

KEY  
STAGE

4

OPTIONS

2012



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# Key Stage 4 Curriculum



In September you will start the courses which you will study for 2 years. The qualifications you gain at the end of these courses can influence the career pathways that are open to you.

When you are making your choices about which Key Stage 4 option subjects to choose, ask yourself the following questions:

- Which subjects am I likely to do well in?
- Which subjects do I enjoy at the moment?
- Are there any new subjects that I think I will enjoy?
- Will I prefer a subject with lots of coursework or an even split between coursework and exams?
- What would I like to do in the future and is there a subject that will help me with this choice?

It is really important that you discuss your choices with your family, subject teachers and your tutor, who all know you well! You will also have an interview with the Key Stage 3 Coordinator in your House, to help you make choices that are suited to your strengths, ability and preferred learning style.

All students follow a core curriculum, which includes the following subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- RE
- Learning4Life
- PE



In addition, students can select 4 option choices. There is range of different types of subject that can be chosen that can be divided into the following categories.

GCSE – this is the most widely recognised qualification at KS4 and focuses on developing and assessing a student’s academic ability in the each subject area.

BTEC – this qualification is a great choice for students who enjoy an applied style of learning without examinations.

# Key Stage 4 Options Evening

Wednesday 31st January 2012

6.30 – 9.00pm



The options evening will provide you with an opportunity to find out more about the Key Stage 4 option choices through presentations in the hall and talks by individual departments about their subjects. In the letter attached to this booklet we have indicated which pathway or pathways we believe will best suit your son or daughter and this should help you decide which presentations to attend. You can choose which departments to visit on the evening (up to a maximum of 5).

## Presentations in the Hall

- 6.30 – 6.55pm Key Stage 4 options presentation for parents

## Subject presentations

- 7.00 – 7.20pm Subject areas }
- 7.25 – 7.45pm Subject areas }
- 7.50 – 8.10pm Subject areas } venue details will be available on the evening
- 8.15 – 8.35pm Subject areas }
- 8.40 – 9.00pm Subject areas }

A representative from TVU will also be available to talk to students who are interested in applying for a place on Work Related Learning – ‘Pathway’ courses. They will be able to provide information about all the programmes available and the qualification levels.

**Deadline for Options Forms**  
**Wednesday 29th February 2012**



# Key Stage 4 Pathways



There are three broad learning pathways at Key Stage 4 that suit different types of learners. Many students will choose options across two pathways. You will meet with your Head of House to discuss the options and pathway that are best for you. You can find out more about the pathways on the following pages.

**Pathway A**

**Stretch & Challenge**

**for students expecting mainly A/A\***

**Pathway B**

**Making Progress**

**for students expecting 5A\*-C**

**Pathway C**

**Firm Foundation**

**for students who need more time to achieve 5A\*-C**

# Pathway A Stretch & Challenge

**Who is it for ?**  
Students who will achieve mainly A\*/A grades.

**What they have to do ?**  
Languages  
Geography and/or History



Alex has always achieved highly in school and is motivated to work hard. He wants to attend a good quality university but does not yet know what career he wants to follow.

## Core Subjects:

- Maths GCSE/Extensions study
- English Language and Literature GCSEs
- Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Double Science GCSEs
- Religious Studies
- Learning4Life
- PE

## Options:

- The English Baccalaureate
- French, German or Spanish
- History or Geography
- The Extended Project Qualification
- Other GCSEs

Where will it lead ?

A levels at 6<sup>th</sup> Form

University

A Professional Career

# Pathway B Making Progress

## Who is it for ?

Students who we expect to achieve 5A\*-C GCSEs.

## What they have to do ?

A broad range of GCSE or BTEC courses

Jenny is a good student but may need a bit of a push to achieve the 5 A\* - C GCSEs predicted for her. She is going to study more applied courses like the BTECs because she struggles to achieve in examinations.

## Core Subjects:

- Maths GCSE
- English Language and Literature GCSEs
- Double Science
- Religious Studies
- Learning4Life
- PE

## Options:

- GCSEs
- The English Baccalaureate
- French, German or Spanish
- History or Geography
- Applied GCSE Leisure & Tourism
- ICT CIDA
- Level 2 BTECs in Business & Media
- Higher Diploma at TVU
- Pathway Courses at TVU

A levels at 6<sup>th</sup> Form

Level 3 vocational and practical courses

Where will it lead ?

Apprenticeship

University

A wide range of careers

# Pathway C

## Firm Foundations

### Who is it for ?

Students who will need more support to achieve the equivalent of 5A\*-C grades.

Ben is good at practical work and wants to become a mechanic. He has literacy difficulties that mean he sometimes struggles with school work. He wants to gain good basic skills that will take him into an apprenticeship.

### Core Subjects:

- Maths GCSE/functional skills
- English Language/functional skills GCSEs
- BTEC Science
- Religious Studies
- Learning4Life
- PE
- BTEC Workskills

### Options:

- GCSEs
- Applied GCSE Leisure & Tourism
- ICT CIDA
- Level 1 BTECs in Business
- Pathway Courses at TVU
- Nurture Group

Level 2 study at  
6<sup>th</sup> Form or college

Where will it lead ?

Vocational  
and Practical  
Courses

Apprenticeship

# Core Subjects

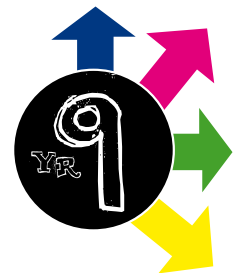


The following information is about Core Subjects which are studied by everyone in Year 10 and 11.

All students follow a core curriculum, which includes the following subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Religious Studies
- Learning4Life
- Physical Education

These subjects are detailed in the following pages.



## English & English Literature

English continues as a compulsory subject in Year 10 and Year 11. You will be placed in a teaching group that reflects your ability in the subject (as shown in classroom performance throughout the year and your end of Year 9 assessment). You will gain 2 GCSE grades from this subject: English Language and English Literature.

### GCSE English Language

- Examination: 40%
- Controlled Assessment: 60% (15% Reading, 15% Writing, 10% Spoken Language Study, 20% Speaking and Listening)

You will produce several pieces of coursework on different topics and sit 2 examination papers which will test your skills in reading and writing.

In addition, you will be regularly assessed on your contributions to speaking and listening activities.

The importance of this work is reflected in the fact that your oral work represents 20% of your final English mark. At the end of the course you will gain a GCSE grade which will reflect your ability in English Language.

### GCSE English Literature

This is a separate examination and qualification

- Examination: 75%
- Controlled Assessment: 25%

As part of your work in English Literature, you will have the opportunity to read a range of poems, plays, short stories and novels (pre-twentieth century and twentieth century literature). There will also be the opportunity to see plays in production at the theatre.

You will produce several pieces of coursework and sit one examination.

As with the English course, your spoken responses will be valued as highly as your written responses, and group discussions will be a central part of your lessons. At the end of the course you will gain a GCSE grade which will reflect your ability in English Literature.



## Mathematics

Maths continues as a compulsory course in Year 10 and 11. You will be placed in a teaching group which reflects your ability and you will follow the new AQA GCSE course with one exam, consisting of two papers (calculator and non-calculator) at the end of Year 11.

