



The Telford
Park School
ENSURING EXCELLENCE

TELFORD PARK SCHOOL



YEAR 9
OPTIONS

THE OPTION PROCESS

In year 9 you can select the subjects you would like to study in years 10 and 11. This is called choosing your options.

- Everyone has to study Maths, English and Science.

The other 3 additional subjects you can take will be shown later in the booklet.



HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS PROCESS?

You'll be studying the subjects you choose for the next 2 years, and it's no fun being stuck with one you don't really like.

What do you want to do after year 11? Can this help you decide which subjects to choose?

Sometimes you need a qualification in a subject in order to study at A-level. Check carefully as this is not always the case and you can start some subjects from scratch, both at A-level and University

GETTING HELP

If you need help with your choices you can speak to the following members of staff:

Miss Hipkiss
Mr Warburton

or email:
telfordpark9@aatrust.co.uk



COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

The subjects below are subjects you will have to continue studying:

Maths

English Language

English Literature

Core PE (Non examination course)

Science

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
French	iMedia	History
Graphic Design	History	Travel and Tourism
Health and Social Care	Business Studies	Art and Design
Health and Fitness	Music	Religious Studies
Enterprise and Marketing	Food	iMedia
Art Photography	Geography	Childcare
Geography	Drama	Dance

STUDENTS WILL NEED TO PICK 1 SUBJECT FROM EACH OPTION BLOCK AND A BACKUP SUBJECT FOR EACH BLOCK TOO.



How to choose your options?

- You enjoy the subject
- You have researched the subject and think you will be good at it
- The subject interests you
- They may link to future career ideas



How not to choose your options

- You think it will be easy
- Your sibling took the subject
- It's a new subject and you don't really know what it involves
- Your friends are taking the subject.



Where to get support and advice

This is an important decision to make and some of you may be unsure. That is normal. Below is where you can seek advice and support:

- Your ASL and HOY
- Your subject teachers
- Your form tutor
- Your Parents
- Ms McAuley- Careers

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

Take time to think things through.

Consider which subjects you are good at, are interested in or enjoy

Look at the way courses are marked. If you don't like exams, you may prefer some subjects which include coursework (I.E BTEC, Cambridge National etc.)

Choosing a balance of subjects may help to keep your future options open.

If you're trying to choose between two subjects, think about how each option fits with your other subjects.

- Does a subject go well with your other choices?
- Does a subject provide a welcome change?
- If you're taking lots of essay-based subjects, it can be nice to include one choice with a more practical focus

WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The English Baccalaureate is a set of subjects that a student gets a qualification in which consists of:

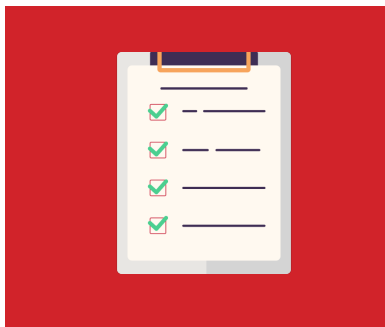
- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- The Sciences
- History or Geography
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Students Option 1
- Students Option 2



A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and adult life.

GOT A DECISION TO MAKE BUT DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CHOOSE?

Use this list to help you focus



List the pros and cons

Take a piece of paper, divide it in two and write down the advantages and disadvantages of your decision. Then work your way through each of your points and think about how important each one is to you. What seems the best choice on balance?



Look ahead

Say you're choosing your GCSE options and are trying to decide between Art and ICT. Where could either choice lead? Does one choice reduce, maintain or increase the options open to you?



Start at the end and work backwards

This only really works if you know what where you want to go. So if you have a job in mind, what training or qualifications will you need? If you need a degree, what A-level subjects will you need to get a place on a university course, and in turn will you need any set GCSE subjects to take your chosen A-levels?



Consider effort v. results

How much time and energy will you have to put into each option and what is the likely result? Back to art or ICT – if you're naturally good at art you may get a good grade without much effort, but if you're not so gifted at ICT, you'll have to put in a lot more work to get the same grade.



Rate your options

This is a way to compare the value you place against each option. Say you're choosing a sixth-form college, you could set measures such as course content, college facilities and journey time and score colleges out of five for each measure. You can also create an overall score for each option but bear in mind that some measures may be more important to you than others (if you want to get technical, you can always give a double score to any measure you think is more important).



