

2019

Options Book



Year 8

2019

Year 9 Options

In year 9 all students study:

- GCSE English
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Core and Additional Science **OR** GCSE Triple Science for S1 and T1
- OCR National Sports Science
- Compulsory Physical Education, Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education
- Plus 5 option choices

The option choices include at least two from the following EBacc subjects:

- Computing
- French
- Geography
- History
- Spanish

And a further three options from:

- Art and Design – Fine Art
- Business Studies
- Dance
- Drama
- BTEC Digital Information
- BTEC Music
- Photography
- Performing Arts
- OCR National Sports Studies
- BTEC Travel and Tourism

Next Year

In year 10 you will then select three out of the five year 9 options to carry forward to exams in year 11.

The order you choose your options matters.

- Options may not run if not enough students pick them;
- If options are oversubscribed, then the position of the option on your list will determine if you are allocated a space.

The English Baccalaureate:

These are the core academic subjects that make up the EBacc and are most regularly asked for by college and university courses. This is worth bearing in mind when you are deciding which GCSEs to take. You do not need to have studied all of these to go to university but having your GCSE mix steered towards EBacc subjects will help keep your future options open. If this is something you are interested in, then you will need to study both Geography or History and French or Spanish.

Options online: Registration will be possible from as of the Year 8 Parents' and Option evening on Thursday 28th February. Guidance on how to register will be available at this event.

Options Deadline: Options choices should be made by Friday 15th March 2019.

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The English Bacculaureate Subjects



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COMPUTING

PLEASE CONSULT: Mrs Clarke/ Mr Gibson

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: OCR GCSE Computing

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

GRADE RANGE: 1 - 9

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: EXAMINATION: 2 x Exams (worth 50% each)

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: 2018 – 67% 2017 – 37% 2016 – 23%, 2015 - 21%.

Course Description:

We all use computers every day but how well do we understand how they work? This course will give you a deeper understanding of what goes on 'behind the screen' and will prepare you for further study or employment in the hardware or software industries.

Assessment for this course will comprise two exams in year 11. They are both of equal weighting, in the first exam pupils' will be assessed on their knowledge of how computers work and will cover topics such as systems architecture, networking, software and ethical/legal implications of using computers.

Topics for Study:

- Programming (Python);
- Computational Thinking;
- Logic;
- Data representation;
- Systems Architecture;
- Networking;
- Software.

Homework:

Pupils will be set either weekly exam preparation homework or half termly programming projects throughout the course.

Resources and equipment needed:

Although access to a computer/laptop at home would be helpful they are not essential as these can be accessed before and after school in the ICT suites.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Students who succeed in this subject will be well placed to participate and succeed in any ICT/Computing based course at college. Skills will be useful for careers in programming, ICT, web development, game development, engineering, business/finance, science and medicine.

MODERN LANGUAGE: FRENCH

PLEASE CONSULT: Mr. Currier

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: EDEXCEL Modern Languages – French.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

GRADE RANGE: 1 - 9

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: EXAMINATION: Listening 25%, Reading 25%, Speaking 25%, Writing 25%.

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: French: 2018 – 50% 2017 – No entries 2016 – 68%, 2015 – 66%.

Course Description:

Over the course of French GCSE, pupils will develop an understanding of French in a variety of contexts and will be able to communicate in French by listening, reading, writing and speaking the foreign language. Skills such as spontaneous speaking and writing, and also translation, will help students to gain in self-confidence.

Students will have opportunities to gain awareness of countries where the language is spoken including, but not limited to, France and there is always the possibility of visiting France on a residential trip.

Examinations will take place in the summer term of Year 11 and includes an exam in each element.

Subject to appropriate behaviour and attitude in lessons, students will be offered the opportunity to join a residential trip to France during the course of their GCSE.

Topics for Study:

There are five themes which we delve in to over the GCSE course.

- **Identity and Culture:** – Looking at who I am, relationships, technology and free time activities.
- **Local area, Holiday and Travel:** - Looking at towns and cities, foreign destinations, weather and shopping.
- **School:** - Looking at subjects, rules and pressures, success and exchanges.
- **Future aspirations, Study and Work:** - Jobs, careers and employment.
- **International and Global dimension:** - Music events, campaigns and being 'green'.

Homework:

Students will be set a homework tasks weekly. This can also be completed after school using homework club. Students will be expected to invest extra time throughout the year, in order to revise (and perfect) skills required for examination success.

