



Year 9 Options Booklet

For courses commencing September 2022



**BELPER
SCHOOL**
and Sixth Form Centre

Contents

Introduction	3
Background Information	4
Careers Information Advice and Guidance	7
Compulsory Subjects	
• English	8
• Mathematics	10
• Physical Education	11
• Religious Education	12
• Science	13
Optional Subjects	
• Art - Fine Art GCSE	14
• Art - Graphic Art GCSE	15
• Art - Digital Photography GCSE	16
• Computer Science - GCSE	17
• Business - GCSE	18
• Design and Technology - Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE	19
• Design and Technology - 3D Design GCSE	20
• Design and Technology - Graphic Communication GCSE	21
• Design and Technology - Textile Design GCSE	22
• Drama - GCSE	23
• Geography - GCSE	24
• History - GCSE	25
• Media Studies - GCSE	26
• Modern Foreign Languages - French or German GCSE	27
• Music - BTEC	28
• Physical Education - GCSE/OCR Cambridge National	29
• Religious Studies - GCSE	30
• Separate Sciences: Biology/Chemistry/Physics - GCSE	31
What is?	32
Students wishing to change their option choices	33

Introduction

Dear Students and Parents/Carers

For the first time in Year 9, students have the opportunity to think about the subjects they study and make some choices about what they want to focus on for GCSE and in the future. Making the right decisions is very important, as it can influence the choices students have in the future.

This booklet is intended to give you information about courses on offer in Key Stage 4 which covers Years 10 and 11. Students will also want to talk to their subject teachers to find out from them what the course is really like and whether it will suit them.

In school we have a careers leader, Eleanor Snape, who is a qualified Careers Adviser. She and our external careers guidance partners provide, in school, careers education and advice to students. Eleanor is based in the Careers Office in the Library during the school day on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. She can arrange for students to meet with a qualified adviser and can also make appointments for students to be seen with parents/carers.

In line with many secondary schools, since 2017 we have required the vast majority of students to study either History or Geography. This is in recognition of the importance of the English Baccalaureate, which has seen a significant national increase in the number of students selecting subjects within it. Indeed, the government has a national expectation that the majority of students should be following this pathway. The English Baccalaureate offers a pathway particularly suited to students who are capable of achieving a higher grade pass in Mathematics, English, two Sciences, one of which may be Computing, a Foreign Language and History or Geography. It is especially appropriate for students considering Higher Education.

Since the English Baccalaureate requires students to study a foreign language, we will also be asking students who are likely to achieve a good pass grade at GCSE to select the language they are studying at Key Stage 3 as one of their four options. This will have been determined by the student's progress by December 2021 in the language they are currently studying and will be made clear on the options choice forms of those students selected. Students who are *not* required by the school to select a foreign language may, of course, choose to do so and, with hard work and a positive attitude should make good progress at GCSE.

In making choices, it is easy to be influenced by friends and preferences for certain teachers. You should try to avoid these influences; there is absolutely no guarantee you will have the same teacher in Years 10 and 11 as you have in Year 9 and there is no point in choosing a subject because your friend likes it and is good at it! Choose subjects which play to your strengths and which you enjoy. We offer a range of courses to suit different students; some subjects require a very good level of Maths, some courses are more practical and have more direct links to the world of work. Students thinking about Higher Education are directed towards subjects within the English Baccalaureate. The options process is an opportunity for students and their parents/carers to work together with their tutor to make the right decisions for them based on all the available information and it is our aim to support students with this process.

The options process involves a number of key events including the Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening and the Mid-Year Tutor Review as well as the Options Evening. The options choice forms will be made available online towards the end of the options process. It is recommended that students wait to complete the online form until after they have had an opportunity to talk through their choices thoroughly with both their parents/carers and subject staff at school if they need to.

Students are required to choose four subjects (including History or Geography), although, as explained above, some students will be required to continue studying a modern foreign language as one of these four. Unfortunately, **it is not possible to guarantee that students will be allocated all their preferred subjects due to potential timetable clashes and students are reminded that any reserve choice they choose could be automatically allocated to them so they should consider this carefully.** Furthermore, some subjects in the booklet may not run if too few students select them. Students' completed Option Choice forms will need to be submitted online by Friday 18 March 2022. We aim to confirm option choices to students early in the summer term once group sizes and staffing have been finalised.

Mark Kazmierczak
Assistant Headteacher

Background Information

This Guide

This guide is intended to give parents and students a clear idea of the courses offered for study in Key Stage 4 at Belper School and Sixth Form Centre for the two-year period September 2022 to June 2024.

It is organised in three sections:

1. **Background information.**
2. **Information about compulsory subjects which all students must study.**
3. **Information about optional subjects, from which students choose.**

It is important that parents talk to their children about their choices, and try to think ahead to the choices they might want to make after GCSEs: a career, perhaps or subjects to study in the Sixth Form or at college. Keeping a balance of choices amongst a wide range of curriculum areas is still the best advice when thinking about which subjects to choose. The **English Baccalaureate** offers a pathway particularly suited to students who are capable of achieving a higher grade pass in Mathematics, English, two Sciences, one of which may be Computing, a Foreign Language and History or Geography. Students thinking about Higher Education are advised or, in many cases, directed to select subjects within the English Baccalaureate.