Consider the mix

Try not to think about your choice purely in terms of A or B (yes it's Art or ICT again), but think about what else is going on (such as your other GCSEs). Which option is a good fit or welcome break from your other choices?

SUBJECT INFORMATION & OPTIONS PROCESS

You will now have a breakdown of all the current options available. You will need to pick either Geography or History and then 3 additional qualifications that you want to continue with in Key Stage 4.

[Each subject has a breakdown of what the qualification entails.](#)

We will be running an options evening where you and your parents can attend and talk to staff about any questions you might have.

Your child will need to complete the Microsoft form to confirm their option choices, they will need 3 options and 3 backup options within their given blocks.

Once options have been chosen and submitted by students and parents, they will be considered by SLT and the year 9 pastoral team. Confirmation of options will be received following this.





ART

What type of content do I cover on this course?

GCSE Art and Design allows you to explore a wide range of creative techniques including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and mixed media. You will develop your understanding of visual language, composition and design principles while investigating the work of artists, designers and cultural influences. Throughout the course, you will produce personal projects that show creativity, experimentation and technical skill.

How is the course delivered?

The course is delivered through studio based practical lessons where you work hands on with a variety of materials and techniques. You will complete independent research and sketchbook work to develop ideas and record progress. Teacher led demonstrations and critiques provide guidance and feedback, while portfolio building takes place continuously across the course.

What do I need to know before I choose this subject?



You should have an interest in art, creativity and design and be willing to experiment with materials and techniques. Good time management is essential, as sketchbook work and projects must be completed alongside lessons. Access to basic art materials at home will help support your learning and development.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification supports progression to A Level Art and Design or other creative subjects, as well as Level 3 vocational courses in art, design or creative media. It can lead to careers in graphic design, illustration, fine art, architecture, fashion design and a wide range of roles within the creative industries.



BUSINESS (EDEXCEL)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

GCSE Business explores how real businesses start, operate and grow. The course is split into two themes. Theme 1 focuses on small businesses and enterprise, including spotting opportunities, carrying out market research, managing finance, creating business plans and understanding external influences such as technology, legislation and the economy. Theme 2 looks at how businesses grow, covering marketing decisions, operations, finance, human resources, ethics and globalisation.

How is the course delivered?

The course is studied over two years. In Year 10, you will focus on Theme 1 and develop an understanding of enterprise and small business operations. Year 11 moves on to Theme 2, where you explore decision making in larger businesses. Lessons combine theory with real world case studies, group work and exam practice, helping you develop analytical, numerical and problem solving skills.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

You do not need any prior business knowledge, but strong reading, writing and numeracy skills will help. You should enjoy applying ideas to real situations, analysing data and solving problems. Regular exam practice is part of the course, so you need to be prepared for two final exams at the end of Year 11.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

GCSE Business provides a strong foundation for further study, including A Level Business, Economics, BTEC Nationals or T Levels in business related subjects. It also supports careers in marketing, finance, human resources, retail and entrepreneurship, as well as progression into apprenticeships and higher education in business and management.



CHILDCARE (CACHE)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This qualification is a great introduction for students interested in working with young children or pursuing careers in education, health or social care. It combines theory with practical learning to help you understand how children grow, learn and develop. You will study nine core areas, including child development, play, care routines, early years provision, legislation and the roles and responsibilities of practitioners. You will also explore how to observe and plan for children’s needs in real settings.

How is the course delivered?

The course is delivered through classroom lessons, discussions and practical assignments. You will complete written tasks, independent research and hands-on activities that reflect real early years practice. Assessment is a mix of coursework and an external exam, each worth 50% of the final grade. The focus is on applying what you learn to realistic childcare situations.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

You should enjoy working with or learning about young children and be interested in how they think and develop. Strong written and organisational skills will help with coursework, and you must be willing to complete assignments independently. If you are caring, patient and curious about early years education, this course will give you valuable insight and practical skills.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification provides a strong foundation for Post-16 routes such as Level 2 or Level 3 Childcare, Health and Social Care, or Early Years qualifications. It also supports progression to apprenticeships in nurseries, schools, and wider care settings.