Resources and equipment needed:

In addition to the standard equipment required, pupils will need a bilingual dictionary – preferably containing a grammar section with verb tables.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Contrary to popular belief, languages do not limit students to careers in translating, interpreting, education or tourism industries. There are many sectors where the ability to speak a language is highly regarded, for example: in finance where banks, insurance companies and accountancy firms operate internationally; food and drink including sourcing products from around the world and negotiating with suppliers; law where many of the commercial firms in London have offices in other European capitals; sales and marketing: British companies need to export their products and international companies and organisations need people to speak foreign languages.

GEOGRAPHY

PLEASE CONSULT: Mr Royle

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: Geography AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

GRADE RANGE: 1 - 9

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: **EXAMINATION:** 100%

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: 2018- 43%, 2017 – 47%, 2016 – 25%, 2015- 52%, 2014 - 35%,

Course Description:

Studying Geography at GCSE level provides students with excellent transferrable skills and deepens their knowledge of environmental, social and political issues. The course is growing in popularity and has been updated to reflect current events around the world.

Geography has solid links to other curriculum areas and students will find this GCSE complements their work in subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science. In Year 9 students will begin work at GCSE level that will contribute to the start of the full course in Year 10.

The GCSE course develops student understanding of tectonics, coastal processes, climate change, population dynamics, globalisation, settlements and urban change. Lessons are designed to enhance the students' understanding of issues and their knowledge of places in a local, national and global context. Students will be given the opportunity to further develop map reading skills, utilise ICT to present data, analyse photographs and video footage, develop balanced arguments, produce extended writing and visual materials such as mind maps and annotated diagrams.

Topics for Study:

- **Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment** – this covers landscapes of the UK, Natural Hazards and The Living World;
- **Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment** – urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, The challenge of resource management
- **Unit 3: Geographical Applications** – this paper is in two sections. Section A requires the use of geographical skills and synoptic assessment of visual materials. Section B assesses fieldwork skills relating to pupils' own experience and unfamiliar contexts.

Homework:

Homework will be set on a regular basis to extend and support the work pupils complete in lessons.

Resources and equipment needed:

There will be a compulsory fieldtrip during the summer term of Year 10 where pupils will collect data that will be used for the Unit 3 examination.

In addition to the standard equipment required, students will benefit from following the news and current affairs, as well as the internet for research. Also useful are word processing and presentation software.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Geography remains a widely respected and understood qualification with higher education providers and employers. Further courses can be taken at AS, A and degree level. Most jobs will use some aspect of Geography, but it has specific application in planning, surveying, military, hydrology, civil engineering, tourism, aid work, meteorology and the environmental fields to name a few.

HISTORY

PLEASE CONSULT: Ms S Rich or your History teacher.

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: History (AQA SHP A)

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

GRADE RANGE: 1 - 9

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: **EXAMINATION:** 100%

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: 2018 - 55% 2017 - 59% 2016 - 47% 2015 - 59%

Course Description:

History is a highly regarded GCSE course and has been one of the most popular GCSEs over the last few years. The knowledge, understanding and skills that will be developed are important everyday skills and will help in many future careers. These skills include: the evaluation of evidence, a consideration of the historical aspects of present day situations, empathy for other people and the understanding of situations different from our own.

Students will undertake one term of Foundation History before starting the full GCSE in the Spring term.

Topics for Study:

Term 1 Year 9: Foundation History

- Jack the Ripper investigation;
- Black Peoples of America;
- America and the Vietnam War;

Term 2-3 Year 9 GCSE topic

- Britain and the Health of the People (Medicine)

GCSE topics studied in Years 10-11:

1) Conflict and Tension: WWI, 2) Elizabethan England 1568-1603. 3) American West or Germany 1890-1945

Homework:

A three week task set in the Autumn plus short homework set by individual teachers as necessary. From spring exam and revision based activities will be set regularly.

Resources and equipment needed:

In addition to the standard equipment required, students will find highlighters useful. In Year 10 it is recommended that students buy a revision guide.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

History is one of the most versatile options and can lead students into a career within a variety of different fields, including: tourist guide, civil servant, law, archivist, administration, museum guide, librarian, teaching or lecturing, social worker, local government officer, banking and insurance, researcher, politics and nursing and medicine.

