you would like some support completing your form in school then please let your tutor know and this can be arranged.

CAREERS GUIDANCE

During the choices process, and in the coming years, students and their parents / carers may wish to gain additional advice. All students have already received presentations in lessons and / or assemblies about the subjects on offer.

In choosing their programme of study, students should be thinking about their long-term ambitions. If they already have a clear career plan, they should be investigating any GCSE and A-Level requirements this may have.






In school, we have access to a wide range of information sources, including:

**Mrs Rachel Edwards**  
Personal Development / Careers

**Mr Chamberlain**  
Head of 6th Form

**Mr Tim Brown**  
Head of Year 12 and UCAS Co-ordinator

There are also a range of useful websites.

<a href="http://www.u-explore.com">www.u-explore.com</a>		u-explore is an independent and impartial national careers platform. Learners, parents / carers can log on to U-Explore 24/7, via an internet connection, to access over 2,000 written and video job profiles and 360-degree virtual tours.
<a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a>		Information about higher education courses and entry requirements
<a href="http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk">www.russellgroup.ac.uk</a>		The Russell Group University Guide to post 16 choices and university entry. Includes some GCSE requirements.
<a href="http://www.careerpilot.org.uk">www.careerpilot.org.uk</a>		All students have access to Careers Pilot. It is a one-stop-shop for students across key stage 3,4 and 5 for all information on all routes post-16, no matter what their interests or academic ability.
<a href="http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com">www.amazingapprenticeships.com</a>		Connecting schools, colleges and training providers with a National Apprenticeship Service in their area.



# Welcome

to your choices and options for Years 10 and 11

I hope you enjoy reading all about the options available to you and are inspired to make positive choices about the courses you will be studying for the next two years.

Yours sincerely

**Mr D Fiddament**

Vice Principal

email: [dfiddament@devizes.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:dfiddament@devizes.wilts.sch.uk)

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# GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Exam Board	AQA English Language and English Literature	
Overview	Students will read from a range of texts carefully selected for their ability, but encompassing writers from 19th Century through to modern literature. Key skills that will be developed focus on students adapting language choices and structures to match different purposes. Speaking and listening is still assessed, but no longer carries any weighting towards the final GCSE grade.	
Course structure	The course is linear with final examinations at the end of Year 11. All pupils will follow the pathways outlined below for Language and Literature. Papers are no longer tiered in english and so all students, regardless of ability, will complete the same examinations.	
Assessment	<b>English Language GCSE</b>  <b>Paper 1</b> Written exam Explorations in creative reading and writing 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE  <b>Paper 2</b> Written exam Writers’ viewpoints 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE	<b>English Literature GCSE</b>  <b>Paper 1</b> Written exam Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel 1 hour 45 minutes 40% of GCSE  <b>Paper 2</b> Written Exam Modern texts and Poetry 2 hours 15 minutes 60% of GCSE
Career Opportunities and Further Education	<b>Journalism, Broadcaster, Teacher and Author.</b>	
Further Information	<b>Miss R Squire</b> email: RSquire@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	

# GCSE MATHEMATICS

Exam Board	OCR Mathematics	
Overview	Students will cover number, ratio and proportion, algebra, geometry and measure, statistics and probability, developing and expanding on skills learnt from previous key stages, extending to problem solving questions which interleave several skills.	
Course structure	Papers in mathematics are tiered for foundation and higher students, with a common crossover section on both papers at the grade 4/5 boundary.	
Assessment	<b>Paper 1</b> Calculator paper 1 hour 30 minutes written exam 100 marks  <b>Paper 2</b> Non - Calculator paper 1 hour 30 minutes written exam 100 marks	<b>Paper 3</b> Calculator paper 1 hour 30 minutes written exam 100 marks  All papers are equally weighted, with topic content being spread across all papers.
Career Opportunities and Further Education	<b>Engineering, Financial Advisor, Computer Programming, Data Analyst.</b>	
Further Information	<b>Mrs L Banwell</b> email: lbanwell@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	

