



*“Select For Success”*

# **Year 8 Curricular Choices**

# **2022**

# Year 8 Curriculum Choices....

At Werneth School it is our aim to offer students a broad and balanced curriculum, enabling them to experience a variety of subjects and learn skills needed to succeed at GCSE.

In Years 7 and 8 all students follow the same curriculum, studying a wide variety of subjects. At the end of Year 8, students are given an opportunity to make some choices, whilst enabling them to continue with a broad and balanced curriculum.

This booklet outlines the choices they have and gives some information about each of the subjects. These choices will not affect what GCSE subjects they can take, all students will make their GCSE option choices at the end of Year 9 and start studying for these in Year 10.

We hope you will take the time to read the information provided, discuss it with your child and that the booklet will support you and your child in deciding what to study.

Whilst it is our intention to offer all of the courses detailed, this will be dependent on student uptake of a subject. It may not always be possible to offer a subject where student numbers are low.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school via email ([gillian.kennedy@wernethschool.com](mailto:gillian.kennedy@wernethschool.com) or [choices@wernethschool.com](mailto:choices@wernethschool.com))

Kind regards,

**Miss G. Kennedy**  
**Assistant Headteacher**



# All students will continue to study.....

## The Core Subjects:

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Core Science

## The EBacc Subjects:

History  
Geography  
Modern Foreign Languages (French)  
Either Computer Science or ICT

## Students will also continue to study:

Core Physical Education  
Core Religious Education  
Life Learning  
Technology (on rotation of Food Technology, Engineering and Textiles)  
Performing Arts (on rotation of Dance, Drama and Music)



# Students will have the following choices:

## Visual Arts Strand:

Students will choose **ONE** from the following subjects:

- Fine Art
- 3D Sculpture
- Photography
- Graphics
- Combined Art and Design

## Information Technology: (Guided Choice)

Students will be guided to choose **ONE** from the following subjects:

- Computer Science
- Interactive Media

## Enrichment Strand:

Students will choose **ONE** from the following subjects:

- Business and Enterprise
- Dance Performance
- Drama Performance
- Ethics
- Film Studies
- Media Studies
- MFL: German or Spanish
- Music
- Sports Science



# VISUAL ARTS CHOICES

You will have the choice of a 'visual art' from the following subjects:

- Fine Art
- 3D Sculpture
- Graphics
- Photography

## Why study...Fine Art?

Fine art is our course for those students who enjoy and are skilled in traditional painting and drawing and can produce work to a high standard. This course will allow you to develop your skills and techniques and introduce you to watercolour painting, charcoal, soft pastel, oil pastel, ink & wax and a variety of other mixed materials. Using lots of different techniques, you will produce a final canvas from your sketchbook research and experiments.

Themes in the past have included Sea life, Animals as Humans, Portraits, Abstract Forms, and Nature. This is a good taster if you think Fine Art is for you at GCSE as we focus on high level drawing and painting skills.



## What skills do you need?

Students who do well in this course are usually those who have a flair for painting and drawing. Students are good at drawing and shading and enjoy learning new techniques and applying them to their own creative outcomes. You will need to create a detailed sketchbook of your artwork and work at home to meet your coursework deadlines.

## Why study...3D Sculpture?

3D sculpture is a course where you can realise your design ideas in 3 dimensions. You will have the chance to work with mod-roc, wire, papier mache and card. Your designs can be large or small and decorated to the limits of your imagination. Using lots of different materials, you will create your design idea into a 3D outcome based on themes such as Sea life, Natural Forms, Animals, Giant Letters, Masks and Food. As well as making your final outcome, you will produce a creative sketchbook based on your themed area and experiment with materials annotating your thoughts in depth.

## What skills do you need?

Students who do well in this course are creative and can work well modelling their designs in a certain theme using lots of different materials and techniques. You will need to draw your design ideas first and then make selections of the materials you wish to use after experimenting in your preparation stage. You will need to create a detailed sketchbook and work at home to meet your coursework deadlines.