What you will learn?

- You will develop your mathematical knowledge and oral, written and practical skills in a manner which encourages confidence, enjoyment and perseverance
- You will learn to apply mathematics in everyday situations and develop an understanding of the part maths plays in the world around you
- You will learn how to solve problems, present solutions clearly, check and interpret the results and draw conclusions
- You will learn how to use calculators and ICT in a variety of mathematical contexts

How are you assessed?

Students are assessed in Year 11 in a written exam, consisting of non-calculator paper and a calculator paper. Each paper will assess students' mathematical knowledge and their ability to apply mathematical techniques to real life situations.

You will be entered for the Higher or Foundation tier for each exam. If you fail to reach the minimum mark for the grade available at your level of entry you are graded as unclassified, so it is important that you follow the most suitable course and take the correct paper for your ability. You will be assessed each term to check your progress.

The grades available in each tier are:

Higher            A\*   A   B   C   D   U

Foundation                    C   D   E   F   G   U

Those students who are capable of achieving A/A\* may have the possibility to sit the exam early in January of Year 11, and use remainder of Year 11 to bridge the gap between GCSE and A level. This arrangement will be flexible to ensure that all students take the final GCSE examination only when they are ready.

## Science

Most students will take two GCSEs in Science. In year 10 they will study for a core Science GCSE following the AQA course. The teaching group will reflect the student's ability and is based on Year 9 assessments. The course consists of three modules, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each worth 25% of the marks. These are examined by an external module exam, which is 45 minutes long. Students will take one exam in January 2013 and two in June 2013. The final 25% of marks come from a practical controlled assessment. In year 11 students will take the Additional Science GCSE.

### Triple Award Science

Students take three GCSEs, one in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They have already studied three modules in Year 9. They will take 2 external exams in January and June, starting in January 2013. They will also complete three practical controlled assessments. Each GCSE consists of three exams, each 45 minutes long and one practical controlled assessment. In Year 11 they will take three exams June 2013.

### Science (Double Award)

Most students will study Science, leading to two GCSE awards. The course is examined by AQA. You will be placed in a teaching group that reflects your ability in the subject (as shown in classroom performance and your end of Year 9 assessment).

### What will you learn?

In Year 10 most students will study the core GCSE science course, covering a variety of topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

### How are you assessed?

The content of the course is examined through externally set and marked tests (1 hour for each topic) June of Year 10 (75%), a centre assessed unit on an investigative skills assignment (SC1) (25%). There is one exam for each Science discipline (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Module tests are available at two tiers:

- Foundation (Grades G-C) and
- Higher (Grades D-A\*).

Recent exam board regulation changes mean that in GCSE Science it is now only possible to resit an exam once. In addition, irrespective of whether or not any improvement is shown, it is the resit mark that counts – for this reason we have made the decision to only allow resits in situations where a medical note can be provided by a GP or where other extreme circumstances affect student performance.

A GCSE will be awarded at the end of Year 10. In Year 11 students will study for an additional GCSE in Science. This will cover additional topics in Biology, Physics and Chemistry, which will be assessed by external written papers (75%). There will be a further centre assessment of investigational/practical skills (25%).

Some students with target grades of C or below will be selected to study BTEC Level 2 Applied Science. This is a two year course and is 100% coursework. Students taking this option cannot go on to study A Level Sciences but they can study BTEC Level 3 Applied Science.

## Learning 4 Life

Learning 4 Life will continue at Key Stage 4 for students in 2012. We will invest teaching time in developing the skills of all students to become better independent learners, as these skills are essential if they are to succeed in school, but also in higher education and employment.

Students will be taught 1 lesson per week of Learning 4 Life throughout Key Stage 4 and the main aim of these sessions is to develop students' independent learning skills and prepare them for life, work and further education when they leave school. We hope that the Learning 4 Life programme will also raise students' aspirations, promote leadership skills and provide an insight into the wider adult world.

### Tutorial Sessions:

There will be two tutorials per week for all Key Stage 4 students, focusing on developing the following skills:

- Team Learning - developing skills of Leadership, Responsibility, Communication and Respect
- Reflective Learning - students become Self-Aware, Thoughtful, Adaptable and able to develop themselves
- Independent Learning - students being Determined, Focused, Individual and organized
- Creative Learning - students becoming problem-Solvers, Imaginative, Curious and a Challenge-Seeker

### Learning 4 Life lessons:

There will be one Learning 4 Life lesson per week for all Key Stage 4 students.

Learning 4 Life has been developed in response to businesses acknowledging that qualifications, though very important, do not on their own equip students to survive in the workplace. All students, of all abilities, need the transferable skills that will enable them to be confident and successful applying for jobs and succeeding in whichever area of employment they choose to pursue.

The programme for Key Stage 4 will include elements of PSHE and Study Skills, but will focus heavily on careers education and preparing students for post 16 education or employment. Students need to have a clear understanding of the different pathways that they can pursue post 16, be confident about their own skills and aptitudes and realistic about the qualifications and skills they need to pursue their chosen career path.

## Physical Education (PE)

- All pupils are taught core PE in Year 10 and Year 11
- You will be taught 4 lessons over the 2 week timetable
- You will follow 3 week blocks in both indoor and outdoor sports
- Lessons will be a combination of single sex and mixed classes

What sports are offered in Year 10 and Year 11?

- Fitness Gym
- Trampolining
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball
- Football

To name but a few

What additional qualifications can you gain?

- There may well be the option to complete the Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (a nationally recognised award)



## Religious Studies – Short Course

**Religious Studies (Short Course) is a compulsory course at GCSE level.**

Religious Studies aims to encourage students to think openly and develop their own ideas about religious, personal and social issues. It helps to develop skills of observation, research, recording, understanding, debate and evaluation, which are useful in all walks of life. Employers recognise Religious Studies as a challenging and demanding subject, which provides valuable personal skills and understanding.

### Course content

All students will follow a GCSE short course in Philosophy and Ethics (AQA examining board).

#### In Year 10:

- Religious Attitudes to Drugs – looking at issues surrounding legal and illegal drugs, religious beliefs concerning the mind and body and problems associated with drugs.
- Religious Attitudes to Crime and Punishment – looking at issues surrounding punishment, repentance and forgiveness and religious beliefs about this.
- Attitudes to World Poverty – looking at issues such as the problems associated with poverty, causes of poverty and religious beliefs about world poverty

#### In Year 11:

- Religious Attitudes to Rich and Poor in British Society – looking reasons for poverty in Britain as well as religious attitudes to poverty and money
- Religious attitudes to matters of life (Medical Ethics) – looking at issues surrounding fertility Treatment, abortion and reproduction.

**These will be discussed from a religious perspective as well as the pupils' own points of view.**

**This course is assessed by one exam at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework.**

## Pathway A

**Stretch &  
Challenge**

**for students  
expecting  
mainly A/A\***

**What they have to do ?**  
The English Bacculaureate

Students following this pathway may wish to take one of the following courses and three from the progress pathway.

These subjects are detailed in the following pages.