Changes to GCSEs

New GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Maths were introduced in schools in England in September 2015. Since then, all other subjects taught in school at Key Stage 4 have also been reformed.

Compulsory Subjects

All students have to study:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (worth 2 GCSEs)
- A Modern Foreign Language for those pre-elected
- PSE (this also includes RE)
- Physical Education (core - not a GCSE)

Optional Subjects

In most cases students will choose four subjects from those listed in this booklet or three if they have been selected to study a modern foreign language. One choice must be either History or Geography and students should select an additional optional subject, which will be their reserve preference if an option does not run because there are not enough students choosing it. Students may also be allocated their reserve preference if there is a clash with the subjects they have chosen when timetabling. Students should consider the reserve preference carefully as they will be automatically allocated this subject in the event of one of the issues outlined above.

Grading

A numerical grading system is now used by the Department for Education for GCSE qualifications with 1 as the lowest grade and 9 as the highest. According to Ofqual:

- Grade 4 is considered a **standard pass** and broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as previously achieved a grade C and above on the old grading system.
- Grade 5 is considered a strong pass and equivalent to a high C/low B previously.
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as previously achieved an A and above.
- The bottom of grade 1 is aligned with the bottom of and old grade G.
- Grade 4 is the minimum that students must achieve without needing to resit Maths and English post-16.

Summary

Most students will be studying for 9 qualifications:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined unless Separate Sciences has been chosen as one of the student's three options)
- + Option 1
- + Option 2
- + Option 3 (a modern foreign language for those selected)
- History **or** Geography

Background Information

The Options Process

The process is in two stages:

Students consult staff and read information about courses on offer. Then students fill in an option preference form, in consultation with their tutor and parents/carers.

Where it is not possible to allocate one or more of a student's choices or concerns are raised about a student's selection of subjects, they will be interviewed by the Assistant Head responsible for the options' process or the Head of Year and offered support and guidance to help them make alternative choices. Subject choices are confirmed once the forms are processed and the teaching groups are put together. This process can take a number of weeks to complete and final decisions are not usually made until early in the summer term.

Further Help

In most of the subject details, we have tried to give some ideas about how students can get further help with their work. Sometimes this means extra classes run in school; sometimes it is a book we recommend or offer for sale to students; sometimes it is a selection of websites.

Equipment

We expect all students to provide pens, pencils, rulers and simple equipment for lessons. It is also useful to have an A4 pad of writing paper for rough work and taking notes and A4 ring binders. A calculator is essential and a suitable one can be bought from Maths. We provide students with a planner to record homework.

Computers and Internet Access

Whilst we provide students with the chance to use computers at lunchtime and after school on most days, it will help if they can use a computer at home; it needs to run standard office software and if possible, have access to a printer. If students do not have a printer at home then they can email documents to their school email account or save to their Google Drive and then print them in school if they wish.

Microsoft Office 365 is available to all currently enrolled students at Belper School, free of charge. Students can go to <https://hub.belperschool.co.uk/home/students> and follow the instructions to log in, download and install the software

Additionally, all Belper School students have free online access to Google Workspace (formally called G Suite) with students having access to the whole suite of applications including a Google Drive space for storing and sharing their schoolwork in the cloud. More information can be found at <https://workspace.google.co.uk>

Background Information

Websites

Below is a selection of websites that may help students with their work. Please note that these websites were current at the time of printing, but may change quickly. We cannot accept responsibility for the availability or content of these sites.

General Sites

www.bbc.co.uk/schools
www.gcse.com
www.s-cool.co.uk

www.projectgcse.co.uk
www.schoolsnet.com
www.dictionary.com

Subject Specific Sites

- www.tate.org.uk (*Art*)
- www.nationalgallery.org.uk (*Art*)
- www.pinterest.com (*Art*)
- www.saatchiart.com (*Art*)
- Tutor2U - <https://www.tutor2u.net/business> (*Business*)
- Craig 'N' Dave - <https://craigndave.org/> (*Computing*)
- Computer Science Guru - <https://www.computerscience.gcse.guru/> (*Computing*)
- <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/> (*Drama*)
- <http://www.educas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/gcse/> (*Drama*)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zyc8xsg> (*Drama*)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zbckjxs> (*Drama*)
- www.clickrevision.com (*English and English Literature*)
- www.mrbuff.com (*English and English Literature*)
- www.aqa.org.uk (*English and English Literature*)
- www.geographic.org/geography/learning.html (*Geography*)
- www.schoolhistory.co.uk (*History*)
- www.languagesonline.org.uk (*Languages*)
- www.vocabexpress.com (*Languages*)
- www.linguascope.co.uk (*Languages*)
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/german/ (*Languages*)
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french/ (*Languages*)
- <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4/subjects/german> (*Languages*)
- <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4/subjects/french> (*Languages*)
- www.mathswatch.co.uk (*Maths*) Please see a Maths Teacher for username/password information
- www.mymaths.co.uk (*Maths*) Please see a Maths Teacher for username/password information
- www.nrich.maths.org (*Maths*)
- plus.math.org (*Maths*)
- <http://mathswebsite.com> (*Maths*)
- <https://www.onmaths.com/> (*Maths*)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize> (*GCSE PE*)
- www.newscientist.com (*Science*)
- <https://quizlet.com/en-gb> (*Quizlet revision site - Science*)
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/minutephysics> (*Physics questions - Science*)
- www.rsc.org/ (*Royal Society of Chemistry - Science*)
- www.iop.org/ (*institute of physics - Science*)
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize> (*KS3 and GCSE revision - Science*)
- <https://www.rsb.org.uk/> (*Royal society of biology - Science*)
- www.designcouncil.org.uk (*Technology*)
- www.technologystudent.com (*Technology*)
- www.vam.ac.uk (*Technology*)
- www.pinterest.com (*Technology*)

