

Alderbrook
School
HONOUR | RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY

Year 8
Key Stage 4

OPTIONS BOOKLET

2018 – 2021

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BHT/fed

January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Key Stage 4 Options Subjects 2018/2021

Selecting optional subjects at KS4 is a crucial moment in a student's secondary education. We will be following a three-year Key Stage 4 programme, starting in Year 9. This allows students to study their preferred subjects for longer, with opportunities to embed understanding. We believe that this provides the best opportunity for success by the end of Year 11, whilst giving students a broad and balanced curriculum.

We aim to ensure that the information and guidance provided will support your child through the options process and ensure that their informed choices lead to the maximisation of their potential.

It will be important that each student understands their own strengths and weaknesses so that they can optimise their chances of success. Equally, we recommend that each student will select courses in which they have a real aptitude as well as interest.

The educational landscape has changed considerably and this has impacted on the curriculum that students follow. Major GCSE reform has been introduced from 2015 and we have already taken all the necessary steps to ensure our students are well prepared for these changes. The introduction of the English Baccalaureate places a focus on certain key subjects seen as offering academic rigour and a firm foundation for students' future success, whichever route they follow.

What will the curriculum look like?

Alderbrook is a fully inclusive school. Our aim is to offer a curriculum that is varied and meets the needs and aspirations of our students. Ensuring the combination of courses our students study provides suitable progression routes into post-16 study and beyond is of paramount importance to us at Alderbrook.

Students will all study the following compulsory subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Physical Education
- Personal, Social Health and Career Education
- Religious Education

In addition to this, we will be asking them to select four other subject choices, which become their "Options", and will be studied for three years and examined at the end, in the Summer of 2021.

To support the students with making their choices we will be providing the following:

- An Options Assembly for students to inform them about this important process
- An Options Evening on Tuesday 9 January 2018 which will allow the students and parent/carers to talk to Option subject staff offering KS4 courses
- This Options Booklet, which contains information about the Option courses and subjects

Please read the information in this booklet carefully. Any subject specific questions can be asked at the Year 8 Parents' Evening on Thursday 8 February 2018.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bhogal at school.

Yours faithfully



Mrs T. Bhogal
Assistant Headteacher: Options

Introduction

It is an exciting time for Year 8 students. The options process is designed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects including the core subjects, whilst still giving each individual a degree of choice. We ask that parents/carers and students go through the information contained in this booklet together so you and your child will be able to discuss which courses are appropriate.

The options process will be explained to all Year 8 students in a special Options Assembly. **The deadline for completing the online Options is Wednesday 14 February 2018.**

New Style GCSE

The Government have introduced a programme of GCSE reform, and all GCSEs offered at Alderbrook School follow this new format. Key features of the new GCSEs are:

- All GCSE exams will be studied in a linear format and be taken in **Summer 2021**
- There will be a greater emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar
- All GCSE courses will be more rigorous, demanding and challenging
- No tiered exam papers except in Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages. Under the previous system, foundation and higher tier papers were available in many subjects to support students of different abilities
- The grade scale for these new GCSEs now range from **9 to 1**, with 9 being the highest. From 2018, this will apply to all GCSEs. Technical awards will be graded using Pass, Merit, Distinction

There are two main types of qualifications, '**GCSE**' and **Technical Awards**.

The General Certificate of Secondary Education (**GCSE**) is a primarily exam-based qualification, which may include some coursework or practical work, depending on the nature of the subject.

Technical Awards are practical, vocational qualifications available to 14-16 year olds to take alongside GCSEs. **A single Technical Award is equivalent to a GCSE.** Technical Awards will provide students with knowledge and highly sought-after skills to prepare them for further study, apprenticeships and the workplace.

For Technical Awards, a large amount of the course will be assessed and marked by completing a portfolio and/or independent project, based on learning outcomes set by the exam board. There will be one external assessed and marked exam.

Students with a Technical Award will be able to go on to study A Levels or vocational qualifications. They are designed to meet the DfE's guidance for Key Stage 4 performance measures in England to count in the 'Open Group' (non-EBacc category) of Progress 8.

New GCSE Grading:

New GCSE Grade	Equivalent Traditional Grade
9	A* (top 3% nationally)
8	A*
7	A
6	B (top 2/3)
5	B (bottom 1/3) and C (top 1/3)
4	C (bottom 2/3)
3	D
2	E
1	F/G

How do the Technical Awards match up to the 2019 Performance Table points:

Level	Qualification Grade	2019 Performance Table points (based on 2018)
2	Distinction*	8.5
2	Distinction	7
2	Merit	5.5
2	Pass	4
1	Distinction	3
1	Merit	2
1	Pass	1.25

KS4 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum offers a wide range of subjects which provides you with a variety of academic and technical courses to choose from. It is important to read about the subjects mentioned in this booklet carefully, as it will help you understand what is expected of you next year.

Core Subjects

There are some subjects that you have to study; these are the compulsory 'Core' subjects:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Personal Social Health and Careers Education (PSHCE)

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is not a qualification in itself. It is a particular group of GCSE subjects viewed favourably by Universities. This was introduced by the government in 2010 and is designed to ensure that students demonstrate achievement across a range of academic subjects. The subjects include; English, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Language, Science and Geography OR History. We strongly encourage our most able students to follow this route.

OPTION SUBJECTS LIST

GCSE	Technical Awards
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art GCSE**• Business GCSE• Computer Science GCSE• Dance GCSE• Drama GCSE• Food Preparation and Nutrition(GCSE)• French GCSE• Geography GCSE• History GCSE• Media Studies GCSE• Photography GCSE**• Physical Education GCSE• Spanish GCSE• D&T (Product Design, Textile & Graphics) GCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food & Cookery (NCFE)• D&T-Creative Studies: Craft (NCFE)• Drama (NCFE)• Health & Social Care(Cambridge Nationals)• ICT (Cambridge Nationals)• Music BTEC• Sport Studies (Cambridge Nationals)• Technical Award in Performing Arts – Dance <p><i>You cannot choose more than 3 Technical Awards</i></p>

Note:

Subjects in bold count towards the English Baccalaureate

****Photography and Art cannot be taken together**

There are 4 Routes:

1. The Triple Science Route: Students are strongly encouraged to do three single Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and at least one Humanities subject. This is for selected students.
2. The EBacc Route: Students are expected to do a Modern Foreign Language and at least one Humanities subject.
3. Humanities Route: Students are expected to do at least one from the following; History, Geography or Computer Science.
4. COPE Route – This is for selected students.

Triple Science Route (selected students)

These students are nominated based on their aptitude in Science.