## The English Baccalaureate

### What is the English Baccalaureate?

The English Baccalaureate was introduced as a performance measure in the 2010 performance tables. It is not a qualification in itself. The measure recognises where pupils have secured a C grade or better across a core of academic subjects:

English	Core Subject
Mathematics	Core Subject
Double or triple science	Core Subject
History or geography	Option Subject
French, German or Spanish	Option Subject

The Russell Group of universities is keen for students to follow the English Baccalaureate subjects. Students following this selection of subjects will be in a better position to gain entry to a high performing university.

This means that they must select either history or geography and a modern foreign language. They will then have a free choice of two other subjects from the other blocks.

**All students in Pathway A are expected to follow the English Baccalaureate.**

## Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

**The Extended Project is a Level 3 qualification equivalent to an AS level.**

The Extended Project is highly regarded by universities and other higher education institutions and will support students' development of independent learning skills.

The Extended Project will develop and extend from one or more of the learner's study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study.

It will be delivered by the Ethics and Philosophy Department and based on a topic chosen by the learner(s) and agreed as appropriate by the staff teaching it.

Delivery of the Extended Project Qualification will involve some teaching of the necessary skills, supervision and assessment of the learner's progress. It will involve extended autonomous work by the learner.

Learners are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a specified audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment

## Pathway B

**Making  
Progress**

**for students  
expecting  
5A\* - C**

**What they have to do ?**  
A broad range of GCSE or BTEC  
courses

These subjects are detailed in the following pages.

## Art and Design

## GCSE

We also offer GCSE Graphic Design. This means students can opt for more than one Art based subject.  
(This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and is one option choice.)

Art and Design helps you to acquire a range of skills, such as creative thinking, presentation, research and analysis which will enrich and inform your life in the future and give you access to a wide variety of careers.

There are three main reasons for choosing Art & Design as an option:

- You have a high level of ability and wish to take up a career in the field of Art & Design
- You have an average level of ability and feel the subject would complement your other choices.
- You find the subject quite challenging but enjoy it enough to want to persevere.

### Art Syllabus A (Fine) - Art - Art and Design

Core studies are drawing and painting, but in addition to this, a wide variety of skills are developed: three dimensional design, photography, computer aided design, ceramics, print making and historical and critical studies.

Homework is an essential element of GCSE Art and Design. Work produced at home will contribute to coursework units.

### How will you be assessed?

The syllabus is practical, comprising 2 units of coursework selected from the best of your work over 2 years. In addition there is a controlled test for which you are given the examination questions in advance.

Units of coursework arise from a particular brief or starting point. Examples of recent starting points are Still Life and 3D Interpretation of an Artist's Work. Class work will be backed up by study visits to Art Galleries and by involvement with artists and designers within the community.



## Art Syllabus B (Specialist Studies) – Art Graphics GCSE

This course must not be taken if your Technology option is Graphics. This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.



### Graphic Design

Core studies cover manipulation of typography, images and design, but in addition to this, a wide variety of skills are developed: computer aided design, illustration, photography, advertising and packaging, digital imaging and historical and critical studies.

Homework is an essential element of the course. Work produced at home will contribute to coursework units.

### How will you be assessed?

The syllabus is practical, comprising 3 units of coursework. Work for these units is selected from the best of your work over 2 years. In addition there is a controlled test unit for which you are given the examination questions in advance.

Units of coursework arise from a particular design brief or starting point. Examples of starting points are Poster Design; Wrapping Paper Design and Package Design. Class work will be backed up by study visits, working with visiting designers and by involvement within the community projects.



### Coursework and Controlled Test

Coursework – three units of work, chosen from completed practical and written work over the two years. Coursework represents 60% of your final GCSE result.

Controlled Test - 10 hours. The exam paper is given out 2 months before the examination so that your planning and research can be carried out. Preparatory work and the final exam piece represents 40% of your final GCSE result.

### What can you do with an Art & Design qualification?

You will need an Art and Design qualification at GCSE level for careers in Graphic design and book illustration, fashion and textile design, design for film and television - media studies, art and design history, environmental design, architecture, window display and interior design, pottery, photography, occupational therapy, painting and sculpture, print making, art and design teaching at secondary or primary school level, art gallery and museum work.

The GCSE examination provides you with the opportunity to start building up a portfolio and is the recommended base for further specialised study.

# Business Studies GCSE

This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

This course will provide you with an insight into how small businesses are set up and you will learn how entrepreneurs manage their finances, how they approach marketing and production and how they respond to competition in the market. This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

## What will you learn in Business Studies?

Business Ownership + Legal Structures	Internal Structures/Management	Production & Customer Service
Human Resources (People)	Marketing	Finance and Basic Accounts
	Employee and Consumer Legislation (Laws)	

## How are you assessed?

This course is assessed through a combination of one piece of coursework and two written examinations:

- Coursework - 25% (Controlled Assessment)
- Written Examinations - 75% (1 Hour each)



## What can you do with a Business Studies qualification?

The study and investigation of businesses in this course is a good starting point if you would like to study business at a higher level (e.g. A Level or other Further Education course), or to give you an insight into how a business operates and the tools needed to start your own business. The ICT skills you will acquire will be relevant for a growing number of career opportunities and all further education courses.

## Will this course suit you?

- Yes, if your time management is good and you are able to meet deadlines
- Yes, if you are interested in business and enthusiastic to find out how they work
- Yes, if you have a good command of English and Maths and are working at Level 5 or above by the end of Year 9. This subject will help you to learn a lot of new business terms and concepts and will require you to produce details and justified written arguments. You will also need to perform basic profit and loss calculations as well as use financial documents to create ratios.

## Business (BTEC First Certificate) Progress Award

This course provides you with the equivalent of one GCSE qualification at Grade C or above and counts as one option choice.



The course is divided into 5 units (2 mandatory and 3 optional units). Work is submitted as a portfolio and each unit is assessed at Pass, Merit or Distinction level, which is equivalent to GCSE grades of C, B or A. If a student achieves a Distinction level on all 5 units of portfolio work, they will be awarded a Distinction\* by the end of the course.

### How will you be assessed?

Unit	Typical Work/Project	
1	Businesses Purposes	Assessment set by exam board
2	Business Organisations	Portfolio
4	People in Organisations	Portfolio
7	Verbal and Non-verbal Communications in Business Contexts	Portfolio & evidence from 1 week work experience placement in July of Year 10
11	Customer Relations in Business	Portfolio

### Will this course suit you?

The assessment is all portfolio-based, so the course will suit students who are willing to work hard on a continuous basis, as work is assessed from very early in Year 10. Unit assignments are broken down into manageable sections, so that students can organise their time well and keep to deadlines.

All units are based on research of real businesses, both local and national. Where possible, we will arrange visits to businesses and visiting speakers, to give the students an insight into how organisations operate and to make the course more enjoyable, relevant and interesting.

**Dance GCSE**

This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

Dance at GCSE focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of contemporary dance. This could be for you if.....