The School Hub

Students can now access some parts of Belper School's network via the internet. They should go to hub.belperschool.co.uk and login using their school email account and then follow the link for students. Most subjects have begun to place worksheets and homework help sheets on Google Classroom, which is accessed from the links at the top of the student hub page. Direct links to Internet services for Belper School students using the Hub include:

- **Google Classroom** - Access to our online learning platform.
- **Email** - Access to individual students' school based email accounts.
- **G Suite** - Access the Google office software - documents, sheets and presentation and access individual Google Drives.
- **Home Access** - Access students' secure H drive in school. Many students may choose to save their work in **Google Drive**, which also allows them to be accessed remotely.
- **Library** - Access the school's Library system based on Oliver.
- **Careers Guidance** - Access to Careers Guidance links and information.

Create your Future

We always encourage our students to think about themselves in terms of their personal qualities and recognising the value of activities that they have been involved in. This helps them to understand their development of certain skills and competencies which is particularly useful when they are choosing option choices for Years 10 and 11.



Students can access Belper School Careers webpage via the button on the student HUB

Parents and Students can also access Belper School Careers webpage under the **Careers Services at Belper School** tab on the school website. This page contains a range of useful careers information.



On the Belper School Careers webpage is the Unifrog platform. This provides students, parents and staff with access up-to-date information on all the pathways available to young people moving through and on from school .

Students are able to:

- Complete an individual Personality Profile
- Complete an individual Interest Profile
- Look at labour market information in profiles and videos linked to school subjects
- Look at labour market information in profiles linked to careers
- Access webinars and MOOC learning opportunities (MOOC = Massive Open Online Courses)
- Access a database of current opportunities for every pathway including:
 - Further education college courses,
 - UK university courses
 - Intermediate, Advanced, Higher and Degree Apprenticeships
 - Traineeships

Students can talk to careers staff in the Careers Resource Centre (off the Main Library before and after school and during breaks in the day. Eleanor usually works from Tuesday to Thursday between 08:30 and 16:30 and Stuart from DEBP also comes into school regularly.

Students and parents can e-mail ers@belperschool.co.uk. to make appointments.

It may be possible to book after school appointments if parents/carers want to be involved.



Compulsory Subjects

English Language

The skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are of vital importance in many areas. Not only are they essential in many careers, they also underpin successful study at all levels, and a proficiency in them can also add immeasurably to an individual's general quality of life. This specification is designed to aid and assess such development, and to encourage learners to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It will prepare learners to make informed decisions and to use language to participate effectively in society and employment.

Different forms of assessment are appropriate to these different skills and this is recognised in this specification. Reading and writing are assessed through two externally marked units. Speaking and Listening is assessed in a variety of different situations during the course but does not count to the overall grade awarded.

GCSE Subject Criteria for English Language:

- require that learners become critical readers of a range of texts, including multimodal texts and at least one extended text.
- require learners to write accurately and fluently, choosing content and adapting style and language to a wide range of forms, media, contexts, audiences and purposes.
- require that in speaking and listening learners present and listen to information and ideas, responding appropriately to the questions and views of others.

All of the above requirements are met by this specification.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A (40 marks, 25%): Reading - one literacy extract (20th or 21st)

Section B (40 marks, 25%): Writing - descriptive and/or narrative writing

Assessed: 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of GCSE

Paper 2 - Writers' Viewpoint and Perspectives

Section A (40 marks, 25%):

Reading - one literacy non-fiction (20th or 21st)

- one non-fiction extract (19th)

Section B (40 marks, 25%):

Writing - writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed: 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks, 50% of GCSE

Controlled Assessment - Spoken Language

- Presenting
- Responding to questions and feedback
- Use of standard English

Assessed: Separate endorsement
Teacher set during course
Marked by teacher



Examination Board: AQA
Course Code: 8700

Compulsory Subjects

English Literature

This specification is based on the conviction that the study of literature should centre on an informed personal response to a range of texts in the genres of prose, poetry and drama.

Assessment is through external assessment and examination. Teachers and their students have some flexibility in the choice of texts to be studied as it is felt that the study of literature can greatly enhance a student's writing skills, and that practising his/her own writing skills can lead a student to increased enjoyment of, and success in, reading.



GCSE Subject Criteria for English Literature:

- require that learners become critical readers of fiction and non-fiction prose, poetry and drama. They should experience different times, cultures, viewpoints and situations as found in literary texts and explore how texts from different cultures and traditions may reflect or influence values, assumptions and sense of identity.
- require learners to connect ideas, themes and issues, drawing on a range of texts.
- require that learners understand that texts from the English, Welsh or Irish literary heritage have been influential and significant over time and explore their meaning today.

