

Buckler's Mead

— ACADEMY —

Years 10-11

SPECIALISED CURRICULUM

2022- 2024

Community

Opportunity

"An Inspiring Education for All"

Enjoyment

Success

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians

I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce to you the Specialised Curriculum offer for September 2022. This booklet gives you information about the exciting curriculum opportunities that will be available to your child. To assist in these important decisions, there will be a Specialised Curriculum Evening on Thursday 10th March 2022. This will be an opportunity to discuss the progress made in subjects as well as explore and ask questions about the potential courses on offer.



In order to assist you further we have set up the Specialised Curriculum page on the website to guide you through the following-

- Online guides for each subject including video presentations from subject teachers about the courses on offer as well as written guidance and information about each subject.
- Recorded presentation on the process and a 'How to' guides to filling in the Google Options Form.
- Information on the different specialised routes students will have been encouraged to follow. Your child will receive a letter relating to this in March.

At Buckler's Mead Academy, we have high expectations for all and seek to ensure that every student has access to a series of qualifications and choices. Our aim is to balance personal choice while, making sure that all students have a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for future careers and pathways. Students will be sent a link to a google form for their recommended specialised route. This will need to be completed by the deadline **Friday 18th March 2022**. If you are unable to access the form, then you may contact your child's Tutor or Head of Year, who will support you to complete the form.

We will be spending time in the academy working with students on choices and future career progression. We are also aiming to provide opportunities for careers advice and guidance sessions in the run up to the options process.

Please be advised that there are some constraints to our offer, including timetabling, staffing levels and accommodation. Whilst every attempt will be made to meet student's requests, it may be necessary to offer some students alternative choices from those that they initially request. This may occur if too few pupils opt for a subject, or if there are too many to accommodate. For this reason, we ask students to select a first and second choice for each block. In addition, if we hold some concerns about your child's subject choices or combinations, they will receive a guidance session with Mr Balkwill, Deputy Head teacher for Curriculum, where they will be able to discuss their choices and explore a range of appropriate alternatives.

Finally, we are working with the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership to develop our Key Stage Four provision and the qualifications on offer. If it is appropriate to do so, we may decide to run different courses or qualifications from the ones outlined in this booklet. Where this is the case, it will be a decision based on the most appropriate course for the students as well as the opportunities and support the trust can offer to improve the provision in certain subjects.

I urge you to read through all the information you receive with your son or daughter carefully to help inform your choices. Please do not hesitate to contact either your child's tutor, Head of Year, Mr Barker, our SENCO, Mrs Thompson, or Mr Balkwill, if you require advice on any aspect of your child's subject choices. You can do this via main reception or email optionquestions@bucklersmeadacademy.com.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Lawrence
Head Teacher



What will your timetable look like in Years 10 & 11?

Up to now students have followed a set timetable of lessons which is the same for all students in Years 7-9. From September (the start of Year 10), students will have an element of choice in which subjects they study.



Structure of your curriculum

| Core Subjects | |
|---|---------------------|
| | Hours per fortnight |
| English Language and Literature | 8 |
| Mathematics | 8 |
| Science Students will enter a minimum of 2 GCSEs in Science – This is called Trilogy Science. If a student picks Triple Science in an block they will complete a course leading to 3 GCSE grades in Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) | 8 |
| Other National Curriculum Subjects | |
| Physical Education Core | 3 |
| Personal Development | 1 |
| Religious Education | 2 |
| Option Subjects | |
| Students will choose up to 4 subjects set out by their recommended specialised route | 5 |

Types of Courses you will be able to follow

| Course | What does this mean? |
|--------------------|--|
| GCSE | <p>This stands for General Certificate in Secondary Education. Most of our courses lead to this type of qualification.</p> <p>GCSEs have changed over recent years and as a result GCSEs will now be graded on a new 9-1 scale, with 9 being the highest grade. Have a look at the diagram which explains how this is related to the former A*-G scale.</p> <p>Most GCSE courses will be based on terminal examinations that are sat at the end of Year 11 in May and June. During this period students will sit a number of examinations for each subject (usually 2-3) where they will be tested on their knowledge, understanding and skills.</p> |
| BTEC | <p>This stands for Business & Technology Education Council.</p> <p>These are vocational courses which are assessed through a combination of non examination assessments (NEA) and examinations.</p> |
| NCFE-VCerts | <p>V Certs are vocational equivalents to GCSEs. These assess pupils using project-based non-exam assessments, as well as external examinations, to give them the opportunity to achieve a qualification based on their skills as well as their knowledge.</p> |
| CNAT | <p>Cambridge Nationals courses are similar to BTECs in that they are nationally accredited courses, where students are assessed through non Examination assessments (NEA) and examination.</p> |





The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

The EBacc is a set of GCSE qualifications which together are collectively called the “English Baccalaureate”. This is not a separate qualification. To achieve the EBacc a student needs to secure, at least a GCSE grade 4 in ALL of the following 5 areas:

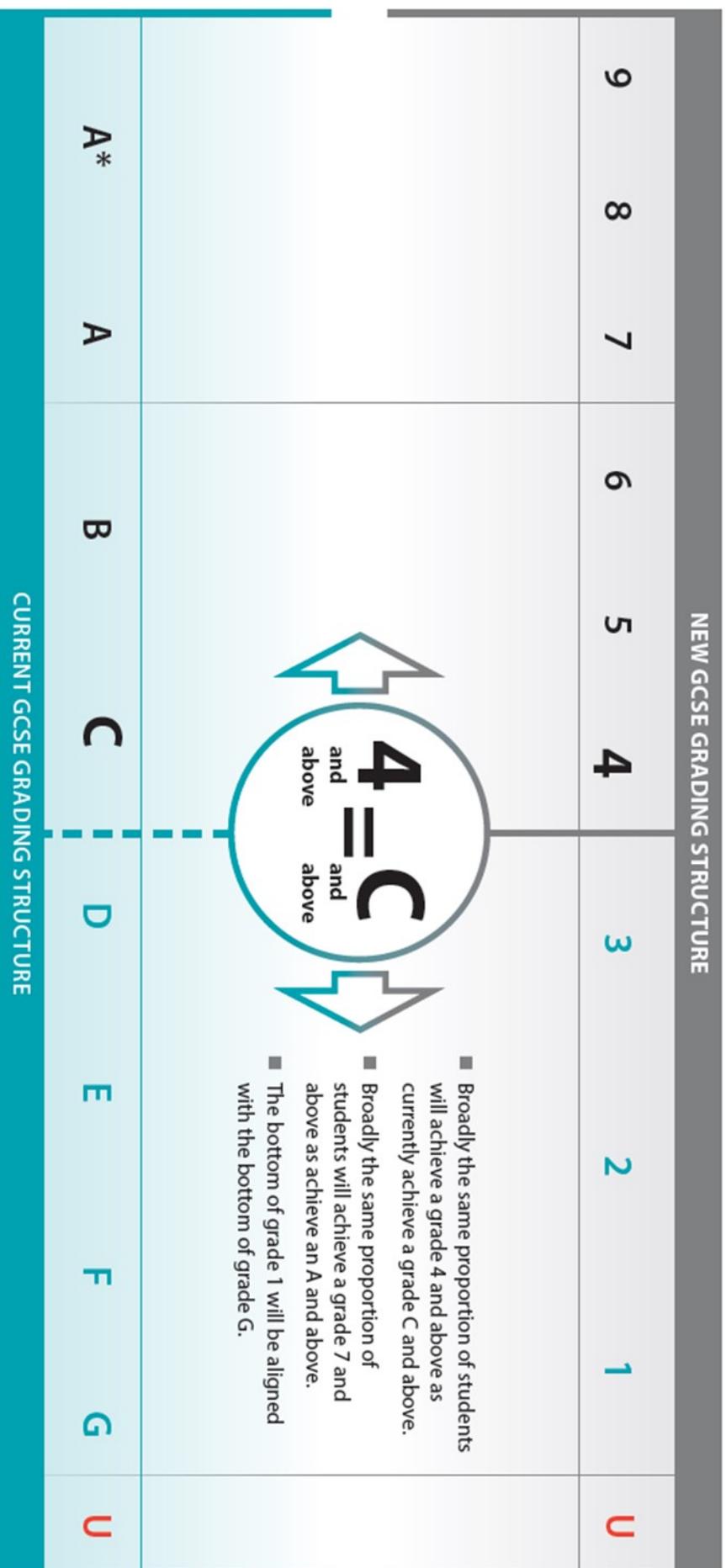
- English
- Mathematics
- Science or Computer Science
- A Humanities subject (Geography or History)
- A Foreign Language (French or German)

The EBacc has been set up for a number of reasons:

- A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.
- Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person’s performance in English and Mathematics.
- The top Universities (such as Oxford, Cambridge and the Russell Group Universities) look more favourably on applicants who have this combination of subjects when applying for certain Degree courses.
- It provides an academically rigorous blend of subjects which also develop students’ knowledge, understanding and skills across a range of subjects.
- Teaches students ‘Powerful Knowledge’ that equips them for further study beyond the academy and provides a broad knowledge and understanding of the world.

English, Mathematics and Science are compulsory subjects and the remaining two areas fall within the specialised route. Students who have been selected for Pathway One will be able to select a range of subjects which will constitute as the EBacc.

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



September 2014

Ofqual/14/5517

What do students need to do?

Students should-

- Use the information in this booklet and on the website to research their choices thoroughly.
- Ask their subject teachers about the different courses on offer.
- Ask their Form Tutor for help and advice.
- Ask other teachers for help, such as:



Head of Year
Mr Barker



Assistant Head Teacher
Mr Yeates



Assistant Head Teacher
Mr Fletcher



SENDCO
Mrs Thompson



Deputy Head Teacher
Mr Balkwill

Students will have the opportunity to-

- Attend a careers guidance and information sessions in school.
- Attend an assembly and other sessions linked to their specialised curriculum
- Attend Virtual Parents and Options Evening on Thursday 6 May 2021.

Students should consider-

- Which subjects they enjoy?
- What are they good at?
- Which courses will they need for their future career or might they want to study after leaving Buckler's Mead Academy?

Completing the Specialised Curriculum Form-

Students will be provided with an online google form to complete for their recommended specialised route. This form is divided into several sections. Students are required to pick a number of subjects giving their first and second choice.



Students cannot do the following-

- A number of subjects may sound very different, but actually use the same skills and assessed in a similar way. This means that Colleges and Further Education will see these as too similar, meaning that you don't have the breadth of subjects and qualifications. This may reduce your chances of progressing on to the course of your choices. Therefore we guide students against taking courses which are very similar.
- The courses which cannot be taken together are-
 - Art and Design and Photography
 - Art and Design and Art Textiles
 - Photography and Art Textiles
 - Computer Science and Creative Imedia
- We would also advise students against opting from two technology subjects such as-
 - Design Technology and Food Preparation

Remember that when each student makes their choices, they are stating a preference. We will try to satisfy all student choices, but if too few or too many students choose a particular subject we may be unable to run the course for interested parties.

Support

Who else can I get help from?

Buckler's Mead Academy is prepared to support and guide you in your choices, however there are some key individuals who will be able to provide more specific guidance.

- **Your Form Tutor** – wherever possible they will be with you on your journey.
- **Learning Mentor** – a non-teaching member of staff who knows you and your year group.
- **Year Coordinator** – an integral part of the your year group and the specialised curriculum process.
- **Your Individual Subject teacher** – able to talk specifically about your progress and attitude within their subject.
- **Subject Leaders** – they understand the requirements and pressures of the courses you will study.
- **Senior Leaders** – aware of the entire process and a whole academy perspective.
- **Family members** – they have experience of going through similar process, choices made and opportunities for the future.