- You are prepared to work hard with a strong sense of self discipline
- You will give of your own personal free time willingly
- You have a strong commitment to high standards and want to develop your knowledge and skills to the best of your ability



**How will you be assessed?**

The scheme of assessment consists of 2 components:

<b>Terminal Examination – 40%</b>	<b>Practical Coursework – 60%</b>
1 hour paper (20%) - knowledge of performance, choreography, professional works and types of design	Performance in a group (20%) – set group dance related to a professional work
Set Study (20%) – a technical dance set and examined by the exam board	Solo choreography (15%) – a solo choreographed by you, based on 3 motifs from a professional work
	Solo or group choreography (25%) – a solo or group dance choreographed by you, in response to a given stimulus

It is compulsory that you have one proper dance outfit, which is tight fitting and plain black. This must be brought and worn to every lesson. The exam board also request that you participate in theatre visits, rehearsals and public performances.

**What can you do with a Dance qualification?**

You will not be allowed to study AS Level Dance if you have not studied it at GCSE level. This is because the course builds on what you have previously learned at GCSE and the subject knowledge is too extensive to catch up on in Year 12.

Dance provides you with career opportunities in performance, choreography, teaching, community dance, administration and management, dance notation, journalism, technical production, visual design and movement therapy.



Drama is a performance-based subject. This means that everything you experience and learn in Drama enables you to prepare for a performance in front of an audience.

### Why take Drama?

Before you make a decision about whether to take this subject, you must be sure that you can say 'YES' to the following statements:

- I enjoy performing in front of an audience.
- I enjoy working as part of a team.
- I enjoy watching performances.
- I enjoy trying out new ideas regardless of how silly they may seem!
- I would like to find out more about theatre, how it works, its history and its many different forms.

If you take Drama as an option, you will be expected to be imaginative, confident, willing to share ideas and to give up your own time for rehearsals and performances. Above all you should be a good team player who enjoys working with other people. If you have scored a Level 6 in most of the Drama Assessment areas you should be thinking about taking this subject.

### How will you be assessed?

The different elements of GCSE Drama are centred on your own experiences of performance as an actor, director, designer and member of an audience.

GCSE Drama is divided into two parts:

1. Practical assessment - 60%
2. Written examination - 40%

Practical Assessment (Performance)

Each term the students will prepare, create and produce a performance. The work will be assessed in two ways:

- 1: Creating - 15%
- 2: Performance - 45%



### Written Examination (1½ hour paper)

The written exam, like every other part of the course, is centred on performance. You will answer any two questions from a choice of questions based on practical work completed during the course, your study and performance of a scripted play and your study of a live theatre production that you have seen Drama at Theale Green Community School is of a very high standard. As members of a Performing Arts College you will be working in a well resourced environment with teachers who will enable you to succeed if you approach this subject with enthusiasm.



## Aims of the course

Geography uses and develops the basic skills of math's, science and the other humanities subjects. Through the skills of graph work, statistics, comprehension, analysis, sketching, problem solving, decision making and of course map work, we aim to:

- Develop your knowledge and understanding of the changes and problems facing individuals at local, national and global level
- Develop your ability to describe where things are, explain why they are there and what changes have occurred or may occur (e.g. why was Savacentre built at Calcot? what do the residents of an area think about the building of a nuclear power station near their home?)

## What will you study?

Theme 1: Rivers and Coasts	Theme 2: Population and Settlement	Theme 3: Natural Hazards	Theme 4: Economic Development
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## How will you be assessed?

Sustainable Decision Making (25%)	Written Exam (50%)	Geographical Enquiry (12.5%)	Geographical Investigation (12.5%)
Pre released decision making material used during a written exam.	Assesses understanding from the four geographical themes above	Fieldwork focus from one of the key themes above – 1200 words controlled assessment	Researching using secondary data around a chosen geographical theme – 800 words controlled assessment

This course offers a challenging and rewarding path to GCSE, with an emphasis on student involvement in lessons. You will be expected to solve problems and make decisions for yourself, or as a result of group work. IT work is encouraged and continually developed throughout the course. Fieldwork is also an important part of the course and assessment.

## What can you do with a Geography qualification?

Geography is directly used in careers involving Planning and Travel and Tourism. It is useful in Agriculture, Forestry, Surveying, Meteorology and Architecture. The skills developed in Geography are an asset in work involving Administration, Management and Local Government. It leads naturally onto the study of AS Geography, Leisure & Tourism Double Award or AS Travel & Tourism.

This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

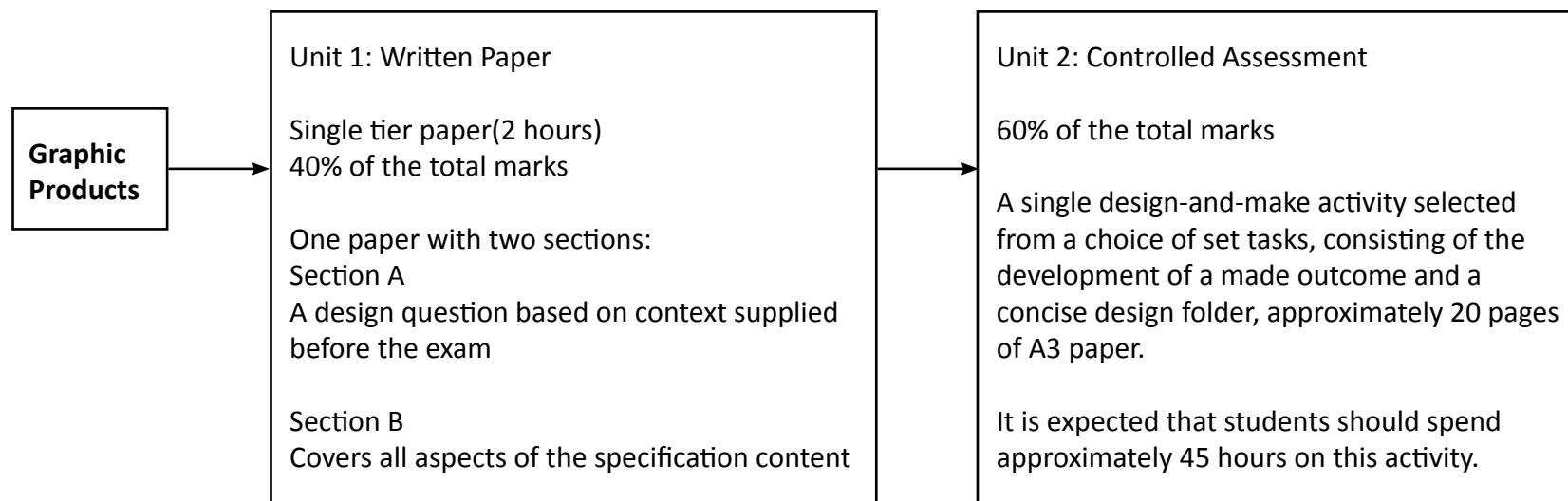
This course has been designed to encourage you to be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of graphic and modelling materials. You will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical activities possible. You will be encouraged to learn through images to use, understand and apply colour and design, to develop spatial concepts, and to understand graphic materials and their manipulation. You will design and make product(s) using a graphic media and new technologies to prepare you for the world of work.

### What will you learn?

- Combine design and practical skills in order to make quality products.
- Explore ways in which different factors interact to shape designing and making.
- Analyse existing products and produce practical solutions.
- Develop decision-making skills through individual and group work.
- Understand that lifestyle has an impact on designing and making.
- Develop skills of creativity through the principles of good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge.