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MODERN LANGUAGE: SPANISH

PLEASE CONSULT: Mr. Currier

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: EDEXCEL Modern Languages – Spanish.

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

GRADE RANGE: 1 - 9

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION: Listening 25%, Reading 25%, Speaking 25%, Writing 25%.

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: Spanish: 2018 – 48% 2017 – 42% 2016 – 16%.

Course Description:

Over the course of Spanish GCSE, pupils will develop an understanding of Spanish in a variety of contexts and will be able to communicate in Spanish by listening, reading, writing and speaking the foreign language. Skills such as spontaneous speaking and writing, and also translation, will help students to gain in self-confidence.

Students will have opportunities to gain awareness of countries where the language is spoken including, but not limited to, Spain and there is always the possibility of visiting Spain on a residential trip.

Examinations will take place in the summer term of Year 11 and includes an exam in each element.

Subject to appropriate behaviour and attitude in lessons, students will be offered the opportunity to join a residential trip to Spain during the course of their GCSE.

Topics for Study:

There are five themes which we delve in to over the GCSE course.

- **Identity and Culture:** – Looking at who I am, relationships, technology and free time activities.
- **Local area, Holiday and Travel:** - Looking at towns and cities, foreign destinations, weather and shopping.
- **School:** - Looking at subjects, rules and pressures, success and exchanges.
- **Future aspirations, Study and Work:** - Jobs, careers and employment.
- **International and Global dimension:** - Music events, campaigns and being 'green'.

Homework:

Students will be set a homework tasks weekly. This can also be completed after school using homework club. Students will be expected to invest extra time throughout the year, in order to revise (and perfect) skills required for examination success.

Resources and equipment needed:

In addition to the standard equipment required, pupils will need a bilingual dictionary – preferably containing a grammar section with verb tables.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Contrary to popular belief, languages do not limit students to careers in translating, interpreting, education or tourism industries. There are many sectors where the ability to speak a language is highly regarded, for example: in finance where banks, insurance companies and accountancy firms operate internationally; food and drink including sourcing products from around the world and negotiating with suppliers; law where many of the commercial firms in London have offices in other European capitals; sales and marketing: British companies need to export their products and international companies and organisations need people to speak foreign languages.

Additional Subjects



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BUSINESS STUDIES

PLEASE CONSULT: Mrs Rogers/Mr Batchelor

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: GCSE Business Studies – AQA

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

GRADE RANGE: 1 - 9

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION: 2 x Exams (worth 50% each)

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: 2018 – 83% (A*-C)

Course Description:

In this course students will be growing their knowledge and understanding of businesses are set up and ran both in theory and in practice. The practical elements will include group work, presentation, investigations to help understand how a business works from a more hands-on approach. This qualification has multiple employability skill-sets embedded within, including; Employability, starting and growing a Business, Customer Service, Marketing and Finance. At the end of year 9 students will undertake an exam to assess their progress over the year.

Topics for Study:

- Purpose of business
- What are business aims and objectives?
- Basic business structures
- The purpose of business planning
- Purpose of market research
- Methods businesses use to raise finance
- Basic financial terms

Homework:

Homework is a mixture of exam papers, research and case studies to secure and deepen understanding. The homework for year 9 Business come in packs with set deadlines.

Resources and equipment needed:

The standard equipment will be required, pen, pencil, ruler, planner and a reading book. It would also be useful if students come prepared with highlights, colouring pen, coloured pens, ruler and calculator to get the most of this subject.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

The content studied puts students in a position whereby they understand how a business works, how to set up a business and how to make a profit.

The GCSE also provides progression for those wishing to continue their studies to A-levels in Business, Economics, Applied Business and is seen by many employers/colleges as a good route

DANCE

PLEASE CONSULT: Miss H Taylor & Miss A Franklin

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: Dance

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

GRADE RANGE: 1 - 9

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: 2018- 68%, 2017 –79%, 2016-76%, 2015 -75%, 2014 - 79%

Course Description:

This course offers a wide variety of approaches to the performance, choreography and analysis of dance.

The course is suitable for students of all abilities and provides an opportunity for all to succeed.

The basic requirement for GCSE Dance is an enthusiasm for the subject, as technique and performing skills will be developed over the three years. There is a written element which requires students to evaluate their own work and observed performances, a dance workbook/diary is kept throughout the course.