All of the above requirements are met by this specification.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel

Section A: Shakespeare

Section B: The Nineteenth Century Novel

Assessed: 1 hour 45 minutes, 64 marks, 40% of GCSE

Paper 2 - Modern Texts and Poetry

Section A: Modern prose or drama

Section B: Poetry anthology

Section C: Unseen poetry

Assessed: 2 hour 15 minutes, 96 marks, 60% of GCSE

Examination Board: AQA
Course Code: 8702

Compulsory Subjects

Mathematics

All students will follow the AQA GCSE Mathematics course during Key Stage 4.

Students are assessed at the end of Year 11 through three examination papers. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes in duration and contributes an equal amount to the overall grade. Paper 1 is a non-calculator exam but calculators will be allowed on Paper 2 and Paper 3. There are two tiers of entry - Foundation (grades 1 to 5) and Higher (grades 4 to 9) - and students will be placed in the tier most appropriate to their ability based on their performance throughout the course.

Students receive 8 hours of teaching per fortnight in both Year 10 and 11, which should enable them to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in the areas of Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics. Further information about the course content can be found at the AQA website www.aqa.org.uk/8300

This is an extremely challenging course, with high expectations of students at both tiers. There is a strong emphasis on problem solving and in order to be successful on the course, students will have to demonstrate that they can select and use the appropriate mathematical methods needed in a range of situations. There will also be more questions based on using mathematics to solve 'real-life' problems in order to improve their functional skills.

All students will receive regular written homework but they will also be expected to do their own independent study at home, where they should be reviewing their work and consolidating key concepts. There are materials to help them to do this on the school VLE 'WebLearn' as well as our subscription websites, MyMaths (www.mymaths.co.uk) and MathsWatch (vle.mathswatch.co.uk), which students have free access to at all times. Students should see their teachers for advice regarding login details.

Students are expected to have a scientific calculator for use in lessons and in the exams and suitable ones can be bought from the Mathematics department at a very reasonable price. Please contact the Head of Faculty for more details. As well as a calculator, students should have other essential mathematical equipment such as a protractor and a pair of compasses. All of this can be purchased from the school shop at lunchtimes.



If you have any questions at all about the GCSE course, please contact the Head of Faculty.

Examination Board: AQA
Course Code: 8300

Compulsory Subjects

Physical Education

Participation in PE is a compulsory part of the Belper School Curriculum until the end of Year 11. At Belper, students in Years 10 and 11 will take part in 'Core' PE for two hours per fortnight.

Some of the main aims of core PE include:

- giving students the chance to make choices about which activities to pursue
- developing students' understanding and practical performance in their preferred activities
- engaging students in a variety of roles, other than participant, in their chosen activities; for example, referee or coach

Activities on offer

Students will opt for activities of their choice and will study each activity for six weeks. The activities on offer include:

Netball	Volleyball
Swimming	Table Tennis
Football	Hockey
Athletics	Basketball
Squash	Rounders
Rugby	Fitness Activities
Water Polo	Aerobics
Badminton	Cricket
Softball	Dance
Tennis	Golf



Qualification Opportunities

Through Core PE, students will have the opportunity to gain a variety of sports qualifications. The courses offered will vary subject to demand. Recently, students have had the opportunity to gain the Junior Sports Leaders Award (JSLA) (20 hours), The Junior Football Organiser Award (5 hours) and the Level 1 Netball Coaching Award (5 hours). These courses have proved very popular with our young sports players.

Compulsory Subjects

Religious Education

All students in Year 10 and 11 will receive their Compulsory Religious Education via a series of dedicated assemblies and lesson time within PSE, co-ordinated by the teacher in charge of Religious Education.

Students who wish to study GCSE Religious Studies will need to choose the subject as one of their options.



Topics covered in Year 10 and Year 11 PSE may include the following:

- Life After Death
- The Problem with Evil
- Religious views on society
- Morality
- Consequences
- Life's big questions
- Holocaust (religious perspective)
- Marriage



Combined Science GCSE

It remains a national priority that all students should have a good grasp of Science, so that they can make sense of the increasingly scientific and technological world we live in. This means that science is a compulsory subject in all schools.

From January in Year 9 and throughout Years 10 and 11, the majority of students will study GCSE Combined Science in core lesson time. This will provide them with a common grounding and experience of Science to prepare them for how they will experience Science throughout their lives.

The **Combined Science course is worth two GCSEs** and is made up of the following Biology, Chemistry and Physics topic areas:

Biology - Cells and Control, Genetics, Natural Selection and Genetic Modification, Health, Disease and Development of Medicine, Plant Structures, Animal Coordination, Control and Homeostasis, Exchange and Transport, Ecosystems.

Chemistry - States of Matter and Separation, Atomic Structure, The Periodic Table, Ionic and Covalent Bonding, Acids and Alkalis, Mass Calculations, Electrolysis, Rates of Reaction, Fuels.

Physics - Motion, Forces and Motion, Conservation of Energy, Waves, Light and the Electromagnetic Spectrum, Radioactivity, Energy and Work, Electricity and Circuits, Magnetism and the Motor Effect, Particle Model Forces and Matter.