The course will comprise of a variety of lessons, with an emphasis on teaching through practical elements. You will be expected to contribute to the cost of materials. The structure of the course is shown below:



## Aims of the course

GCSE History aims to inspire you, move you and challenge your perceptions by encouraging you to engage in a satisfying and worthwhile programme of study. Studying History will help you to make informed decisions and to gain an insight into events and ideologies which have shaped the world we live in today.

## What skills will you gain by studying History at GCSE?

- By engaging in Historical Enquiries you will develop as an independent and reflective thinker
- You will gain knowledge and understanding of different aspects and periods of History
- You will understand why events in the past have been interpreted in a variety of ways
- You will develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them critically
- You will see how your historical knowledge, understanding and skills help you to understand the present and also provide the basis for your role as responsible citizens



## What will you learn?

You will study the following examined GCSE units:

- International Relations - The Cold War, 1945-75. For this unit you will investigate: Who was to blame for the Cold War? Who won the Cuban Missile Crisis? Why did the USA fail in Vietnam?
- Depth Study - The USA 1919-41. For this unit you will investigate: How did the American economy boom in the 1920's? How much did American society change in the 1920's? What were the causes of the Wall Street Crash? and How Successful was the New Deal?
- British Depth Study - How has British Society Changed, 1890-1918. You will study: What was life like for the poor in the 1890's? Why did the Liberals introduce reform? How effective were the reforms? Why and how did women try to get the vote? How were civilians affected by the war? And how effective was government propaganda?

You will do a controlled assessment unit on the role of an individual in History. This will examine your Historical Enquiry and Independent Learning Skills. The individual you will study will be Martin Luther King.

## How will you be assessed?

- The International Relations unit - 45% (assessed with a 2 hour written exam).
- The British Depth Study - 30% (assessed with a 1 hour 30 min written exam).
- Controlled Assessment 25%

# Home Economics (Food and Nutrition) GCSE

This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

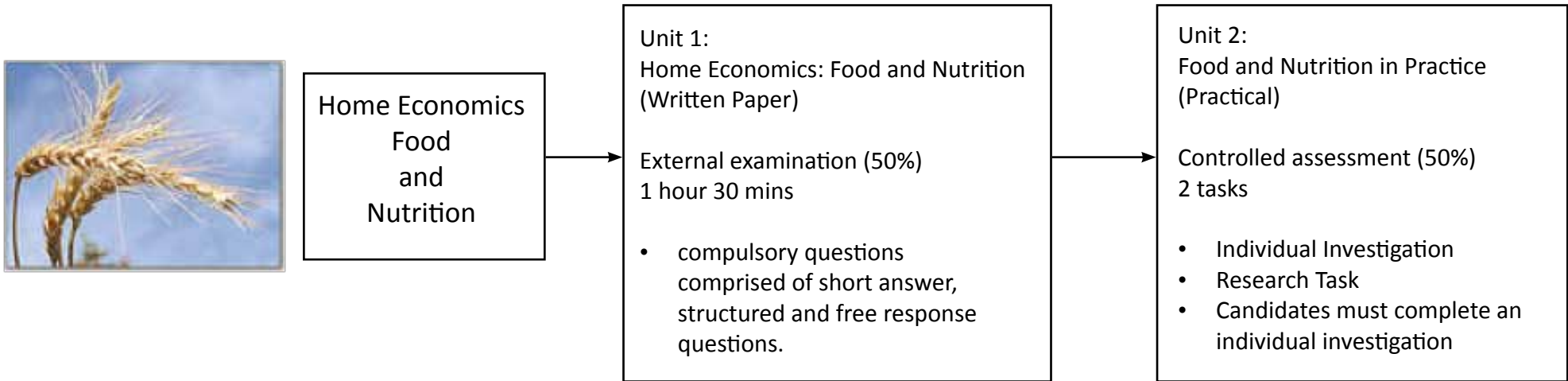
Do not let the title of this GCSE make you believe you are going back in time and studying an “old” subject, this is an established course which has been rejuvenated to suit the modern way of life. If you choose this option, you will have the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of human needs in a diverse society and to work in a variety of contexts, with an emphasis on practical work as well as theory.

**What will you learn?**

- Nutrition, diet and health through life
- Nutritional, physical, chemical and sensory properties of food in storage, preparation and cooking
- Techniques and skills in food storage, preparation and cooking
- Factors affecting consumer choice
- Food Hygiene and Safety



The course will comprise of a variety of lessons, with an emphasis on teaching through practical elements. You will be expected to organise and bring your own ingredients to the weekly practical sessions. The structure of the course is shown below:





## ICT – CiDA (Certificate in Digital Applications)

This course provides you with two GCSE qualifications and counts as one option choice.

This course will allow you to extend the ICT work you have already done in ICT at school and apply it in a real-life context. There are two Units of Work - The Use of ICT and Multimedia. It is equivalent to two full GCSE qualifications. It is designed to stimulate your creativity and develop real-world, practical skills in ICT. You will learn how to manage information and judge its usefulness. You will also learn how to present information clearly and effectively so that it communicates the message that you want it to convey. You will critically evaluate your own work and the work of others.

### Unit 1 - The Use of ICT - This Unit covers the AiDA (Award in Digital Applications) qualification.

The main elements of Unit 1 are:

- Using information
- Working with information
- Presenting information
- Print and digital publishing
- Creating an e-portfolio
- Project planning, monitoring and evaluation

You will further develop your skills and capabilities in a variety of software:

- Word processing
- Spreadsheets
- Presentations
- Databases
- Email
- Internet
- Web authoring (Dreamweaver)

### Unit 2 - Multimedia

You will extend the work you have done in Unit 1 and study a further unit based on aspects of Multimedia which leads to the CiDA qualification.

This Unit will enable you to gain practical ability in a range of multimedia applications. The content of the unit includes:

- Investigating multimedia products
- Designing and developing multimedia products
- Prototyping and testing
- Presenting multimedia products in an e-portfolio
- Project planning, monitoring and evaluation

### How are you assessed?

Each Unit is assessed by the creation of an e-portfolio of digital evidence – there is no written examination and the assessment therefore is 100% based on coursework. You will undertake two Summative Project Briefs (extended projects) in school, one for Unit 1 and one for Unit 2, in which you will bring together the knowledge, skills and understanding you have acquired throughout the course into two substantial pieces of work.

### What can I do with this qualification?

Skills in digital applications provide a wide range of career options as well as a route into further and higher education. The course is written in such a way that it provides a good grounding for further study in ICT and the skills for using ICT in the workplace.

**Please note** – the intention in this course is to cover both Units over two years; however, the progress of students will be reviewed during the course and if students are not making adequate progress by the end of the first year then they may only cover one Unit over the two years of study.

# Leisure and Tourism (Progress Award) GCSE

This course provides you with two GCSE qualifications and counts as one option choice.

### Why study Leisure and Tourism?

This course provides an insight into work within the leisure and tourism industry. The style of the course promotes independent learning that can be transferred to other courses and employment.