Option	Science Triple Science Route	<u>Choice</u>
1	3 singles Science	Yes or No
2	Select one of the following: Geography or History	
3	Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish)	
4	Select from Options list	
5 (Reserve)	Select from Options list	
6 (Reserve)	Select from Options list	

This EBacc Route for students who have been recommended to continue with a Modern Foreign Language

Option	EBacc Route	<u>Choice</u>
1	Select one of the following: Geography or History	
2	Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish)	
3	Select from Options list	
4	Select from Options list	
5 (Reserve)	Select from Options list	
6 (Reserve)	Select from Options list	

Humanities Route

Option	Humanities Route	<u>Choice</u>
1	Select one of the following: Geography, History, Computer Studies	
2	Select from Options list	
3	Select from Options list	
4	Select from Options list	
5 (Reserve)	Select from Options list	
6 (Reserve)	Select from Options list	

CoPE Route applies to selected students

Option	CoPE Route	<u>Choice</u>
1	CoPE	X
2	Select from Options list	
3	Select from Options list	
4	Select from Options list	
5 (Reserve)	Select from Options list	
6 (Reserve)	Select from Options list	

HOW TO CHOOSE

PLEASE CHOOSE SUBJECTS YOU:

- Like and ones which excite, motivate and interest you
- Feel might help you in the general career area that you are interested in, such as 'working with people' or 'using practical skills'
- Find out exactly what each course involves by reading this handbook and decide whether you can cope with the demands of the subject
- Ask your teachers for advice on your level of achievement and future potential in each subject
- Ensure you have a balance of practical and non-practical subjects

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What if I don't get an English Baccaulaureate?

Many previous students would not have qualified for an English Baccaulaureate as they were not following a curriculum that would enable them to do so. However, many of our former students have achieved higher grade passes in academic GCSEs and have then moved on to A Levels, and then to study in some of the top universities in the UK.

Clearly, we do not know the emphasis that will be given to the English Baccaulaureate by employers or higher education in the future. Consequently, we must ensure that our students are given the maximum advantage from the curriculum they follow. This will mean that some students will follow a GCSE course in a language (French or Spanish) and either History or Geography in addition to English, Maths and Science.

How many Option choices do I make?

In addition to core subjects, you will choose **four** Option subjects and **two** reserves.

Will I definitely have all the subjects I ask for?

The majority of students will be allocated the selection of courses they have chosen. However, each year minor changes do need to be made. This affects only a very few students and we will do everything within our power to offer the selection you make.

If there aren't enough students opting for a subject, that subject will not run. Is this true?

Yes. Unfortunately, we cannot run a course for a small number of students. If this happens, we will liaise closely with the students to ensure that the next most suitable option is selected.

If I want to go on to study at Alderbrook Sixth Form, which subjects would be best?

There are no 'best' Options to prepare you for further study. Keep your Options broad and balanced. If you wish to study A Level subjects at Alderbrook, then you will need to gain a minimum of 6 GCSE passes at grade 6 and above (The pass grade requirement may change subject to the outcome of the National Results).

If I cannot decide between 2 subjects, who should I talk to?

Talk to your teachers, parents, or form teachers. Remember to consider your own strengths, interests, needs and career plans in making your final choice.

What is Progress 8?

Progress 8 captures the progress a student makes from the end of primary school (KS2) to the end of KS4. Progress 8 is a type of value-added measure, it will show how the students have performed and the average of all students' progress will create the school's result. This result will be published by all schools in a standard format.

Can I change my mind later?

The subjects you choose are for the next three years. Therefore, it is very important that the right choice is made at the outset. It is only in exceptional circumstances that students are permitted to change their courses once they have begun in September. Please bear this in mind.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE, ENGLISH LITERATURE

GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

100% Examination

GCSE English Language:

Paper 1 = 50% of the overall GCSE – 80 marks – 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Students will answer 4 questions on a Literature Fiction Text. These questions will increase in difficulty and length

Section B: Students will answer one extended writing question in which they will be asked to DESCRIBE or NARRATE. 40% of this mark will be awarded for “technical accuracy”.

Paper 2 = 50% of the overall GCSE – 80 marks – 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Students will answer 4 questions (increased in difficulty) on a Literature Fiction Text (pre 1900) AND a Literature Non-Fiction Text.

Section B: Students will answer one extended writing question in which they will be asked to write PRESENTING A VIEWPOINT. Again 40% of this mark will be awarded for “technical accuracy”.

GCSE English Literature:

Paper 1 = 40% of the overall GCSE – 64 marks – 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Students will answer a question on Macbeth by William Shakespeare. One part of the question will be from an extract and one will be about the play as a whole.

Section B: Students will answer a question on Jekyll and Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson. One part of the question will be from an extract and one will be about the play as a whole.

Paper 2 = 60% of the overall GCSE – 96 marks – 2 hours 15 minutes

Section A: Students will answer one essay question on An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley

Section B Students will answer a comparative question on one named poem (printed on paper) and one other poem of their choice taken from the Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology.

Section C: Students will answer one question on an Unseen Poem and then one question comparing this poem to a second unseen poem.

What Will You Learn?

English Language and English Literature will provide you with a wide range of experiences to improve your communication skills and your ability to read for meaning. Through the active study and analysis of fiction and non-fiction texts, you will learn how to decode messages from the writer and understand how language influences us as readers. You will study a variety of texts which include a modern play or novel, a wealth of literature from different times and cultures and a range of poems.

The GCSE specifications have changed quite dramatically in English over the last couple of years. From September 2015, we shall be following the new AQA course for both Language and Literature. Both English qualifications are comprised of 100% Examination assessment.

The Value of English Language and English Literature (Career Pathways)

A new grade 5 (old grade B/C) in English is often the minimum requirement for many employers and college courses.

MATHEMATICS

GCSE

Examination Board

Edexcel

Assessment

100% Examination

What Will You Learn?

You will build on what you already know and can do. The course follows the specification of the new 9-1 Maths GCSE. It emphasises sound understanding of concepts, fluency in procedural skill, competency to apply mathematical skills in a range of contexts and confidence in mathematical problem solving.

The Assessment objectives are as follows:

Apply standard techniques (40 – 50%)

Reasoning, interpreting and communicating mathematically (25 – 30%)

Solving non-routine problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts. (25 – 30%)

The Course You Will Follow

You will follow the Edexcel linear GCSE specification for higher or OCR foundation Tier. Exams will be taken in the Summer of Year 11.

Paper 1-Non Calculator	33.3%	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 2-Calculator	33.3%	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 3-Calculator	33.3%	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes

*The OCR foundation has Paper 2 as its Non-calculator paper. Paper 1 and 3 will be calculator.

Students on track for a new grade 9 (old grade A*) by January of Year 11 will be presented with the opportunity to take the AQA Level 2 certificate in Further Mathematics in June.

