

2020

# Options Book



Year 8 Pupils Selecting Options for Year 9

## Year 9 Options

In Year 9 all pupils will continue to study the following core subjects:

- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Spanish
- Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education

Pupils will then be able to select an additional three options from the following GCSE and Vocational Qualifications:

- Art and Design – Fine Art\*
- Business Studies
- Computing
- Dance
- Drama\*
- Digital Information BTEC
- French
- Music BTEC
- Performing Arts BTEC\*
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Art and Design – Textiles\*

\* Due to the similarity of courses the following options cannot be taken alongside each other:

- Art and Design – Fine Art with Art and Design – Textiles
- Drama and Performing Arts

### **Moving Into Year 10:**

In Year 10 pupils will have the opportunity to select 4 options from those they chose in Year 9 along with Geography, History and Spanish. Where appropriate, some pupils may be guided to the English Baccalaureate. Others may wish to choose this pathway to support future choices.

### **The English Baccalaureate (EBacc):**

The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. As such they are most regularly asked for by college and university courses.

The Ebacc is:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- The Sciences
- A language

The EBacc is worth considering when deciding which GCSEs to take. Whilst it is not vital to have studied all of these to go to university, having the mix of GCSE courses steered towards EBacc subjects will help keep future options open. If the requirements of the EBacc is to be met, then ensure both Geography or History and French or Spanish (a language) is selected when making the final option choices in Year 9, ready for Year 10.

### **Completing the online form:**

- The order options are chosen matters, with preference given to those options selected first.
- Early submission of the form does not increase a pupil's likelihood of getting the options they have selected. However, those submitting the form on time are prioritised over those that submit late.
- Options may not run if too few pupils select it.
- If options are oversubscribed, then the position of the option on your list will determine if you are allocated a space.

**Options online:** Registration can take place from the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This is the day of the Year 8 Parents' and Option evening. Help with this process will be available at this event.

**Options Deadline:** Options choices should be made and submitted online by Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.



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## Option Subjects



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# BUSINESS STUDIES

**PLEASE CONSULT:** Mrs Rogers/Mr Batchelor

**TITLE OF SYLLABUS:** GCSE Business Studies – AQA

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**GRADE RANGE:** 1 - 9

**WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT:**

**EXAMINATION:** 2 x Exams (worth 50% each)

**PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS:** 2019 - 53%

## **Course Description:**

In this course students will be growing their knowledge and understanding of how businesses are set up and run both in theory and in practice. The practical elements will include group work, presentation, investigations to help understand how a business works from a more hands-on approach. This qualification has multiple employability skill-sets embedded within, including; Employability, starting and growing a Business, Customer Service, Marketing and Finance. At the end of year 9 students will undertake an exam to assess their progress over the year.

## **Topics for Study:**

- Purpose of business
- What are business aims and objectives?
- Basic business structures
- The purpose of business planning
- Purpose of market research
- Methods businesses use to raise finance
- Basic financial terms

## **Homework:**

Homework is a mixture of exam papers, research and case studies to secure and deepen understanding. The homework for year 9 Business come in packs with set deadlines.

## **Resources and equipment needed:**

The standard equipment will be required, pen, pencil, ruler, planner and a reading book. It would also be useful if students come prepared with highlighters, colouring pens, coloured pens, ruler and calculator to get the most of this subject.

## **Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:**

The content studied puts students in a position whereby they understand how a business works, how to set up a business and how to make a profit.

The GCSE also provides progression for those wishing to continue their studies to A-levels in Business, Economics, Applied Business and is seen by many employers/colleges as a good route.

# COMPUTING (EBACC Subject)

**PLEASE CONSULT:** Mrs Clarke/ Mr Gibson /Miss Blest

**TITLE OF SYLLABUS:** OCR GCSE Computing

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**GRADE RANGE:** 1 - 9

**WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: EXAMINATION:** 2 x Exams (worth 50% each)

**PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS:** 2019 – 36%, 2018 – 67%, 2017 – 37%

## Course Description:

We all use computers every day, but how well do we understand how they work? This course will give you a deeper understanding of what goes on 'behind the screen' and will prepare you for further study or employment in the hardware or software industries.

Assessment for this course will comprise two exams in year 11. They are both of equal weighting, in the first exam pupils' will be assessed on their knowledge of how computers work and will cover topics such as systems architecture, networking, software and ethical/legal implications of using computers.