Successful completion of the GCSE Combined Science course will enable a student to pursue a wide range of progression routes and study options after the age of 16.

Assessment - A total of six exams will be taken at the end of Year 11. These consist of two exams for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There is no assessed coursework but practical skills will be developed and assessed throughout the course through specific investigations or tasks and 'Core Practicals'. 'Working Scientifically', mathematical skills and literacy skills will be assessed in the exams.

If a student achieves grades 9/9 - 6/6, they may choose traditional A levels in Science or a Science related course Post-16.



Optional Subjects - Art Faculty

Fine Art GCSE



This lively and popular course is suitable for students who are really interested in Art and Design. **It is strongly recommended that anyone wishing to study A Level Fine Art does this course.**

All students work initially on small projects, improving their painting and drawing skills and have the opportunity to work with an artist.



From January in Year 10, all students will work from a given theme, initially exploring this together and then working from their own ideas. They will explore a wide range of materials, techniques and ideas to produce a final piece(s) of finished work. From January of Year 11, students will work on their exam preparation, developing ideas from themes set by the exam board.

Hard working and enthusiastic students are likely to do well on this course. All work is assessed and presented in an A3 sketchbook.

Anyone wanting a career in Fine Art, Fashion, Graphics, Architecture, Interior Design, Set Design, Photography, Textile Design, Theatre Design, Film Design should consider doing this course as a basic grounding in the skills required for these courses.



Coursework

Students are required to submit a portfolio of work. Research work is presented in an A3 sketchbook and is assessed with a final piece.

This accounts for 60% of the course.

Examinations

The final exam is worth 40% of the course. Students have at least 10 weeks in class and at home to prepare for the practical exam and will have 10 hours to produce a piece of pre-planned work.



PLEASE NOTE - STUDENTS CANNOT CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT FROM FINE ART, GRAPHIC ART, GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION, 3D DESIGN AND TEXTILE DESIGN

Examination Board: AQA
QAN/Course Code: 601/8088/2 (8202)

Optional Subjects - Art Faculty

Graphic Art GCSE

This exciting course is suitable for students who are really interested in the wide and varied field of Graphic Art.

All students work initially on small projects, improving their painting, drawing and Photoshop skills and have the opportunity to work with an artist.

From January in Year 10, all students will work from a given theme and then develop their own ideas on this theme. They will explore a wide range of materials, techniques and imagery to produce a final piece(s) of finished work. From January of Year 11, students will work on their exam preparation, developing ideas from themes sent by the exam board.

Hard working and enthusiastic students are likely to do well on this course. All work is assessed and presented in an A3 sketchbook, with professional quality full colour printed finished pieces.



*It is strongly recommended that anyone wishing to study A level Graphic Art chooses this course.

*Anyone wanting a career in Graphic Art, Illustration, Fashion, Architecture, Interior Design, Set Design, Photography, Textile Design, Theatre Design, Film Design should consider taking this subject as a basic grounding in the skills required for these higher level courses.



Coursework

Students are required to submit a portfolio of work. Developed work is presented in an A3 sketchbook and is assessed with a final piece. This accounts for 60% of the course.

Examinations

The final exam is worth 40% of the course. Students have at least 10 weeks in class and at home to prepare for the practical exam and will have 10 hours to produce a piece of pre-planned work.

PLEASE NOTE - STUDENTS CANNOT CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT FROM FINE ART, GRAPHIC ART, GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION, 3D DESIGN AND TEXTILE DESIGN

Examination Board: AQA
QAN/Course Code: 601/8088/2 (8203)

Digital Photography GCSE

Students will work with digital cameras, at first exploring the formal elements of photography, before going on to develop a portfolio of work which explores different themes.

You will use a digital camera to take photographs and make regular use of Adobe Photoshop to enhance your images. You will also explore more experimental aspects of photography and creative use of Photoshop.



To get the most out of this course you will need your own camera. Ideally this will be a dSLR (digital single lens reflex). Speak to Jody about this if you are unsure.

Regular homework will be set and enthusiastic and hardworking students with a genuine interest in photography are likely to do well on this course. Studying GCSE Photography would be an excellent grounding for careers in this field, as well as film, media and animation.



Coursework

Coursework comprises 60% of the final mark. You will build up skills beginning with a number of shorter projects, before starting the main coursework project. As part of the coursework you will study the work of other photographers, as well as using these as inspiration for your own work. You will record your work physically, including contact sheets and printed photographs.



Examinations

The exam comprises 40% of the final mark. Students are given the exam paper which provides several starting points and students have from January to March/April to prepare for their final piece.



Examination Board: AQA
QAN/Course Code: 601/8088/2 (8206)

Optional Subjects - Business & Computing Faculty

Computer Science GCSE

This course will give you a real in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It is expected that you will be familiar with the use of computers and other related technologies. You will study creative problem solving, developing understanding and application of the core concepts in Computer Science, writing code for a variety of hardware.

The OCR GCSE in Computer Science comprises of three units: two examination units and one programming project.

Component 1: Computer Systems (Examined Unit)

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns and covers emerging new technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing. This paper is taken at the end of Year 11.



Component 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (Examined Unit)

Students develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation. The python language will be used to create simple games, apps and programs. Students will experience physical computing programming with the Arduino environment, and also use HTML, CSS and JavaScript to make interactive web pages. This paper is taken at the end of Year 11.