In the longer term, it can lead to careers including Early Years Practitioner, Teaching Assistant, Family Support Worker, Play Therapist, Health Play Specialist, Nursery Nurse or roles across education and social care where an understanding of child development is essential.



DANCE (BTEC)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This course builds your practical dance skills while helping you understand the wider performing arts industry. You will explore a range of dance styles and professional works, develop your technique and choreography skills, and learn how to respond creatively to a set brief. You will also study the roles and responsibilities of practitioners within the dance and performing arts sector.

How is the course delivered?

Learning is highly practical and taught through workshops, rehearsals, group projects and teacher-led sessions. You will take part in performances, analyse professional dance works and complete written tasks that support your understanding and evaluation of your practical work. Independent study and rehearsal time are key to developing confidence and technique.

The qualification includes three components. Component 1 is internally assessed and focuses on research and practical exploration of different styles. Component 2, also internally assessed, develops your dance skills through rehearsals and performance. Component 3 is an external assessment where you create and perform a piece of work in response to a brief set by Pearson.

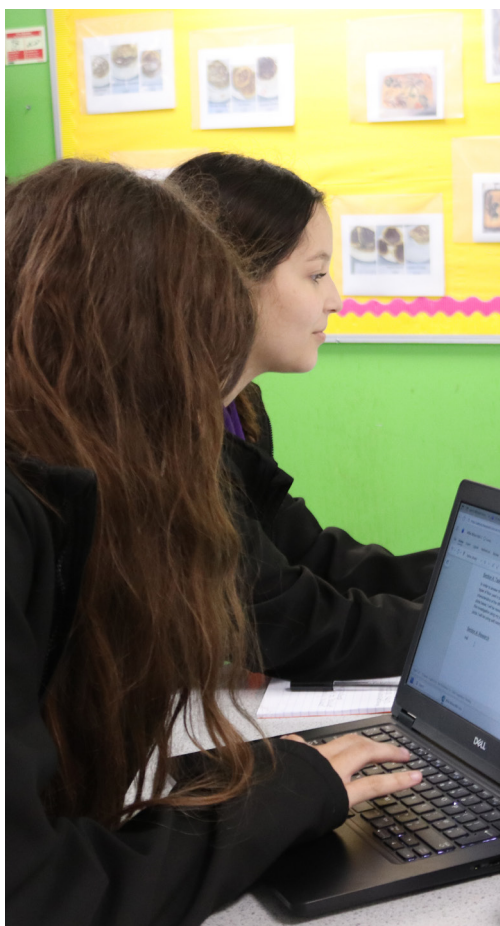


What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

You should have a strong interest in dance and performance and be willing to rehearse and work collaboratively. Some dance experience is helpful, but it is not essential. You must be committed to both the practical elements and the written coursework that supports them.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification provides a solid foundation for Level 3 study, including BTEC National courses in Performing Arts or Dance and A Level Dance. It also supports progression into the wider creative and performing arts industries, where skills in performance, choreography and teamwork are highly valued.



ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING (OCR)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This course blends business theory with practical enterprise and marketing skills. You will study three mandatory units. R067 focuses on enterprise and marketing concepts, including market research, customer profiling, pricing, break even and the steps involved in starting a business. R068 involves designing a business proposal, where you investigate customer needs, develop product ideas and test their financial viability. R069 builds on this by creating a brand identity and promotional plan before pitching your business idea and evaluating its success.

How is the course delivered?

The course is studied over two years and is taught through a mix of classroom learning and practical project work. You will design products, create marketing plans and pitch your ideas to others. Lessons are hands on and creative, with most coursework completed in class using computers and supported by teachers. Time is also given to exam preparation, including practice questions and revision activities.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

This course suits students who enjoy practical, project based learning and presenting ideas. You should be comfortable carrying out research, writing structured responses, using basic numeracy such as break even calculations and responding to feedback. If you like creative thinking combined with real world business challenges, this course will suit you well.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Enterprise and Marketing provides strong preparation for Post 16 routes such as A Level Business, Cambridge Technicals or other vocational qualifications in business and marketing. It also supports progression into apprenticeships or employment where skills in branding, promotion, customer insight and pitching ideas are valued. The transferable skills developed on this course are useful across a wide range of industries.