# GCSE SCIENCE

<b>Exam Board</b>	<b>AQA Combined Science AQA Biology, Chemistry, Physics</b>	
<b>Overview</b>	Students study a range of topics from biology, chemistry & physics which will enable them to learn how the world around us works and how they can help shape the future. This consists of 'combined science' for most students (2 GCSEs) with some students moving to study separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics in Y11 (3 GCSEs)	
<b>Course structure</b>	The course covers a variety of scientific topics which are taught as units within the three main areas of science: biology, chemistry and physics. There are between 7 10 units in each area and each subject is assessed at the end of the course.	
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>GCSE combined science: Trilogy</b>  6 x 1 hour 15 minutes written papers: 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics (16.7% each).  Each paper is a mix of multiple choice, short answer and open response questions.  Foundation Tier graded from 1-1, 1-2 up to 5-4, 5-5.  Higher Tier graded from 4-3, 4-4 up to 9-8, 9-9.	<b>GCSE biology, chemistry and physics</b>  2 x 1 hour 45 minutes written papers per subject (50% each).  Each paper is a mix of multiple choice, short answer and open response questions.  Foundation Tier graded from 1 up to 5.  Higher Tier graded from 3 up to 9.
<b>Career Opportunities and Further Education</b>	<b>Doctor, Engineer, Vet, Environmental Scientist.</b>	
<b>Further Information</b>	<b>Mr R Holdroyd</b> email: rholdroyd@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	

# GCSE HISTORY

<b>Exam Board</b>	<b>Pearson Edexcel History</b>	
<b>Overview</b>	Students will learn broad and diverse knowledge through studying key historical themes and time periods. Students will train to effectively write extended answers to analytical questions and develop the transferable skills involved in source material analysis. Students will have the opportunity to study a wide range of exciting historical events ranging from the 1800s up to present day.	
<b>Course structure</b>	Linear Course with 4 exam units sat in 3 formal exams in the summer of the final year.	
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Paper 1</b> Written exam Medicine Through Time c.1250-present 1 hour 15 minutes 40% of the GCSE	<b>Paper 3</b> Written exam Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 1 hour 20 minutes 30% of the GCSE  <b>Paper 2</b> Written exam Henry VIII and His Ministers, 1509-40 & The American West c.1835-1865 1 hour 45 minutes 30%, written exam
<b>Career Opportunities and Further Education</b>	<b>Historian, Archaeologist, Lawyer.</b>	
<b>Further Information</b>	<b>Mr T Strickland</b> email: tstrickland@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	

# GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board	AQA Geography
Overview	Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use.
Course structure	<p><b>Paper 1 Units (PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Challenge of Natural Hazards (tectonics, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK and climate change)</li><li>• The Living World – ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments</li><li>• Physical Landscapes in the UK (coasts and river landscapes)</li></ul> <p><b>Paper 2 Units (HUMAN GEOGRAPHY)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Urban Issues and Challenges – population growth and urbanisation, city life, opportunities and challenges, urban regeneration and sustainability</li><li>• The Changing Economic World – development indicators and factors affecting development. The wealth gap and how it can be narrowed – aid, fair trade, etc. TNCS: advantages and disadvantages. The UK's economic past and future.</li><li>• The Challenge of Resource Management</li></ul> <p><b>Paper 3 Units (GEOGRAPHICAL APPLICATIONS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issue evaluation – presented with an issue you have to solve it. A pre-release booklet is made available in the March of Year 11 so we can prepare.</li><li>• During the course two geographical fieldwork enquiries will be completed, one on physical geography (coasts) and one on human geography (regeneration in Bristol)</li></ul>
Assessment	Exam: 100% When: 3 written papers in Summer 2025 Length: 2 x 1 hour 30 minutes + 1 x 1 hour 15 minutes <b>Paper 1 Living with the Physical Environment</b> <b>Paper 2 Challenges in the Human Environment</b> <b>Paper 3 Geographical Applications</b>
Career Opportunities and Further Education	<b>Cartographer, Climate Change Analyst ,Emergency Management Specialist, GIS Specialist.</b>
Further Information	<b>Mr A Hadden</b> email: ahadden@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

# GCSE MODERN LANGUAGES

Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel French or Spanish	
Overview	Students will study the target language through a variety of themes (Identity and Culture; Local Area, Holidays and Travel; School; Future Aspirations, Study and Work; International and Global Dimension). Students will build upon the work that has been done at Key Stage 3 and language skills will be developed to ensure a deeper understanding of the language.	
Course structure	The course is linear with final examinations at the end of Year 11. The key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing will be developed to allow students to express a variety of ideas across a variety of themes, using a variety of structures. The skills are equally weighted, and students are entered for either Foundation (grades 1-5) or Higher (grades 4-9).	
Assessment	<p><b>Paper 1: Listening</b> 35 minutes (Foundation) 45 minutes (Higher) <b>50 marks</b> <b>25% of GCSE</b></p> <p><b>Paper 2: Speaking</b> 7-9 minutes (Foundation) 10-12 minutes (Higher) Both also have 12 minutes' preparation <b>70 marks</b> <b>25% of GCSE</b></p>	<p><b>Paper 3: Reading</b> 45 minutes (Foundation) 60 minutes (Higher) <b>50 marks</b> <b>25% of GCSE</b></p> <p><b>Paper 4: Writing and translation</b> 60 minutes (Foundation) 80 minutes (Higher) <b>60 marks</b> <b>25% of GCSE</b></p>
Career Opportunities and Further Education	<b>GCHQ+Intelligence Services, Interpreting ,Tourism, Teaching.</b>	
Further Information	<b>Mr P Ross</b> email: pross@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	



