



The
Birkenhead Park
School



GCSE OPTIONS

Class of 2025

Ambition **AND EXCELLENCE FOR ALL**



Contents

CORE SUBJECTS

All students will study:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science (Either Triple or Combined)

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Art, Craft and Design

Business and Enterprise

Child Development

Design and Technology

Digital Information Technology

Drama

Film Studies

French

Geography

History

BTEC Level 2 Award in Music Practice

Religious Education

Sports Science

Statistics



Making the right choice

In deciding which option subjects to pursue to GCSE level, there are many factors to consider. Questions that you should be asking yourself include:

Which subjects do I enjoy?

It is often the case that the subjects at which students are most successful are also those which they most enjoy. Certainly, your time in Years 10 and 11 will be more enjoyable if you are studying subjects which you find interesting and stimulating. It is very important that you do some research into exactly what each GCSE entails. This booklet should give you some key information in this respect. Students will continue to take part in PE during their studies. Whilst this will not lead to a qualification, it helps with our students' overall wellbeing.

Which subjects am I best at?

Although life is not simply about getting good examination results, it is important that you opt for subjects in which you have a strong chance of doing well. Equally, it is likely that you will enjoy your time at school more if you are studying subjects which you do not find excessively difficult.

Do I need to study particular subjects if I wish to follow a particular career?

For entry to some professions, it is important to have the right academic qualifications. Those wishing to enter disciplines such as medicine or engineering, for example, would

be strongly advised to opt for three sciences. However, for entry to many degree courses and professions, it is not a requirement to have studied any particular subjects.

Most students in Year 9 probably do not have clear ideas about the type of career they would like to pursue. You certainly should not worry if, at this stage, you have little idea about what you would eventually like to do – indeed, many of those who think they know at this stage what they want to do often change their minds (sometimes several times) before finally deciding what to study at university and which career to pursue. The best advice, therefore, is probably to ensure that you make a sensible choice that does not rule out particular careers that you may be considering, but which leaves enough flexibility to allow you to change your mind later.

Above all, you should ensure that you play to your strengths by selecting subjects which you enjoy and at which you are good. Remember that the most important thing for most students is to get good GCSE grades, rather than GCSEs in particular subjects.

Who can help me make my choice?

Many people are on hand to help you decide the best combination of subjects for you. Your form tutor, teachers and parents will all be happy to give advice. You should take the time to seek advice from as wide a range of people as possible and think through all the options. In that way, you maximise the chances of making the best choice.

Core SUBJECTS

English

Level: **GCSE**
Exam Board: **AQA**

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Assessment

Examination assessment only

English Language

1 x 1hr 45mins hour exam fiction reading and narrative or descriptive writing

1 x 1hr 45mins hour exam non-fiction (inc. pre 20th Century non-fiction) reading and writing to give a viewpoint

English Literature

1 x 1hr 45mins hour exam Shakespeare play and 19th century novel

1 x 2hr 15mins hour exam poetry anthology, unseen poetry and 20th century drama or prose

Topics Covered During Course

Students will study a range of literary texts, including short stories and novels such as 'A Christmas Carol', plays such as 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Romeo and Juliet' and a range of non-fiction texts including those from before the 20th Century. They will also study an anthology of poetry and unseen poems.

Skills Developed

- Analysis and ability to discuss, with expertise, a wide variety of texts including those important to Literary Heritage.
- Students will develop their skills in reading by finding information, making inferences, commenting on the author's language choices and critically evaluating texts.
- They will develop their skills in writing by focussing on technical accuracy of spelling punctuation and grammar and will also develop the ability to write whole texts; creative writing and instructional/persuasive.

Further Education Pathways

A requirement at grade 5 or above is a requirement for many FE courses and Modern Apprenticeships.

A Level English Language or English Literature.

Higher Education Pathways

Degrees in English/English Literature, Law, Media, Business Studies, Journalism, Art History, Teaching English as a Foreign Language.



Linked Careers

Journalism, Law, Media, Teaching (at home or overseas), Advertising, Design, Marketing, PR, Publishing, Librarianship, Tourism, Museums and Galleries.

