

Walthamstow School For Girls



**Year 10 and Year 11
2015 to 2017**

**Curriculum and Options
Booklet**

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Walthamstow School for Girls

March 2015

Dear Year 9 Student,

This booklet is designed to guide you through one of the first important education choices you have had the opportunity to make.

Choosing your Key Stage 4 programme of study is a really exciting opportunity for you to reflect on what your curriculum strengths and interests are as well as what career path you might wish to follow later in life. It is a chance to tailor a package of subjects and courses that you will enjoy and experience success in and that will provide you with a strong base from which to launch into the next phase of your education.

However, making your option choices can also be quite a daunting and stressful time. That is why we have organised a number of events to support and guide you through the process. Over the next few days you should discuss your ideas with as many people as possible: your teachers, your tutor, your parents/carers and any relatives who have taken GCSEs and other Key Stage Four courses. Read this booklet very carefully, as it contains vital information about each of the courses. If you are confused about which subjects are compulsory and which are optional, or what combinations of option choices are allowed, do ask a teacher for guidance or see Mr. Shackson, Assistant Headteacher.

It is also very important that you and your parents/carers attend the Year 9 Options Evening on **Thursday 12th March at 6pm.**

I wish you every success with your decision-making.

Ms M Davies
Headteacher

Headteacher's Letter

Dear Year 9 Student,

This curriculum booklet gives you information about the courses you will be following at Key Stage 4. As well as all the compulsory subjects it also contains the optional courses that you will be able to choose from. Now is the time to think carefully about those choices. You must choose which courses are right for you (not simply what your friends are doing). If in doubt, ask your teachers for advice but do remember that you should aim to choose a broad and balanced range of subjects, so that all careers will be open to you in later life.

You will also need to do your own research at this important time as you will be committing to studying your option subjects for at least two years.

Remember, courses may be structured differently at Key Stage 4 and you will certainly be expected to study more independently with more emphasis being placed on coursework and homework. You need to develop your organisational skills now so that you can meet deadlines easily and make the transition to KS4 smoothly.

Key Stage 4 is not just about examinations, it is about the opening of a new chapter in your life. It will offer you the chance to take on different responsibilities which will help you develop your personal skills. Work experience and even more enrichment activities take place in Years 10 and 11. You should be aiming to take advantage of these opportunities. Success in these activities will be used to support your college and sixth form applications as you consider your Further Education options in Year 11.

Choose your options carefully, work hard, ask for help when needed and aim to achieve the best of which you are capable. If you can do this, you should enjoy Key Stage 4 and leave the school as an independent and well educated young woman, ready to take on the challenge of the next stage of your life.

Good luck and best wishes.

Mrs Careless
Year 9 Student Progress Leader

Information and Guidance

Dear Year 9 Student,

Many of the subjects you will follow in Years 10 and 11 will give you the opportunity to gain GCSEs and other qualifications.

GCSEs in most subjects are graded A* - G. The A* grade is awarded for exceptional achievement, above Grade A. However, grades in Mathematics, English and English Literature will be given a numerical value from 9 to 1 with 9 being the highest grade.

Some subjects have different tiers of entry. There is a limited range of grades available at each tier. Higher tier allows grades A* - D. If you score below a D you could be ungraded [U].

Foundation tier allows grades C - G. Even if you score 100% in the exam you cannot get higher than a C. In some subjects it may be possible to be in different tiers for different components so it may sometimes be possible to achieve an overall grade that is higher than a C.

Some subjects will band you in different classes, where the whole class studies at the same tier, and you may change classes as you progress. In other subjects, the class will be mixed ability.

Many of the courses that you will study include controlled assessments in school, which can count for between 25% and 60% of your final grade. Read the subject details in this booklet to find out details of the coursework component of each subject.

As you may be aware the government considers a student to have achieved an English Baccalaureate if they get good GCSE passes in English, Mathematics, one Science, one Humanities subject (History or Geography) and one Language. The English Baccalaureate is a government measure and not a qualification. The full range of subjects should not be chosen under the mistaken view that it is an entry requirement for any Further Education institution.

Good luck and best wishes.

Mr D Shackson
Assistant Headteacher

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Core and Options

Option Preferences for 2015 to 2017

Core Subjects

At Walthamstow School for Girls all students follow a core curriculum in Years 10 and 11. This consists of: English, Science, Mathematics, Religious Education, Physical Education and PSHCE. The choices that you make in Year 9 could have an effect upon the future direction of your work and study that will last a lifetime.

First you will want to decide how you wish to use your three subject choices.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate is considered to have been achieved when you gain A* to C passes in English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities (either History or Geography) and a Foreign Language. If you wish to achieve the English Baccalaureate your options choices must include History or Geography AND a Foreign Language. You may then choose one more option subject as well. However this is not an additional award and is not an entry requirement for any Further Education institution.

Creative and Practical Subjects

Changes to GCSE Mathematics and English mean that already the core curriculum involves considerably more time being spent in demanding academic subjects. We know that many students will want to do further academic subjects. However we would strongly advise that all students consider choosing a creative or practical subject in order to achieve a more balanced curriculum. There are many employers and further education institutions that look favourably on students with a balanced academic background. In addition a variety in your subjects will often make your GCSE experience more enjoyable and rewarding.

Student GCSE Attainment and Performance Measures

Starting from 2015 all students will be given an overall aggregate grade and a performance level based on the highest 8 subjects which must include; English, Mathematics and 3 GCSE subjects from the English Baccalaureate "family" of subjects. These measures are likely to be used by colleges and universities in the future when they are offering places. Since English, Mathematics and two Sciences are already part of the core curriculum this means that students need only choose one more English Baccalaureate subject to meet the minimum requirement. Therefore one of the three choices you have will have to be used to choose at least one subject from this group. However there is no restriction on choosing more than one, if you wish to do so.

Vocational Courses

Vocational courses are linked to the sort of job that you wish to take. The vocational courses that we offer are BTECs in: Travel and Tourism,

You can choose 3 subjects from the table below with the following restrictions:

- You must choose one subject from each column
- You must choose at least **1** English Baccalaureate subject (these subjects are in **bold**).
- Your **other 2 choices** are not restricted.

You may only choose a **maximum of 2 subjects** that are not GCSEs.

1	2	3
Triple Science GCSE History GCSE Geography GCSE French GCSE Spanish GCSE Urdu GCSE Computer Science GCSE ICT GCSE Travel and Tourism BTEC	Geography GCSE History GCSE Art GCSE Drama GCSE Product Design GCSE Textiles GCSE Catering GCSE Music GCSE PE GCSE Graphic Products GCSE	History GCSE Geography GCSE Triple Science GCSE Computer Science GCSE Latin GCSE Art GCSE Product Design GCSE ICT GCSE Media GCSE Drama GCSE Economics GCSE Business Studies BTEC Media BTEC

Equal Opportunitites and You

As you begin to think about your GCSE courses and beyond, we hope you are confident about your strengths as a member of your own ethnic, cultural or religious group and as a woman of the 21st century.