# GCSE ART AND DESIGN

Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel Art & Design	
Overview	Students will create a vibrant and personalised portfolio of work that shows students can select and use a wide range of materials over their course of study. Drawing is fundamental to both components and the course aims to develop drawing throughout. Developing ideas through investigations looking at the work of inspirational artists. Improving ideas through selecting and experimenting with materials, techniques and processes. Recording ideas, observations and insights inspired by the artists featured. Creating outcomes that are ambitious in 2D and/or 3D and are connected to the work of artists.	
Course structure	Art & design fully integrates and relies upon creative thinking, working independently, self-management and reflective learning. Students will produce art work in 2D and 3D, using drawing, painting, collage, printing, ceramics, sculpture and digital media	
Assessment	<b>Coursework: Component 1 - Set by Teachers.</b>  Personal Portfolio consisting of a range of tasks that can be created in 2D and/or 3D using a wide range of processes enhanced by analytical thinking over Year 10 and part of Year 11 and is worth 60%.	<b>Externally Set Assignment: Component 2 - Set by the Exam Board.</b>  Term 3 - Term 5. Theme selected by the student and is worth 40%. 3-month preparatory time culminating in a 10-hour supervised practical test. Both components are marked using 4 assessment objectives, potentially 18 marks for each out of 72.
Career Opportunities and Further Education	<b>Journalism, Broadcaster, Teacher and Author.</b>	
Further Information	<b>Miss P Williams</b> email: pwilliams@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	

# GCSE PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (RS)

Exam Board	AQA Philosophy & Ethics	
Overview	Religious perspectives, philosophical and ethics issues are analysed and evaluated through consideration of topical and challenging moral issues. As a subject this strengthens students sociological, psychological and emotional understanding of the local, national and global worlds they inhabit.	
Course structure	This is a linear course with 2 examinations in Year 11.	
Assessment	<b>Paper 1</b> The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices (Christianity and Islam) 50 % of GCSE 1 hour 45 minutes	<b>Paper 2</b> Thematic studies: selected from War & Peace, Matters of Life, Relationships, Social Justice, Crime & Punishment. 50 % of GCSE 1 hour 45 minutes
Career Opportunities and Further Education	<b>Law &amp; Criminality, Psychology, NHS/ Social Work/ Public Service, Sociology.</b>	
Further Information	<b>Mrs G Cummings</b> email: gcummings@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	

# GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (PRODUCT DESIGN)

Exam Board	Eduqas Product Design	
<b>Overview</b>	Students will learn and develop a wide range of skills include: research, analysis, problem solving, iterative designing, ICT, computer aided design and computer aided manufacture (CAD/CAM), testing and modelling, knowledge of a wide range of materials and components, use of a wide variety of tools and equipment, health and safety, evaluation. They will focus on understanding environmental issues, the design world, the impact of consumerism and how to be a responsible designer and consumer. This is vital for the future of society today. Students will have the opportunity for individual expression, interpretation and scope for creativity. This will include analysing the work of past and present professionals to develop and broaden their knowledge and understanding. This builds students' interest in the world around them and improves confidence.	
<b>Course structure</b>	Combination of Coursework 50% and Exam 50% Grade: 9-1	
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century</b> <b>Written Examination: 2 Hours long</b> <b>50% of qualification</b> A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of one area selected from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fashion and textiles</li> <li>• product design</li> </ul>	<b>Unit 2: Design and Make Task</b> <b>Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours</b> <b>50% of qualification</b> A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge assessing candidates' ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify, investigate, analyse and outline design possibilities</li> <li>• design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose</li> </ul>
<b>Career Opportunities and Further Education</b>	<b>Product Designer, Engineer, Architect, Carpenter or Joiner.</b>	
<b>Further Information</b>	<b>Mrs A Nind</b> email: anind@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	

# GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (TEXTILES DESIGN)

Exam Board	Eduqas Design & Technology (Textiles)	
<b>Overview</b>	Students will learn and develop a wide range of skills to include research, analysis and problem solving. They will use a wide range of textiles to design and manufacture a product. Students will focus on understanding environmental issues, the design world, the impact of consumerism and how to be a responsible designer and consumer. This is vital for the future of society today. Students will have the opportunity for individual expression, interpretation and scope for creativity. This will include analysing the work of past and present professionals to develop and broaden your knowledge and understanding. This builds students' interest in the world around them and improves confidence.	
<b>Course structure</b>	Combination of Coursework 50% and Exam 50% Grade: 9-1	
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century</b> <b>Written Examination: 2 hours long</b> <b>50% of qualification</b> A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of one area selected from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fashion and textiles</li> <li>• product design</li> </ul>	<b>Unit 2: Design and Make Task</b> <b>Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours</b> <b>50% of qualification</b> A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set assessing candidates' ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify, investigate, analyse and outline design possibilities</li> <li>• design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose</li> </ul>
<b>Career Opportunities and Further Education</b>	<b>Fashion Designer, Buyer and Merchandiser, Tailor or Stylist, Costume Designer for TV or Film.</b>	
<b>Further Information</b>	<b>Mrs A Nind</b> email: anind@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	

# BTEC PERFORMING ARTS (DRAMA)

Exam Board	Edexcel BTEC Drama Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award
Overview	You will explore a range of texts and practitioners over the two years. We will develop your ability to explore theatre, not just from an actor’s point of view but also as a director and designer. You will learn to develop your improvisational work and will get the chance to perform sections of text to an audience. Theatre trips will be used to help enrich your subject knowledge. This will help with developing your imagination, your creativity and improve your confidence and communication skills.
Course structure	This is a coursework-based course; you will complete set briefs from the exam board for 3 components. The coursework has theory and practical elements to it. There is no traditional written exam at the end of the course.
Assessment	<p>The components that make up this course are:</p> <div> <div> <p>• <b>Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts 30% - Year 1</b> You will explore a piece of repertoire in detail and learn to read theatre and see how it is created.</p> <p>• <b>Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts 30% - Year 2</b> Performing a piece of repertoire to an audience, including lighting, sound, props costume etc.</p> </div> <div> <p>• <b>Component 3: Performing to a Brief 40% - Year 2</b> Perform an improvisation in response to a stimulus set by the exam board.</p> </div> </div>
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Work in the theatre, actor, designer, producer, Teacher, Author.
Further Information	Mr S MacFarlane email: smacfarlane@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

# BTEC ENTERPRISE

Exam Board	BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise
Overview	Students will learn about businesses and entrepreneurs and develop a range of skills related to running a business. This course allows students to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of commerce and the people who are successful in business. This is excellent preparation for those wishing to become their own boss in the future.
Course structure	<p>Students will study a variety of topics to gain a full understanding of Business. The units they will be studying over the two years are:</p> <div> <div> <p>• <b>Component 1 - Exploring Enterprises</b> This unit is assessed internally and requires students to carry out research into different enterprises.</p> <p>• <b>Component 2 - Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity</b> This component is internally assessed, with students planning, pitching and reviewing a micro-enterprise plan and pitch.</p> </div> <div> <p>• <b>Component 3 - Promotion and Finance for Enterprise</b> This component is the externally assessed component. Students will complete a 60-mark external assessment based around a short enterprise scenario. The tasks will relate to the promotion and financial management of this enterprise.</p> </div> </div>
Assessment	<p><b>This course offers vocational grading</b>  <b>Grade:</b> Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Level 2 Pass, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Pass            It consists of the following elements over the two years  <b>Exam: 40%    When:</b> February of Year 11 with a resit opportunity available in Summer of Year 11    <b>Length: 2 Hours</b>  <b>Paper: Coursework:</b> 60% Coursework – 2 units over the 2 years</p>
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Business Management, Marketing Assistant, HR Officer, Accountant.
Further Information	Mrs R Edwards email: redwards@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

# CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL CERTIFICATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Exam Board	OCR Health & Social Care
Overview	This course provides an introduction into the services underpinning the Health and Social Care systems in the UK. Students gain knowledge about the different roles available in the community and how these contribute to society as a whole.
Course structure	<p><b>RO32:</b> The exam unit focusses on the rights of service users, person-centred values of care, effective communication and protecting service users.</p> <p><b>RO33:</b> Supporting individuals through life events, a coursework unit. In this unit you will learn about growth and development through the life stages. This will involve an interview with a person to include in your written research.</p> <p><b>RO34:</b> Creative and therapeutic activities. You will learn about how these can benefit people. You will also learn about the benefits of creative activities and you will plan and deliver a creative activity to a group or individual.</p>
Assessment	75% coursework and 25% exam
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Dental nursing apprenticeships in health, dental nursing, health and social care, health care science assistant, maternity and paediatric support.
Further Information	<p><b>Mrs N Strickland</b> email: nstrickland@devizes.wilts.sch.uk</p>

# VOCATIONAL AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Exam Board	Eduqas Hospitality and Catering
Overview	<p>The course looks at the area of Hospitality and Catering industry, nutrition and practical cooking and its applications in the world in which we live and teaches you about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food preparation and cooking skills</li> <li>• How food can cause ill health</li> <li>• Different nutritional needs of individuals</li> <li>• The functions of nutrients in the body</li> <li>• The environment in which the hospitality and catering industry operates</li> <li>• The types of services included in the industry</li> </ul>
Course structure	<p><b>Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitality and catering provision</li> <li>• How hospitality and catering providers operate</li> <li>• Health and safety in hospitality and catering</li> <li>• Food safety in hospitality and catering</li> </ul> <p><b>Unit 2: Controlled Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of nutrition</li> <li>• Menu planning</li> <li>• The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes</li> <li>• Evaluating Cooking Skills</li> </ul>
Assessment	<p><b>Unit 1: Exam:</b> 40%    <b>Length:</b> 1 hour 20 minutes</p> <p><b>Unit 2: Coursework:</b> 60%    Controlled assessment, including 3.5 hour practical exam.</p>
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Chef, Hospitality Manager, Environmental Officer, Nutritionist.
Further Information	<p><b>Mrs A Nind</b> email: anind@devizes.wilts.sch.uk</p>

# CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Exam Board	OCR Cambridge National Certificate in Information Technologies
Overview	Students will learn how a wide range of new technology is helping to shape the future. This course is for students who wish to be inspired by new technology and its exciting applications in the modern world.
Course structure	<p><b>R050: IT in the Digital World</b> In this unit, students will learn the theoretical knowledge and understanding to apply design tools for applications, principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing in different contexts when creating IT solutions or products.</p> <p><b>R060: Data Manipulation Using Spreadsheets</b> In this unit, students will learn the skills to be able to plan and design a spreadsheet solution to meet client requirements. They will be able to use a range of tools and techniques to create a spreadsheet solution based on their design, which they will test.</p> <p><b>R070: Using Augmented Reality to Present Information</b> In this unit, students will learn the purpose, use and types of augmented reality (AR) in different contexts and how they are used on different digital devices. They will develop the skills to be able to design and create an AR model prototype, using a range of tools and techniques. Students will also be able to test and review their AR model prototype.</p>
Assessment	<p>This course offers vocational grading <b>Grade:</b> Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Level 2 Pass, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Pass <b>Exam:</b> R050      <b>When:</b> Summer of Year 11      <b>Length:</b> 1 hour 15 minutes <b>Coursework:</b> R060 <b>Length:</b> 10-12 hour Controlled Assessment in Year 10 about spreadsheets <b>Coursework:</b> R070 <b>Length:</b> 10-12 hour Controlled Assessment in Year 10 about augmented reality</p>
Career Opportunities and Further Education	<b>Data Manager, IT Support, Web Developer, Games Designer.</b>
Further Information	<b>Mrs R Edwards</b> email: redwards@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

# BTEC MUSIC

Exam Board	Pearson BTEC Tech Award Music
Overview	Students will study various music products including different musical styles, develop valuable skills and techniques in creating music, both using instruments and music technology, performing music and explore potential careers in the industry.
Course structure	<p><b>Coursework:</b> 100%</p> <p><b>Component 1</b> - Exploring the music industry</p> <p><b>Component 2</b> - Developing music skills</p> <p><b>Component 3</b> - Respond to a music brief</p>
Assessment	<p><b>Exploring Music Products and Styles-30%</b> During this component students will explore different styles and genres ranging from the 60s with the Beatles during the British Invasion all the way through to K-Pop in the 2020s. They will take part in practical workshops to understand the music creation process. They will also learn about the different roles in the music industry and investigate relationships between different areas of the music industry.</p> <p><b>Music Skills Development-30%</b> Students will need to play an instrument for this unit. This component aims to develop musical knowledge, skills and technique and apply them to a musical product. Students will reflect on their progress and how to improve. They will develop a range of musical skills and apply these skills and techniques in a musical performance.</p> <p><b>Responding to a Music Brief-40%</b> This is assessed externally. Students will have to respond to a stimulus set by the Exam Board. This will take the form of a composition using live instruments and/or music technology.</p>
Career Opportunities and Further Education	<b>Original Artist, Music Therapist, Music Teacher, Recording Engineer.</b>
Further Information	<b>Mr M Jessop</b> email: mjessop@devizes.wilts.sch.uk