Other Information

There is also a compulsory Speaking and Listening element which does not count towards the overall GCSE English grade but is assessed as pass/merit/distinction. This will take the form of a 5 minute individual presentation.

Mathematics

Assessment

1 x 1 hour 30 minute Non Calculator Paper
2 x 1 hour 30 minute Calculator Papers

Topics Covered During Course

Statistics and Number which include:
the number system, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, proportion, the language of algebra, sequences, functions, graphs, the handling data cycle, data collection, data presentation and analysis, data interpretation and probability.

Number and Algebra which includes:
the number system, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, proportion, the language of algebra, expressions and equations, sequences, functions and graphs.

Geometry and Algebra which includes:
the number system, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, proportion, the language of algebra, expressions and equations, sequences, functions, graphs, properties of angles, shapes, geometrical reasoning and calculation, measures and construction, mensuration and vectors.



Skills Developed

Embedded within the curriculum there is an emphasis on Mathematical Reasoning and Problem Solving which is delivered through the above topic areas.

The functional elements of Mathematics are also embedded, providing learners with the skills and abilities needed to take an active and responsible role in their communities, everyday life and workplace.

The functional elements focus on the following key process:

- Representing: this is about understanding 'real world' problems and selecting the mathematics to solve them.
- Analysing: this is about applying a range of mathematics within realistic contexts.
- Interpreting: this is about communicating and justifying solutions and linking solutions back to the original problem.

Further Education Pathways

GCSE Maths will be required for access to many A Level courses such as Sciences, Business and Finance.

Higher Education Pathways

Access to most undergraduate courses require at least grade 5 in GCSE Maths.

Linked Careers

Engineering, Medicine, Scientist, Business, Banking, Teaching, Electrician, Plumber, Retail, Catering

Combined Science

Assessment

There are six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. Papers are 1hr 10 mins.

Topics Covered During Course

Students will study a broad range of engaging science topics:

Biology: Key concepts in Biology / Cells and control / Genetics / Natural Selection and Genetic Modification / Health, disease and the development of medicines / Plant structures and their functions / Animal coordination, control and homeostasis / Exchange and transport in animals / Ecosystems and material cycles

Chemistry: Key concepts in Chemistry / States of matter and mixtures / Chemical changes / Extracting metals and equilibria / Groups in the periodic table / Rates of reaction and energy changes / Fuels and Earth science

Physics: Key concepts in Physics / Motion and forces / Conservation of energy / Waves / Light and the Electromagnetic spectrum / Radioactivity / Forces doing work / Forces and their effects / Electricity and circuits / Magnetism and the motor effect / Electromagnetic induction / The particle model / Forces and matter

Skills Developed

- Investigative skills
- Practical skills
- Mathematical skills
- How science works skills

Further Education Pathways

A Level

Level 3 BTEC

All areas of further scientific study

Apprenticeships

Higher Education Pathways

A variety of under graduate and post graduate Science Degrees.

Linked Careers

Environmental scientist, health profession, optometrist, pharmacist, geoscientist, chemical technician, science teacher, mechanical engineer, dental hygienist, engineer, agricultural roles.



Triple Science

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS

Assessment

Each course involves:

6 exams papers (1hr 45mins) – Separate science route

6 exams papers (1hr 15mins) – Higher science route

Topics Covered During Course

Biology: engaging course, many concepts taught through practicals.

Cells and control / Genetics / Natural selection and genetic modification / Health, disease and the development of medicines / Plant structures and their functions / Animal coordination, control and homeostasis / Exchange and transport in animals / Ecosystems and material cycles.

Chemistry: bring chemistry to life with clear content, minimal context and practical's at its heart.

States of matter and mixtures / Chemical changes / Extracting metals and equilibria / Groups in the periodic table / Rates of reaction and energy changes / Fuels and earth science.

Physics: from the depths of space to the forces on Earth: discover our exciting new physics specification.