FRENCH (GCSE)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

GCSE French develops your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills across six engaging themes. You will explore topics such as your personal identity, daily life, health and wellbeing, your local area and environmental issues. You will also study media and technology, life at school, future ambitions and travel and tourism. These themes help you use French in real situations and build confidence communicating about a wide range of everyday topics.

How is the course delivered?

Lessons follow a structure similar to Key Stage 3 but with three lessons a week. You will learn new vocabulary, practise pronunciation and complete reading and listening activities before creating your own written and spoken French. Lessons are interactive and designed to give you regular opportunities to build fluency and confidence in all four skill areas.

You will complete four exams at the end of the course, one for each skill area: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each component contributes equally to your final grade.

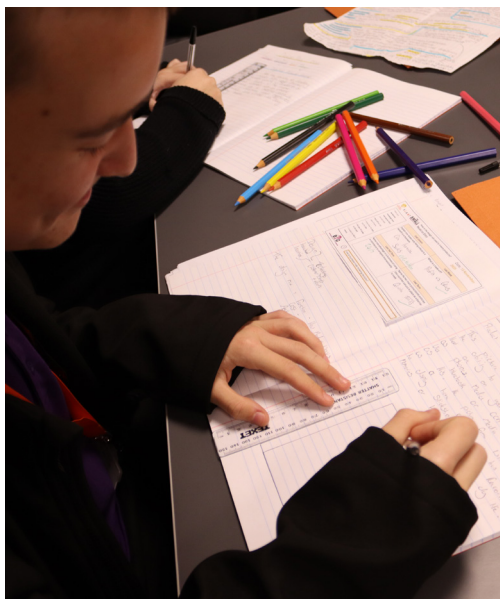


What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

The topics studied in Key Stage 3 give you a strong foundation for GCSE French. Knowing key vocabulary and being confident using opinions and different tenses will help, but all of this will be developed further throughout Years 10 and 11. If you enjoy learning languages and want to improve your communication skills, this course will suit you well.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Studying French can open doors to travel, international work and new cultural experiences. It is the first language in 29 countries and the main language of the European Union, making it valuable for careers in areas such as politics, law, business and tourism. French is also recognised as part of the EBACC, which is looked on positively by colleges and universities.



GRAPHICS (VCERT)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This course introduces you to the fundamentals of graphic design and visual communication. You will explore key design elements such as colour, typography, imagery and layout, while learning about the work of graphic designers and the creative industries. You will respond to design briefs by planning, experimenting and producing graphic outcomes, building a professional portfolio that shows your creativity and problem solving skills. Typical projects include branding, advertising, packaging and digital design work.

How is the course delivered?

The qualification is studied over two years. Year 10 focuses on developing skills, techniques and design understanding, while all formal assessments take place in Year 11. Lessons combine taught theory with practical studio sessions, guided project work and regular feedback to help you develop confidence in responding to briefs and presenting your work professionally.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

No specialist knowledge is needed, but you should have an interest in visual communication and creative problem solving. The course suits students who enjoy practical, project based learning and working to briefs and deadlines. You will need to be committed to developing a portfolio over time and presenting your ideas clearly and professionally.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification supports progression to Level 3 courses such as A Level Graphic Design, Design and Technology or applied art and design pathways. It also provides a strong foundation for apprenticeships and careers within the creative industries, including roles in graphic design, illustration, animation, branding, advertising, packaging and digital media. The portfolio you develop is valuable for college applications and work based learning.



GEOGRAPHY (GCSE)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

Geography helps you understand the world you live in. It explores major issues such as climate change, globalisation, culture, trade and environmental responsibility. The subject encourages you to think about your place in the world and the impact you have on people and the planet. Geography also develops valuable skills including communication, problem solving, teamwork, spatial awareness and confidence using ICT and GIS. If you enjoy learning about people, places and global challenges, this is a subject that will keep you engaged and informed.

How is the course delivered?

The course is divided into three main papers. Paper 1 covers the UK, exploring landscapes, population, migration, trade and environmental challenges such as flooding and energy use. Paper 2 looks at the wider world, including ecosystems, global development, urbanisation and major environmental threats like climate change, tropical storms and drought. Paper 3 focuses on geographical skills, including map skills, data interpretation and two fieldwork studies, one human and one physical.