# PE AND SPORT

Exam Board	OCR GCSE PE or OCR Cambridge National in Sport	
Overview	Both courses have theory and practical elements. However, GCSE PE requires students to have a good level of practical ability in at least one individual and one team-based sport and will be judged on this ability. Cambridge National in Sport Science has only a fitness-based practical element in which your ability to perform is not judged.	
Course structure	<b>GCSE PE</b> <b>Coursework:</b> 10% Analysing and Evaluative Performance <b>Paper 1</b> Applied Anatomy and Physiology and Physical Training <b>Paper 2</b> Socio-cultural influences, sports psychology, health and fitness <b>Number of practical activities assessed:</b> 3 (1 must be an individual sport, 1 must be a team sport)	<b>Cambridge National in Sport</b> <b>Course Content:</b> Students will study a variety of topics to gain a full understanding of Physical Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Factors affecting performance</li><li>• Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology</li><li>• Performance in physical education</li><li>• Analysing and evaluating performance</li></ul> Students will study a variety of topics to gain a full understanding of Sport.  The units they will be studying over the two years are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reducing the risk of sports injuries (mandatory exam – 40%)</li><li>• Applying principles of training (mandatory coursework 30%)</li><li>• Sport nutrition (optional coursework 30%) <b>or</b></li><li>• Body’s response to exercise (optional coursework 30%)</li></ul>
Assessment	<b>GCSE PE</b> <b>Exam</b> – 60% = 2 x 1 hour exams in Year 11 <b>Practical</b> – 30% = 3 sports <b>Coursework</b> – 10% - written coursework <b>Graded</b> 9-1	<b>Cambridge National in Sport</b> <b>Coursework</b> - 60% <b>Exam</b> – 40% <b>Graded</b> L2D*-L1P
Career Opportunities and Further Education	<b>Physiotherapist, Sports Nutritionist, PE teacher, Sport based degrees, Sport based degrees, Apprenticeships.</b>	
Further Information	<b>Miss A Beck</b> email: abeck@devizes.wilts.sch.uk	

# GRADING SYSTEM

You will be assessed and receive GCSE grades using the 9 to 1 grading system when you receive your examination results in August 2025.

The system awards grades from 9 (highest grade) down to 1 (lowest grade).

The Department for Education states that a standard pass will be considered to be a **grade 4** or higher at GCSE. A strong pass will be considered to be a **grade 5** or higher at GCSE.

Not all subjects will have a 9-1 grading, so you will get a mix of results in August 2025. Some of our vocational subjects are graded using Distinction\* to Level 1 Pass. The example below shows this.

## EXAM GRADES

Mathematics	7
English language	6
English literature	5
Science	5
Spanish	5
Hospitality & catering	Distinction
RS	6
Performing arts (Dance)	Merit

## QUALIFICATION COMPARISONS:

BTEC First Award grade	Alias	Equivalent Grade
Level 2 Distinction*	L2D*	8.50
Level 2 Distinction	L2D	7.00
Level 2 Merit	L2M	5.50
Level 2 Pass	L2P	4.00
Level 1 Pass	L1P	1.75

Cambridge National Certificate grade	Alias	Equivalent Grade
Level 2 Distinction*	L2D*	8.50
Level 2 Distinction	L2D	7.00
Level 2 Merit	L2M	5.50
Level 2 Pass	L2P	4.00
Level 1 Distinction	L1D	3.00
Level 1 Merit	L1M	2.00
Level 1 Pass	L1P	1.25



# Devizes School & Sixth Form College

Raising aspirations, building futures

## **DEVIZES SCHOOL**

The Green, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 3AG

telephone: **01380 724886**

email: **devizes\_school@devizes.wilts.sch.uk**

**[www.devizesschool.co.uk](http://www.devizesschool.co.uk)**



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