Motion and forces / Conservation of energy / Waves / Light and the electromagnetic Spectrum / Radioactivity / Astronomy / Forces doing work / Forces and their effects / Electricity and circuits / Static electricity / Magnetism and the motor effect / Electromagnetic induction / The particle model / Forces and matter

Skills Developed

- Investigative skills
- Practical skills
- How science works skills

- Applications of science
- Science in the world of work skills

Further Education Pathways

A Level

Level 3 BTEC

All areas of further scientific study

Apprenticeships

Higher Education Pathways

All science degrees including medicine

Linked Careers

Doctor, chemical engineer, petroleum engineer, energy engineer, Dentist, Neurologist, biochemist, marine biologist, veterinarian, engineer, zoologist.

Other Information

This course is suitable for students that have a real interest in science and feel they may wish to study it further post 16.



Optional **SUBJECTS**



Level: **GCSE**
Exam Board: **AQA**

CRAFT & DESIGN

Assessment

60% Coursework, which is internally set.
40% externally set task.

Topics Covered During Course

Component 1 – Portfolio of Work (coursework).
Work will be selected from 3 major projects.

Component 2 – Externally set task. Students choose a starting point to respond to and develop ideas for this task. Preparation time is given and they then have a 10 hour period to complete a final piece of work. This will begin in the January of Year 11.

Skills Developed

Students will develop their skills in a range of areas including:

- Fine Art
- 3D Art
- Textiles

All students will develop an understanding of the art work of artists, designs and art from other cultures.

Further Education Pathways

A Level

Level 3 BTEC which is A Level equivalent.

Higher Education Pathways

Foundation/BTEC/Degree level in Art & Design areas.

For example – Fine Art, Art illustration etc.

Linked Careers

Any number of careers including Teaching, Illustration, ICT Design, Architecture, Landscape Design, Audio/Visual Technology, Museums, Art Galleries assistant, Fine Artist, Fashion/ Textile Designer, Jewellery Maker and many more.



Other Information

This course offers students vocational learning and prepares students for post 16 education and beyond.

Business & Enterprise

Assessment

The course is made up of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that's externally assessed.

1. Exploring Enterprises • Internally assessed
Explore • 30% of the total course
2. Planning for and Pitching and Enterprise Activity • Internally assessed • 30% of the total course
3. Promotion and finance for Enterprise • Externally assessed • 40% of the total course

Topics covered during the course

- The development of core knowledge and understanding, including the range of enterprises and the key features and factors that contribute to an enterprise's level of success.
- The development and application of skills such as analysing research, information, planning and financial forecasting, communicating and problem solving.
- Reflective practice through pitching an idea for an enterprise activity that allows learners to reflect on their own communication skills and the viability of their enterprise activity following feedback.

Skills Developed

Development of key skills that prove aptitude in planning an enterprise activity, including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving.

Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, such as the features and characteristics of enterprises and entrepreneurs, and the internal and external factors that can affect the performance of an enterprise.

Attitudes and ways of working that are considered most important for enterprise, including monitoring and reflecting on performance of an enterprise idea and own use of skills.

Enterprise skills provide a fantastic progression pathway into a number of roles in an organisation and are transferable into all businesses. Study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical application alongside conceptual study. There are also strong opportunities for post-16 progression in this sector.

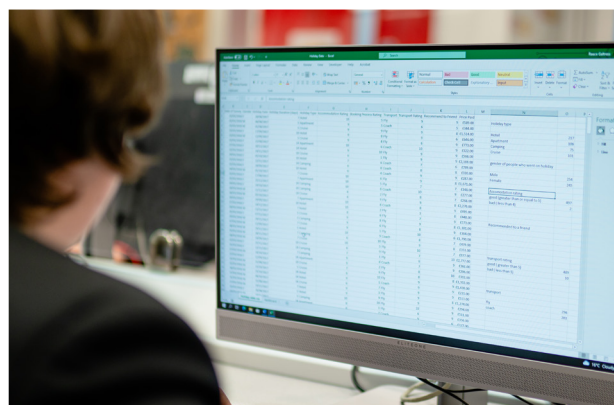
Further Education Pathways

A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects.

Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, which prepares them to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the business sector.

Linked Careers

Business and Finance, Office manager, receptionist, public relations, Business Co Ordinator, Sales, budget analyst, human resources.





Child Development

Assessment

The course is made up of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that's externally assessed.

1. Understand and Explore the Characteristics of Children's Growth and Development
• Internally assessed • 30% of the total course.
2. Developing an Understanding of How Children Learn through Play • Internally assessed • 30% of the total course.
3. Investigating How a Child Learns, Develops and Adapts through Play • Externally assessed • 40% of the total course.

Topics covered during the course

- Understand the difference between growth and development
- Explore factors that affect growth and development
- Illustrate how children grow and develop across the ages of birth to five years old
- Explore how children play
- Understand how play can be organised to promote learning
- Demonstrate how children's learning can be supported through play
- Understand how individual circumstances can impact on a child's learning and development
- Explore safe environments to support play, learning and development
- Investigate how a child learns, develops and how to adapt activities to support the inclusion of all children in play for learning and development.

Skills Developed

BTEC Tech Awards focus on building skills which will give your students the confidence to progress in whatever path they choose.

It is a practical introduction to life and work in Child Development, so your students can develop their understanding of the sector and see whether it's a sector they'd like to be in.

As BTEC Tech Awards are designed to be taken alongside GCSEs, your KS4 students have the opportunity to apply academic knowledge to everyday and work contexts.

This gives them a great starting point for academic or vocational study post-16, as well as preparing them for future employment.

Further Education Pathways

After completing their BTEC Tech Award, students will be in a great position to continue in this sector. This qualification prepares students for both practical and academic routes.

Linked Careers

Child minder, Teaching Assistant, Playgroup Leader, Early Years practitioner, Early Years Educator, Family Support Advisor, Pre School Assistant, Nursery Assistant.

Design and Technology

Assessment

40% Externally set task

60% Coursework

Topics Covered During Course

In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in one or more area(s) of three-dimensional design, such as those listed below:

- Architectural design
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Product design
- Jewellery and body adornment
- Interior design
- Environmental/landscape/garden design
- Exhibition design
- 3D digital design
- Designs for theatre, film and television.

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas

Skills Developed

- Use three-dimensional techniques and processes, appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example:
- Model making, constructing, surface treatment, assembling, modelling
- Use media and materials, as appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example:
- Drawing materials, clay, wood, metal, plaster, plastic, found materials.

Further Education Pathways

Foundation/BTEC/ Degree level in Design and Technology

Linked Careers

Interior Design, Graphic design, product design, marketing, multi media artist, animator, fashion design, advertising and promotions.



Digital

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Assessment

40% Practical exam

60% Coursework

Topics Covered During Course

The course is made up of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that's externally assessed.

1. Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques • internally assessed assignment(s) • 30% of the total course.
2. Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data internally assessed assignment(s) - 30% of the total course.
3. Effective Digital Working Practices • Externally assessed exam - 40% of the total course.

Skills Developed

- Skills needed for employment.
- Gaining practical experience and competence with contemporary technologies.
- Increasing the capacity to transfer knowledge and skills between contexts.
- Developing practical skills in creativity and problem solving.
- Developing an understanding of the social and commercial impact of IT.

Further Education Pathways

A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects

The study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which

prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

Linked Careers

Data Analyst, Software Developer, Junior Designer, Database administrator, Software Developer, Web Designer, Software Engineer, Web Developer and Business Analyst.

All career paths within the ICT industry, importantly most courses and jobs today rely on you being ICT literate with 92% of jobs advertised requiring IT user skills.



Other Information

The BTEC Tech Award is a practical introduction to life and work in the Digital Information Technology sector, so students can develop their understanding of the sector and see whether it's an industry they'd like to be in. BTEC Tech Awards focus on building skills which will give your students the confidence to progress in whatever path they choose.

Drama

Assessment

Internal Assessment 60%

External Assessment 40%

Topics Covered During Course

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into four components:

Understanding drama: A Written exam based on our set text 'I Love you Mum, I Promise I won't Die', and a review of a Live Theatre Production.