We hope you feel you have the skills to challenge racism, sexism and other injustices if you meet them.

We hope you are learning to broaden your understanding of, respect for and enjoyment of a variety of life styles and opinions.

During your time in Years 10 and 11 of the school you have an important role to play in ensuring that this is a school community where all students feel confident as individuals and as a member of various groups.

We hope that each of you will take that responsibility seriously, and make a contribution to the school community whether it is in a public way through organised activities or more privately, perhaps through help to individuals.

*Mr N Straker
Deputy Headteacher*

Careers Education

During your first three years you have been studying many subjects and learning the basic skills in all of them. Now you must build on this valuable knowledge and begin to study in much greater depth at Key Stage Four.

There are many subjects which you MUST follow at Key Stage Four and others that make up the 'options' curriculum. It may mean, therefore, that you will not be able to take up all the subjects you would like during Years 10 and 11. However, you are able to have a balanced curriculum. This means that by the end of Year 11 you will have had the chance to develop your knowledge and skills in a wide range of subjects. If you have made the most of all the chances offered to you, you will be well equipped to enter employment or Post 16 Education.

Post 16 Education will give you the opportunity to choose some of those subjects you could not do in Years 10 and 11. Post 16 Education will enable you to take subjects at different levels, e.g. Advanced Level ('A' Levels) for those of you who get the equivalent of five GCSE subjects, grades A* - C. Work related courses are also offered at college, e.g. Business and Finance, Travel and Tourism, Building Design and Construction, Catering and many more. Overall there are now a variety of pathways for 16-19 students all of which can lead to Further Education, apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships or employment.

Sixth Form Colleges, like Leyton and Sir George Monoux, offer a wide range of GCSE and 'A' Level subjects and a smaller range of work-related courses. A Further Education College, like Waltham Forest College, offers a smaller range of qualifications and a very wide range of work related courses. At Walthamstow School for Girls we feel strongly that the next stage for the majority of our students should be Further Education at a College or Sixth Form. To assist you with this, students will receive appropriate Careers Advice and Guidance during Years 10 and 11.

Useful Links:

Given the wide range of pathways in 16 to 19 education, it is advised that students look at and register for a "Lifelong Learning Account" with the National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

Useful Contacts to discuss and research Post 16 courses and job requirements:

Ms G Ray
Careers Guidance and Work Experience Co-coordinator

Ms O. Kelly
Librarian in Charge of Learning Resource Centre

Form Teachers, Student Progress Leaders and Subject Teachers, Parents, Carers, family and friends who have experienced college and employment.

Mr D Shackson
Assistant Headteacher

Extra Curricular Activities

During Year 10 and 11 you may feel that you only have time for work! However, a very important part of your education takes place outside the timetabled curriculum within a school. Extra-curricular activities are invaluable, both in terms of your educational and your social development. They should also be included in your application to Further Education institutions.

Many Faculties and individual teachers organise extra-curricular activities. Some are regular and run through the year, others are one-off events. They range from the Gardening Club to Enterprise competitions.

The Performing Arts Faculty offers a range of activities, which are mainly run during the lunch-time and at the end of the school day, and sometimes before school starts. They take the form of training teams for matches, Physical Education Clubs, Drama Clubs, Choirs, Wind Band, Steel Pans and a variety of Instrumental Ensembles.

Instrumental Ensembles are compulsory for students taught by the Peripatetic Music Staff of the school, but a number of students who receive private tuition also attend. Students are frequently involved in performances and displays, both inside and outside the school. Everyone is welcome to come along and join the activities, enthusiasm and commitment being the most important attributes.

Many subject areas will offer support classes at lunchtimes or after school to help you keep up or catch up or deepen your understanding. Keep alert for them and take advantage of them.

Make a resolution to get involved in at least one extra-curricular activity during Key Stage 4. Read your Greensheet newsletter, check the website, watch out for posters, and get involved. You'll enjoy it!

Ms G Bugden
Assistant Headteacher

Extra Curricular Activities

The Core Curriculum

The Core Subjects are the subjects that everybody in Year 10 and 11 will study.

They are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics
- PHSCE
- PE

You will not have to choose these subjects as everybody studies them.

GCSE English and English Literature

Examination Board: WJEC Eduqas

Specification Codes: C700QSL (English)

C701QSL (English Literature)

The WJEC Eduqas course studied leads to two separate GCSE qualifications in English Language and English Literature. English Language will be assessed by two terminal examinations and English Literature by a further two terminal examinations.

English Language

You will study a range of literature prose extracts from the 20th century and will develop the skills to read critically and answer structured questions about the texts. You will also develop your creative writing skills and will be assessed on your ability to write a piece of narrative or descriptive writing with fluency and accuracy.

The second component for the course will require you to read and demonstrate your understanding of a range of non-fiction extracts from the 19th and the 21st centuries. You will also be required to complete a series of transactional or persuasive writing tasks in preparation for your final examination.

Spoken Language is assessed through a presentation or speech and you will receive a separate certificate for this.

English Literature

You will study Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and practise answering both extract and essay questions on the text. You will develop the ability to read and interpret a range of poetry from 1789 to the present day. You will also practise answering questions on unseen poems in preparation for your final examination.

The second component for the English Literature course will require you to read J B Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* as a representative piece of post-1914 drama. You will also read Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* and explore the text in detail.

Ms A Rowan

Head of English Faculty

GCSE Mathematics

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Code: 1MA1

All students take Mathematics in Years 10 and 11. The course is a continuation of what you are doing in Year 9.

To support the study of the Edexcel syllabus, you will be using various text books including the SMP Interact books, Rayner and the Edexcel course book.

You will sit three 1½ hour exams all at the end of Year 11. Two will be calculator and one will be non-calculator. There are two levels of entry, Higher and Foundation.

You will be the first year group to receive a number grade rather than a letter for Mathematics. The Higher level will give grades from 9 down to 3 (Grade 9 is the highest possible GCSE grade), Foundation will give grades from 5 down to 1. It is believed that a Grade 4 will be equivalent to a current C grade in Mathematics. A Grade 9 will be higher than the current A*. There is no coursework or controlled assessment in Mathematics.

Students in C1 may also be able to take the Free Standing Mathematics Qualification in Additional Mathematics during Year 11. This course will be run in conjunction with Sir George Monoux College.

Finally, I hope you will all continue to find Mathematics relevant, rewarding and enjoyable over the next two years.