## Topics for Study:

- Programming (Python);
- Computational Thinking;
- Logic;
- Data representation;
- Systems Architecture;
- Networking;
- Software.

## Homework:

Pupils will be set either weekly exam preparation homework or half termly programming projects throughout the course.

## Resources and equipment needed:

Although access to a computer/laptop at home would be helpful they are not essential as these can be accessed before and after school in the ICT suites.

## Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Students who succeed in this subject will be well placed to participate and succeed in any ICT/Computing based course at college. Skills will be useful for careers in programming, ICT, web development, game development, engineering, business/finance, science and medicine.

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# DANCE

**PLEASE CONSULT:** Miss H Taylor & Miss A Franklin

**TITLE OF SYLLABUS:** Dance

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**GRADE RANGE:** 1 - 9

**PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS:** 2019 – 57% 2018 - 68%, 2017 –79%,

## **Course Description:**

This course offers a wide variety of approaches to the performance, choreography and analysis of dance.

The course is suitable for students of all abilities and provides an opportunity for all to succeed.

The basic requirement for GCSE Dance is an enthusiasm for the subject, as technique and performing skills will be developed over the three years. There is a written element which requires students to evaluate their own work and observed performances, a dance workbook/diary is kept throughout the course.

Previous experience and confidence will be of benefit but it is not essential as everyone is provided with opportunities to perform in front of audiences of all sizes through sharing work, school production and a range of other events.

Professional dancers and companies will work with the GCSE students through workshops and technical classes when available and appropriate and give students an insight into the profession.

## **Topics for Study:**

- Dance styles: Contemporary, Jazz, Ballet & contact work
- Choreography (dance making) in small and large groups;
- 6 Professional dance works.
- Solo/Duets/Trios.

## **Homework:**

Homework is set in line with the school homework policy.

## **Extra-Curricular:**

Outside curriculum time, there are visits and trips to local theatres, colleges etc., to see a full range of dance work in many styles and twice a year they may get the chance to see West End musicals and occasionally attend relevant workshops in London.

## **Resources and equipment needed:**

Dance kit – Dance t-shirts are available to order from school and track suit/ leggings.

## **Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:**

- Performing Arts – in further education;
- Dance careers in performing or teaching.

GCSE Dance develops confidence and self-esteem and is a positive school experience.

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# DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**PLEASE CONSULT:** Mrs Clarke/Miss Blest

**TITLE OF SYLLABUS:** BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

**QUALIFICATION:** Vocational GCSE **GRADE RANGE:** Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\*

**WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: Examination: 40% Controlled Assignments: 60%**

**PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS:** New Course starting 2019

## **Course Description:**

Over the year students will be studying 4 main areas in preparation of Y10 Vocational IT. The units are listed below. Students will be building on their knowledge, skills and understanding from Year 7 and 8.

Students will be developing skills such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data. They will be looking at effective ways of working, such as project planning, the design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct and developing their knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the IT sector.

## **Topics for Study:**

- Unit 1 – Graphics design for a customer (Coursework)
- Unit 2 – Data handling (Coursework and theory)
- Unit 3 – Project planning (Coursework and theory)
- Unit 4 - Effective digital working practices (theory)

## **Homework:**

Homework packs are given out which supports learning and understanding of the units being covered. Time is also provided to work on sections of the course independently.

## **Resources and equipment needed:**

In addition to the standard equipment required, students would benefit from access to ICT equipment at home, which allowed them to access to the internet and their work area from school.

## **Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:**

Students who succeed in this subject will be well placed to participate and succeed in any ICT/Computing based course at college. Skills will be useful for careers in programming, ICT, web development, game development, engineering, business/finance, science and medicine.

# DRAMA

PLEASE CONSULT: Mrs J Firth

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: Drama

**\*\*This course cannot be taken with Performing Arts\*\***

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

GRADE RANGE: 1 - 9

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT: 30%

PERFORMANCE EXAM 30%

WRITTEN EXAM: 40%

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: 2019 - 67%, 2018- 68%, 2017- 49%

## Course Description:

GCSE Drama is an exciting course that combines practical exploration of scripted and devised drama with written evaluation. The course will include a written exam at the end of Year 11. The course is made up of the following components:

1. Devising (30%) - Students devise a piece of theatre which they then perform. They will record the process in a portfolio made up of written responses, annotations, sketches and photographs. Pupils will be marked on the performance and the portfolio.
2. Performance from text (30%) - Performance of two extracts from the same text performed to a visiting examiner.
3. Theatre makers in practice (40%) written exam 1 hour 30 mins - Answering questions about a set text Blood Brothers which has been explored practically and evaluating a piece of live theatre they have seen.