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, open book. 40% of the GCSE course.

Devising drama: A practical piece of coursework, where students will produce their own Drama performance and complete a log of their process. Devising Log, Performance and a controlled assessment (1 hour) evaluating the whole unit. This unit is 40% of the GCSE course.

Scripted Performance: A practical exam, in which students will perform from a script of their choice to a visiting examiner. This unit is 20% of the GCSE.

Skills Developed

The GCSE qualification that will help you if you are interested in future employment in the Performing Arts or to progress on to a higher level qualification. This course will help you to develop transferable skills such as; self-confidence, communication, teamwork, critical thinking and building on your imagination, independent study. The course enables students to study a variety of specialisms including Acting, Lighting, Sound, Costume and Set Design.

The course will offer you the opportunity to work with Acting and Directing Professionals both in school and outside.

Trips to the theatre are an important part of the course, which students will be expected to attend.

Further Education Pathways

BTEC Diploma Level 3 Higher Education Pathways Level 3 BTEC, A Levels, HNDs, Degrees.

Linked Careers

Actor, Singer, Dancer, Musician, Theatre Manager, Funding Officer, Box Office Staff, Front-of-House, Marketing Officer Production Manager, Technical Director, Stage Manager, Set Designer, Lighting Operator, Sound Engineer, Wardrobe Manager, Scenery Constructor, Theatre Outreach Worker, Director, Drama Youth Worker.



Other Information

This course enable students to study performing arts at a higher level, A Level or BTEC and will prepare students for a career in the performing arts. This course offers both the practical and theoretical elements of Drama and Design. It is compulsory for students to fully participate in both elements At the Birkenhead Park School we have a partnership with LIPA and the opportunity for all students studying drama in Years 10 and 11 to join their outreach theatre provision.

Film Studies

Assessment

Component 1 and 2: 70% of total grade

Exam-based. Students study the production (e.g. direction, editing, cinematography), narrative, context and criticism of US, UK and global film during a range of eras, as well as developments in film technology.

Component 3: 30% of total grade

Coursework element internally assessed, whereby students produce either:

- a filmed extract from a genre film*

OR

- a written screenplay extract (800-1000 words)

Both options include a written evaluative analysis (750-850 words) as part of the production.

Topics Covered During Course

The course is divided into three components: Components 1 and 2 focus on understanding film from different eras and cultures. Students will learn to analyse and evaluate films using a range of critical and theoretical approaches. Topics covered include film language, representation, genre, narrative, and the historical and cultural contexts in which films are made.

In Component 3, students will have the opportunity to develop their own film production skills, by making short films and writing screenplays. This component will also cover the practical skills and knowledge required to make films, such as cinematography, sound and editing, as well as scriptwriting, production design and animation.

Throughout the course, students will be assessed through a combination of written exams and practical coursework.

Skills Developed

Film Studies offers students the opportunity to develop their critical and analytical skills, as well as their understanding of the technical and creative aspects of film production.

Further Education Pathways

A GCSE in Film Studies will enable students to go onto a Level 3 qualification post 16.

Linked Careers

Any number of careers including teaching, Filmmaking (Directing, Cinematography, Editing, & more) Creative (Writing, Special Effects, Art Direction, & more) Performing (Acting, Stunts, Choreography, & more) Business (Producing, Casting, Talent Management.)

Other Information

The Film Studies course is suitable for students who have an interest in film and media, and are looking for an engaging and challenging course that will help to develop their critical and analytical skills as well as their understanding of the technical and creative aspects of film production.