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WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Geography is highly valued by colleges, universities and employers because of the wide range of transferable skills it provides. It can lead to A level Geography and further study at university. Career pathways linked to geography include environmental management, civil engineering, urban planning, surveying, journalism, meteorology, conservation, geology, teaching, tourism, architecture and roles across business, finance and government.



HEALTH & FITNESS

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This course gives you a strong understanding of how the body works and how to improve health and fitness safely and effectively. You will study body systems, the effects of exercise, components of fitness and the principles of training such as FITT and progression. You will also learn how lifestyle factors impact health, how to carry out fitness tests and how to analyse results. A key part of the course is learning how to design, review and adapt a fitness programme using real data.

How is the course delivered?

Learning is split across two years. In Year 10, the focus is on the theory needed for the external exam, including body systems, fitness components, training principles and lifestyle influences. In Year 11, you apply what you have learned through the Non-Exam Assessment, where you design and review a personalised fitness programme. Practical activities mainly take place in Year 11 and support the NEA, while theory content continues to be revisited to prepare for the final assessment.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

This course is mainly theory based, especially in Year 10, so you need to be prepared to learn and apply scientific and fitness concepts. The practical elements take place mostly in Year 11 and are gym based, focusing on fitness testing and training methods for the NEA. If you are interested in how the body works and want to understand how to improve health and performance, this course will suit you well.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification provides a strong foundation for further study in sport, fitness or health at Level 3, such as BTEC Sport, A Level PE or vocational fitness diplomas. It also supports careers in personal training, coaching, gym instruction, sports development and health and wellbeing roles. The knowledge and skills you gain are valuable not just for future careers, but also for maintaining your own health and fitness throughout life.



HISTORY (GCSE)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

GCSE History explores major events and key turning points across Britain, Europe and the wider world. You will study Crime and Punishment from 1250 to the present and take a closer look at Elizabethan England. You will also complete the History Around Us unit, which focuses on a specific historical site. World history topics include the making of America between 1789 and 1900 and life under Nazi rule from 1933 to 1945.

How is the course delivered?

The course is taught in a clear sequence over two years, allowing learners to build knowledge and understanding step by step. Lessons include discussion, guided reading, source work and structured written tasks that prepare you for the final exams.

The full course is assessed through three external exam papers taken at the end of Year 11. These papers make up 100 percent of the final grade and assess your knowledge, source skills and ability to explain and evaluate historical events.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

A strong understanding of Key Stage 3 History and a genuine interest in the past will help you succeed. You should enjoy reading, writing and investigating how and why events happened. If you like uncovering stories, analysing evidence and forming your own conclusions, this course is a great choice.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

History is valued for its academic rigour and the wide range of skills it develops. It supports further study in subjects such as History, Politics, Law and Sociology. History students often go on to careers in business, civil service, journalism, TV research, museums, teaching, finance, advertising, presenting and many other sectors that value strong analytical and communication skills.



FOOD (GCSE)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This course concentrates on the hospitality and catering industry. You will develop knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. You will have the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, you will also develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time.

How is the course delivered?

Unit 1 (40%): The Hospitality and Catering Industry

This will be externally assessed with an examination that lasts 90 minutes. You will be graded as follows: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction

Unit 2 (60%): Hospitality and Catering in Action is internally assessed:

This involves you completing a piece of controlled assessment in school under examination conditions. You will be set a task by WJEC and will have to safely plan, prepare, cook and present dishes to satisfy the task.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

Have to be prepared to bring ingredients.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Chef, Sports Science, Dietician, Food Journalism, Product Development, Home Economist, Events Management, Hospitality, Front of House, Conference Management, Buyer, Production Manager, Public Relations, Hygiene Control, National Health Service, Health Promotion, Technical Management.



IMEDIA (CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

Creative iMedia focuses on how digital media products are planned, designed and created. You will study three units. R093 looks at the media industry, including sectors, job roles, workflows and the legal and ethical issues involved in creating content. R094 explores branding and digital graphics, where you develop visual identities and create professional graphics using industry-style tools. R095 focuses on characters and comics, allowing you to design characters, plan storylines and produce digital comic pages using graphic software.

How is the course delivered?