Component 3: Programming Project

This component is intended to emulate real-world development. Students are given a task to demonstrate their practical skills developed in Components 1 and 2. In a controlled environment, students will define success criteria from a given problem, and develop code to create a fully working program. This program will then be tested and evaluated by the student. Elements of Component 3 are assessed in the Component 2 examination paper.

Assessment Structure

Components 1 and 2 are assessed by an examination, whilst Component 3 is a compulsory programming piece, which has to be completed by the student as part of the course requirements. Component 3 is not marked or graded. Components 1 and 2 are worth 100% towards the final grade. This qualification is assessed at GCSE from grades 9-1.

Career Pathway

Students who study Computer Science have the option of pursuing the course to Level 3 study at sixth form or college. There are also apprenticeship pathways available. This is a qualification for students with an interest in working in computer programming, website development, software design, software analyst, business administration and networking.



Examination Board: OCR
Course Code: J277

Optional Subjects - Business & Computing Faculty

Business GCSE

Why are more people shopping online? Why are High Street shops closing? Why do people prefer to buy and wear branded trainers such as Nike and Adidas?, Why do things cost more in shops this year compared to last year? These are just some of many, many key things that you will find out about by studying Business at GCSE.

Business is a subject that will give you an insight on how the world of work operates. It will give you an idea about the way businesses recruit employees, how and where they decide to sell their products and also the techniques and skills they employ in order to make a profit.

As part of the course, you will look at both the UK and Global Business environment. You will study topics including Marketing, Finance and Accounting, Human Resources, eCommerce, Retail/Selling and Laws/Legislations.



What will I do on the course?

This is a very hands on and engaging course. You will investigate different aspects of business in the UK and Overseas. Some of the many things you will learn about include, investigating the production process in the manufacturing of popular products and how to calculate the financial situation in a given business. You will be looking at case studies and videos and also have the opportunity to work within small groups within lesson. As part of your study you will look at real life business organisations.



Assessment

The course is assessed by 2 written examination papers which are taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 : Investigating Small Business (1BS0/01) - 90 marks , 90 minutes, 50% towards the final GCSE grade.

Paper 2 : Building a Business (1BS0/02) - 90 marks, 90 minutes, 50% towards the final GCSE grade.

Both examinations are a standard tier paper.

The qualification is graded at GCSE from grades 9-1.

Career Pathway

Students who study this course have the option of pursuing the course to Level 3 study at sixth form or college. There are also apprenticeship pathways available for students working within a business environment. This course can lead towards careers in accounting and finance, business administration, human resources, marketing, social media marketing, advertising, ecommerce and retail.

Examination Board: Edexcel
Course Code: 1BS0

Optional Subjects - Design & Technology Faculty

Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE



What are the areas of study?

- Food Commodities
- Principles of Nutrition
- Diet and Good Health
- The Science of Food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking & Food



What about Coursework?

There are 2 assessments which contribute 50% of the final grade

Assessment 1: (8 hours) The Food Investigation Assessment

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

Assessment 2: (12 hours) The Food Preparation Assessment

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

This GCSE can lead to a career in food, hospitality, or health & nutrition. There is a wide range of jobs available within the hospitality and catering sector, such as tourism, hotel management and various catering opportunities.

The course also investigates dietary needs throughout life, and therefore lends itself well to further studies in Health & Social Care or Sports Nutrition.

It is a good route into A Levels, Further Education or Apprenticeships e.g. Retail and Commercial Enterprise (Catering/Hospitality) or Engineering and Manufacturing (Food and Drink).

Not sure?

Talk to Kay Lilleyman or Hilary Wylie who will be happy to help.

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition allows students to -

- demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes

Exams?

**Written examination:
1 hour 45 mins
50% of qualification**



Examination Board: WJEC/Eduqas
Course Code: C560P1

Optional Subjects - Design & Technology Faculty

3D Design GCSE

Take your Design and Making skills to the next level

Think creatively

Solve Problems

Design Products

Make virtual and 3D models

Use CAD/CAM

Test your Products



What will I learn?

Assignments cover a wide range of activities based on designing and making products that are manufactured from; woods, metals and plastics.

You will use a range of industrial processes & materials to manufacture functioning products of your own design.

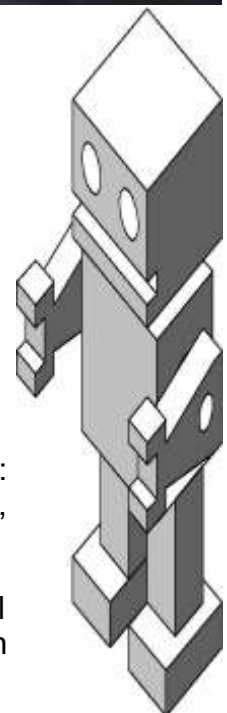
The course will enable you to develop a wide range of creative designing and making skills, technical knowledge and understanding relating to 3D Product Design.

Assessment

This GCSE is assessed through work produced throughout the course. There is no written exam.

60% of the grade will be based on a portfolio of evidence generated by individual students through a range of Design and Make assignments.

40% is assessed through an externally set assignment. This includes preparation work and an outcome produced within a time limit under exam conditions.