Non Calculator Paper	40%	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes
Calculator Paper	60%	Written Exam	2 hours

The Assessment objectives are as follows:

Recall and use knowledge of the prescribed content (45 – 55%)

Select and apply mathematical methods in a range of contexts (25 – 35%)

Interpret and analyse problems and generate strategies to solve them (15 – 25%)

The Value of Mathematics (Career Pathways)

A new grade 5 (an old grade C/B) is considered the new good pass in Maths and may be the minimum requirement for many employers and college courses.

PSHCE

Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education is taught to Year 9s through a PSHCE lesson one hour a fortnight, through assemblies and through the Life Ready Day Programme.

Students are taught through three main themes:

Health and well-being

Self-esteem

Managing anxiety

Mental and emotional health

Resilience

Self-management

Physical activity and diet

Accessing health services

Risks associated with alcohol and drugs

Relationships

Managing the breakdown of relationships

Positive and unhealthy relationships

Expectations and consent: the law

Peer pressure

Contraception

STIs

Identify and orientation

Prejudice

Living in the Wider World

Skills and qualities for the work place

Enterprise

Personal statements and professional profiles

Values and character development

Choices Post 16

Assessment in PSHCE occurs through written acknowledgement of new understanding and evaluation of content learnt.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

100% Examination

All students will work towards Religious Education Full Course GCSE from Year 9 onwards.

What Will You Learn?

The Syllabus will cover:

The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

This unit is intended to challenge students with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Thematic studies – Ethical issues

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

The Course You Will Follow

The school teaches the subject in a non-confessional way, giving dignity, respect and integrity to each of the world religions studied.

The Value of Religious Education (Career Pathways)

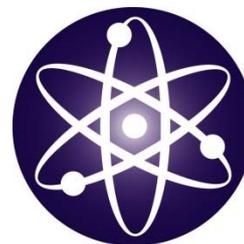
In terms of vocational pathways, the course is seen as a good introduction to issues which affect all human beings and human thought processes. Past students have gone on to Oxbridge, the Russell Group and have gone on to such careers as doctors, dentists, solicitors, barristers, teachers and even rock musicians. Careers which have specifically identified religious education as being a desirable subject, and into which past students have progressed, include: the police, the armed forces, the civil service, banking, social services, local government and retail management.

SCIENCE

GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA



Assessment:

100% Examination

What Will You Learn?

In your Key Stage 4 Science course, you will build on the knowledge and skills you have developed in Key Stage 3. The material you study in Key Stage 4 allows you to explore how Science is important in your everyday life.

Key scientific ideas from Biology, Chemistry and Physics run through the course and lead you to develop a deep understanding of Science, and an ability to apply and communicate this effectively. During your lessons, you will use your knowledge and understanding to learn about and explain every day and technological applications of Science. You will have opportunities to evaluate the personal, social, economic and environmental implications of scientific developments in the real world, to think critically about the many Science reports we see in the media, and make decisions based on the evaluation of evidence and arguments. The GCSE courses encourage you to develop your knowledge and understanding through practical work and you will also practise talking, reading and writing about Science, as well as representing scientific concepts both mathematically and visually through scientific modelling.

Science topics studied at GCSE include:

- **Biology:** cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology
- **Chemistry:** atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere
- **Physics:** energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism

The Course You Will Follow

There are currently two routes towards GCSE Science qualifications:

- Combined Science GCSE leading to 2 GCSEs covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics equally

Or

- Triple Science GCSE leading to 3 GCSEs – in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathways)

Both GCSE Science routes prepare students for a range of post-16 Science courses, including Science A Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. The broad and balanced GCSE content provides the knowledge and skills required by real scientists in their work.

Studying Science beyond GCSE gives you access to a wide variety of career opportunities, both in science industries and in scientific research in areas including Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Chemical Engineering, Forensics, Environmental Science, Food and Textiles Sciences, Genetics, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Engineering, Biomedicine, Astronomy, Electronics, Environmental Health, Meteorology, Nursing and Education.

Science graduates are also extremely attractive to employers in non-science fields because of their high levels of analytical skill, excellent problem solving and decision-making.

If you do not intend studying Science beyond GCSE, you will still find that college entry requirements for most A Level courses include a good qualification in a Combined Science. Other non-science college and training courses usually expect you to have a Science qualification along with English and Maths.

So, whatever your career plans – or if you are still undecided where your future lies – your Key Stage 4 Science qualifications are important in securing your next steps after GCSE.

HISTORY

GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

100% Examination

What Will You Learn?

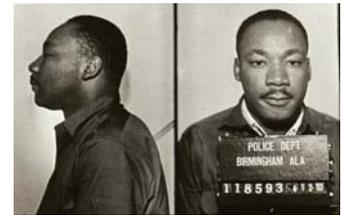
Your GCSE will include the study of the following topics:

Britain Health and the People (examined in Y11)



From the superstitions of Medieval England to the modern wonders of DNA & genetic medicine. How has medicine changed, and what factors and individuals made this possible? It will make you glad you were not a patient 100 years ago or before. You do not need to be a scientist to enjoy this course!

America 1920 – 1973 (examined in Y11) Students explore the dramatic change in 20th century America. Key focus questions include:
Why did the USA's economy boom in the 1920s?
What was the impact of the Great Depression?
How did black people and women challenge inequality?



Conflict and Tension (examined in Y11)



This depth study allows students to understand the causes of conflict in the 20th Century as well as the impact this has on nations. Particular focus is on foreign policy between World War One and Two.

Elizabethan England (examined in Y11)

This topic allows students to gain an understanding of the major events of the late 16th Century. This includes key moments such as The Spanish Armada, the execution of Mary Queen of Scots and Catholic plots.



British history will form a minimum of 40% of the assessed content over the full course.

Who Is This Course For?

Students who choose History are often inquisitive people. They like asking questions and want to understand why events happened, what effects people or events had and why our world looks the way it does today.

Students also enjoy lively debates and are able to offer opinions on the significance of events or people.

Students who choose History also often enjoy literacy and like the challenge of putting together well balanced arguments in extended pieces of writing.

What Happens When You Finish?(Career Pathway)

History is a well-regarded subject by colleges, universities and employers. It is acknowledged as a challenging GCSE and as such, is one of the subjects that the top universities in the UK recommend students study.

Apart from being very interesting, History is also very useful. Employers who see you have a GCSE in History know certain things about you. They will know that you have taken on certain key skills such as:

- Gather, read and understand different kinds of information
- Produce balanced arguments; weigh up the pros and cons of situations
- Communicate clearly and have learned how to express yourself verbally on paper
- Understand how people tick, and what motivates them, what they think and feel

GEOGRAPHY

GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

100% Examination

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35% of GCSE)

Paper 3: Geographical Skills (including pre-release resources) (30% of GCSE)

What Will You Learn?