### Entry Requirements

This course is targeted at pupils who are expected to gain A\*- B grade in English and have shown a willingness to work independently.

### Course Structure

Unit 1 - (Year 10)	Unit 2 - (Year 10)	Unit 3 – (Year 11)	Unit 4 – (Year 11)
Understanding Leisure & Tourism Destinations (20%) 1 hour written exam	The Nature of Leisure & Tourism (30%) Controlled Assessment	The business of Leisure & Tourism (20%) 1 hour written exam	Investigating Tourism Destinations and its impacts (30%) Controlled Assessment

### How will you be assessed?

This course involves independent learning aimed at working towards producing two controlled assessments of work at GCSE level. The course involves research using a variety of resources including the internet. There are a number of local case studies used that may involve external visits, work experience and visiting speakers.

There are two exams that contribute 40% of the GCSE marks and two controlled assessments that are internally marked and moderated.

### Where will it lead?

This course gives you the qualifications and skills to continue with post 16 education. AS Level Travel and Tourism would be a natural progression.

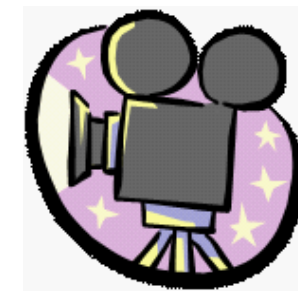
## Media Studies (BTEC First Certificate) Progress Award GCSE

This course provides you with a BTEC First Certificate and counts as one option choice.



### Why study the media?

The media plays an increasingly important role in society today – influencing the lives of students, everyday. You will learn creative and analytical skills. Thus, Media studies will help your studies in other subject areas, with key links to Art, Graphics, Photography, ICT, Music and English.



### What is a BTEC in Media?

- You will learn about the media through creative work and practical production of a variety of media texts. For example you could storyboard, script, shoot and edit your own film.
- It is all assessed internally and awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction for each unit. Overall these will combine to give a Pass (equivalent of two C grades), Merit (two B grades), Distinction (two A grades) or Distinction\* (two A\* grades).

### Course Entry Requirements

In order to be accepted on the BTEC in Media Studies course, you need to ideally achieve a good level 5 in English, Maths and Science at Key Stage 3, but each application will be judged individually to account for creative skills. You will also need to submit an application/piece of related media work.

### Course Content

- You must study 4 units in total.
- You study a core unit of Research for Media Production – looking at research skills and evaluation.
- You will also study a Video Production Unit and an Advertising Unit.





University places are becoming more competitive with many asking for academic subjects and a broad variety of skills as entry requirements and the Government has recently announced plans to give formal recognition to students with a GCSE in language. We strongly recommend that any student considering applying to university in the future studies or one language at GCSE. French, German and Spanish are offered to all students currently studying these subjects.

### What will you learn?

The emphasis in language teaching is very much on talking about yourself and finding out about others. As the frontiers shrink and foreign travel becomes a normal part of everyone's experience, you are more likely to encounter people who can't speak English. Other nationalities are becoming less prepared to accept the traditional British unwillingness to learn other languages.

Study of a foreign language will give you practice in communicating in authentic situations. It will give you the opportunity to understand the culture and way of life in another country. Many jobs, now and in the future, involve travel and work abroad. Your language qualification will help you gain entry to a wide range of careers and will be the basis for further study at sixteen or later in life.

### How will you be assessed?

- The French, Spanish and German groups follow the AQA GCSE Specification.
- You will be examined in **Listening and Reading** at the end of Year 11 at higher or foundation tier in each skill.
- Speaking is assessed internally twice during the course and writing will be assessed through two pieces of coursework of approximately 200 words each. All speaking and writing assessments are done under controlled conditions in school.



# Music

# GCSE

This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

Music is an enjoyable, existing, challenging, practical and creative course based on making music. The course offers structured opportunities for ALL STUDENTS to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in performing, composing, listening and appraising.

### Students are encouraged to become:

- More informed performers through study of their instrument and pieces composed for it;
- More skilled composers through study of compositional techniques and styles;
- Understanding listeners through study of a range of different types of music.

### What will you learn?

The focus for learning in all of these is through 4 Areas of Study:

1. My Music (Spotlight on my Instrument or Voice)
2. Shared Music (Music Relationships and Roles)
3. Dance Music
4. Descriptive Music

### How will you be assessed?

<b>Integrated Tasks</b>	A performance (15%) A commentary (5%) A composition (10%)		30%
<b>Practical Portfolio</b>	A group performance (15%) A composition or arrangement (10%) A composition log and evaluation (5%)		30%
<b>Creative Task</b>	A composition/performance test	45 minutes	15%
<b>Listening Examination</b>	Written examination	Up to 90 Minutes	25%



It is hoped that students will have the opportunity to work with visiting musicians and go to concerts. Students will be asked to make a small financial contribution for these activities. You will not be expected to be able to read music fluently or have external lessons on a musical instrument (although these skills are very advantageous). If you do wish to take up instrumental or singing lessons, these can be arranged through the school and details are available from the Music Department.

This course provides you with a GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice. Nine lessons are taught over the two week timetable (4 theory and 5 practical lessons).



### How will you be assessed?

The GCSE course is assessed through a theory exam and practical element.

- Unit 1 is externally assessed through a written examination paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- This will contribute a maximum of 40% towards your total marks.
- Unit 2 is assessed in two sections:



#### Section 1

4 practical performances in the role of performer, leader or official. You can achieve 48% of the marks from your performances. We offer a large range of practical sports within the School from Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Badminton and Fitness. Pupils can also been assessed in a range of Sports we don't offer for their practical performance.

#### Section 2

Analysis of performance in one of your chosen activities. This will be worth 12% of the marks and should include planning, performing and evaluating a Personal Exercise Programme.

#### What will you learn?

- develop your knowledge and practical skills
- examine the effects of exercise on performance
- find ways to improve your own performances in a variety of roles
- identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity
- appreciate the benefits of promoting 'sport for all'

What type of pupils are we looking for?

- Pupils who have shown great enthusiasm and commitment to P.E throughout key stage 3
- Pupils who have consistently brought the correct kit to lessons
- Pupils who will show a passion for the subject and strive to achieve.

Pupils will be expected to contribute to at least two extracurricular clubs throughout the year, participate in house matches and partake in sport outside of the School.