## Why study....Graphics?

Graphic design is the combination of text, illustration and photography to produce artwork which can be used in a wide variety of advertising and promotional products. Artwork designed can be for the music industry, food, travel, sport and any other area where clients need to grab the customer's attention and sell products. Using text, photography, illustration and manipulating these in Corel Paint Pro, you will complete a portfolio on themes such as Circus promotion, City Stamps, CD/Album design and Iconic posters. There is always a high-quality outcome within Graphics aiming for the products to look professional

## What skills do you need?

Students who do well in this course are creative and good at ICT - you will need to learn to use Corel paint Pro in the course. You will need to be able to create effective layout and design choosing appropriate images for your customer base. Deadlines must be met and you will need to be prepared to create an artistic sketchbook and work on projects at home.



## Why study....Photography?

Photography is a fantastic technology used in a wide variety of areas to create images, record information and present ideas. We work with professional photographers and do photo shoots in the city, in the country or in school. Using digital photography and Corel Paint Pro you will complete a portfolio on theme of Natural Forms – this may include an educational visit for your Photo Shoot. This will prepare you for the actual GCSE - learning all the sketchbook skills and how to complete a final outcome.



## What skills do you need?

Students who do well in this course are creative and good at ICT - you will need to learn to use Corel Paint Pro in the course. We will need you to be mature and independent because of the tasks we do including visits, workshops and using equipment. Deadlines must be met and you will need to be prepared to create an artistic sketchbook and work

## Why study...**Combined Art and Design?**

The combined Art and Design course is designed for those students who are unsure of either taking a Visual Art as a GCSE or they are not decided on which specialism to opt for in Year 9.

The good thing about choosing the Combined Art & Design option is that you will be able to have a taster of all the specialism -

- Photography
- Graphics
- 3D
- Fine Art



This option allows students to have an experience in each area using the different techniques and materials and producing a smaller outcome in each specialism.

At the end of year 9 students in this option will either choose one of the specialisms at GCSE or they will not pursue Visual Arts as an option.

# **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CHOICE**



Students will have a 'guided choice' of either:

- **Computer Science or**
- **Interactive Media**

A guided choice means that, whilst your child has a choice here, they may be 'guided' by their teacher to the most suitable course for them to follow.

## **Why study....Computer Science?**

Students will be introduced to the concept of problem solving and programming through the use of text based (HTML, Java Script and Python) programming. They will also learn about the hardware components that make up our digital devices, computer networking and the psychological impact of social media.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

This course will be assessed by written examinations and contain a significant programming component so students will need to be confident in exams and willing to try hard when coding.

### **What skills do you need?**

You must be hard working and have interests in current and emerging technologies and be interested in pursuing a career in computing. The course requires commitment, dedication to your work and effort throughout the course. Excellent attendance is essential due to the nature of learning new skills and knowledge. An ability to think creatively and problem solve would be an advantage.

## **Why study....Interactive Media?**

Students will learn a wide variety of software skills to prepare them for the beginning of the course. They will complete a mini project in the development of interactive digital products similar to the assessed coursework in Years 10 and 11 to support their understanding of requirements and future assessment.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

Students will be assessed by teacher moderated coursework. The course requires commitment, dedication to your work and effort throughout the course.

### **What skills do you need?**

Students who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to application design, end user requirements, target audience characteristics and data protection.



# ENRICHMENT STRAND

Your final choice is for the 'Enrichment Strand' where you can choose from the following subjects:

- **Business and Enterprise**
- **Dance Performance**
- **Drama Performance**
- **Ethics**
- **Film Studies**
- **Media Studies**
- **MFL: Spanish or German**
- **Music**
- **Sports Science**

This will allow you to choose a subject you haven't chosen before or will allow you to follow a curriculum area that interests you.