Geography is both current and relevant. It is a subject that helps us to make sense of the world around us. Many of the world's current major issues, such as climate change and migration, have a significant geographical element to them, and we need the geographers of the future to help us understand and deal with them.

Geography is a stepping-stone to the skills and understanding that will help you succeed in a whole variety of careers. It will also provide you with an insight into a wide variety of important and topical issues that affect us, and our planet, and give you the opportunity to see our world in a different way.

The course is structured as follows:

Living with the Physical Environment

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards
- The Living World
- Physical Landscapes in the UK

Challenges in the Human Environment

- Urban issues and Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management

Geographical Skills

- Issue Evaluation

Fieldwork

- Physical Geographical Enquiry
- Human Geographical Enquiry

Who Is This Course For?

- Students who have enjoyed elements of geography so far in KS3
- Students who enjoy learning about both local and global issues
- Students who wish to develop the following skills:
 - Problem solving
 - Communication and report writing
 - Team working and decision making
 - Independent learning
 - Research and presentation
 - Debating topical issues
 - Problem solving and independent thinking
 - Statistical and numerical skills
 - Map reading and interpretation

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Geography allows you to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge and it is highly regarded by employers and educational establishments. It is also an excellent choice at this stage of your education as it ties together elements of many other subjects (including science, maths, history and English) which will help keep your options open for any future educational or career choices.

Some of the careers that see a geography qualification as being an advantage are:

- Urban planner
- Environmental or coastal engineer
- Volcanologist and seismologist
- Conservation officer
- National Park officer/ranger
- Architect
- Environmental health
- Estate agent
- Census data analyst
- Travel Agent
- Meteorologist / weather forecaster

MEDIA STUDIES

GCSE

Examination Board:

EDUQAS

Assessment:

Component 1 Exploring the Media

Written exam: 1.5 hours (40%)

Component 2 Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written exam: 1.5 hours (30%)

Component 3 Creating Media Products

Non-exam assessment (30%)

A range of briefs in four media forms will be set annually.

What Will You Learn?

Within Media Studies, students will learn how to analyse a variety of Media platforms that aid their analysis of the world. Key aspects include recall, selection and communication of knowledge and understanding of media products; the contexts in which The Media is produced and consumed; the demonstration of research, planning and presentational skills, and the construction and evaluation of issues and debates within society.

The Course You Will Follow

At Key Stage 4, students are taught the EDUGAS Media Studies GCSE. The WJEC EDUGAS Specification is designed to introduce learners to the key areas of the theoretical framework - media language, representation, media industries and audiences. This is taught in relation to diverse examples from a wide range of media forms: advertising and marketing, film, magazines, music video, newspapers, online media, radio, television and video games.

Set texts for GCSE Media Specification:

Advertising and Marketing: Quality Street and This Girl Can

Film Posters: Man with the Golden Gun and Spectre

Newspapers: The Guardian and The Sun

Magazines: GQ and Pride

Sitcom: Friends and IT Crowd

Music Videos: Taylor Swift, Pharrell Williams and Michael Jackson

Video Games: Pokémon Go

Radio: The Archers

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

(French & Spanish)

GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

100% Examination at the end of Year 11 in three themes with an equal weighting on Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing.

Candidates can be entered at either **Foundation or Higher** level depending on ability and performance.

What Will You Learn?

The course promotes a more independent approach to language study and there are opportunities for students to practise and develop both the language and skills acquired at Key Stage 3. The emphasis is on effective communication and students encounter a wider and more complex range of expression and grammar, whilst developing their independence and confidence.

The course consists of three key themes:

Theme 1: Identity and Culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Who Is This Course For?

The course is aimed at all learners who wish to continue with their study of a language and who have enjoyed and valued their language learning to date. Successful language learners are:

- Effective communicators
- Able to take the initiative
- Organised and confident
- Resourceful, imaginative and creative

All of the above equip learners for life and support them both in the subject and in other curriculum areas in school and beyond.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

A language qualification is often required for jobs and careers in the following areas:

- Engineering
- Translation and interpreting
- Sales and Marketing
- Journalism
- Politics
- Law
- Commerce
- Medicine
- Armed forces
- Teaching
- Leisure and Tourism

A language qualification is regarded as a measure of a broad and balanced curriculum and is “one of the GCSEs, which form part of the English Baccalaureate”. Languages are also highly desirable in terms of further and higher education and the work place.

Language skills will be an asset for students whatever their future holds. Learning a language is, in itself, an enjoyable and rewarding experience; opening doors to all kinds of jobs and better prospects in an increasingly global world and socially in terms of leisure, travel and free-time. Language learning is a lifelong skill and one which develops confidence, independence and an increased understanding of both other cultures and our own.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Level 2 Certificate

Cambridge Nationals

Examination Board:

OCR

Assessment:

Examination 25%

Coursework 75%

What Will You Be Studying?

The Health and Social Care course consist of **two mandatory units and 2 optional units.**

Mandatory Units

Unit R021: Essential Values of Care for Use with Individuals in Care Settings (Exam)

Unit R022: Communicating and working with individuals in health and social care and early years settings - coursework-

Optional Units

Unit R023: Understanding body systems and disorders

Unit R024: Pathways for providing care in health, social care and early years setting

Unit R025: Understanding life stages

Unit R026: Planning for employment in health and social care and children and young people's workforce.

Unit R027: Creative activities to support individuals in health, social care and early years setting

Unit R028: Understanding the development and protection of young children in an early years setting

Unit R029: Understanding the nutrients needed for good health

Unit R031: Using basic first aid procedures

Who Is This Course For?

Cambridge Nationals in Health and Social Care are targeted at 14-16 year olds in a school environment. This course will help develop students to be independent and effective learners. Learners are also encouraged to understand the physical, intellectual, emotional and social well-being of people who use services. Learners will also cover a range of units, which help broaden their knowledge when working people of all ages.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FINISH? (Career Pathway)

Students can either progress on to an A-level programme or continue onto the Cambridge Technicals. Learners can embark on careers within the NHS such as the following:

- Paramedic
- Nursing/ Midwifery/Mental Health nursing
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Art therapy
- Domestic violence worker

Outside the NHS this qualification can lead to:

- Social work
- Primary school teacher
- Nursery nurse/ room leader

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

GCSE*



Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

Written Exam 50%

Non Exam Assessment (NEA) 15% Experimental Work, 35% Practical Examination

What Will You Learn?

- Learn in detail about nutrients and their functions **through practical activities and experimental work**
- Learn about healthy eating and related health issues
- Learn about the functions of the ingredients in a food product so that you can **modify recipes and create new food products**
- Learn how a new food product is **designed**, manufactured and packaged
- Learn about the environmental issues related to food

Who Is This Course For?