Previous experience and confidence will be of benefit but it is not essential as everyone is provided with opportunities to perform in front of audiences of all sizes through sharing work, school production and Rock Challenge.

Professional dancers and companies will work with the GCSE students through workshops and technical classes when available and appropriate and give students an insight into the profession.

Topics for Study:

- Dance styles: Contemporary, Jazz, Ballet & contact work
- Choreography (dance making) in small and large groups;
- 6 Professional dance works.
- Solo/Duets/Trios.

Homework:

Homework is set in line with the school homework policy.

Extra-Curricular:

Outside curriculum time, there are visits and trips to local theatres, colleges etc., to see a full range of dance work in many styles and twice a year they may get the chance to see West End musicals and occasionally attend relevant workshops in London.

Resources and equipment needed:

Dance kit – Dance t-shirts available to order from school and track suit/ leggings.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

- Performing Arts – in further education;
- Dance careers in performing or teaching.

GCSE Dance develops confidence and self-esteem and is a positive school experience.

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DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

PLEASE CONSULT: Mrs Clarke

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

QUALIFICATION: Vocational GCSE **GRADE RANGE:** Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: Examination: 40% Controlled Assignments: 60%

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: New Course

Course Description:

Over the year students will be studying 4 main areas in preparation of Y10 Vocational IT. The units are listed below. Students will be building on their knowledge, skills and understanding from Year 7 and 8.

Students will be developing skills such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data. They will be looking at effective ways of working, such as project planning, the design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct and developing their knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the IT sector.

Topics for Study:

- Unit 1 – Graphics design for a customer (Coursework)
- Unit 2 – Data handling (Coursework and theory)
- Unit 3 – Project planning (Coursework and theory)
- Unit 4 - Effective digital working practices (theory)

Homework:

Homework packs are given out which supports learning and understanding of the units being covered. Time is also provided to work on sections of the course independently.

Resources and equipment needed:

In addition to the standard equipment required, students would benefit from access to ICT equipment at home, which allowed them to access to the internet and their work area from school.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Students who succeed in this subject will be well placed to participate and succeed in any ICT/Computing based course at college. Skills will be useful for careers in programming, ICT, web development, game development, engineering, business/finance, science and medicine.

DRAMA

PLEASE CONSULT: Mrs J Firth

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: Drama

****This course cannot be taken with Performing Arts****

QUALIFICATION: GCSE

GRADE RANGE: 1 - 9

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT: 30%

PERFORMANCE EXAM 30%

WRITTEN EXAM: 40%

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: 2018- 68%, 2017- 49%, 2016 -55%, 2015 - 70%, 2014 - 46%,

Course Description:

GCSE Drama is an exciting course that combines practical exploration of scripted and devised drama with written evaluation. The course will include a written exam at the end of Year 11. The course is made up of the following components:

1. Devising (30%) - Students devise a piece of theatre which they then perform. They will record the process in a portfolio made up of written responses, annotations, sketches and photographs. Pupils will be marked on the performance and the portfolio.
2. Performance from text (30%) - Performance of two extracts from the same text performed to a visiting examiner.
3. Theatre makers in practice (40%) written exam 1 hour 30 mins - Answering questions about a set text Blood Brothers which has been explored practically and evaluating a piece of live theatre they have seen.

Please note there is a large amount of written work and good literacy is essential.

Students who do not feel comfortable performing in front of others should be discouraged from opting for this subject as they will have to complete a solo performance at one stage of the course. Students will also be required to read and learn scripts for performances including the practical part of the examination.

Topics for study:

Practitioners;	Improvisation;
Brecht;	Devising;
Stanislavski;	Monologue;
Artaud;	Theatre in education;
	Physical theatre;
	Script work.

Homework:

There will be regular homework in the way of written evaluations to prepare for the exam. After school rehearsals take place regularly for assessed pieces of work.

Resources and equipment needed:

The standard equipment will be required, pen, pencil, planner and a reading book.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Drama is a versatile option that encourages creativity and confidence in young people and can lead to careers such as: an actor, teacher, social worker, youth worker or in the media such as radio and television. It can benefit students in any career working with people as it is excellent at encouraging team work and communicating confidently.