And remember...

A good overall education is important, whatever choices you are going to make. Colleges, Sixth Forms, Apprenticeships, Universities and employers all have one thing in common – they look for young people with an all-round education, a range of skills, wide interests, positive attitude and good qualifications.

Careers Guidance

Useful Careers Advice

Consider subjects you think you will be good at and will enjoy. You may wish to explore possible related careers, however a balanced range of subjects will ensure as many options as possible are open to you. Ask yourself;

- Which subjects interest me?
- Which subjects do I like and why do I like them?
- Which are my best subjects and how do I know?
- What do my teachers say my strengths are?
- Would I prefer a course with examinations or coursework?

Few employers expect specific GCSE passes with the exception of; English, Maths and Science. Your GCSE subject choices and the grades you achieve can affect your ability to study some subjects at College or Sixth Form or an Apprenticeship. In some subjects like Sociology, Law and Economics, it may be possible to study these at A Level without having first taken them at GCSE. However, this does not apply to all subjects, for example Sciences, Languages or the Humanities.

Careers Websites

You can find information on job areas and specific careers using the 'Careers Tools' and the 'Job Profiles' on the National Careers Service website. Go to www.direct.gov.uk/NationalCareersService

To view film and video clips relating to many career areas. Go to www.careersbox.co.uk or www.icould.com

Whether you've got a career in mind or you haven't got a clue, Plotr can help you discover your future and guide you to careers you'll love. Go to www.plotr.co.uk

The Government have also recently introduced T-Levels. This is a qualifications for 16 to 19 year olds, lasting two years and worth the equivalent of 3 A Levels. <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices/t-levels>

An apprenticeship is where you are learning through hands on experience of a job and gaining a nationally recognised qualification. To find out more information and to view vacancies, register online at www.apprenticeships.org.uk

If you are considering university or completing a degree course, then research and explore entry requirements. Go to www.ucas.ac.uk



Specialised Curriculum Routes

In order to support your child to make the right choices and select subjects that are suited to their interests and capabilities, Buckler’s Mead Academy has selected one of three possible specialised routes for your child-



1. Ebacc Languages Specialised Route

You will be achieving strong grades in nearly all of your subjects. You have the ability to go to university or an equivalent qualification and need a range of academic GCSEs to support you to prepare for these . This pathway will provide you with the opportunity to study a broad range of academic subjects alongside other subjects of your choosing. You will have the opportunity to select at least one creative, practical or vocational subject too if you wish to do so. This route will give you the opportunity to achieve a range of qualifications that constitute as the English Baccalaureate.

2. Humanities Specialised Route

You will feel that you have made good progress in most of your subjects, but may feel less confident in Modern Foreign Languages. You may feel more confident studying a Humanities (Geography and History) along with a blend of other GCSEs and vocational qualifications. This route will allow you to study some of the subjects (but not all) that constitute the English Baccalaureate.

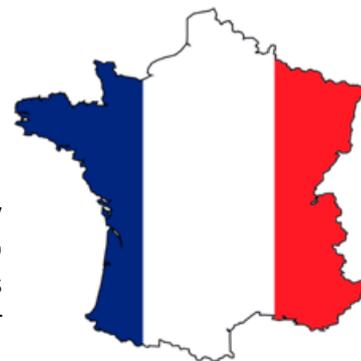
3. Alternative Specialised Curriculum Route

This is a route for students who the academy feel would benefit from alternative courses and qualifications. Students invited to this pathway will participate in a Foundation Learning programme led by the SENCo alongside other subjects. We will work with you to make sure that you choose the right blend of subjects and types of courses.



GCSE French

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way”. (Frank Smith)



How will this subject benefit me?

French is a truly global language! Over 250 million people in 53 countries on every continent speak French and knowing French will allow you not only to function but to compete effectively in the global economy of the future. Learning French develops your communication, critical and creative thinking skills. It will also increase your problem-solving skills and improve your memory, self-discipline, and self-esteem.

What will I learn?

The course will help to expand your language and communication skills in the four areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will learn the following themes and topics: -

THEME 1: Identity and Culture

Topic 1- Me, my family and friends

Topic 2-Technology in everyday life

Topic 3- Free time activities

THEME 2: Local, national, international and global areas of study

Topic 1- Home, Town, Neighbourhood and Region

Topic 2- Social issues

Topic 3- Global issues

THEME 3: Current and future study and employment

Topic 1- My studies

Topic 2- Life at school/college

Topic 3- Education Post-16

Topic 4- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the four skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing at either foundation or higher tier. During the course, you will develop your vocabulary, translation skills, grammatical knowledge and application. This will be tested and assessed at regular intervals by the teacher. The final grade awarded will be based on final exams in Year 11. Each of the four skills is worth 25% and will be examined at the end of year 11 (a separate paper for each skill). The examining board for French is AQA.

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mrs Hares, Ms Harris & Mr Pickering

What opportunities will this give me?

France and French-speaking countries are leaders in many technical fields such as transportation and aviation. The world's fastest rail train (the TGV), largest commercial jet (airbus A380), and most widely used satellite rocket launcher (Ariane) are all French-made. Careers include engineering, media, tourism, government roles, finance, diplomatic service, catering, journalism, teaching and sport. This enables you to study languages or language-related courses in higher education. Some colleges and universities also require a language GCSE qualification for acceptance onto a non-language course. It will add a skill to your CV and put you in a stronger position to work for companies with international links.

GCSE German

“If you talk to a man in a **language** he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own **language**, that goes to his heart.” (Nelson Mandela)



How will this subject benefit me?

EVERYONE SPEAKS ENGLISH! This is a common misconception. In fact, approximately 94% of the world’s population does not speak English as its first language. Learning any language is an important way of connecting and communicating with others, deepens your connection to other cultures, helps you gain perspective and enhances decision-making. It is also a useful way of boosting your confidence and self-esteem as well as opening up a range of career opportunities. So why German? German is the most widely spoken native language in Europe. German is a logical language which follows patterns and rules and it is fun!