## **Why study...Business & Enterprise?**

Studying Business and Enterprise will help you succeed in your future career. If you are interested in how to be your own boss and how to run your own business then this is the option for you! You will learn about how a business hires staff, how they promote their products/services and the law that businesses have to obey, to name just a few.



If you like using computers then you will develop excellent research skills as we look at different businesses that operate all over the world. Communication plays a very big part in each lesson as you will be presenting some ideas to your team and to me. You will be able to be creative as you develop your own business ideas and be self-critical in how you can improve your ideas and grow your business.

You will develop your leadership skills and be the team leader in our group business tasks. Even if running your own business isn't your dream you will all work for a business in the future and studying this subject will help you understand why a company makes decisions and why they charge the prices they do. You will need to participate in lessons and write down notes; so, there is work to do! Business enterprise is a fantastic subject that is great to learn alongside any of the core subjects you are studying.

## **What skills do you need?**

The skills you will need are great listening skills, basic maths (to calculate profits), good English skills for writing your ideas and lots of positivity and motivation! Business enterprise is a fantastic subject that is great to learn alongside any of the core subjects you are studying.

## **Business Soft Skills**

During this course, you will also develop essential employment soft skills such as:

- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Communication
- Problem solving

## **Next Steps**

Talk to Mrs Clayton about taking Business Studies. Subject Leader of Business in C55.

## Why study....**Dance Performance?**

Studying Dance Performance will give you the know-how to confidently perform for an audience. It will give you an experience of what it would be like to work in the industry. Drawing on knowledge developed from the dance curriculum, it is an opportunity for students to develop both their confidence and creativity further. Using professional repertoire and styles as a tool for developing technique and movement knowledge, students will have the opportunity to establish their strengths and areas for improvement within their own practice. This enrichment programme allows students to really focus on developing their performance qualities using a range of different resources, practitioners and styles. Students would be working towards performing for an audience as well as developing crucial leadership skills to make them successful in the future. With the delivery of **Arts Award**, students will develop the skills and knowledge to make them successful in future pathways whilst gaining a national accreditation. Additionally, studies show that participating in the Performing Arts gives students positive mental health benefits, positive school engagement and transferable skills that you can apply throughout the Creative Arts Industry, which is the fastest growing industry in the UK.



## What skills do you need?



Students who do well in Dance are students who are willing to try new styles outside of their comfort zone. You will need to have teamwork skills to be able to work collaboratively with others, good communication and cooperation skills, commitment and creativity. Students should also have the ability to be able to learn new dance ideas from others. Students will be expected to work towards performing for small audiences and so need to have the confidence to do this, this is also something we develop within the enrichment programme.

## Why study....**Drama Performance?**

Studying Drama Performance will give you the know-how to confidently perform for an audience, along with teaching you the craft of theatre-production, including Script-Writing, Stage-Management, Lighting, Sets, Costume and Props. We will do a variety of improvisation, scripted and devised performances, empowering everyone to develop their creativity and flair. You will also be able to lead and shape drama-events, meet professional artists and explore the vibrant arts scene in Manchester. You will develop the actor's vocal and physical skills in greater depth, along with the knowledge and attributes you need to produce events and speak with a wide range of people. These are vital transferable skills that will empower you to perform, give presentations, do public-speaking and overcome obstacles in the future. Additionally, studies show that participating in the Performing Arts gives students positive mental health benefits, positive school engagement and transferable skills that you can apply throughout the Creative Arts Industry, which is the fastest growing industry in the UK.



## What skills do you need?

Students who do well in Drama aren't necessarily the loudest or the most likely to take up centre-stage, but the ones who are open-minded and willing to try new things. You will need to be a good team-player, friendly to others and you will have to cooperate with peers outside your friendship group. And you need to be willing to give performances for small audiences. Deadlines must be met and you will need to participate wholeheartedly in lessons.