- You enjoy being creative
- You enjoy using practical skills and learn by doing
- You want to make a wide range of food products
- You want to learn more about diet and health
- You want to learn where food is grown and what affects people's food choices

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

A Level - Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

Degree – Food Technology, Food and Nutrition, Food Marketing Management, Food Safety and Quality Management

Apprenticeships – Food Manufacturing, Hospitality and Catering

Possible Careers – Catering, Chef, Product Development, Food Production, Marketing, Nursing, Teaching, Social Work, Dietician, Paediatrician, Environmental Health Officer

**If you choose this course you will be asked to make a £10 donation towards the cost of keeping up-to-date equipment and machinery available to all students. This also covers use of the AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition online Book and the Ridgewell Nutrition Programme.*

FOOD AND COOKERY

Level 2 Certificate

Examination Board

NCFE

Assessment

Internally assessed portfolio for Units 1, 2 and 4

What Will You Learn?

Prepare and cook using basic skills.

Understand good and its functions in the body and in recipes.

Understand balanced diets and modification of recipes for health.

Plan and produce dishes for a purpose.

Ensure safe and hygienic environment.

The Course You Will Follow

Unit 1 – Preparing to Cook

Internally assessed portfolio of evidence

Unit 2 – Understanding Food

Internally assessed portfolio of evidence

Unit 3 – Exploring Balanced Diets

Externally assessed through a 2 hour
written exam paper

Unit 4 – Plan and Produce Dishes in
response to a Brief

Internally assessed portfolio of evidence

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery (Preparation and Cooking)

Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles

Professional Cookery Studies

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

(Product Design, Graphics & Textiles)

GCSE*



Students will experiment with all material areas throughout Years 9 and 10. During Year 11, they will get to choose their preferred material area to develop their final design.

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

Exam 50%

Controlled Assessment Task 50%

What Will You Learn?

Students will learn all aspects of design and technology then will specialise in a material area.

On this course you will:

- Solve problems in a creative way using a variety of materials and techniques
- Design and make a prototype that meets a set design brief
- Use a combination of wood, metal, plastic and smart materials
- Use CAD/CAM – Utilising design software such as 2D design and Pro DESKTOP Including use of the laser cutter

Who Is This Course For? (This Will Suit You If...)

- You enjoy being creative
- You have an imaginative way of solving problems
- You are good at visualising 3D concepts
- You are skilled in practical work
- You enjoy using machinery and tools

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

A Level - Product Design, Graphic Design and 3D Design

Degree - Product Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Jewellery Design, Civil engineering, Automotive engineering, Industrial Design, Illustration, Animation, Game Design, Packaging Design

Possible Careers - Product Designer, Furniture Designer, Jewellery Designer, Automotive Designer, Architect, Engineer manufacturing, and many more

**If you choose this course, you will be asked to make a £10 donation towards the cost of materials. Please note that this does not cover the cost of each student's revision guide and workbook.*

D&T

CREATIVE STUDIES CRAFT*

Level 2 Certificate

Examination Board:

NCFE

Assessment:

Practical Exam/Set Task 40%

Coursework/Portfolio 60%

What Will You Learn?

The objectives of this qualification are to help you to:

- Use raw materials, tools and equipment in a safe and competent manner
- Develop analytical and research skills
- Evaluate their own work, develop ideas and learning through the craft process
- Develop an understanding of health and safety considerations in the craft environment
- Develop an overview of enterprise skills and characteristics present in successful enterprising individuals
- Develop communication skills through a range of media

On this course, you will learn the following transferable skills:

- The ability to identify hazards and risks and apply safe working practices
- Skills in planning
- Skills in the use of craft materials
- Development of social and moral skills, with an emphasis on environment and sustainable issues
- The ability to combine skills with knowledge and understanding to design quality products
- The ability to investigate enterprising opportunities
- Development of positive attitudes towards working as a team and co-operation
- To manage resources appropriately and efficiently
- To manage resources with regard to personal safety and safety of others

Who Is This Course For?

- If you are creative, enjoy solving problems and have a flair for design
- If you enjoy practical work and using different materials such as wood, metal or plastic.
- If you are interested in a future career as an Architect, interior designer, construction, built environment, surveyor.
- If you like working to different project briefs to suit different clients

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Learners who achieve this qualification could progress onto further Level 3 qualifications and A levels, such as:

- NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Creative Craft
- NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Art and Design
- NCFE Level 3 Employability qualifications
- A level Product Design, Resistant Materials, Textiles, Art and Design

It may also be useful to those studying qualifications in the various creative sectors or enterprise.

This course may also be useful to those studying qualifications in the various creative sectors or enterprise.

**If you choose this course, you will be asked to make a £10 donation towards the cost of materials. Please note that this does not cover the cost of each student's revision guide and workbook.*

If you have, any further queries please contact Mrs Williams, Head of Faculty

COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE



Examination Board:

OCR

Assessment:

Examination 80%

Controlled Assessment 20%

What Will You Learn?

The course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. The course will give you an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many learners find absorbing.

Who Is This Course For? (This Will Suit You If...)

The course is by nature highly academic and will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming. It will be an interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course will make an excellent preparation for learners who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied. This is a highly academic GCSE and suitable for those students with a real enthusiasm for Computer science. It is recommended for those students in Maths set three or above.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. Learners who have taken a GCSE in Computing and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have an advantage over their peers who are picking up the subject at these levels.

BUSINESS

GCSE



Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

Exam 100%

What Will You Learn?

There are a variety of different units which include:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

Who Is This Course For?

The course is, by its very nature, highly academic. It will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of how businesses operate. It will be an interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course will make an excellent preparation for learners who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied. Due to its academic nature it is only suitable for those students with a real enthusiasm for the Business environment. It is recommended for those students in Maths set two or above.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

It is the perfect grounding for further study of both A Level Economics and A- level Business as well as other related A Levels such as Law and Accountancy.

It is useful if you are interested in careers such as accountancy, banking, marketing, retail management, human resources and market research.

Apart from the obvious increased employability you will gain from having the qualification on your CV, the course aims to equip students with the skills they need to compete in a tough economic climate. It is important today that we show young people what it takes to be an entrepreneur, building students' confidence, initiative and team working skills (all highly valued by employers).

ICT

Level 2 Certificate

Cambridge Nationals

Examination Board:

OCR

Assessment:

Internal assessment 75%

External examination 25%

What Will You Learn?

The Award gives Learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment and are transferable skills required by employers. There are four areas of equal importance:

Core units:

- **Understanding computer systems.** This unit will give students a solid base to develop knowledge and understanding of computer systems and the implications of working with data.
- **Using ICT to create business solutions.** This unit will enable students to refine their existing knowledge of computers to reflect the working practices of the commercial world.