# Resistant Materials

## GCSE

This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

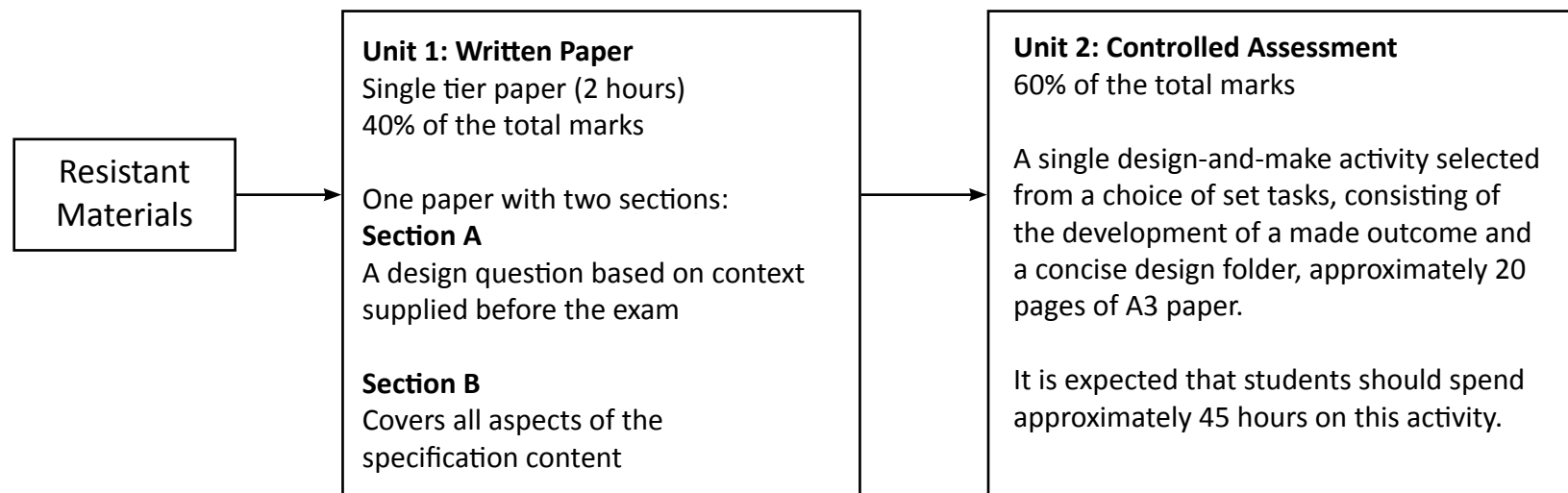
This course has been designed to encourage you to be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. You will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical activities possible. A working knowledge of woods, metals, plastics and composite materials will be required, but other materials may be used in addition.

### What will you learn?

- Combine design and practical skills in order to make quality products.
- Explore ways in which different factors interact to shape designing and making.
- Analyse existing products and produce practical solutions.
- Develop decision-making skills through individual and group work.
- Understand that lifestyle has an impact on designing and making.
- Develop skills of creativity through linking the principles of good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge.



The course will comprise of a variety of lessons, with an emphasis on teaching through practical elements. You will be expected to contribute to the cost of materials. The structure of the course is shown below:



# Textiles Technology GCSE

This course provides you with one GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

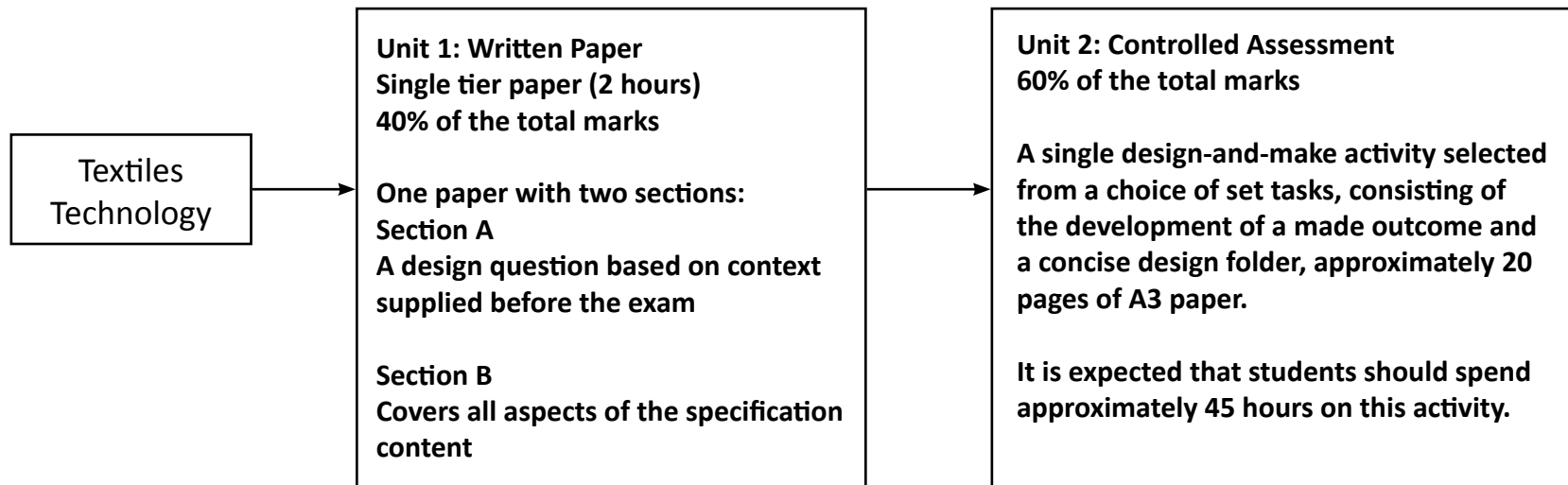
The course has been developed to enable you to demonstrate your creativity, with making of textile products a vital feature of your experience of taking this course. Design and making are encouraged so as to prepare you for taking higher level courses or for entering the world of work.

## What will you learn?

- Combine design and practical skills in order to make quality products.
- Explore ways in which different factors interact to shape designing and making.
- Analyse existing products and produce practical solutions.
- Develop decision-making skills through individual and group work.
- Understand that lifestyle has an impact on designing and making.
- Develop skills of creativity through linking the principles of good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge.



The course will comprise of a variety of lessons, with an emphasis on teaching through practical elements. You will be expected to contribute to the cost of materials. The structure of the course is shown below:



## Pathway C

**Firm  
Foundation**

**for students  
who need more  
time or support  
to achieve  
5A\* - C**

These subjects are detailed in the following pages.

## Business (BTEC First Certificate) Foundation Award

This course provides you with the equivalent of two GCSE qualifications at Grade C or above and counts as two option choices.



The course is divided into 5 units (2 mandatory and 3 optional units). Work is submitted as a portfolio and each unit is assessed at Pass, Merit or Distinction level, which is equivalent to GCSE grades of C, B or A. If a student achieves a Distinction level on all 5 units of portfolio work, they will be awarded a Distinction\* or 2 A\*s at GCSE by the end of the course.

How will you be assessed?

Unit	Title of Unit	Assessment
1	Business Purposes	Assessment set by exam board
2	Business Organisations	Portfolio
4	People in Organisations	Portfolio
7	Verbal and Non-verbal Communications in Business Contexts	Portfolio & evidence from 1 week work experience placement in July of Year 10
10	Customer Relations in Business	Portfolio

### Will this course suit you?

The assessment is all portfolio-based, so the course will suit students who are willing to work hard on a continuous basis, as work is assessed from very early in Year 10. Unit assignments are broken down into manageable sections, so that students can organise their time well and keep to deadlines.

All units are based on research of real businesses, both local and national. Where possible, we will arrange visits to businesses and visiting speakers, to give the students an insight into how organisations operate and to make the course more enjoyable, relevant and interesting.



## Leisure and Tourism (Single Award) Foundation Award

This course provides you with a GCSE qualification and counts as one option choice.