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MUSIC

PLEASE CONSULT: Mr R Mullin

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: Music

QUALIFICATION: BTEC Diploma in Music

GRADE RANGE: L1 Pass – Distinction*

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT:

CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT: 75%

EXAMINATION: 25%

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: 2018 – 94%, 2017 – 79%, 2016 – 82%,

Course Description:

The course offers students a chance to develop their performing, composing and listening skills as well as giving students an overview of employment opportunities within the music industry. Students have to complete six units, which are based on coursework, and an online exam to achieve the qualification. A number of written reports and research projects are also required. Several of the assessments take the form of public performances.

Options or Topics for Study:

- The Music Industry;
- Planning and creating a music product;
- Introducing musical performance;
- Introducing musical composition;
- Introducing music sequencing.

Homework:

Homework is set weekly with it being either a piece related to completing practical coursework or research for Unit 1.

Resources and equipment needed:

In addition to the standard equipment required, it is preferable for students to own, or have access to, an instrument of their own.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Music is a creative and technical option. It links well to courses available at Southdowns College, or an 'A' level in music, as well as careers as a sound engineer or professional musician.

PERFORMING ARTS

PLEASE CONSULT: Mrs J Firth

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: BTEC Performing Arts ****This course cannot be taken with Drama****

QUALIFICATION: BTEC

EXAMINATION BOARD; Pearson

GRADE RANGE: Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction*

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: **EXPLORE-** component 1 – internally assessed **30%**
DEVELOP- component 2 – internally assessed **30%**
APPLY – component 3 – externally assessed **40%**

Course Description:

BTEC Performing Arts offers students an opportunity to explore a combination of the performing arts and develop their skills in Musical Theatre, which will involve singing, dancing and acting. You must be willing to act, sing and dance as the course requires.

EXPLORE- component 1 – internally assessed **30%**

You will explore the musical theatre industry and understand how the sector works. You will discover what it's like to work in the sector and what skills you will need to work in the sector. You will complete an internally assessed assignment which will consist of practical and written elements.

DEVELOP- component 2 – internally assessed **30%**

You will develop your knowledge, skills and best practice in musical theatre. You will look at real life scenarios and learn what people in the musical theatre industry need to do their jobs effectively. You will complete an internally assessed assignment which will consist of practical and written elements.

APPLY – component 3 – externally assessed **40%**

You will be using the knowledge and skills you have gained throughout the course and applying them to a real life scenario which you will complete as an assessment task. This will be in the form of a performance and written assessment logs. This is your final assessment of the course.

Topics for study:

Musical Theatre Industry
Acting for Musical Theatre,
Dance for Musical Theatre
Singing for Musical Theatre

Homework:

There will be regular homework; completing research tasks, completing assessment logs and assignment briefs for the course, this will form part of your assessment so it is vital that they are completed.

Resources and equipment needed:

The standard equipment will be required, pen, pencil, planner and a reading book.

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

Performing Arts is a versatile option that encourages creativity and confidence in young people and can lead to careers such as: a musical theatre performer, an actor, teacher, social worker, youth worker or in the media such as radio and television. It can benefit students in any career working with people as it is excellent at encouraging team work and communicating confidently. This course leads more comfortably to the level 3 BTEC performing arts college course than A-levels, although both options are possible.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

PLEASE CONSULT: Mrs F Rogers

TITLE OF SYLLABUS: Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism

QUALIFICATION: BTEC Level 1/2

GRADE RANGE: Pass / Merit / Distinction

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENT: Two internally assessed components (70%), 1 externally assessed component (30%)

EXAMINATION: One written paper of 2 hours in length

PREVIOUS EXAMINATION RESULTS: This is a new course for 2019

Course Description

You will learn about:

- the travel and tourism sector and tourist destinations
- the importance of travel and tourism to the UK
- the type and purpose of different travel and tourism organisations
- different types of holidays and reasons for travel
- factors influencing the travel and tourism industry
- sustainability and destination management
- the impact of global tourism on local communities, the economy and the environment
- tourism development
- how travel and tourism organisations use research to identify customer needs
- the range of products offered by travel and tourism organisations
- how organisations respond to market trends to meet customer needs
- how to plan a holiday to meet customer needs and preferences

Topics for Study:

Component 1 – Travel and tourism organisations and destinations

Component 2 – Influences on global travel and tourism

Component 3 – Customer needs in travel and tourism

Homework:

This will be set as and when required by the classroom teacher

Resources and equipment needed:

Access to ICT, atlas

Careers and Further Educational Opportunities:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects.
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Travel and Tourism, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the tourism sector.

My only limitation is my ambition



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