Learning is practical and creative, with most lessons centred around project work. You will respond to client-style briefs, planning and producing digital media products from initial ideas to final outcomes. Lessons include design tasks, software skills and independent project time, using tools such as Photopea, Pixlr or Illustrator to bring your ideas to life.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

You should enjoy creative design, digital tools and visual storytelling. No experience is needed, but you must be organised and ready to learn new software. Meeting deadlines and being able to review and improve your own work are important parts of the course. If you like creating digital content and working on imaginative projects, this subject will suit you well.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

Creative iMedia provides a strong pathway into Post-16 digital courses such as Level 3 Media, Graphics, Games Design or IT. It also supports T-Levels in Digital Production and apprenticeships in areas like web design, digital marketing and content creation.

In the long term, this qualification can lead to careers in graphic design, animation, web development, game design, photography, digital illustration, media production and other creative digital industries.



MUSIC PERFORMANCE (BTEC)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

You will study a range of musical genres from different cultures and time periods, developing a broad understanding of how music is created and performed. Throughout the course you will build a portfolio that includes skills audits, development plans, rehearsal logs and evaluations. You will create practical work in performance, composition and sequencing while showing how your technical skills have developed. You will also learn how to reinterpret an existing piece of music in a new style and evaluate the success of your creative choices.

How is the course delivered?

The course is divided into three components, each combining written and practical portfolio work. Lessons alternate between theory-focused sessions, where key musical concepts are explored, and practical lessons where you develop your instrumental skills and create musical products. This balance ensures that you gain both the knowledge and hands-on experience needed for success.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

You should have a strong interest in music and feel confident performing, composing or sequencing tracks. Some experience playing an instrument or having peripatetic lessons will support your progress. The course also involves detailed written work, especially in Components 1 and 2, so you need to be able to analyse music and describe key features with accuracy. Good organisation and commitment to practice are essential.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification can support many future pathways, including music performance, composition, production, sound engineering and event management. It can also lead to careers in broadcasting, music journalism, teaching, conducting, technical engineering, therapy and work within the wider music industry such as promotional roles or synchronisation agencies. Skills in creativity, performance and project work also transfer well to a variety of creative and technical fields.



DRAMA (BTEC)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This course develops your practical acting skills and your understanding of the performing arts industry. You will explore a range of acting styles, practitioners and performance works while building your voice, movement and characterisation skills. You will learn how to interpret scripts, create devised performances and understand the different roles and responsibilities involved in theatre and performance.

How is the course delivered?

Drama is taught through practical workshops, rehearsals and improvisation tasks, supported by teacher-led sessions and independent study. You will take part in performances, analyse live or recorded theatre and complete written or reflective tasks that help you understand the creative choices you make in your practical work. The qualification includes three components. Component 1 is internally assessed and explores performance styles through research, practical exploration and written or recorded responses. Component 2, also internally assessed, focuses on developing acting skills through workshops and performance. Component 3 is an external assessment where you respond to a set brief by creating and performing an original piece of drama.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

You should have an interest in drama and live performance and be prepared to perform, collaborate and take creative risks. Although previous experience is helpful, it is not essential. You will need commitment to both the practical elements and the written or reflective tasks that support them.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This course provides a strong foundation for further study such as Level 3 Performing Arts, BTEC Nationals in Acting or A Level Drama and Theatre Studies. It can lead to careers in acting, directing, stage production, theatre management, film and television, teaching and other roles within the creative industries.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This course is made up of three units that build your knowledge of how the health and social care sector works. Unit R032 covers the principles of care, including key values such as dignity, respect, independence and safeguarding, as well as the rights of individuals and the legislation that protects them. Unit R033 explores how people are supported through life events such as illness, bereavement or major changes, looking at the impact on wellbeing and the support available. Unit R035 focuses on health promotion, where you learn how campaigns are designed, planned and evaluated to improve public health.

How is the course delivered?