Additional Units:

- **Handling data using spreadsheets.** This unit will help students to process and present data into meaningful information that can be used to support the decision-making process in real life scenarios.
- **Creating an interactive product using multimedia components.** This unit will enable students to demonstrate their creative flair by combining multimedia components to create a vibrant, energetic or stimulating www, webpage, or interactive product.

Who is This Course For?

The OCR Cambridge Nationals in ICT is for Learners who wish to acquire technical skills through vocational contexts as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Learners who achieve a Level 2 in this subject might consider progressing either to A Levels as preparation for entry to Higher Education or study a vocational qualification at Level 3 (such as a Cambridge Technical in IT or Digital Media). It will also equip Learners with the necessary skills for any employment in the ICT sector.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE

Examination Board

AQA

Assessment

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (78 marks) – Each paper has a combination of multiple choice, short answer and two long answer questions.

30% of GCSE

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (78 marks)

30% of GCSE

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

Practical performance in 3 different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third either in a team or in an individual activity. (75 marks)

30% of GCSE

Analysis and Evaluation

A written piece of coursework based on strengths and weaknesses of a practical performance in one of the chosen activity areas. Highlighting how the performance could be improved. (25marks)

10% of GCSE

What Will You Learn?

Subject content

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data
- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being

Who Is This Course For?

This course is suitable for students aiming to develop mastery in a number of different physical activities, and so it is essential that students are already competing regularly and competitively in a number of activities prior to starting the course. It is also essential that students have a firm interest in the physiological and psychological factors that impact, sport as well as, the socio cultural influences that affect people's involvement in physical activity.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathways)

This course provides the knowledge, understanding and skills for students to progress to academic qualifications, such as GCE in Physical Education, Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Nationals, and employment within the sports and active leisure industry, such as junior roles working in the health and fitness industry, for example, physiotherapy or sports nutrition.

SPORT STUDIES

Level 2 Certificate

Cambridge Nationals

Examination Board:

OCR

Assessment:

Cambridge Nationals in Sport is targeted at 13-16 year olds in a school environment. It is available as an Award and a Certificate, with the Certificate being the same size as a GCSE. They use both internal (teacher assessed) and external (exam board assessed) assessments.

What Will You Learn?

The course unit are:

- Contemporary issues in sport –written paper 1 hour
- Developing sports skills – internally assessed and OCR moderated
- Sports Leadership - internally assessed and OCR moderated
- Sport and the media - internally assessed and OCR moderated

Who is This Course For?

This course is for students who have strong interest in PE and might be considering a career in the sports and active leisure sector, rather than just to participate in sport as recreation. It will give students the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of, and develop skills in, the sport sector, e.g. the health and fitness industry or sports leadership.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

This course provides the knowledge, understanding and skills for students to progress to: other level 2 vocational qualifications, level 3 vocational qualifications, such as Cambridge Technicals or BTEC Nationals, academic qualifications, such as A level in Physical Education and employment within the sports and active leisure industry such as junior roles working in the health and fitness industry.

ART & DESIGN

GCSE

Examination Board:

OCR

Assessment:

Exam 40%

Is a set task with preparation time followed by 10 hours working in exam conditions.

Coursework 60%

Is a Portfolio which includes Art projects studied from Year 10 which requires students to include the following:

Recording A01 – e.g. drawings and paintings, secondary and primary observations (25 marks)

Development A02 - e.g. how your ideas progress, style of artists and influences, scale, using a variety of media. (25 marks)

Refine A03 - e.g. how you make changes, modify and conclude your ideas, a culmination or conclusion to the project, skilfulness, accuracy attention to detail. (25 marks)

Present A04 - e.g. presentation and annotation in sketchbooks and conclusion of 2D or 3D work. (25 marks)

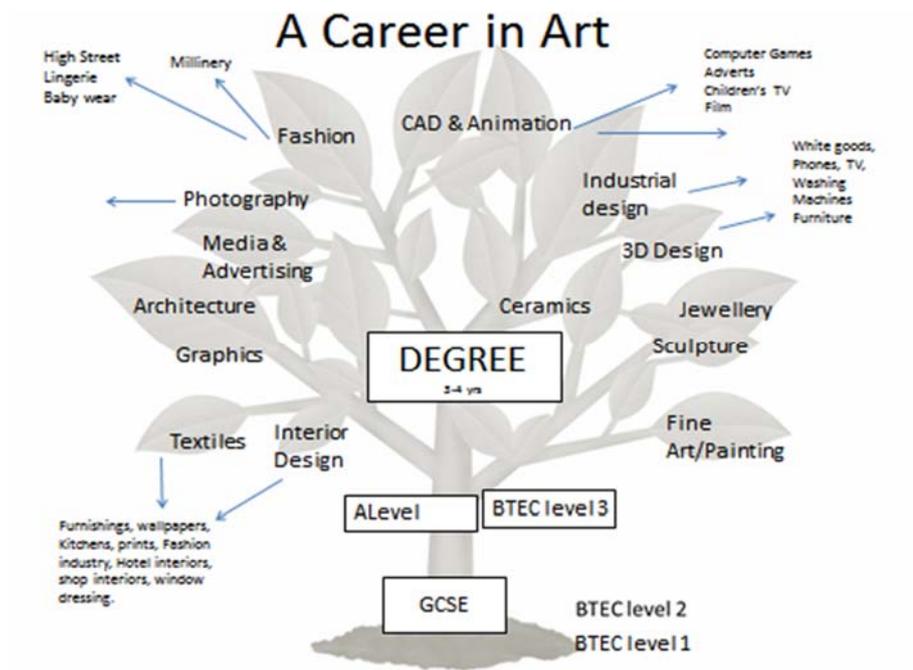
What Will You Learn?

Essentially 'formal elements of art', painting and drawing, 2D and 3D experiences, Art History and contemporary art practice. However, you may also experience printmaking and sculpture, photography and jewellery, model making and computer image manipulation, surface pattern design and textiles, graphic novels. In fact, almost anything that can be thought of as 'creative'.

Who Is This Course For? (This Will Suit You If...)

This course is for 2 types of people **firstly and importantly** anyone wanting to have a career in a creative capacity. It is important to note that Art at GCSE level is the Foundation to bigger and more focused art forms. If you think you want to work with fashion, the expectation for further study is to have Art and Design at GCSE level, as with architecture and games design CAD.

The course is also for students who have interest and genuinely enjoy being creative. Drawing is a key skill for top grades. It is an intense world out there and creative open-minded people are highly desired in all careers and industries. Being creative is a lifelong skill and can be used in everyday situations. Creativity can impact on emotional intelligence, ability to become a risk taker, improve your hand-eye coordination as well as awakening your senses.