What can I do after I've completed the course?

Many students who study **GCSE 3D Product Design** go on to:

Enter the Sixth Form to study A Level Design.

Often students continue study on University courses in: Architecture, Product Design, Industrial Design, Manufacturing, Marketing & Automotive Design.

Gain apprenticeships in a wide variety of professional careers including: Manufacturing, Graphic Design, modern trades and business related occupations.

PLEASE NOTE - STUDENTS CANNOT CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT FROM FINE ART, GRAPHIC ART, GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION, 3D DESIGN AND TEXTILE DESIGN

Examination Board: EDUQAS
QAN/Course Code: 601/8087/0
Syllabus Code: C655QS

Optional Subjects - Design & Technology Faculty

Graphic Communication GCSE



Striking Graphics, Amazing 3D Models, Real Products

Master the techniques used by Graphic Designers in the real-world. Develop your creative problem solving skills and learn to develop your graphic design skills and use our superb equipment.

The very latest Technology

Use the Vinyl Printer, Laser Cutter and 3D Printer, 2D Design, Photoshop, Sketch-Up and 123D Design. Also discover how to: screen print, use a drawing board, an air brush, DSLR Camera and lots of other techniques.



What will I be doing?

Most of the GCSE will be taught through practical projects that result in a high quality, realistic end-products. Current topics include: Architectural Modelling, Packaging Design, Pop-Up Cards and Self-Assembly gifts.

Do I need to be able to draw like Leonardo Da Vinci?

No, but you do need the determination to keep working until your outcomes look good! We use hand techniques and computer aided design - so you can work to your strengths whilst developing other areas.



Assessment

This GCSE is assessed through work produced throughout the course. There is no written exam.

60% of the grade will be based on a portfolio of evidence generated by individual students through a range of Design and Make assignments.

40% is assessed through an externally set assignment. This includes preparation work and an outcome produced within a 10 hour time limit under exam conditions.



What can I do after I have completed the course?

Further study at AS, A2 and Degree Level can lead to careers in: Graphic Design, Architecture, Web Design, TV Graphics, Model Making, Advertising, Interior Design, Animation, Marketing, etc. Many Graphic Designers run their own business.



PLEASE NOTE - STUDENTS CANNOT CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT FROM FINE ART, GRAPHIC ART, GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION, 3D DESIGN AND TEXTILE DESIGN

Examination Board: EDUQAS
QAN/Course Code: 601/8087/0
Syllabus Code: C654QS

Optional Subjects - Design & Technology Faculty

Textile Design GCSE



Do you enjoy fashion and designing?

This course is aimed at students who have an interest in textiles and fashion. You will get the chance to design and make a range of garments to test your creative skills.

You will be able to add an individual touch to your designs using the computer embroidery machine and digital printing.

What are the assignments?

You will start with a project to make a customised pair of shorts. As we get closer to Christmas you will be given the opportunity to develop your own textile based item with a festive theme. This will involve making your own sewing pattern based on your individual design. Finally, your creativity will be fully tested as you design and make fancy dress or a cosplay costume. These can range from capes to corsets and include hidden extras like lights!

Assessment

This GCSE is assessed through work produced throughout the course. There is no written exam.

60% of the grade will be based on a portfolio of evidence generated by individual students through a range of Design and Make assignments.

40% is assessed through an externally set assignment. This includes preparation work and an outcome produced within a 10 hour time limit under exam conditions.



What can I do after I have completed the course?

Studying Textiles can lead to a variety of careers in design & manufacture. Employers value the qualification because it develops many creative, technical and transferable skills.

Many students use the work produced to help build a portfolio for entry onto Art Foundation courses at college. The qualification could also prove useful when applying for a retail and commercial enterprise apprenticeship in fashion and textiles.



PLEASE NOTE - STUDENTS CANNOT CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT FROM FINE ART, GRAPHIC ART, GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION, 3D DESIGN AND TEXTILE DESIGN

Want to find out more?
Talk to Sarah Speight

Examination Board: EDUQAS
QAN/Course Code: 601/8087/0
Syllabus Code: C653QS

Optional Subjects - Performing Arts Faculty

Drama GCSE

The GCSE Drama course is largely practical and ideal for students who like working in groups, enjoy expressing themselves in an active and exciting way and want to develop their creative and critical skills. The ability to work successfully both as an individual and as part of a group using practical creative and evaluation skills, is vital in this subject. Presentation and communication skills are naturally acquired in this subject and are of course a bankable asset in today's modern jobs' market.

GCSE Drama will provide you with an excellent foundation for GCE Drama and Theatre Studies, GCE Performing Arts, BTEC Performing Arts or a Diploma in Creative and Media. Performance is integral to this course so you must have, or be able to develop, the confidence to do this!



Component One: Devised Practical Performance 40%

- Working in your group, you will devise an original piece of drama.
- Your performance must last between 10-25 minutes, depending on the size of your group (*between two and five people*)
- You will be given a stimulus as a starting point for your work.
- Your devised performance must be linked to a particular practitioner or genre.



Component Two: Performance from a Script 20%

- Working in a group of between two and five people, you will perform an extract from a published play script.
- You may choose either acting or a theatre design skill.