What will I learn?

The course will help to expand your language and communication skills in the four areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will learn the following themes and topics: -

THEME 1: Identity and Culture

- Topic 1- Me, my family and friends
- Topic 2-Technology in everyday life
- Topic 3- Free time activities

THEME 2: Local, national, international and global areas of study

- Topic 1- Home, Town, Neighbourhood and Region
- Topic 2- Social issues
- Topic 3- Global issues

THEME 3: Current and future study and employment

- Topic 1- My studies
- Topic 2- Life at school/college
- Topic 3- Education Post-16
- Topic 4- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in the four skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing at either foundation or higher tier. During the course, you will develop your vocabulary, translation skills, grammatical knowledge and application. This will be tested and assessed at regular intervals by the teacher. The final grade awarded will be based on final exams in Year 11. Each of the four skills is worth 25% and will be examined at the end of Year 11 (a separate paper for each skill). The examining board for German is AQA.

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mrs Hares

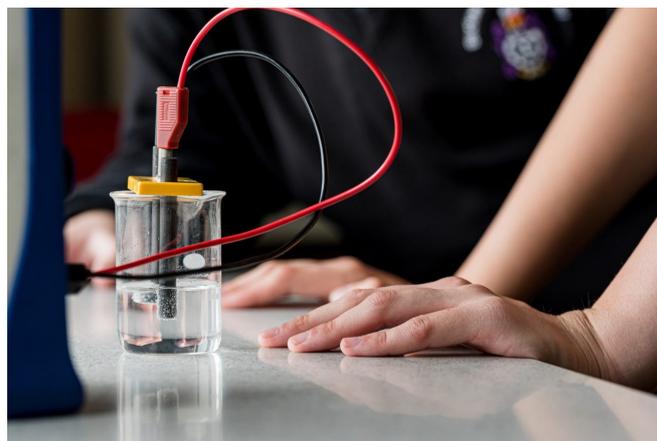
What opportunities will this give me?

Careers include engineering, media, tourism, government roles, diplomatic service, catering, journalism, translating, teaching and sport. German enables you to study languages or language-related courses in higher education. Some colleges and universities also require a language GCSE qualification for acceptance onto a non-language course. It will add a skill to your CV and put you in a stronger position to work for companies with international links.

GCSE Triple Science

How will this subject benefit me?

Triple Science will allow you to study in depth a wider range of the individual sciences giving you a greater understanding of the world around you. You will gain a separate grade in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Triple Science is excellent if you are considering studying Science at A-level or if you are interested in a career around STEM subjects.



What will I learn?

The Science Department have tailored the GCSE Science course to inspire young minds with engaging content and activities, taught in a variety of methods. Science is the study of the world around us and we aim to encourage students to consider how things work and to think like scientists to solve problems and discover answers, as well as gaining many skills in practical science, such as communication, numeracy and literacy.

In Biology, not only do we cover plant and animal biology we look at the impact of humans on the Earth. In Chemistry, we look at different practical uses of chemical analysis and understand how chemical reactions take place. Physics gives us the opportunity to look into different energy sources; we investigate the effect of forces on objects and look into the exciting world of nuclear radiation as well as space physics.

How will I be assessed?

Triple Science students are awarded three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each of these 3 GCSEs are divided into equal sections and assessed in separate written examinations. All exams are taken at the end of year 11. You will sit 6 papers which are 1 hour and 45 minutes each.

Who will be able to tell me more?

Your science teacher will be able answer most questions you may have, or feel free to ask Miss Parsons, she will be delighted to help you out.

What opportunities will this give me?

Achieving a grade for each of the sciences will allow you to go on and study a wide range of courses post 16. It will support and prepare you for studying Science A-levels, giving you a more in depth understanding of each of the science disciplines. If A-Levels are not for you, then with your developed skills you will also be prepared to complete vocational courses.



GCSE Geography

How will this subject benefit me?

Geography is a broad based academic subject. The subject will provide you with knowledge and understanding of our ever-changing world. These can be applied to whole range of jobs, and experiences and enable you to become a responsible citizen of the world.



What will I learn?

Geography is all around us. At Buckler's Mead we make it real for students with refreshing ways of looking at the world. Students will follow the **AQA 8035 GCSE Geography course**. Throughout the GCSE course students have the opportunity to consider a variety of geographical issues and, in doing so, become knowledgeable and critical geographers. There is a strong emphasis on the understanding of physical processes in the environment, as well as the management and mismanagement of resources by people.

Course Structure:

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment

In this section, lessons will focus on the challenge of natural hazards (volcanoes, earthquakes and tropical storms), weather and climate change, followed by physical landscapes of the UK (coasts and rivers). Then the final section will focus on the living world, which includes ecosystems such as rainforests and hot deserts.

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

In this section, it covers urban issues and challenges (population, migration as well as social/ economic/ environmental opportunities and challenges in both Bristol and Rio de Janeiro). The next chapter focuses on the changing economic world and global development (with a focus on the UK and Nigeria). The final part is on resource management, which looks at the supply and demand of food, water and energy in the UK, then the students finish off the section focusing on globally supply and demand of food.

Unit 3: Geographical applications and skills

This unit is split in two.

Fieldwork: Students will undertake two fieldwork enquiries.

Geographical Skills- this part is where students will be assessed on a range of geographical skills, including cartographic, graphical, numerical and statistical skills. They will receive pre-released material 12 weeks prior to the examination, which will be studied in lesson time. This will be based on a topic they have Studied. In Unit 1 or 2. Then in the Paper 3 examination, they will receive a new copy of the same information.

GCSE Geography continued

How will I be assessed?