What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Some will do an A Level in Art and others will undertake a one-year Foundation course before commencing an Art Degree. Others will study Art in more depth at a college on a BTEC course before a degree. Creative industries as highlighted above.

PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE



Examination Board

OCR

Assessment

Exam 40%

Is a set task with preparation time followed by 10 hours working in exam conditions.

Coursework 60%

Is a Portfolio which includes photography projects studied from Year 10 which requires students to include the following evidence of:

- **Recording A01**- eg; photographs from sources, secondary and primary observations
- **Development A02** - eg; how your ideas progress, style and influence of artists, scale and manipulation of photos using digital means
- **Refine A03** - eg; How you make changes, modify and conclude your ideas, accumulation or conclusion to the project, skillfulness, accuracy, attention to technical detail and explanation
- **Present A04**- eg; Presentation of an outcome and your evidence, annotation on Powerpoint slides explaining ideas and the Photoshop modifications using CS5

What Will You Learn

Photography is art and design without the drawing! Students opting for photography gain all the benefits of studying art and design but without the experience of using such a wide range of different media. You will learn all about how to control and manipulate photographic images for effect. This will include how to take photographs (including how to use the controls on a SLR), studio lighting and image processing, including 'state of the art' and Industry standard software. Photography is all about 'learning by doing'. You will be given a number of tasks and expected to keep a portfolio of work produced over the course. You may get the chance to work with art photographers and will visit galleries and museums to see exhibitions.

Who Is This Course For?

Anyone who is interested in the subject. Although photography is extremely interesting and really good fun, it is not an easy option. Students need a high level of self-discipline, a creative outlook and excellent planning skills. A willingness to experiment and try things out helps, as does the ability to work both independently and in groups. Computer based and practical learning.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

These are similar to mainstream art and design but obviously with an emphasis on the 'lens based Creative Industries': Advertising, media, graphics are but a few.

DANCE

GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

Written exam –40%

Non-exam assessment – 60%

GCSE Dance

Component 1 Performance and Choreography

Students will:

- Learn a range of set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration)
- Perform as part of a duet/trio
- Create a solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes)

Component 2 Dance Appreciation

Students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Show a critical appreciation of their own work and critical appreciation of professional works

What Will You Learn?

In performance students:

- Will learn about the skills required to develop physical, technical, expressive attributes and mental focus
- Will also learn about safe working practice

In choreography students:

- Will learn how to respond creatively to an externally set stimulus
- To choreograph your own complete dance. This will be presented as either a solo or a group dance

In appreciation students:

- Must be able to critically analyze, interpret and evaluate your own work in performance and choreography
- Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of professional practice in six set works in the GCSE Dance Anthology

Who Is This Course For?

Dance GCSE is for the students who enjoy being creative, exploring ideas and transposing those ideas into movement. If you have an ability to notice nuances between different dance styles and genres, and you are able to communicate your interpretation of dance in discussion and through written analysis. If you want to be able to show that you can express movement and can remain focused, committed and prepared to undergo the rigorous physical training, this is the course for you.

Attendance in Dance Clubs at Alderbrook is a benefit. However, some students pursue this course with no previous experience but a love for dance.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Completing this course will prepare you for a KS5 Course in Dance

What kind of job can I get if I study this Dance course?

Choreographer	Community Dance Practitioner	Costume/Set Designer	Dance Performer	Dance/Arts Officer
Dance Education Specialist	Dance Film Maker	Dance Movement Therapist	Dance Journalist	Dance Lecturer or Academic Researcher
Dance Photographer	Dance Project Coordinator or Administrator	Press and Public Relations Specialist	Dance Teacher	Lighting Designer/Technical Production Manager
Choreologist (Someone who notates Dance)	Pilates Instructor	Dance Agent	Nutritionist for Dancers	Dance Critic

DANCE

LEVEL 2 TECHNICAL AWARD PERFORMING ARTS

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

Written exam – 40%

Non-exam assessment – 60%

Technical Award Performing Arts

Unit 1: Unlocking creativity

Students will demonstrate core knowledge and understanding of the theoretical content of dance performance or production including:

- Research
- Idea development
- Planning and budgeting
- Presentation (skills and content)
- Transferable skill of communication

Unit 2: The production/performance

Students will demonstrate the theoretical content of a holistic production or performance, both as an individual and as a member of a group.

- A key performance or production role in a performance based on one of five performance briefs
- Use transferable skills as part of a team

Unit 3: The performing arts experience

Students will demonstrate core knowledge and understanding in a written exam of the following:

- Roles and responsibilities within the performing arts industry
- The role of performing arts in society
- Approaches to rehearsal
- Working as a deviser/performer/director
- Marketing and public relations
- Health and safety
- Design and technical elements
- Reviewing performance
- Theatre/film in education

What Will You Learn?

In Unit 1, you will develop the knowledge and understanding of the creative skills necessary to devise an idea for a production. This includes researching the five key areas within the performing arts. You will learn about how to develop an idea for your production as well as plan and budget for the production. You will learn how to pitch an idea to an audience, which is a valuable skill to learn for many different career paths.

In Unit 2, you will build on the knowledge, disciplines and specific skills areas developed in Unit 1 and work as a member of an ensemble creating a performance suitable for an audience. You will learn about making informed choices about the performing arts and learn to work collaboratively with others.

In Unit 3, you will learn to reflect on the learning experiences that you have encountered throughout Unit 1 and Unit 2. You will analyze and evaluate approaches to production and stimulated briefs.

Who Is This Course For?

This course is for students wishing to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in the performing arts. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements. There is a real world experience of learning about the business side of the performing arts as well as becoming the artist. For any student seriously intending venturing into the industry, this is a course for you.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Completing this course will prepare you for further qualifications in performing arts, dance, drama, music, media studies, film studies and art and design.

DRAMA

GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

Examination 40 %

Controlled Assessment & Coursework 60 %

Exam

COMPONENT 1: Understanding Drama (40%)

This is a written paper held in the summer term of Year 11. The paper consists of three parts;

- **SECTION A:** Knowledge and Understanding multiple choice on your knowledge and understanding of theatre (4 marks)
- **SECTION B:** Four questions on a given extract from the set text 'The 39 Steps' (44 marks)
- **SECTION C:** Analysis and Evaluation of a live theatre performance (32 marks)

Controlled Assessment

COMPONENT 2: Devising Drama (40%)

Students will work as a group to devise, perform and evaluate their own play. They will complete a devising log worth 60 marks, to evidence their contribution to the process and evaluate their work in addition to the performance worth 20 marks. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

COMPONENT 3: Texts in Practice (20%)

Performance of two contrasting script extracts, each worth 20 marks (40 total). Here you will have an opportunity to apply the works of drama practitioners and evidence your understanding of drama techniques practically.