Mr J Fowler

Director of Mathematics Faculty

GCSE Science and Additional Science

Examination Board: OCR

Specification Codes: J261 (Science) J262 (Additional Science)

The National Curriculum requires that students follow a broad and balanced Science course up to the age of 16 years. At Walthamstow School for Girls all students will do this by following the OCR Gateway Science Suite.

The aims of the course are to:

- develop an interest and enthusiasm for science
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its role in society
- acquire the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to study science beyond 16

The course is designed for students of all abilities and backgrounds. It consists of equal numbers of units of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course is in two parts, each leading to its own GCSE certificate.

In Year 10, students follow the core syllabus in 18% of curriculum time, which will lead to GCSE Science at the end of Year 10.

In Year 11, most students will follow a further Science course, again in 18% of curriculum time, which will lead to GCSE Additional Science at the end of Year 11.

Some students will complete only Core Science over two years.

Assessment for both courses is in three parts – two written exam papers and a controlled assessment.

Paper one is worth 35% and is in three sections (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) of 25 marks each. The paper is 75 minutes long.

Paper two is worth 40% and consists of the three sections, as in paper one, plus an additional section which is investigative in nature.

Controlled assessment consists of an extended activity which has research, practical and analytical aspects. It is worth 25%.

Completing these courses will give you two GCSE qualifications in science.

These GCSEs will provide you with a good scientific grounding in scientific literacy and science at work, as well as the academic capability to go on to Post 16 science courses, including A-levels in the separate sciences.

Mr C Kerr

Head of Science Faculty

GCSE Science and Additional Science

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (P.S.H.C.E.)

The Pastoral System that students have been used to during the first three years will continue in Years 10 and 11. Everyone will be a member of a Tutor Group, with, as far as possible, the same Tutor that they have had this academic year.

This subject is one of the most important subjects in the school curriculum, because it covers all the areas not included in the GCSE subjects that are studied at Walthamstow School For Girls.

The P.S.H.C.E. programme in Years 10 and 11 follows the broad topics of personal well being, economic well being, financial capability, careers and citizenship that have been studied in Key Stage 3.

The P.S.H.C.E. syllabus closely follows Government guidance:-

Personal Wellbeing (including Sex and Relationship Education) which helps students to feel positive about themselves and encourages them to enjoy a healthy, safe and responsible lifestyle.

Economic Wellbeing which helps the students by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attributes to make the most of the opportunities within learning and work.

Financial Capability which helps the students to develop as questioning and informed consumers, who can manage their finances effectively.

Careers Education element that aims to increase the understanding of the world of work, by improving awareness of qualities and skills needed in a wide range of occupations, post sixteen.

Citizenship which equips students with the knowledge, skills and an understanding of democratic process, in order to allow them to play an effective role in public life through developing their social and moral responsibility, community involvement and political literacy.

P.S.H.C.E. is studied by all students in one lesson per week and currently is a non-examination area of study.

*Ms K H Pratt
Head of Pastoral Faculty*

Physical Education (PE)

Physical Education is one of the core subjects within the National Curriculum at Key Stage Four and therefore it is compulsory for all Year 10 and 11 students. It is the PE Department's aim to promote sport as a healthy, enjoyable and lifelong pastime for all our students.

All Year 10 students receive one hour of physical activity each week, which will include a variety of different activities throughout the year. You are given pathway options at Year 10 and can select to study one of four options:

Option 1 – Sports Leaders Level One Award. You are given the opportunity to work in small groups to deliver sports sessions to local primary school students.

Option 2 – Dance. The Jack Petchey Foundation funds a project called Step into Dance and we have a specialist dance teacher who comes into school to deliver Street Dance lessons.

Option 3 – Team Games. You will be given the opportunity to participate in sports such as basketball, netball, football and rounders.

Option 4 – Individual Activities. You will be given the opportunity to develop your skills in activities such as trampolining, short tennis, orienteering and fitness.

All Year 11 students receive two hours of physical activity every other week. You are again given options as to which three activities you wish to participate in throughout the year, some of which are delivered off site including swimming at the Pool and Track Centre or Larkswood and use of the fitness room/gym at the YMCA. In addition to these we have a specialist dance teacher and self-defence coach who deliver high quality, enjoyable sessions, developing skills you may not have had the opportunity to work on before. There is also the option for you to participate in a variety of activities at school including basketball, trampolining and volleyball.

The pathway option system ensures that you select the activities you would enjoy the most, increasing your motivation, enjoyment and hopefully continuing with the activity in future when you leave Walthamstow School For Girls.

In addition to this, the PE Department runs a variety of clubs and practice sessions that all students can attend if you want to improve your skills or just enjoy yourselves, including a GCSE Dance class.

*Ms R Warren
Head of Physical Education*

GCSE Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Code: 2RS01

The Religious Studies course is part of the core curriculum for Year 10 and Year 11. In Year 10 all students will follow the Pearson *Religion and Life* examined unit. In Year 11 students will have a choice of units: *Islam* or *Religion and Society*.

Lessons encourage lively debates on issues relevant to the human condition and enable you to develop analytical and evaluative skills when presenting well-informed, coherent arguments. Students are expected to be able to express their own views but also learn and understand how those views can be challenged. No matter what career path you eventually take, you will always be working with people and a qualification in RS indicates to an employer someone who has had experience of thinking critically, challenging other people's views and expressing themselves clearly.

What will you study?

Religion and Life (All Students)

This unit looks at arguments for and against the existence of God as well as different religious beliefs about the nature of God. It also has sections about religious and secular beliefs regarding life and death, marriage, family and community cohesion.

Religion and Society (Option 1)

Students who choose this unit will be looking at philosophy, ethics and politics from religious and secular viewpoints. Sections include looking at democracy, law and justice, peace and conflict, the environment and the ethics of medical research. This is a good option for those students who may be thinking about studying philosophy or politics at A-Level.

Islam (Option 2)

Students who choose to study this unit will look at Islamic beliefs and traditions in more depth. They will also learn about the different ways in which Islam is practised in different Islamic communities. The unit also requires students to consider the role of Islam in their community and to understand what it means to be a Muslim in modern Britain.

How will you be assessed?

In order to achieve a GCSE in Religious Studies you will need to sit two 1 ½ hour examinations at the end of Year 11.

Mr R Truan

Head of Humanities Faculty

Option Subjects

We hope that you will make the most of your subject choices. If you are not sure about the choices after reading this book speak to your parents or carers, your tutor, Ms Careless or Mr Shackson.

You have three subjects to choose. No more than two of these may be vocational.

You should also consider the guidance on the English Baccalaureate given earlier in this booklet.