Coursework units are completed during Year 10, with exam content and further coursework delivered in Year 11. Pupils sit their external exam in January of Year 11 and then return to NEA work. Lessons combine taught theory, case studies and independent research, helping you apply your learning to real care scenarios.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

This course is ideal for students interested in health, education or social care careers and who want to develop applied knowledge and practical understanding. It involves a significant amount of written work, and you will begin essay-style tasks early in the course. Good literacy skills are important, and the course will suit you if you enjoy researching, writing and understanding how people's needs are supported.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification supports progression to A Levels in subjects such as Psychology, Sociology, Biology and Health and Social Care, as well as Level 2 or Level 3 vocational pathways. Apprenticeships in areas such as childcare, dental nursing, pharmacy and health support are also common next steps. Longer term, the course provides a foundation for careers in nursing, midwifery, social work, early years care, paramedicine, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and community or residential care roles. It also develops key skills such as communication, teamwork and understanding human development.



PHOTOGRAPHY (GCSE)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

GCSE Photography develops both creative and technical skills through a wide range of photographic projects. You will learn how to use camera settings such as aperture, shutter speed, ISO and composition, alongside digital editing using software such as Photoshop. Projects explore themes including portraiture, landscapes, still life, documentary and experimental photography, while also developing your understanding of visual language, lighting and presentation.

How is the course delivered?

The course is delivered through practical workshops using cameras and editing software, supported by classroom teaching and guided tasks. You will complete independent projects where you research ideas, explore photographers' work and develop your own responses to set themes. Work is produced continuously throughout the course to build a strong portfolio.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

You should have a genuine interest in photography and creative work. Basic computer skills will help with digital editing, and access to a DSLR or high quality digital camera is recommended. You will need to work independently, manage your time effectively and meet project deadlines.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification supports progression to A Level Photography, Art and Design or other creative subjects, as well as Level 3 vocational courses in photography or media. It can lead to careers in photography, graphic design, media production, advertising and the wider visual arts sector.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES (GCSE)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This GCSE explores Christianity and Islam, focusing on key beliefs, teachings and religious practices. You will also study four ethical themes that examine important modern issues. These include relationships and family life, social justice, crime and punishment, and war and peace. Through these themes you will look at moral questions, different viewpoints and how religious teachings influence attitudes and behaviour.

How is the course delivered?

Lessons involve discussion, debate, reading, videos and written work. You will explore real-world issues, reflect on your own views and learn to understand different religious and ethical perspectives. The course is structured to build strong knowledge step by step, with retrieval practice helping you secure key ideas. Exam skills are taught throughout, with regular opportunities to practise writing clear and well-supported answers.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

You do not need prior experience, but you should be interested in learning about beliefs, values and moral issues. Good reading and writing skills will help you engage with the content and express your ideas clearly. If you enjoy discussion and thinking about big questions, this course will appeal to you.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification supports further study in subjects such as Philosophy, Ethics, Sociology and History. It also builds transferable skills like critical thinking, empathy and communication. These skills are valued in a wide range of careers, including law, medicine, journalism, teaching, policing and social work.



TRAVEL AND TOURISM (BTEC)

What type of content do I cover on this course?

This course introduces you to the fast moving travel and tourism industry through a mix of theory and practical learning. You will study the structure of the UK travel and tourism sector, including different organisations, their aims, products and services. You will explore UK and global destinations, looking at their features, appeal and the types of visitors they attract. Other key topics include customer service, global influences on tourism such as economic and environmental factors, and the role of technology in booking, reviews and travel planning. Practical skills such as marketing, event planning and cultural awareness are developed throughout.

How is the course delivered?

The course is studied over two years through classroom learning, applied projects and independent research. Lessons are interactive and focus on real world case studies, where you research destinations, analyse customer needs and present your findings. Where possible, learning may be supported by visits or trips linked to tourism organisations or attractions.



What do I need to know before I choose this subject?

This course suits students who enjoy applied learning and exploring real world examples. You should be comfortable with research, writing, presenting and working with others. An interest in travel, geography, customer service and how the world connects will help you succeed.

WHAT CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD TO?

This qualification supports progression to Level 3 Travel and Tourism, A Levels such as Geography or Business, and vocational routes in hospitality and events. Longer term, it can lead to university study in tourism or hospitality, apprenticeships, or careers in airlines, hotels, visitor attractions, travel agencies and events. The course also develops transferable skills in customer service, marketing, teamwork and communication.



OPTIONS SELECTION

Year 9 will have their taster sessions on January 27th and 28th which will consist of 4 option taster sessions ready for their final choices of 3 subjects with 3 backups. A letter including a forms link will be sent out to parents/carers after the taster sessions.