French

Assessment

Component 1: Speaking (25%) 3 tasks (1 role-play, 1 photo card discussion and 1 conversation). Final Examination

Component 2: Listening (25%) Final examination

Component 3: Reading (25%) including a translation. Final Examination

Component 4: Writing (25%), various written tasks including a translation. Final examination

Topics Covered

Youth Culture: Self and relationships, technology and social media

Lifestyle: Health and fitness, entertainment and leisure

Customs and Traditions: Food and drink, festivals and celebrations

Home and Locality: Local areas of interest, transport

France and French-speaking countries: Local and regional features and characteristics, holidays and tourism

Global Sustainability: Environment, social issues

Current Study: School/college life & studies

World of Work: Work experience and part-time jobs, skills and personal qualities

Jobs and Future Plans: Applying for work/study, career plans

Skills Developed

The GCSE specification in French will enable learners to:

- Develop their ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers.
- Express and develop thoughts and ideas

spontaneously and fluently.

- Listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed.
- Develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

Further Education Pathways

A Level in French.

Higher Education Pathways

The study of French can lead to a vast number of degrees including French Studies / European Studies / Law with French / PE & French / Economics and French / History and French / French with Media Studies / French with journalism / English Language and French / Criminology with Foreign Languages and many more.

Linked Careers

The study of GCSE French is naturally an integral part of the European dimension, equipping the workforce of the future with skills appropriate to the global economy. The list of careers available thanks to languages is endless, but here are a few; teaching, translating, interpreting, finance, catering, law, sales and marketing, tourism, leisure, international organisations, teaching English as a Foreign Language, etc...

Other Information

Helps improve vital skills such as problem solving, memorisation, communication, grammar skills and working with others.

Studying French widens horizons and increases awareness of the similarities and differences in the two cultures.

Geography

Assessment

3 x 1hr 30mins examinations (100% combined).

There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Topics Covered During Course

Paper 1

Living with the physical environment.

Come and study the exciting and fascinating way the natural world works.

- How earthquakes and volcanoes are caused?
- What are the effects of an earthquake?
- What is climate change and is it man made or natural?
- How can deserts be hot and cold?
- How do we adapt to live with the extreme weather the world experiences?

Paper 2

Challenges in the human environment.

Think about:

- Why access to water will become a source of conflict?
- Should the 20% of people in the world who own 80% of the world's money help poorer countries to develop?
- Why do people live in homes made out of paint cans?
- How has the way the UK earns money changed in the last 100 years how might it be different in the years to come?

Paper 3

An adventure to Hilbre Island awaits you! Take part in a day long fieldwork trip that will open your eyes to how the world works right on your doorstep. As well as a trip to Liverpool, it will enable you to put geography into practice.

The pre-release allows us to explore and investigate a current geographical topic.

Skills Developed

During this course students will gain a wide range of geographical skills and increase their knowledge and understanding of key concepts like; place, space, scale, interdependence, environmental interaction, physical and human processes and cultural understanding and diversity. Students will be given the opportunity to develop opinions, assess the reliability of evidence and communicate ideas and information in a variety of formats.

Further Education Pathways

Geography at GCSE is highly valued by employers, colleges and universities. It can lead to a wide range of post 16 courses including A-Levels, Level 3 Vocational Courses and apprenticeships.



Higher Education Pathways

Geography leads to the application of student's knowledge as it covers a wide range of topics studied in Science, History, English and SMSC.

Linked Careers

This course is valuable to those students who wish to pursue careers in, amongst others: Law, Medicine, Armed Forces, Rescue Services, Teaching, Estate or Travel Agents, Architecture, Surveyor, Accountancy, Town Planning and careers which involve travelling.

History

Level: **GCSE**
Exam Board: **Edexcel**

Assessment

Paper 1- external exam based on Crime and Punishment from 1000-present. (30%).

Paper 2- external exam based on Henry VIII and his ministers and Superpower Relations 1941-91 (40%).

Paper 3- external exam based on The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad (30%).

Topics Covered During Course

The course is made up of 4 EXCITING parts, students will study:

Crime and Punishment

- How were criminals treated in Medieval England?
- Why were 'witch hunts' carried out?
- Who was Jack the Ripper and how did 'H-division' catch him?

Henry VIII and his ministers

- Why did Henry have six wives?
- Does Henry deserve the title 'star or monster'?

Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91

- How close the world came to nuclear war in 1962?