What Will You Learn?

Studies will include the following:

- Developing techniques & performance skills
- Learning various approaches to creating (devising) performance material
- Studying and analysing how playwrights, past & present, write and why
- Creating your own scripted short plays
- Keeping a written Portfolio, detailing your reflection on the rehearsal process
- Visits to various performance venues for workshops or performances

Who Is This Course For?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Trains you to be an actor and understand the actor's craft
- Reflects your genuine interest in theatre
- Enables you to work closely with other students
- Allows you opportunities to see live theatre
- Develops your analytical, communication and creative skills
- Drives you to have pride in your work
- Can be fun, infuriating and intensely rewarding!

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Whatever your future plans, this course can help you to:

- Go on to study A Level Drama & Theatre Studies or BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts
- Have a head start in other post-16 subjects such as English or Sociology
- Develop your understanding about the world you live in
- Develop confidence in yourself, in public speaking and in interview situations
- Develop organisation skills, self-discipline and meet deadlines

DRAMA

Level 2 Certificate in Creative Studies

Performance Skills

Examination Board

NCFE

Assessment:

Internally assessed portfolio for Units 1, 3 and 4

The Drama Department will be offering students an alternative to a standard GCSE Drama.

This is to ensure that all students have access to a level 2 qualification that suits their level of performance and skills. Not all Key Stage 4 students will have the broad range of writing and analytical skills that are required to be a successful GCSE Drama student. Also, some students will inevitably struggle to perform well in formal written and performance examinations. This NCFE course provides a vehicle to nurture performance talent without the need for terminal examinations. It is assessed entirely through practical and written coursework that is both internally and externally moderated.

The NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Creative Studies: Performance Skills, is a brand new qualification better suited to students whose main focus is practical work and performance skills. Although much of the work on the course will be practical, students are required to write in portfolios in order to provide evidence of their learning and evaluative skills. The course offers focused study for students interested in both performance skills and technical theatre and theatre design. This new qualification is validated by ofqual, is the equivalent of a GCSE and will be accepted by colleges as a valid qualification for their entry requirements.

This qualification is designed for learners who may be interested in the performance industry. The focus of the qualification is on the learner's ability and desire to perform.

This qualification aims to:

- focus on an applied study of the performance skills industry
- offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a significant core of knowledge and theoretical content with broad-ranging applicability
- provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills

The objectives of this qualification are to help learners to:

- acquire and develop fundamental practical skills
- focus on performance ability by developing critical awareness
- provide an opportunity to develop existing skills relating to the performance industry

Throughout the delivery of this qualification, the following core areas and transferable skills should be evident:

- awareness of the need to have suitable warm-up routines and safe working practices for physical activities
- function more effectively as an independent learner in developing new skills
- realistic self-evaluation of skills and progress through a reflective process
- develop confidence in communicating effectively with an audience
- the importance of team work and mutual support
- use problem-solving skills in a practical context

The Course You Will Follow

Unit 1	Developing skills for performance	Internally assessed portfolio of evidence
Unit 2	Prepare and perform	Externally assessed assignment
Unit 3	Performance production in practice	Internally assessed portfolio of evidence
Unit 4	Performance design and technology in context	Internally assessed portfolio of evidence

MUSIC

Level 2 Certificate

BTEC



Examination Board:

Edexcel

Assessment:

Exam 25%

Controlled Assessment & Coursework 75%

What Will You Learn?

On the course, you will learn how to:

- Develop your skills as a performer (both as a soloist and as part of an ensemble)
- Create your own music in response to a range of stimuli and for a wide range of situations
- Develop an understanding of the wider world of the Music Industry through investigative case studies and scenarios

You will also have the chance to organise your own concerts/arrange your own CD and promote yourself as a musician to wider audiences. You will also get the chance to go on specialist music trips, play in exciting venues and make top quality recordings of your work.

Who Is This Course For? (This Will Suit You If...)

This is a course for anyone who is passionate about this area of the Arts. It suits experienced musicians who wish to refine their performance skills and develop their creative capabilities. Less experienced musicians who are committed to developing their musical abilities also do well. All students will be required to play an instrument of any level. Singers are invited to complete this course also.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

A large number of our students go on to study Music or Performing Arts at Sixth Form or College. Students can also follow the BTEC route by completing the level 3 qualification in Music or Music Technology. Some students, with Grade 7 or Grade 8 in their instrument tend to take A Level Music, which is available at Aldersbrook.

Our former students are now studying Music or Music Technology at University. A number have already started to forge successful careers in the performance industry.

Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE)

Examination Board:

ASDAN

Assessment:

This course is 100% coursework. Students complete 12 modules and create a portfolio of skills-based work. To complete a module, a student must do a minimum of 10 hours' work. There are two levels of pass and to achieve Level 2 requires more detailed work and a greater level of independence.

What Will You Learn?

The course focuses on the following key skills:

- Working with Others and improving own learning and performance
- Problem-Solving
- Planning and Carrying Out a Piece of Research
- Communicating Through Discussion
- Planning and Giving an Oral Presentation

Tasks undertaken relate to a range of topic areas, which are:

- Module 1 – Communication
- Module 2 – Citizenship and Community
- Module 3 – Sport and Leisure
- Module 4 – Independent Living
- Module 5 – The Environment
- Module 6 – Vocational Preparation
- Module 7 – Health and Fitness
- Module 7 – Work-Related Learning and Enterprise
- Module 10 - International Links
- Module 11 - Expressive Arts
- Module 12 - Beliefs and Values

Students are given the opportunity to attend college once a week to complete some of the above modules.

Who Is This Course For?

This course is usually by invitation only and is for students who wish to increase their knowledge on a range of topics, to broaden their horizons and to develop a range of skills which will be of great benefit to them in college, in the workplace and in adult life in general.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

The learning skills which are developed through the CoPE award prepare students for further learning in a variety of subject areas. Students who have completed this qualification often go to college to study a course inspired by something they have learned about on the CoPE course.

USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

This is the national careers service website. It has information on planning for your career and includes lots of useful information on different jobs - have a look at the Job Profiles.

<http://icould.com/>

This careers website includes a whole section on how GCSE choices can affect your future. See the section on "Focus on Choices at 14"

<http://www.futuremorph.org>

Future Morph website is designed to show 14-18 year olds career routes that studying science, technology, engineering and maths can lead to.

<http://careersbox.co.uk>

Careersbox is a free online library of careers related film, news and information.

<https://www.startprofile.com/Login.aspx>

A careers website which can help you find out about a range of different careers. This section on "Choosing Your Career" is a good starting point. We are registered as a school and our code is 84588.