GCSE Information And Communication Technology (ICT)

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Code: 2IT01

In the future everyone will need to be able to make effective use of technology, whether at work, to support their studies or just to have fun. An excellent knowledge and understanding of information and communication technology will be essential in this fast changing world. This course will not only teach students a range of practical skills, it will also focus on the growing use of new technologies and the impact that these technologies are having on the world in which we live.

Unit 1

In this unit students will explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society. They will learn about current and emerging digital technologies, such as smart phones and watches, optical head-mounted displays, laptops, e-readers, tablets, PCs, digital cameras, video cameras and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts (learning and earning, leisure, shopping and money management, health and wellbeing and on the move). They will develop an awareness of the risks that are inherent in using ICT and the features of safe, secure and responsible practice. This unit is worth 40% of the final mark and is assessed by a 90 minute written exam taken at the end of the course.

Unit 2

In this unit students will broaden and enhance their practical ICT skills. They will work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts. They will learn to reflect critically on their own and others' use of ICT and to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice. The current project is about students using their ICT skills to organise a music festival. This unit is worth 60% of the final mark and is assessed by a practical 40 hour controlled assessment.

At the end of the course students will be confident, discerning users of technology and will be able to respond effectively to ever faster technological change.

The course is designed for students who simply want to have a better knowledge and understanding of a range of technologies and students who are considering a career in IT.

Mr. R. Bryant

Director of Information and Communication Technology Faculty

GCSE Computer Science

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 4512

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of computer science as a discipline itself, and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly. Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees. For example, businesses today require an ever-increasing number of technologically-aware individuals.

This course gives students a real, in depth understanding of how computer technology works, including looking at the technology inside a smart phone or tablet and the future use of robots.

The course will give an insight into what happens "behind the scenes", including computer programming. Students will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and everyday life.

The course consists of 2 main components:

Practical Programming – This involves the completion of two controlled assessments which together are worth 60% of the overall mark. The two controlled assessments will be chosen from the following four options:

- Game Application
- Mobile Application
- Traditional Programmed Application
- Web-based Application

Computing Fundamentals – This involves completing a written exam which is worth 40% of the overall mark.

The following topics will be covered:

- Concepts and application of computer programming
- Computer structure: Systems; Hardware; CPU (Central Processing Unit); Memory; Secondary storage
- Software development life cycle including prototyping
- Networking: Client server; Web application concepts
- Database concepts: Query methods (SQL); Connecting to databases from applications and web based apps
- The use of computer technology in society

Students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science or IT will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone.

Mr Bryant
Director of Information and Communication Technology Faculty

GCSE MEDIA

Examination Board: WJEC
Specification Code: 4390LA

TV, film, websites, radio, games and publishing are all part of the media industry. The creative industry is one of the UK's biggest industries and is worth more than £36 billion a year. In the UK there are 1.3 million people employed in the creative industry.

GCSE Media Studies allows you to draw on your own experience of the media and to create your own media.

What will you learn?

- Creating a media product - involving planning, producing and presenting media texts
- Media products & texts – you will explore genre, narrative and representation
- The organisation of media texts - production, distribution and regulatory issues
- The audiences and users of media products and texts

Aims of the Media GCSE

- Develop an appreciation and understanding of the media and its role in our daily lives
- Develop investigative, critical thinking and decision-making skills
- Develop practical and creative skills
- Understand how to use media concepts and ideas to analyse media productions

Methods of Assessment

Written Examination Paper (40% of the final mark)

- Section A: Thinking about the Media – Knowledge and understanding of the set topic
- Section B: Thinking about the Media – Assess planning and creative skills through a series of creative tasks

Controlled Assessment (60% of the final mark)

- Two textual investigations of 400 – 850 words or equivalent (10% for each investigation)
- One production (probably video) consisting of research, planning, the production itself and an evaluation (40%)

Mr M Jones
Teacher of Media

GCSE Economics

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 4135

Economics is about making sense of your life. A huge range of choices and uncertainties face you every day. With an income you probably feel is too limited, what do you really want to buy? How will your holiday money be affected by a change in the exchange rate? What should you look for in a career? Some of these questions are serious, some not, but they all impact on your life - and not your life alone, but on the lives of others as well. A simple decision to buy a Fairtrade product, for example has implications well beyond where you live, and even beyond the UK. What you buy can make the difference between extreme poverty and a sustainable life for a Third World farmer. The brand of clothes you wear could send a message that will help stop businesses exploiting child labour. Thinking hard about the energy consumption of your new computer before you buy could help reduce global warming. 'Personal Economics' is about understanding the issues behind the choices you make.

Studying AQA Economics at GCSE level involves exploring these issues in two ways.

Firstly it looks at personal economics:

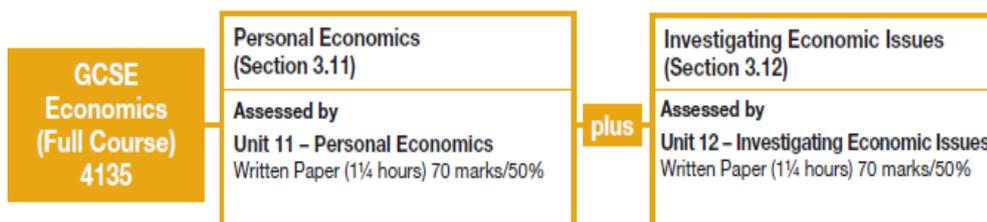
- How we handle money and make decisions with limited incomes
- The purpose, nature and rewards of work, and what it means to be unemployed
- The impact of trading goods and services internationally
- How changes in the exchange rate impact the economy
- How the global economy affects the world of work

Secondly it looks at how the economy is managed from the perspective of governments:

- The government's economic goals
- How the economy works
- How and why governments try to control the economy
- The influence of the EU on the UK economy

GCSE Economics involves investigating all these aspects, and more, through applying economic ideas to real life situations. Using the tools and insights of Economics helps you look at the facts from different angles to explain why things happen in the way they do. It even enables you to predict what might happen in the future. It helps you make choices by thinking things through and using reasoned judgments to make informed decisions.

How you will be assessed:



Mr N Straker and Ms N Shafiq
Teachers of Economics

GCSE Triple Science

Examination Board: OCR

Specification Codes: J263 (Biology) J264 (Chemistry) J265 (Physics)

Triple Science is an option for students who wish to extend their Science studies. The course is of a very challenging nature with the latter units covering AS level material.

It is strongly advised students consider Triple Science carefully as an option choice. As well as being a very demanding choice it would involve studying 14 lessons of science over two weeks. Students who are not confident in science and without a genuine passion for it will struggle.

You might choose this option because of career or Further Education ambitions. It may be because you enjoy doing Science and wish to pursue it in more detail.