The USA, 1954-75 conflict at home and abroad

- Did US soldiers deserve being called 'baby killers'?
- Why was a 14 year old Black American murdered in the 1950's and his killers let off?

Skills Developed

Students will develop many skills that a traditional based subject has to offer. Students will require an ability to recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history. They will also develop an understanding of key concepts such as causation, consequence, continuity and change between different periods. Students will develop an enquiring mind and an ability to work independently to present information. Many of these skills are directly linked to further education and highly desirable for future employees.

Further Education Pathways

History at GCSE is highly valued by employers as evidence of high levels of literacy and enhanced critical thinking skills. Being able to think independently, discuss and explain will set you up for life!

Higher Education Pathways

History broadens students' choices if entering higher education and as a challenging and traditional subject is highly valued.

Linked Careers

History is a well respected qualification in careers such as Law, Accountancy, Journalism, Travel & Tourism, the Armed Services, Education and Social Services. It is valued by business leaders as a subject that enables prospective employees to think quickly and make clear, decisive decisions based on evidence.

Music

Assessment

40% Practical exam

60% Coursework

Topics Covered During Course

- The course is made up of three components: two components are internally assessed and one is externally assessed.
- Exploring music products and styles - Internally assessed assignment(s) - 30% of the total course.
- Music skills development – Internally assessed assignment(s) - 30% of the total course.
- Responding to a commercial music brief – Externally assessed exam - 40% of the total course.

Skills Developed

The Music qualification provides education and training for musicians and music technicians. It gives opportunities for students to gain industry-standard skills in solo performance and music technology that are both vocational and invaluable in the work place. This course also enables learners to develop a range of techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Further Education Pathways

The Music qualification can lead on to the Level 3 BTEC Certificate or equivalents. This qualification would prepare learners for the Level 3 Music and Performing Arts BTECs that are the equivalent to A Level qualifications. These are run at Birkenhead Sixth Form College and also at Wirral Met.

Higher Education Pathways

The route after the BTEC Level 3 Diploma would be more specialised courses or Degrees in Music Technology or Performance such as those available at LIPA.

Linked Careers

All career paths within the music industry including Sound Engineer, Performing Musician, Vocalist, DJ, and even into Music journalism.



Other Information

The Music qualification is equivalent to 1 GCSE and taught over two years. It has two units that are completed as a portfolio of assignments. The third unit is an examined unit of work, the brief is released by the exam board in January of Year 11. Students will respond to the brief by creating a piece of work to be used commercially. They will use the skills they have learnt in the first two units to create this music.

Students will need to learn to read music and general aspects of music theory. Performance skills would be an advantage when studying the course but not essential.

Religious Education

Assessment

2 x 1 hr 45 mins examinations (100% combined)

Topics Covered During Course

Award: Equivalent to one GCSE (120 credits)

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

Students will be aware that Christianity and Islam are two of the most diverse religious traditions and beliefs in Great Britain today. Students will study the influence of the beliefs, teachings and practices studied on individuals, communities and societies.

Christianity:

- Key beliefs including the nature of God and differing beliefs regarding creation.
- Key practices including worship, festivals and roles in the community.

Islam:

- Key beliefs including Sunni and Shi'a Islam, the role and importance of Muhammed and beliefs regarding the afterlife.
- Key practices including prayer, duties and the importance of celebrating festivals.

Component 2: Thematic studies.

Students will also study philosophical and ethical arguments related to issues such as abortion, capital punishment and sex before marriage, and their impact on the modern world. Students will show their understanding of religion through the application of teachings from religion and beliefs.

Theme A: Relationships and families

Students will explore the following topics: Contraception and family planning, sex before marriage, cohabitation and marriage and divorce.

Theme B: Religion and life

Students will explore the following topics: When does life begin, abortion, euthanasia, animal experimentation and look at different beliefs about how life began.

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

Students will explore the following topics: Corporal punishment, death penalty, forgiveness and the origins of evil and suffering.

Theme F: Religion, social justice and human rights

Students will explore the following topics: Prejudice, discrimination and inequality with reference to wealth, race, gender and religion.