All content will be examined at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1- Living with the Physical Environment

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and Specialist terminology (SPaG))

35% of GCSE

Paper 2- Challenges in the Human Environment

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))

35% of GCSE

Paper 3- Geographical applications and skills

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes

76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)

30% of GCSE

Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before Paper 3 exam.

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mrs Lewis, Mr Hawkins, Mrs Thompson & Mr Lawrence.

What opportunities will this give me?

Geography is a superb course to lead you to any career providing students with the knowledge and understanding of what is happening in today's every changing world, as well as key communicational skills.

Geographers are good communicators, problem solvers, good team players, and are well-rounded, flexible thinkers. Geographers handle data, ask questions and find answers, make decisions, analyse, solve problems and think independently. Geography is one of the broadest subject areas with one of the highest employability rates post 18. This has led to geographers being valued in the workplace.

Students who have followed a course in GCSE Geography may progress to AS and A Geography, other A level subjects and advanced vocational courses. They could then go on to do a degree at University. There are also jobs in leisure services, sports and recreation, surveying, town planning, transport, ICT, GIS (Geographical Information Systems), teaching, tourism and many more.



GCSE History

How will this subject benefit me?

Studying History enables us to develop better understanding of the world in which we live. Building knowledge and understanding of historical events and trends, especially over the past century, enables us to develop a much greater appreciation for current events today.



What will I learn?

History is rich in excitement, adventure and relevant. It is taught with passion at Buckler's Mead.

Four areas of study make up 25% each for the full GCSE. As History is heavily based around literacy, students will be expected to do a fair amount of reading and writing. Students will also be expected to read widely around the subject and prepare fully prior to lessons.



How will I be assessed?

We study the AQA GCSE History course

25% - America, 1920-1973, Opportunity and Inequality

25% - Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950-1975

25% - Britain: Health and the people, *c1000 to the present day*

25% - Norman England, 1066-1100

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mr Bailey & Mr Coulter

What opportunities will this give me?

Students learn how to express their views and opinions (both oral and written) in a clear manner, to put forward well-researched ideas and arguments in a concise manner, to investigate and assess a variety of materials and to organise such material in a logical and coherent way.

Workers in the legal profession often value history students for their highly prized critical and reasoning skills, many politicians (including the former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown) studied history whilst at school. As well as this, employers in publishing, journalism and the media value the study of history with the subject's emphasis on written expression and research of issues. There will always be opportunities for those who can apply the lessons of the past to the problems of the present.



GCSE Art, Craft & Design

How will this subject benefit me?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, Art and Design is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. The discipline of independent study and thought is an extremely useful one to acquire. Art is a subject that can give the student confidence and a real sense of achievement.



What will I learn?

GCSE Art, Craft & Design is a practical course that enables you to explore a wide variety of approaches and experiences including painting, printing, drawing, mixed media, photography, three dimensional work and artist / designer research both historical and contemporary.

Art can also enhance fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage.

How will I be assessed?

Coursework Unit = 60%, Exam Unit = 40%

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mrs Mead , Miss Lewis & Ms Sims

What opportunities will this give me?

An Art course is a great way to open the door to careers in the creative industries. Typical art careers: fine artist, graffiti artist, illustrator, arts administrator, gallery curator, printmaker, teacher, filmmaker, fashion designer, graphic design, architect, animator, surface pattern design, interior designer, web designer, app designer and it will give you a set of transferrable skills that you will take with you for the rest of your life.

FURTHER EDUCATION

AS & A level any art or design courses, BTEC Art or design courses & Art Foundation, Degree level courses in art or design.





GCSE Photography

How will this subject benefit me?

Photography is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating ideas. It inspires creative thinkers. Photography means 'drawing with light' and that is what photographers do when they take a picture. Photography is a great companion to all other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving skills can give you great ideas for your other subjects.

What will I learn?

A practical course enabling you to explore and experience a wide variety of approaches to photography, ICT and image creation. You will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of lens-based and light-based media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. You will enjoy developing your understanding of the visual world, learning practical skills and responding to ideas and issues in ways that are personal to you.

How will I be assessed?

Coursework Unit = 60%, Exam Unit = 40%

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mrs Mead, Miss Lewis & Ms Sims

What opportunities will this give me?

A Photography course is a great way to open the door to careers in the creative industries. Typical careers include: photographer, freelance, photo journalism, advertising, fashion photographer, web designer, forensics photographer, photo editor, fine artist, gallery curator, teacher, filmmaker and it will give you a set of transferrable skills that you will take with you for the rest of your life!

Further education

AS & A level Photography, BTEC & Art Foundation, Degree level courses to pursue a career in a vast range of photography / art based jobs.



GCSE Art and Design:

Textile Design

How will this subject benefit me?

This course seeks to engage and inspire pupils to consider colour, form and texture. It allows pupils to express themselves creatively and to take creative risk in a safe environment, which can contribute towards positive wellbeing. There are no limits within this GCSE - no right or wrong - instead pupils are assessed on their personal journey and their ability to demonstrate this.



What will I learn?

Within this GCSE pupils will be supported and encouraged to experiment with mixed media resources and techniques including, but not limited to, drawing, watercolors, acrylic paint, dye, batik, embroidery, screen printing, lino printing, photography, photoshop, laser cutting, sublimation printing, machine stitching, applique, silk painting, experimental textiles and fabric manipulation.



Pupils will use their own creativity along with their explorations of their own work and the work of others to create personal responses to given themes, such as 'Natural Forms', 'Water', 'Sense of Place', 'Circles'. At Buckler's Mead Academy, the department is well resourced for pupils to create outcomes which reflect personal responses with a bias towards digital textiles and printed fabrics. However, there are many other opportunities for pupils to explore and experience other areas of textiles including stitched textiles, dyed fabrics, constructed textiles and soft furnishings.

How will I be assessed?

There are two components which are assessed and will determine your final GCSE grade.