Taking Triple Science would involve studying the three Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) as three separate GCSEs. These would be studied in parallel using the Science/Additional Science allocation of the timetable but with the addition of an option subject's allocation on top. It will take the same 5 lessons as any other school option.

The same content will be covered as for Science and Additional Science but there will be extra, more challenging work on top of this.

The controlled assessment format for Triple Science is essentially the same as for Science/Additional Science.

For each of the three subjects paper one and paper two will be taken in May/June of Year 11. The controlled assessments will be carried out at some point during the two years of the courses. There will be a controlled assessment for each of the three subjects.

Completing the Triple Science course would give you an excellent grounding in scientific literacy, science at work and also provides an excellent start for studying sciences Post 16 including A-levels in the separate sciences and degree courses in Medicine, Pharmacy and Engineering.

Mr C Kerr

Head of Science Faculty

GCSE Triple Science

GCSE Languages

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Codes: 2FR01 (French) 2SP01 (Spanish) 2UR01 (Urdu)

The GCSE courses in French, Spanish and Urdu extend what has been studied in Key Stage 3. Students choosing a GCSE language course will need to work very hard, but a good GCSE grade in a language will be a valuable qualification to have.

New topic areas are studied such as; Healthy Lifestyle, Environment, Fashion, Media, Work Experience and some topics previously studied are revisited for example; Education and School, Personal Information and Family, Free Time and Leisure. There is also a lot of work on grammar particularly verbs and tenses.

Controlled speaking and writing assessments account for 60% of the final grade. Towards the end of Year 11 marks for the best two controlled speaking and writing assessments are submitted. Each assessment task is therefore worth 15% of the final grade so it is important that everyone works as hard as possible on these.

Students who consistently work hard should find they are well prepared for the controlled assessment tasks. Time is given in lessons to prepare the assessments and it is important that the time is used effectively.

Listening and reading examinations are taken at the end of Year 11 and these are each worth 20% of the final grade. There are two tiers of entry for these examinations, Foundation and Higher. End of Year 10 and the Year 11 mock exam results are taken into account when deciding the appropriate level of entry for each student.

Every student is issued with a text book specifically for the GCSE course and other materials are available in school and on the school Managed Learning Environment.

During the course students gain a good deal more awareness and understanding of cultural aspects of the countries where French, Spanish, and Urdu are spoken.

Ms V Prieto

Head of Languages Faculty

Latin Language (Level 2 Certificate)

Examination Board: WJEC
Specification Code: 9520/01

Students will learn how to understand and translate Latin text, whilst at the same time learning about the historical events of the time. During the first half of the course, they will meet Caecilius and his family and join them as they experience everyday life in the city of Pompeii, shortly before the eruption of Vesuvius. The second part of the course focuses first on life in Roman Britain, before moving further afield to Egypt. Students are supported in their learning using materials and resources developed by the Cambridge Schools Classics Project.

Why study Latin?

Latin effectively develops and trains the mind. - Latin is taught to be read, not spoken. Students are taught to recognise and translate Latin words and passages. It requires concentration, absorption and attention to detail, which are valuable skills and character traits.

Latin is the best preparation for learning any language. - Latin helps students to gain an understanding of the mechanics and structure of language, not least of all English. It can be used to grasp the basics of many modern languages and provides an insight into the language used within the Sciences.

The Level 2 Certificate in Latin Language counts as a language subject in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

What Will Students Study?

Students will study towards The WJEC Level 2 Certificate in Latin Language, which is accepted by Colleges and Universities as equivalent to a Higher Tier GCSE and has the same level of difficulty.

The final assessment in Year 11 comprises of two written exams:

Unit 9521: Core Latin Language

This exam tests students' knowledge and understanding of core language and is worth 67% of the overall mark. It consists of a combination of comprehension questions and translation and is 1 hour and 15 minutes long.

Unit 9524: Additional Latin Language

This exam requires students to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of additional language and is worth 33% of the overall mark. It consists of a single passage of Latin for comprehension and translation and is 45 minutes long.

Ms W Famiglietti
Teacher of Latin

Latin Language (Level 2 Certificate)

GCSE Drama

Examination Board: WJEC
Specification Code: 4150LA

Drama as an examination subject is more demanding than any other drama that you will have done before. Apart from cooperation and concentration during lessons, you will be expected to commit yourself to rehearsals during lunchtimes and after school. You will also have many opportunities to visit the theatre during this course and reflect on how the plays you have seen can inform your own work. The majority of your lessons will be practical but there is an important element of written work.

In order to comply with the examination requirements, we ask you to complete a drama journal, after each session, for homework. You are also required to have a pen with you at all times so that you are able to 'capture' your learning by writing things down at various stages throughout the lessons.

How the course is examined? *We follow the WJEC Drama Specification*

UNIT ONE: Devised Practical Performance (60%)

Controlled Assessment 120 Marks

TASK ONE - 40% Devised Performance

Candidates will devise a practical performance based on a theme linked with a practitioner or genre. This may include Brecht, Berkoff/Physical Theatre, Boal and Stanislavski. Candidates may choose either acting or a theatre design skill. Teachers record the work on DVD which is internally assessed and externally moderated with task two.

TASK TWO - 20% Devised Performance Report

Candidates will complete a written report on the practical work they completed in Task One under formal supervision. The report should include details of the live performances candidates have seen that have influenced their practical work; details on decision making; the inclusion of technical elements and the content of the piece and an evaluation of their own work and that of the group. This will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

UNIT TWO: Performance from a text (20%)

External Assessment 50 Marks

Candidates will be assessed on either their acting or a theatre design skill in a scene from a published play. Candidates will work in groups of 2 to 5 members with no more than two additional design candidates per group, each working on a different skill. This is externally assessed by a visiting examiner on a date between March and May of Year 11.

UNIT THREE: Written Examination (20%)

Written Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes 50 marks

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to analyse a set text as an actor, designer and director and to evaluate practical work completed in Unit 2.

This means that you will be examined as early as Year 10 and the mark that you get counts towards your final GCSE Grade.

The course is hard work, but very rewarding. You will develop a variety of Drama skills and techniques including acting, design, creative skills, communication, interpersonal, evaluative and group work skills.