### Why study Leisure and Tourism?

This course provides an insight into work within the leisure and tourism industry. The style of the course promotes independent learning that can be transferred to other courses and employment.

### Entry Requirements

There are no entry requirements for the single award course, but students must have shown a willingness to work independently and have a good grasp of a variety of ICT skills.

### Course Structure

Unit 1 – Completed in Year 10	Unit 2 – Completed in Year 11
Understanding Leisure & Tourism Destinations (40%) 1 hour written exam	The Nature of Leisure & Tourism (60%) Controlled Assessment

### How will you be assessed?

This course involves independent learning aimed at working towards producing a controlled assessment of work at GCSE level. The course involves research using a variety of resources including the internet. There are a number of local case studies used that may involve external visits, work experience and visiting speakers.

There is one exam that contributes 40% of the GCSE marks and the controlled assessment is internally marked and moderated.

### Where will it lead?

This course gives you the qualifications and skills to continue with post 16 education. AS Level Travel and Tourism would be a natural progression.

# Nurture Group

Students in the Nurture Group will have a personalised Key Stage 4 curriculum, which is outlined below. Our aim is to provide a balanced curriculum that will enable all the Nurture Group students to gain qualifications that will be valuable to them and will equip them with the right personal and work-related skills to move onto further education post 16.

Options for nurture group students will be developed in discussion with Mrs Stevens who will meet parents on Options Evening to consider individual KS4 programmes.

Key Stage 4 Nurture Group Curriculum Subjects taught with the rest of the year group:

- PE
- RE
- Learning 4 Life

Nurture Group Curriculum:

Subject	Qualification Awarded
English	AQA Modular course - Assessed between Entry 1 and 3 as appropriate for student
Maths	OCR Modular course - Assessed between Entry 1 and 3 as appropriate for student
Science	Level 1 BTEC in Applied Science (equivalent to 2 GCSEs)
Workskills	Entry Level BTEC in Workskills – Assessed between Entry Level 1 and level 2 as appropriate for Student
Personal and Social Development	Entry Level Award in Personal and Social Development – Assessed between Entry Level 1 and level 2 as appropriate for Student

*Further details about the content and assessment of all these courses will be available at Year 9 Options Evening.*

### How will you be assessed?

All the courses have been chosen because they are assessed internally through short tests or portfolio work, which will enable us to be flexible with the timings of the assessments and give students an opportunity to improve their marks by re-doing work if they need to.

## College Courses

There are a range of courses offered by Reading College and students can apply for one of these alongside 2 other option choices.

There is an application process and if students are successful in their application interview, they will spend Tuesday each week at either Reading College or Chiltern Training in Reading.

The qualification awarded through each college course is outlined below. Level 1 courses are suitable for students who will need additional time and support to achieve 5A\*-C and level 2 courses are aimed at students who are predicted to achieve 5A\*-C at GCSE.

Courses offered for September 2012:

Course	Level	Qualification Awarded from the course
Construction Skills Hair and Beauty	Level 1 course	City and Guilds Level 1 Introductory Certificate City and Guilds Entry Level and Level 1 Diploma
Childcare Engineering Fashion	Level 2 course	Introducing Caring for Children and Young People – CACHE Level 2 Certificate Engineering – BTEC Level 2 Diploma Fashion and Clothing – BTEC Level 2 Diploma

### Further Information:

There will be a representative available on options evening to talk to you if you are considering applying for one of the College courses. They will be able to provide more information regarding the course content, application and selection process and the suitability of the course for specific students.



# Key Stage 4 Options Form

Theale Green  
Community School

This is a copy of the Options application form for your reference and to keep a note of the subjects you have chosen.

The separate application form needs to be returned to Mrs Sue Spokes by Wednesday 29th February 2012.

<b>Student Name:</b>		<b>Tutor Group:</b>	
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Please tick one subject choice from each block below:

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art	History	Geography	French
Art Graphics	Business Studies	EPQ	German
Dance	Music	Graphics	Spanish
Drama	IT	Food	Geography
Media Studies	Art	Resistant Materials	Leisure Foundation
Leisure Progress	Business BTEC	Textiles	Media Studies
IT	PE	Drama	Business Studies
College		Business Foundation	

## Courses at Reading College

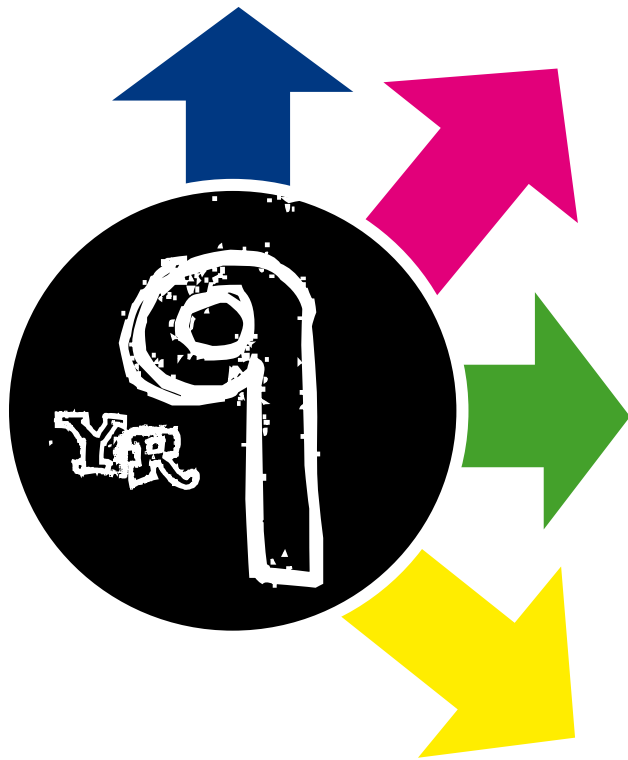
Expression of interest

Please note places are limited, a place cannot be guaranteed.

I am interested in the following courses:

<b>Subject/Course</b>	
-----------------------	--

Student signature.....Parent signature.....



**QUICK GUIDE TO KEY  
STAGE 4 OPTION  
COURSES**

**Pathway A**

A	B	C	D
Art	History	EPQ	French
Art Graphics	Business Studies	Geography	German
Dance	Music	Graphics	Spanish
Drama	IT	Food	Geography
Media Studies	Art	Resistant Materials	Media Studies
Leisure Progress	Business BTEC Progress	Textiles	Business Studies
IT	PE	Drama	

English Baccalaurate requirements highlighted in yellow.

**Pathway B**

A	B	C	D
Art	History	Geography	French
Art Graphics	Business Studies	Graphics	German
Dance	Music	Food	Spanish
Drama	IT	Resistant Materials	Geography
Media Studies	Art	Textiles	Media Studies
Leisure Progress	Business BTEC Progress	Drama	Business Studies
IT	PE		Leisure Foundation

**Pathway C**

A	B	C	D
Art	History	Geography	French
Art Graphics	Business Studies	Graphics	German
Dance	Music	Food	Spanish
Drama	IT	Resistant Materials	Geography
Media Studies	Art	Textiles	Leisure Foundation
Leisure Progress	Business BTEC Progress	Drama	
IT	PE		
College		Business Foundation	