Component 1 : Personal Portfolio. This is worth 60% of your overall GCSE and will comprise of at least one sustained project and a collection of other evidence created during Year 10 and Year 11. The work within this portfolio will be carefully selected to showcase your creativity.

Component 2: Externally set assignment. This is worth 40% of your total marks. This second component is your response to a prompt set by the exam board, which is released on the 1st January when you are in year 11. You will spend the last few months completing this personal project, which will culminate in a practical exam in which you create a final outcome.

Who will be able to tell me more?

For further information speak to Ms Vickery

What opportunities will this give me?

This qualification is well placed for those who wish to pursue art and design or design and technology at A-Level or beyond. However, it will give many broader opportunities and can support those applying for Graphic Design and Performing Arts also, as it will help you to develop original ideas which can be taken into these areas, for example within website design, set design and costume design. It can also help those looking to pursue a career within business, marketing and enterprise as it will show an employer you are creative and imaginative and able to develop these ideas. On a personal note this course will give you the opportunity to build your cultural knowledge and passion for design and the arts.

GCSE Computer Science

Students who may consider this choice should be achieving strong grades in Mathematics and Computing. This is a challenging course and may not be appropriate for all students.



How will this subject benefit me?

Over the last 12 months, many businesses have moved their operations online and with this has come an increasing need for workers who have a good understanding of how websites, apps and other online content works and is created. Being able to write and understand computer programs is becoming essential and the demand for these skills will only increase in the next few years.

What will I learn?

High quality computing skills and an understanding of ICT systems are increasingly in demand in the modern workplace. As digital technology has continued to develop, the ability to appreciate how computers work along with their potential and limitations are becoming essential life skills.

The GCSE Computer Science course takes a hands on approach to equipping young people with these abilities. It allows them to gain the in depth understanding of the digital world necessary for working life in the 21st century.



How will I be assessed?

The course follows the OCR GCSE Computer Science specification (J277) and is assessed by two one and a half hour exams at the end of Year 11. Paper one, 'Computer Systems', involves students learning about the working of ICT systems and networks. It has been written to provide students with a range of important life skills. Paper two, 'Programming', seeks to prepare students for further study in the subject as well as allowing them to develop competencies that will make them an asset in the workplace such as website and app development. Pupils also can showcase their coding skills with a range of computer programming activities over the two year course.

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mr Wagland & Mr Smith

What opportunities will this give me?

The course provides students with a range of abilities that will prepare them for the 21st century workplace. Further study options at KS5 include A-Level and BTEC courses in Computing and ICT. Workers in Computer Science and programming are in increasing demand and the sector attracts above average salaries. Outside of the tech industry, digital skills are becoming necessary in a wide range of sectors such as media, medicine and business. A key aspect of Computer Science is the development of 'computational thinking'. Computational thinking allows students to look at different ways of problem solving and is directly transferable to other academic subjects. This means that by studying computer science, students are equipped with skills that could allow them to succeed in other subjects too.

Cambridge National Creative iMedia

How will this subject benefit me?

Every walk of life is now supported by media activity in numerous forms. The average UK adult consumes seven hours of media per day: watching and listening to programmes, web browsing and using communication devices. This, in turn, is creating a climate where the industry constantly has to produce more content for the consumer. As a result, the creative sector has grown at twice the rate of any other in the UK economy

What will I learn?

You will start at pre-production; learning about the importance of purpose, properties and design and layout of different graphical products. You will develop your skills through practical assignments as you create final multimedia products, such as how to use Photoshop to create a film poster or vinyl album cover.

Pre-production skills: you will learn pre-production skills used in the creative and digital media sector. It will develop your understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process.

Creating digital graphics: you will learn the digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector. You will learn where and why digital graphics are used and what techniques are involved in their creation.

How will I be assessed?

This is a vocational course, most of the work that you complete during the lessons will be **assessed by your teacher**. You will produce a variety of work including written reports and presentations. The unit **Pre-production skills** is externally assessed. This is an **exam lasting 1 hour 15 minutes**. In this exam, you will use knowledge and skills developed throughout the course to answer questions which focus on preparation techniques for digital media products.

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mr Smith & Mr Wagland

What opportunities will this give me?

The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia equips students with the wide range of knowledge and skills needed to work in the creative digital media sector. The skills that you will develop whilst learning Creative iMedia are complementary to the skills that are required to be successful in many jobs. Various roles require effective communication using digital technology. You could pursue careers in banking, marketing, interior design, special effects, or consultancy. This Creative iMedia supports a pathway to many courses at Key Stage 5 through BTEC Nationals including Creative Digital Media Products.



Music

How will this course benefit me?

In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (*World Economic Forum*.) When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

What skills will I gain?

Your practical skills of composing music and performing will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience. Studying music will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. You will gain a deep understanding of a number of transferable skills and practice applying these to new situations, developing analytical and problem solving skills. Through studying music, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.



What will I do?

Typical classroom activities will be:

1. Performing (playing music) on your own and in a group. This could be in any style, on any instrument or voice, including DJ skills, rapping, singing, band and orchestral instruments.
2. Exploring how great pieces of music were put together, then when you have learnt some of the techniques, composing your own music. This could involve using GarageBand, writing for a specific purpose, writing songs etc.
3. Listening to a variety of music and learning how to identify the facts about what you hear. You will already have heard about the elements of music in your Key Stage 3 lessons. At GCSE you focus on how these are used for different purposes.



Music continued

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Music (Eduqas)

1. Performing (30%) - teacher assessed
2. Composing (30%) - teacher assessed
3. Appraising (40%) - 1 external exam

What opportunities will this give?

These courses will enable students to develop as musicians.

By choosing GCSE music, it will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities are looking for. It will also allow you to access further higher musical education.



NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Sport (Sport, Exercise and Fitness)

How will this subject benefit me?

It will give learners the introductory skills to either start a career in sport or progress within employment in the sector. This qualification can also prepare learners for higher or further education and gives a good introduction to the sport vocation.