Please note there is a large amount of written work and good literacy is essential.

Students who do not feel comfortable performing in front of others should be discouraged from opting for this subject as they will have to complete a solo performance at one stage of the course. Students will also be required to read and learn scripts for performances including the practical part of the examination.

## Topics for study:

Practitioners;	Improvisation;
Brecht;	Devising;
Stanislavski;	Monologue;
Artaud;	Theatre in education;
	Physical theatre;
	Script work.

## Homework:

There will be regular homework in the way of written evaluations to prepare for the exam. After school rehearsals take place regularly for assessed pieces of work.

## Resources and equipment needed:

The standard equipment will be required, pen, pencil, planner and a reading book.

## Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Drama is a versatile option that encourages creativity and confidence in young people and can lead to careers such as: an actor, teacher, social worker, youth worker or in the media such as radio and television. It can benefit students in any career working with people as it is excellent at encouraging team work and communicating confidently.

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# MODERN LANGUAGE: FRENCH

**PLEASE CONSULT:** Mr. Currier

**TITLE OF SYLLABUS:** EDEXCEL Modern Languages – French.

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**GRADE RANGE:** 1 - 9

**WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: EXAMINATION:** Listening 25%, Reading 25%, Speaking 25%, Writing 25%.

**PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS:** French: 2019 - 61%. 2018 – 50%. 2017 – No entries

## Course Description:

Over the course of French GCSE, pupils will develop an understanding of French in a variety of contexts and will be able to communicate in French by listening, reading, writing and speaking the foreign language. Skills such as spontaneous speaking and writing, and also translation, will help students to gain in self-confidence.

Students will have opportunities to gain awareness of countries where the language is spoken including, but not limited to, France and there is always the possibility of visiting France on a residential trip.

Examinations will take place in the summer term of Year 11 and includes an exam in each element.

Subject to appropriate behaviour and attitude in lessons, students will be offered the opportunity to join a residential trip to France during the course of their GCSE.

## Topics for Study:

There are five themes which we delve into over the GCSE course.

- **Identity and Culture:** – Looking at who I am, relationships, technology and free time activities.
- **Local area, Holiday and Travel:** - Looking at towns and cities, foreign destinations, weather and shopping.
- **School:** - Looking at subjects, rules and pressures, success and exchanges.
- **Future aspirations, Study and Work:** - Jobs, careers and employment.
- **International and Global dimension:** - Music events, campaigns and being 'green'.

## Homework:

Students will be set a homework task on a weekly basis. This can also be completed after school using homework club. Students will be expected to invest extra time throughout the year, in order to revise (and perfect) skills required for examination success.

## Resources and equipment needed:

In addition to the standard equipment required, pupils will need a bilingual dictionary – preferably containing a grammar section with verb tables.

## Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Contrary to popular belief, languages do not limit students to careers in translating, interpreting, education or tourism industries. There are many sectors where the ability to speak a language is highly regarded, for example: in finance where banks, insurance companies and accountancy firms operate internationally; food and drink including sourcing products from around the world and negotiating with suppliers; law where many of the commercial firms in London have offices in other European capitals; sales and marketing: British companies need to export their products and international companies and organisations need people to speak foreign languages.

# MUSIC

**PLEASE CONSULT:** Mr R Mullin

**TITLE OF SYLLABUS:** Music

**QUALIFICATION:** BTEC Diploma in Music

**GRADE RANGE:** L1 Pass – Distinction\*

**WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT:**

**CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT:** 75%

**EXAMINATION:** 25%

**PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS:** 2019- 83%, 2018 – 94%, 2017 – 79%

## **Course Description:**

The course offers students a chance to develop their performing, composing and listening skills as well as giving students an overview of employment opportunities within the music industry. Students have to complete six units, which are based on coursework, and an online exam to achieve the qualification. A number of written reports and research projects are also required. Several of the assessments take the form of public performances.