Ms E Cornford
Acting Deputy Head of Performing Arts Faculty

GCSE Music

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 4272

UNIT ONE:

Listening to and Appraising Music (42701)
Assessed: Written Paper (1 hour) - Externally Assessed
80 marks - 20% of the final grade

UNIT TWO:

Composing and Appraising Music (42702)
Assessed: Externally by submission of one composition and a question booklet
40 marks – 20% of the final grade

UNIT THREE:

Performing Music (42703)
Assessed: Internally by performance of two pieces (one solo skills piece, one ensemble skills piece) - Controlled Assessment
60 marks – 40% of the final grade

UNIT FOUR: Composing Music 42704

Assessed: Internally by creation of one composition and a candidate record sheet - Controlled Assessment
30 marks – 20% of the final grade

The AQA GCSE Music seeks to integrate the skills of performing, composing, listening and appraising. Music GCSE students are expected to put a lot of effort into their studies, take the initiative to improve their musicality and be disciplined enough to practice and attend extra-curricular musical activities. Having an open mind and the willingness to embrace styles and genres of music that may be unfamiliar is very important.

As part of their course students who opt for GCSE Music will be entitled to lessons on an instrument of their choice, funded by the school.

Entry requirements

Because of the rigorous nature of musical study at GCSE level, to be considered for entry onto the course students must have passed their Grade 4 examination on any instrument or voice. If students haven't passed Grade 4, but can perform at this level, they will be required to audition in front of the Music staff.

Mr M Burstow
Head of Performing Arts Faculty

GCSE Physical Education (PE)

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Code: 2PE01

The Physical Education Department is extremely pleased to offer GCSE Physical Education to any student who loves sport, is prepared to commit to participation in extra curricular activities, and wants to develop their knowledge of the theory behind physical activity, health and how the body works when taking part in sport.

We follow the Edexcel Physical Education Specification (2PE01) which is assessed over two units:

Unit 1 - is externally assessed through a written examination paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes. This includes questions based on what contributes to a healthy, active lifestyle and how the different body systems work when you participate in sport. This exam contributes to 40% of your final overall grade.

Unit 2 - is externally moderated through 4 practical performances each marked out of ten, plus an analysis of performance on an activity of your choice marked out of ten. This contributes to 60% of your final grade.

You will be assessed on activities studied in lessons, enrichment activities and on any sports that you may participate in outside of school. A strong emphasis is placed on your practical ability and you need to be willing to commit to extra curricular practices to develop this practical ability and achieve your full potential.

In GCSE PE you will have the opportunity to develop and apply your knowledge, skills and understanding of PE through selected practical activities. You will also develop the skills necessary to analyse and improve performance.

If you are interested in how the heart, bones, joints, muscles and breathing systems work; how diet and injury affect performance and are a keen sports woman then the GCSE PE course is for you.

60% of the GCSE PE course is practical and so a high level of practical ability is expected of the students studying the course. It is highly recommended that students attend a sports club outside school if they wish to select GCSE PE as one of their options. Students will be required to regularly attend at least one extra-curricular sports club per week to supplement their lessons in order to successfully meet the criteria for the practical unit of the course.

The PE Department also offers a GCSE Dance course which is delivered as an after school lesson one evening a week. Delivered by an external dance teacher the students study contemporary dance and are assessed in a set dance, a group dance and a dance that they have choreographed themselves. This is a fantastic opportunity for students who may already be part of a dance group outside of school or those who enjoy dance and wish to gain a qualification from the activity. The course is 80% practical and so a high level of dance ability is required.

Ms R Warren

Head of Physical Education

GCSE Physical Education

Art, Design and Technology (ADT)

Options include:

- **Art**
- **Catering**
- **Textiles**
- **Product Design**

All these GCSEs allow students to further their creative skills, essential in today's ever competitive job market.

ADT Subjects:

- Develop and extend your planning skills
- Promote independent thinking
- Enable you to work as a team
- Develop your creative thinking skills
- Promote practical thinking
- Develop problem solving skills
- Encourage you to try new techniques and experiment
- Learn about new materials and making techniques
- Use ICT in an imaginative and creative way

Careers

GCSEs are a pathway to Further Education and a good qualification and any GCSE will allow you to progress on to your eventual career or careers of choice.

Many jobs or careers have not even been thought about yet in our ever changing world. However it is certain that whatever you find yourself doing you will need to be adaptable, creative and forward thinking. ADT subjects promote all of this and more. Careers in the creative field are probably the fastest growing at the moment.

Mr M Streader

Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty

Art, Design and Technology (ADT)

GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Code: 2FA01

Fine Art GCSE is an exciting, fulfilling and demanding course. You will develop your creative ideas and thinking skills whilst building the confidence and skills to explore research and extend your ideas through the completion of artwork.

You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. The course will focus on painting and drawing, sculpture, ceramics and mixed media.

Fine Art involves:

- Selecting and organising information
- Recording observations
- Responding to work from other times and cultures
- Analysing and evaluating sources
- Developing and exploring materials and processes
- Refining ideas to show development
- Creating exciting and original final pieces
- Being creative and appreciating the visual world around us

Fine Art will also help you to develop many other important and valuable skills. These include:

- Organisation
- Life skills
- Independent working, as well as collaboration
- Communication skills
- Creativity

Art as a career

Many careers are linked into this subject. From Fine art you can gain access to a vast range of art and design courses such as set design for film and theatre, graphic design, textiles design, photography, illustration and animation. There are hundreds of possibilities in the creative field.

All career paths will require you to be inventive, resourceful and creative. Further qualifications such as A Level Art and BTEC in Art and Design subjects are available to you after GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

Your GCSE grade will be awarded as a result of completing two units of work.

Unit 1

60% of your overall mark is gained from a portfolio of controlled assessment completed in Years 10 and 11.

Unit 2

40% of your overall mark is gained from an externally set exam.

Mr M Streader

Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty

GCSE Catering (Single Award)

Examination Board: WJEC
Specification Code: 4730LA

GCSE Catering offers a unique opportunity for candidates to develop their knowledge and extend their skills with a practical focus. We also take opportunities to learn outside of the classroom where possible.

It is a suitable qualification for those who wish to progress to Further Education, but also offers valuable preparation for those entering the world of work.

During a GCSE Catering course, learners are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following areas of study:

- The industry – food and drink
- Job roles, employment opportunities and relevant training
- Health, safety and hygiene
- Food preparation, cooking and presentation
- Nutrition and menu planning
- Costing and portion control
- Specialist equipment
- Communication and record keeping
- Environmental considerations

GCSE Catering will also help you to develop many other important and valuable skills. These include:

- Organisation
- Life skills
- Independent working, as well as collaboration
- Communication skills
- Creativity

Catering as a career

There are hundreds of possibilities in the catering field. Perhaps you would like to run your own bakery, café or restaurant, forge a career in business with one of the UK's supermarket giants or develop recipes for books or magazines.

All career paths will require you to be inventive, resourceful and creative. The ability to solve problems using a variety of techniques will be very important no matter what your future holds.

How will I be assessed?

UNIT 1: Controlled Assessment, 45 hours total (60%):

Two practical tasks taken from a list of WJEC set tasks. These are internally assessed using WJEC set criteria and externally moderated.