What will I learn?

There are 4 units in total to complete across the 2 year course. There are 3 compulsory units that are detailed below and there is 1 optional unit which is to be confirmed.

Participating in sport

This unit enables learners to develop their practical skills in sport through organising and participating in sports activities. Learners will work with others to plan a sports activity, participate in a sports activity and evaluate their own performance and the performance of others following the activity. The unit is underpinned by learners gaining the required knowledge and understanding of sport rules and regulations.

Anatomy and physiology for exercise

This unit will provide learners with an understanding of anatomy and physiology in the context of exercise. Learners will develop their knowledge of the structure and function of the body and how exercise impacts it. A range of learning outcomes cover the skeletal, muscular, respiratory, cardiovascular, nervous and energy systems.

Introduction to healthy exercise and nutrition

This unit provides learners with an introduction to exercise and nutrition. Learners will explore the effects of exercise in the body, the components of fitness and different types of training and how specific populations (such as people aged 50+) should adhere to key safety guidelines. In addition learners will consider the impact and importance of good nutrition and the health benefits related to this.



How will I be assessed?

The qualification is assessed through the process of measuring a learner's skill, knowledge and understanding against the standards set in a qualification. The Level 2 Certificate and Diploma in Sport are internally assessed. The assessment consists of one examined component and an internally assessed portfolio of evidence which is assessed by centre staff and externally quality assured by NCFE.

Internal assessment

Each learner is required to create a portfolio of evidence which demonstrates achievement of 100% of the learning outcomes and assessment criteria associated with each unit. On completion of each unit learners must declare that the work produced is their own.

The main pieces of evidence for the portfolio could include (in no particular order):

- Learner's proof of work
- Assessor observation – completed observational checklists and related action plans
- Witness testimony
- Worksheets
- Assignments/projects/reports
- Record of professional discussion
- Record of oral and written questioning
- Learner and peer reports
- Recognition of Prior Learning

Who will be able to tell me more?

If you have any questions or queries please see Mrs Morrison, Head of PE.

What opportunities will this give me?

Learners who achieve these qualifications could progress to:

- Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Exercise and Fitness
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Activity Leadership
- Level 3 Certificate, Diploma or Extended Diploma in Sport
- Level 3 Award in Nutrition for Physical Activity





Food Preparation and Nutrition

How will this subject benefit me?

You will study a variety of factors which can influence food choice including: diet and health, food provenance (where food comes from), food science and food safety. You will develop skills in researching, testing, practical skill, analysing and evaluating in order to produce suitable products for a specific need. You will also learn practical life skills they can use throughout their life in order to follow a balanced diet.

What will I learn?

Please be advised that we are exploring a number of possible courses linked to Food Technology. The two courses below are the most likely qualifications we will offer. We will only be running one of these.

WJEC Eduqas GCSE 9-1

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages you to cook, enables you to make informed decisions about food and nutrition .

How will I be assessed?

Within the subject of Food Preparation and Nutrition there are two main components:

Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of the qualification 100 marks

Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action

Non-examination assessment

50% of the qualification 100 marks

The non-exam assessment is composed of TWO pieces of coursework that are carried out in Year 11.

Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment - **15%** of total qualification

A scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment - **35%** of total qualification

Prepare, cook and present a selection of dishes, to meet particular requirements such as a dietary need, lifestyle choice or specific context. This assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

NCFE Food and Cookery Level 1/2

This qualification shows learners how to:

- Understand the safe and hygienic practices for themselves and the cooking environment
- Understand the main food groups and the key nutrients required for a healthy diet
- Make food recommendations for specific needs/age groups
- Plan and produce dishes in response to a brief
- Create a recipe

Learners will develop skills and knowledge in:

- adapting their own ideas and responding to feedback
- evaluating their own work
- analysing data and making decisions that are essential for the food and cookery sector, such as evaluation skills; working to deadlines; efficient use of resources.

To achieve the NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery, learners must successfully demonstrate their achievement across the assessment objectives of the units. Learners must achieve a minimum of a Level 1 Pass in the internal and external assessment to achieve the overall qualification.

How will I be assessed?

40% Weighting Externally assessed: written examination (externally marked)

60% Weighting Internally assessed: synoptic project (Non Examination Assessment)

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mrs Hansen, Teacher of Food Preparation and Nutrition.

What opportunities will this give me?

The course is an excellent foundation for A Level Food Studies or any vocational course involving catering, food preparation and hospitality. Jobs include: Teacher of food, Dietitian, Nutritionist, Chef, Food Production and Development, Food Buyer, Food Journalist etc. There are so many exciting and interesting careers in Food.



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Design and Technology

How will this subject benefit me?

Design and Technology is a subject that brings learning to life and encourage pupils to solve real-life problems by drawing upon (and thus strengthening) pupils knowledge of other subject areas including Mathematics, Science, Art & Design, Business Studies, Computing, History and Geography. We live in an increasingly technological world and this course will prepare pupils to participate confidently and successfully in our society. The specification seeks to generate empathetic learners who have the ability to confidently



critique products, situations and society in every walk of their lives now and in the future. It is designed to encourage a human centered approach to life and to equip pupils with the powerful process of design thinking. Pupils will utilise a number of transferable skills, such as communication, time management and organisation which will serve them well in their future lives.

How will I be assessed?

Please be advised that we are exploring a number of possible courses linked to Design Technology. The two courses below are the most likely qualifications we will offer. We will only be running one of these.

GCSE Design Technology 9-1

This qualification introduces pupils to the practices and strategies used by the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. To encapsulate the essence of this dynamic and evolving subject, learners will cover contemporary topics, such as ethics, sustainability and computer aided design. Pupils will also learn a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment and will have the opportunity to use our CAD/CAM suite which consists of a 3D Printer, Laser Cutter and Sublimation Printer.

How will I be assessed?