## Why study...Ethics?

Are you interested in debating the big issues that shape our society? Choosing ethics in year 9 provides an opportunity to look different topics affecting our lives. Pupils will look at a diverse range of questions including: "How criminals should be punished?" "Are some crimes unforgivable?", "When does life begin?", "What happens when we die?", "Is it ever right use weapons of mass destruction?", "What rights should animals have?". In addition, by choosing ethics, pupils have a unique opportunity to gain an extra GCSE, by continuing on the course during core RE in Years 10 and 11. This would not affect the options chosen, but be a chance to use what they have learnt in Year 9 to build to an additional GCSE in RE.

## What skills do you need?

If you feel you have skills such as constructing arguments and the ability to understand views other than your own, ethics will be a course you will enjoy. Many of the skills learnt compliment skills learnt in English and History, such as evaluation

## Why study... Film Studies?

You will look at the ways in which a variety of films are produced. Films will include both Hollywood and Global cinema. There will a comparison of Hollywood films from the 1950s and the 1980s. A British film, a global English-language film and a global non-English language film will also be studied. All students will complete modules in Screenwriting, poster design and film sequence planning



## What skills do you need?

This subject would suit students who have good analytical skills, can think creatively and who can write developed responses.

## Why study...Media Studies?

You will look at the ways in which media organisations (such as film organisations, TV channels, magazines, social networks, websites) market, promote and brand themselves in a commercially competitive environment. All students will complete modules in photography, film language, image analysis and the convergent nature of media technology. Students will have the opportunity to use digital still and video cameras and software such as Adobe Photoshop and Fireworks.



## What skills do you need?

This subject would suit students who have good analytical skills, can think creatively and who can write developed responses.

## Why study....Modern Foreign Languages?

Studying a foreign language has a huge range of advantages beyond just studying the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Scientific studies have demonstrated that studying a second or third language results in your brain getting physically bigger! Decision-making skills are more developed in linguists than non-linguists and have been proven to have better memories and attention spans than those who only speak one language. Learning modern languages also opens up the world - people who study languages are far more aware of what is going on different parts of the world and have opportunities to study, work and live in other countries. Finally, learning foreign languages can also help with understanding how the English language works, which is very useful for the English Language GCSE.



### What skills do you need?

Students who are successful in Modern Foreign Languages enjoy talking about a variety of topics, have enjoyed studying French in Years 7 and 8, can work independently as well as in lessons and complete work to deadlines.

## Why study....Music Performance?

Learning to play an instrument or singing is one of the most important social and creative skills you can possess. It has been shown to have beneficial effects in developing the brain. In turn this can help academic performance overall. It's also a big for building confidence (useful in any form of management job) or maybe you're just really interested in learning to play a musical instrument.



This course will involve you developing your skills on a particular instrument. During the lessons you will be given support to develop your skills but it will mainly be about your own self-discipline and determination to improve. Depending on the group you will also be encouraged to work with others to develop ensemble skills.

At the end of the course you will be given the opportunity to take an exam at an appropriate level for you. This is not compulsory but will help give you direction through the year and a real sense of achievement at the end of the course.

### What skills do you need?

Students will ideally already have an instrument that they have a serious interest in playing. It is also open to singers but again this is about developing a repertoire of pieces and improving technique and range, so requires a high level of commitment.

If you are unsure about any aspects of the course or if it will be suitable then please speak to a member of the Music Department.

## **Why study...Sports Science?**

All students in Year 9 will have 3 lessons of PE a fortnight. Students with a passion or interest in sport may choose to take the Sport Science course which will mean 6 lessons of PE per fortnight. During these lessons students will either complete a fast track course in sports science or will complete a games course where they will focus on improving skills for GCSE PE. You should have an aspiration to take GCSE PE in Year 10.



## **What skills do you need?**

Students who do well at this course always bring PE kit to lessons, have a keen interest in sport, participate in sport after school and outside of school (for a team) and have a high level of ability in at least one sport.