UNIT 2: Written Paper, 1 ¼ hours (40%):

One paper which will be externally set and marked. All questions are compulsory and targeted at the full range of GCSE grades.

Mr M Streader
Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty

GCSE Catering (Single Award)

GCSE Design and Technology: Textiles Technology

*Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 4570*

Textiles Technology is an excellent choice for those of you who feel you may want to pursue careers in Textiles or Fashion. You will be taught in a highly supportive learning environment developing and building a range of textile based skills. You will have the opportunity to be innovative and creative. Successful students will learn that risk taking leads to discovery of new and exciting design ideas.

Textiles Technology involves:

- Learning about different fibres, fabrics and components
- Developing creativity and understanding how designers get inspiration for design ideas
- Understanding the issues that influence textile design and marketing
- Understanding commercial design and manufacture through product analysis
- Investigating and using methods to colour, decorate and stitch textile products
- Learning about the importance of sustainable design
- Developing designing and presentation skills
- Developing a range of practical 'making' skills
- Designing and making high quality textiles products

Textiles Technology will also help you to develop many other important and valuable skills. These include:

- Organisation
- Life skills
- Independent working, as well as collaboration
- ICT
- Communication skills

Textiles Technology as a career

The Textiles industry is a big employer in the UK and there are a wide range of career opportunities such as; Textile or Fashion Designer, Trend Forecaster, Fashion Merchandiser, Pattern Maker, Fashion Stylist, Costume Designer, Fashion Photographer to name a few! A number of colleges offer suitable courses for you to progress on to after you have completed your GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

Your GCSE grade will be awarded as a result of completing two units of work:

Unit 1

A written examination worth 40% of the total marks which will require you to apply what you have learned during the course in an examination situation.

Unit 2

This is a controlled assessment project which involves designing and making a Textiles product. The themes for controlled assessment are set by the exam board and include a wide range of possibilities. Work is completed within lessons, and this project folder is worth 60% of the final mark.

*Mr M Streader
Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty*

GCSE Design and Technology: Product Design

Examination Board: AQA

Specification Code: 4555

Product Design is a relatively new and exciting course we are offering at Walthamstow School For Girls. We have chosen this specification as we believe it has something to offer everyone. If you are not sure which D&T option suits you best then this could be the course for you. Product Design has a flexible approach and allows you to work in the materials you feel most comfortable with.

Product Design involves:

- Learning about different materials and their properties such as wood, metal, plastics, smart materials, textiles and electronics
- Learning and developing a broad range of skills and knowledge that span all D&T subjects
- Experimenting, testing and analysing existing products
- Being creative and designing new products
- Understanding commercial design and manufacturing techniques
- Developing CAD/CAM skills
- Understanding the importance of sustainable design
- Using modelling and prototyping to develop ideas
- Develop drawing and presentation skills
- Making high quality, innovative products

Product Design will also help you to develop many other important and valuable skills. These include:

- Organisation
- Life skills
- Independent working, as well as collaboration
- ICT
- Communication skills

Product Design as a career

Many careers are linked into this subject. From product design to set design for film and theatre, graphic design and textiles design. There are hundreds of possibilities in the creative field. All career paths will require you to be inventive, resourceful and creative. The ability to solve problems using a variety of techniques will be very important no matter what your future holds.

How will I be assessed?

Your GCSE grade will be awarded as a result of completing two units of work:

Unit 1

A written examination worth 40% of the total marks which will require you to apply what you have learned during the course in an examination situation.

Unit 2

This is a controlled assessment project which involves designing and making a product from a very wide range of topics set by the exam board. Work is completed within lessons, and this project folder and practical work is worth 60% of the final mark.

Mr M Streader

Head of Art, Design and Technology Faculty

Humanities

Introduction

Over the past three years you have been studying Humanities and within these lessons you have been taught three discrete subjects: Geography, History and Religious Education (RE). As you make your GCSE choices you can consider opting for Geography or History (or both subjects).

All students will continue with Religious Studies as part of the core curriculum.

Humanities subjects enable you to learn how to think creatively and critically, to reason, and to ask questions. Through Humanities you learn about the values of different cultures, different places and about how history is made. It preserves the great accomplishments of the past and helps us to understand the world we live in today, and gives us tools to imagine the future.

Humanities also offers the BTEC First Diploma in Travel and Tourism. This course gives you the opportunity to discover what it is like to work in the Travel and Tourism industry.

*Mr R Truan
Head of Humanities Faculty*

GCSE Geography

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 9037

Why choose Geography?

Geography is about the present and the future, the world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why, and helps to prepare you for those changes. The transferable skills which Geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today.

Geography tackles the big issues:

- Cultural understanding
- Commerce, trade and industry
- Environmental responsibility
- Our global interdependence

This course is suitable for you if you...

- Want to learn about and understand the world you live in
- Are concerned about world-wide issues such as famine, pollution and poverty
- Like to complete practical work away from the classroom
- Enjoy learning through investigating issues and places

What you will study:

You will follow the AQA Geography B course which is designed to energise and interest you by giving you an insight into future challenges through the study of current issues. You will also write two controlled assessments.

Unit 1: Managing Places in the 21st Century

This unit focuses on the fact that the world is becoming increasingly urban. It will look at the opportunities and threats that this can cause in rich and poor countries and how urban areas can be managed for the future. This unit also focuses on the coastal environment and the changing way in which people interact with it.

Unit 2: Hostile world and investigating the shrinking world

Many people now live in hostile areas of the world that suffer from tropical storms, wildfires, volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes. This unit focuses on understanding these hazards and how we can prepare for and respond to them. Globalisation has led to changes in the development gap between rich and poor countries. This unit also gives students the opportunity to investigate a range of places and to consider how globalisation impacts specific localities and groups of people.

Unit 3 Task 1: Local investigation including field work

This involves the collection of relevant primary data which is analysed, evaluated and written up during lessons.

Unit 3 Task 2: Geographical issue investigation

This task involves research into a particular issue concerning the world in the 21st Century. This will be written up or prepared using a different format during lessons.

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1: Written paper – 1 hour 30 minutes – 37.5%

Unit 2: Written Paper – 1 hour 30 minutes – 37.5%

Unit 3: 2 x written controlled assessments – completed in class in Year 10 & 11 - 25%

Mr J Mace
Head of Geography Department

GCSE History

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Specification Code: 2HB01

Why choose History?

The Schools History Project is a popular GCSE subject in which many students do very well. You will study History through the eyes of the people who lived at the time. You will enjoy and therefore, do well in the course if you are interested in: debating and understanding why there are sometimes different but equally valid points of view on the same subject; finding out about how people's lives have changed and how people in the past may have thought differently from us. Sometimes you may think societies have progressed and sometimes you may think they have not.