This is a two year linear qualification which means that you will submit your non-exam assessment and sit a written exam at the end of the course.

| Non-Examined Assessment (Coursework) | Written Exam |
|---|--|
| <p>This is worth 50% of your final GCSE grade. This assessment is an iterative design challenge which is a sustained personal project of approx 40hours, designed to assess your ability to 'explore', 'create' and 'evaluate'.</p> <p>The contexts for the challenge are currently released each year in June, when you are in year 10. You will then spend the first half of year 11 completing this project, which will culminate in a design portfolio and prototype of a product which you have designed in response to the contextual challenge set by the exam board. Contextual challenges are generally broad and open to interpretation, thus encouraging pupils to be innovative and experimental in their design. Previous contextual challenges have included: 'Educational Play', 'Multi-Purpose Spaces', 'Sustainable Living', 'Smarter Living' and 'Social Interac-</p> | <p>This is worth 50% of your final GCSE grade. This assessment is a written exam which is two hours in duration and designed to assess your technical knowledge as well as designing and making principles.</p> <p>Within this exam pupils may be expected to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical skills • In-depth technical knowledge of working with materials, ensuring functionality of products or systems and manufacturing processes and techniques. • Applied mathematical skills |

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Creative Design and Production

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Creative Design and Production is designed for learners who want an introduction to design and production that includes a vocational and project-based element, approached from a creative perspective with regular opportunities to experiment and create. T

This qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the design and production sector or progress to further study. The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Creative Design and Production complements GCSE qualifications. The qualification is graded at level 1 pass, merit, distinction and level 2 pass, merit, distinction and distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5 to 1).

Assessment breakdown

1 hour 30 minutes exam assessment weighting (40%)

16 hours non-exam assessment NEA weighting (60%). This is externally-set, internally marked by your teacher and externally moderated by NCFE.

Overall qualification grades: L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D*

Who will be able to tell me more?

For further information please speak to or contact Ms Vickery, Mrs Hansen, Ms Browning or Mr Symes,

What opportunities will this give me?

These courses is an excellent foundation for Apprenticeships, A Level design and technology, product design (3D), product design (textiles), systems and control technology, sales and advertising, arts crafts and design, broadcast media and performing arts, journalism and publishing, construction, as well as engineering and manufacturing.

https://www.yeovil.ac.uk/our-courses/?courses=Product+design&type_course=0

<https://www.ucas.com/job-subjects/design-technology>



NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise



How will this subject benefit me?

Business and Enterprise is designed for learners who want an introduction to business and enterprise that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the business and enterprise sector or progress onto further study.

What will I learn?

This qualification consists of one unit with multiple content areas-

- 1: Entrepreneurship, business organisation and stakeholders
- 2: Market research, market types and orientation and marketing mix
- 3: Human resource requirements for business and enterprise
- 4: Operations management
- 5: Business growth
- 6: Sources of enterprise funding and business finance
- 7: The impact of the external environment on business and enterprise
- 8: Business and enterprise planning

How will I be assessed?

1 hour 30 minutes examined assessment Weighting (40%)

21 hours non-exam assessment (NEA). Weighting (60%). This is externally-set, internally marked by your teacher and externally moderated by NCFE.

Qualification grades: L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D*- These are the equivalent to GCSE grades

Who will be able to tell me more?

For further information please come and speak to Mr Wagland

What opportunities will this give me?

Technical certificate qualifications provide post-16 learners with the knowledge and skills they need for skilled employment or for further technical study. Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Business and Enterprise
- Level 3 Technical Level in Management and Administration (this will support progression to higher education)
- A Level in Business (this will support progression to higher education)

Learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the business sector or through a variety of occupations that are available within the sector, such as in marketing, business administration and human resources.

Other Possible Courses

We are currently working with the Midsommer Norton Schools Partnership to develop our Key Stage Four provision. The courses below may be available subject to staffing, student interest and capacity to deliver the subjects. If you are interested in any of the courses below, we ask that you make sure that an expression of interest is made when completing the options form. Instructions will be available to explain how to do this.

NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years is designed for learners who want an introduction to child development and care that includes a vocational and projectbased element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the early years sector or progress onto further study. It is aimed at 14 to 16 year olds studying key stage 4 (KS4) curriculum who are interested in the early years sector.

What will I study?

Child development

Factors that influence the child's development

Care routines, play and activities to support the child

Early years provision

Policies and procedures in the early years Content area

Expectations of the early years practitioner

Roles and responsibilities within early years settings

The importance of observations in early years childcare

Planning in early years childcare

How will I be assessed?

1 hour 30 minutes examined assessment . Weighting 50%

14 hours non-exam assessment . Weighting 50%. Externally set and marked by NCFE

Who will be able to tell me more?

Mr Balkwill

What opportunities will this give me?

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 Applied Generals in Early Years, Childcare and Education o Health and Social Care
- Level 3 Technical Level qualifications, including T Level programmes, allow for entry to the workforce and higher education: opportunities.
- Progress onto an apprenticeship.



GCSE AQA Sociology

How will this subject benefit me?

GCSE Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.



Students will develop their analytical and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and make deductions
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world.

What will I study?

Students study key ideas of classical sociologists including Durkheim, Marx and Weber, referencing their view of the world and their contribution to the development of the discipline.

Students will also learn how to apply various research methods to different sociological contexts. They will be introduced to sociological terms and concepts concerned with social structures, social processes and social issues. Areas of study will include-

1. The sociological approach
2. Social structures, social processes and social issues
3. Families
4. Education
5. Crime and deviance
6. Social stratification
7. Sociological research methods

How will I be assessed?

2 x 1 hour and 45 minutes exams

What opportunities will this give me?

Sociology GCSE can lead students onto appropriate Level courses such as A-Levels and T Levels. Students can also continue studies of sociology at A Level. Industries linked to sociology qualifications are as follow: Local government, scientific services, state government, consulting and social advocacy.