Skills Developed

- Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture.
- They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help to prepare them for further study,

Further Education Pathways

A Level/BTEC qualifications in Ethics and Philosophy, Religious Studies, Politics, Theology and Law.

Higher Education Pathways

University courses in Ethics and Philosophy, Law, Politics.

Linked Careers

Lawyer, solicitor, politician, teacher, journalist, public speaker, writer, activist.

Sports Science

Assessment

2 Centre assessed portfolio tasks to be completed in Y10.

1 External assessed written exam to be completed in Y11.

Topics Covered During Course

Award: Equivalent to one GCSE (120 credits)

R180: Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions
(Assessed Externally Exam)

R181: Applying principles of training: Fitness and how it affects skill performance (Centre Assessed Tasks)

R182: The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this (Centre Assessed Tasks)

Skills Developed

- The Sport Science course is designed to enable students to gain an understanding into anatomy, physiology, injury prevention, improving personal fitness through appropriate training and diet, and the role of psychology in improving performance both in theory and practical lessons.
- Practical skills in a range of sports such as; Badminton, Basketball, Fitness, Handball, Football, Netball, Tennis and more.

Further Education Pathways

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning either generally or in this sector.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a OCR Cambridge National Level 3 in Sport and Physical Activity or BTEC National Level 3 in Sports Exercise and Science, which prepares to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the sports studies and sports science areas.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 1 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- Study at Level 2 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to; progression to employment, apprenticeships or to further study at Level 2 then 3.
- Study of sports post-16 through a technical certificate. Learners who perform strongly in this qualification compared to their overall performance should strongly consider this progression route as it can lead to employment in the sports sector.

Linked Careers

Teaching, Coaching, Physiotherapy, Fitness trainer, careers in sport.

Other Information

Practical lessons are compulsory as part of this course and full PE kit is expected for every practical lesson.

Statistics

Assessment

2 x 1 hour 30 minute Calculator Papers

Topics Covered During Course

The Collection of data which includes: know and apply terms used to describe different types of data that can be collected for statistical analysis, know the difference between population, know that data can be collected from different sources: experimental, simulation, questionnaires, observation, reference, census, population and sampling.

Processing, representing and analysing data which includes: tabulation, diagrams and representation, measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion, scatter diagrams and correlation, time series, quality assurance, estimation

Probability which includes: use collected data to calculate estimates of probabilities, experimental probability, theoretical probability, bias, two way tables, sample space diagrams, tree diagrams, Venn diagrams, notation, binomial distribution, normal distribution, standard deviation.

Skills Developed

The curriculum is designed so students are introduced to the skills of statistical enquiry, and practise the underpinning statistical calculations and interpretation using real world data and authentic contexts.

- Cognitive skills
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- ICT literacy
- Communication
- Relationship-building skills
- Collaborative problem solving

- Adaptability
- Self-management and self-development

Students will be able to:

- Understand the importance of initial planning
- Recognise the constraints involved in sourcing appropriate data
- Understand ways that data can be processed and presented
- Understand that results must be interpreted with reference to the context of the problem
- Show an understanding of the importance of clear and concise communication of findings and key ideas, and an awareness of target audience, additionally understand the importance of evaluating all statistical work

Further Education Pathways

GCSE Statistics will support students in an application to A Level courses such as Maths, Sciences and Business.

Higher Education Pathways

GCSE Statistics supports the study of the Statistics element of A Level Mathematics and Core Mathematics. It will also support any other course that involves the analysis of data such as Biology, Economics, Psychology, Geography and PE.

Linked Careers

Careers using Statistics are wide and varied: Data Analyst, Actuarial Scientist, Financial Manager, Chartered Accountant, Economist, Civil Servant to name a few.

Our Values



Positivity

We are positive about what we do and what others can do.

Ambition

We will work to raise aspirations and develop a strong desire for success.



Resilience

We will be determined and not give up when faced with difficulties.

Thoughtfulness

We treat everyone with respect and consideration.



Contacts

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Ambition **AND EXCELLENCE FOR ALL**



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