You will be choosing a GCSE subject:

GCSE History is highly regarded amongst Colleges, Universities and employers and will help you develop many useful skills. You will be much more critical of what you read and hear on the news and it will develop your abilities to reason and argue your point of view with supporting information.

What will you study?

The specification is Edexcel: 'The Schools History Project'

In History you will study four units, each worth 25% of your final mark.

In Unit 1 you will learn about change and continuity over a long period of time through a Development Study: *Medicine and Treatment*.

The key themes in this option are people's understanding, treatment and prevention of illness. The role of women in treating family illnesses, the role of religion in caring for the sick, and the importance of technology in understanding and treating illness are also included.

In Unit 2 you will learn about a period in history in much more detail with a Depth Study: *Life in Germany, c1919–1945*.

What problems did Germany face after the First World War?

- How did these contribute to the rise of the Nazi Party?
- What were the key features of the Nazi government?
- What impact did the Nazi state have on different groups of people?

In Unit 3 you will learn about how sources become evidence in history and how a real historian researches in a Source Enquiry.

You will study: *The Transformation of Surgery 1845-1918*

In Unit 4 you will learn about different views of history and how the past affects us today with a Representations of History Controlled Assessment. You will study: *Change in British Society 1955-1975*

What will you be required to do?

Study a variety of materials, discuss them and interpret them. The types of sources will include; textbooks, letters, diaries, newspapers, pictures, cartoons, maps, photographs, films, videos and television news programmes. Independent research is an important part of this course.

How will you be assessed?

For Units 1, 2 and 3 you will take an examination at the end of Year 11. Unit 4 is a controlled assessment and you will research a task then write it up in the classroom. Each unit is worth 25%

Mr R Truan

Head of Humanities Faculty

BTEC First Award in Travel and Tourism

Examination Board: EDEXCEL (Level 2 Award)

Programme Code: FXF52

Why choose Travel and Tourism?

Working in the Travel and Tourism sector is a wide and varied career choice and this course will introduce you to some of the key aspects of the industry. Studying Travel and Tourism will allow you to broaden your knowledge of the sector as well as deepening your skills. The course is a vocational or work-related qualification. This means that it will help you to develop skills that you might need if you were to choose a career in the Travel and Tourism industry. In addition, many of the skills are transferrable to other subjects and employment areas such as: undertaking independent research, using your initiative, customer service, planning and problem solving.

This course is suitable for you if you:

- Want to develop your ICT skills
- Can use your initiative
- Enjoy meeting people in and outside of school
- Can communicate well with companies, groups or individuals via fax, internet, email, letter, telephone or in person
- Can meet deadlines
- Enjoy working independently on tasks

What you will study: You will follow the Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First Award in Travel and Tourism

UK Travel and Tourism Sector: Travel and Tourism is now one of the largest sectors in the world in terms of generating jobs and incomes. It is a dynamic and vibrant sector which makes a major contribution to the UK economy. This unit explores the main types of tourism, the motivating factors for travel and the contribution that travel and tourism has on the UK economy.

This unit is assessed by an external exam.

UK Travel and Tourism Destinations: This unit will give you an understanding of what the UK travel and tourism industry has to offer to tourists. It will enable you to identify and locate tourist destinations, major UK airports and seaports, as well as to discover sea routes and three-letter airport codes.

Factors Affecting World Wide Travel and Tourism: It is strange to imagine that while you are reading this, there are people around the world getting up, others going to bed, some are sound asleep and others, probably like you are part way through their day. Weather-wise there are similar contrasts. This unit will help you to understand the nature and effects of worldwide travel.

International Travel and Tourism Destinations: A career in the travel and tourism sector could open up the world of travel to you. Knowing about worldwide destinations and their locations and being able to select holidays to meet customer needs is highly regarded by many employers and is the main focus of this unit.

Mr R Truan

Head of Humanities Faculty

BTEC First Award in Creative Media Production

Examination Board: EDEXCEL (Level 2 Award)

Programme Code: FXF53

TV, film, websites, radio, games and publishing are all part of the creative industry. The creative industry is one of the UK's biggest industries and is worth more than £36 billion a year. In the UK there are 1.3 million people employed in the creative industry.

What does it take to become a successful creative media producer? BTEC First Award in Creative Media Production provides a practical, real-world approach to learning and develops specific knowledge and skills learners need to work successfully in the industry.

What will you learn?

Digital Moving Image Production

Have you ever thought about how films and videos are made? In this unit, you will explore how moving image productions are made. You will focus on camerawork, sound and editing. You will then make your own video production.

Website Production

Have you ever wanted to build your own website or wondered how websites work? In this unit you will investigate the purpose and uses of websites. You will gain the appropriate skills required for the design and creation of websites. You will then make your own website.

Digital Media Sectors and Audiences

Film, television, podcasts, e-newspapers, websites, games – have you ever wondered who creates all the media that you use? In this unit you explore the different digital media sectors and the products they produce.

Planning and Pitching a Digital Media Product

Have you ever thought how that great idea for a media product which, at the moment, is only in your head, could become a reality? In this unit you will develop your verbal, written and visual communication skills to enable you to understand the needs of your client and to help you formulate, develop and pitch your own ideas for a media product.

Methods of Assessment

- Electronic and verbal presentations
- Producing a short film
- Producing a website
- Written proposals, reports or forms
- Examination

Mr Jones

Teacher of BTEC Creative Media Production

BTEC First Award in Business

Examination Board: EDEXCEL (Level 2 Award)

Programme Code: BGK95

The BTEC First Award in Business offers an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of business. The two core units provide the opportunity to develop the key enterprise and financial skills and knowledge necessary to enable you to understand how businesses recognise opportunities, and build on them to succeed. You will also understand how a business makes and manages its money, and plans for the future.

This course is suitable for you if you:

- Are interested in working independently
- Would like to explore Business Enterprise
- Would like to start a Small Business
- Enjoy using your own initiative
- Can meet deadlines on a regular basis
- Have a passion for learning

For the BTEC First Award you will be required to complete two core units and two specialist units.

The qualification is available after two years of study.

Core Units

Enterprise in the Business World - opportunity to start-up and run a small business.

Finance for Business - understand how business accounts are calculated and managed.

Optional Units

Promoting a Brand - understand what branding is and have the opportunity to design a brand campaign for your own start-up business.

Principles of Customer Service - understand how customer service takes place in different organisations and be able to show good customer service skills.

Your work will be assessed through three portfolio assignments and one external assessment.

All students can achieve a pass, merit or distinction.

Mr N Straker and Ms N Shafiq
Teachers of BTEC Business