## **Options or Topics for Study:**

- The Music Industry;
- Planning and creating a music product;
- Introducing musical performance;
- Introducing musical composition;
- Introducing music sequencing.

## **Homework:**

Homework is set weekly with it being either a piece related to completing practical coursework or research for Unit 1.

## **Resources and equipment needed:**

In addition to the standard equipment required, it is preferable for students to own, or have access to, an instrument of their own.

## **Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:**

Music is a creative and technical option. It links well to courses available at Southdowns College, or an 'A' level in music, as well as careers as a sound engineer or professional musician.

# PERFORMING ARTS

PLEASE CONSULT: Mrs J Firth

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: BTEC Performing Arts      **\*\*This course cannot be taken with Drama\*\***

QUALIFICATION: BTEC

EXAMINATION BOARD; Pearson

GRADE RANGE: Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\*

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: **EXPLORE**- component 1 – internally assessed **30%**

**DEVELOP**- component 2 – internally assessed **30%**

**APPLY** – component 3 – externally assessed **40%**

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: New Course starting 2020

## Course Description:

BTEC Performing Arts offers students an opportunity to explore a combination of the performing arts and develop their skills in Musical Theatre, which will involve singing, dancing and acting. You must be willing to act, sing and dance as the course requires.

## **EXPLORE**- component 1 – internally assessed **30%**

You will explore the musical theatre industry and understand how the sector works. You will discover what it's like to work in the sector and what skills you will need to work in the sector. You will complete an internally assessed assignment which will consist of practical and written elements.

## **DEVELOP**- component 2 – internally assessed **30%**

You will develop your knowledge, skills and best practice in musical theatre. You will look at real life scenarios and learn what people in the musical theatre industry need to do their jobs effectively. You will complete an internally assessed assignment which will consist of practical and written elements.

## **APPLY** – component 3 – externally assessed **40%**

You will be using the knowledge and skills you have gained throughout the course and applying them to a real life scenario which you will complete as an assessment task. This will be in the form of a performance and written assessment logs. This is your final assessment of the course.

## Topics for study:

Musical Theatre Industry  
Acting for Musical Theatre,  
Dance for Musical Theatre  
Singing for Musical Theatre

## Homework:

There will be regular homework; completing research tasks, completing assessment logs and assignment briefs for the course, this will form part of your assessment so it is vital that they are completed.

## Resources and equipment needed:

The standard equipment will be required, pen, pencil, planner and a reading book.

## Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Performing Arts is a versatile option that encourages creativity and confidence in young people and can lead to careers such as: a musical theatre performer, an actor, teacher, social worker, youth worker or in the media such as radio and television. It can benefit students in any career working with people as it is excellent at encouraging team work and communicating confidently. This course leads more comfortably to the level 3 BTEC performing arts college course than A-levels, although both options are possible.

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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**PLEASE CONSULT:** Mr Browning

**TITLE OF SYLLABUS:** GCSE Physical Education – AQA / Cambridge National Sports Studies

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE / OCR Level 2

**GRADE RANGE:** 1 – 9 / Pass – Distinction

**WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT:**

**GCSE - EXAMINATION:** 2 x Exams (worth 60% of final grade)

**CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL:** 1 x Exam (Unit 1 – 25% of final grade)

**PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS:** GCSE PE – 2019 – 84% (4-9) 2018 – 82% (4-9)

## Course Description:

On this course, students will follow a combined year 9 Physical Education introductory overview which will cover content from both the GCSE and Cambridge National Sport studies qualifications. In year 10, students will then follow either the GCSE or Sports Studies pathway based upon their ability and the recommendation of the PE department. This will be done to ensure that they achieve the best possible outcome.

## Topics for Study:

- Contemporary issues in sport
- Developing sporting skills
- Sport and the media
- Sports leadership

## Homework:

Homework is set each half term where students are required to research and complete a PE prep booklet to reinforce and embed their learning from their theory lessons.

## Resources and equipment needed:

PE kit is required for all practical lessons. Lessons are likely to be outside so each student needs to be prepared for all weather conditions.

## Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Both the GCSE and sports studies qualifications carry an equal weighting and are excellent stepping stones for entry into college and careers in sport.









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