Component Three: Written Exam 40%

- You will practically study a set text.
- In your exam you will need to show you can give advice to actors, directors and designers.
- A Live Theatre Review of a play seen during the course.



Examination Board: Eduquas
Course Code: C690QS

Optional Subjects - Humanities Faculty

Geography GCSE

The specification used is Eduqas Geography B.
The subject content for this is divided into the following units -

- Theme 1 - Changing Places - Changing Economies
- Theme 2 - Changing Environments
- Theme 3 - Environmental Challenges



The syllabus has been chosen to help our students explore people and their environment as well as contemporary events and issues which are relevant locally, nationally and globally. It will help students to understand their environment and community.

Students who are interested in decision-making and empathy work will enjoy exploring and solving complex social and environmental issues as well as gaining an understanding of how they shape the world along with natural processes.



The course is assessed in the following way:

Examinations

Three written exam papers to be taken at the end of Year 11.

- Component 1 - Investigating Geographical Issues, written examination 1 hr 45 minutes (40% of qualification)
- Component 2 - Problem Solving Geography, written examination 1 hr 30 minutes (30% of qualification)
- Component 3 - Applied Fieldwork Enquiry, written examination 1 hr 30 minutes (30% of qualification)



Career Pathways

Geography is appropriate to a range of career areas including planning, environmental issues, geology and tourism.

Examination Board: Eduqas
QAN/Course Code: 601/8153/9

Optional Subjects - Humanities Faculty

History GCSE

An exciting course encourages learners to become curious, develop their own opinions based on a respect for evidence and build a deeper understanding of the past. This course includes a heavy writing content.

The course will include 5 elements:

1) Migrants to Britain c.1250 to Present

This thematic study should enable students to understand the changes and continuities in migration to Britain. You will study the reasons why people migrated to Britain, their experiences in Britain and the impact of migrants on Britain.



2) The Norman Conquest 1065 - 1087

Studying different interpretations of Norman England including a study of the historic environment, such as local castles. This includes the study of how and why William won the Battle of Hastings and how he kept control through castles.

3) History Around Us - A study of Lincoln Castle (*subject to change*)

This involves a visit to Lincoln Castle to gain an understanding of the physical features of the site, together with other historical sources. This course is intended to help students find a connection with peoples' lives in the past.



4) The Making of America 1789 - 1900

Studying US expansion, the Civil War and settlement and conflict on the Plains. This focuses on the Native Americans' battles to keep their land in the face of white civilisation, which included cowboys, ranchers and farmers.

5) Living under Nazi Rule 1933 - 1945

Studying life in Nazi Germany and The Holocaust. This will include studying the Nazi dictatorship, those that opposed it, Germany at war and persecution of the Jews.



How can history help my future?

History will teach you skills that can be applied to all sorts of situations. Employers will know that you will have a better understanding of how people tick, what motivates them, what they think and feel, you are able to gather and read different kinds of information and can check for bias or propaganda, you are able to communicate clearly and have learned to express yourself verbally and on paper. History can give you skills most employers want - whatever the job you have in mind, such as law, journalism, accounts, TV researcher, Police, town planning, tourism and building restoration.

Examinations

Three exams at the end of Year 11, no coursework or controlled assessment.

Examination Board: OCR
Course Code: J411

Optional Subjects - English Faculty

Media Studies GCSE

The GCSE Media Studies course attracts a large number of students every year because it makes learning interesting, challenging, creative and fun. It offers rigorous but accessible learning on a subject of key importance for young people's understanding of the world they experience.

It offers:

- Extensive and meaningful coverage of media theory and practice
- Practical work which integrates theories and concepts with the opportunity to engage with media software and technology
- The chance to study across a range of media platforms
- Opportunities for progression, especially to GCE Media Studies or Level 3 Diploma in Creative and Media

The new specification focuses primarily on a number of written examinations to be taken at the end of the programme of study. There is also a smaller coursework aspect to the specification.

The course examines many media platforms, some of which are listed below:

- Moving Image – Television
- Radio
- Print and Digital Publishing
- Digital and New Media Technologies
- Advertising and Marketing
- Popular Music



Examination Board: Eduqas
Course Code: C680QS

Modern Foreign Languages GCSE

The course studied in Years 10 and 11 will build on the language skills gained in Key Stage 3. Students will continue to learn to use the language of real life situations and will have a working knowledge of how native speakers communicate in a variety of everyday situations. The language learning is set in 3 contexts:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment



Students will learn to understand both the spoken and written language and to communicate orally and in written form. Students will also learn about the country, other countries where the language is spoken and their way of life, customs and culture.

Assessment

All examinations will take place at the end of Year 11

Listening 25% 35 minutes (Foundation Tier) / 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

Speaking 25% 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) / 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier)

Reading 25% 45 minutes (Foundation Tier) / 1 hour (Higher Tier)

Writing 25% 1 hour (Foundation Tier) / 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

It is recommended that each student possesses his/her own dictionary for the course. We recommend the following;

Collins French Dictionary: ISBN 978000 7485475

Collins German Dictionary: ISBN 978000 7485499

Language learning is, by its nature, a continuous process in which students are reinforcing and building on what they know. They will be expected to revise and learn vocabulary and structures on a regular basis and to meet deadlines.

Further Education and/or Career Opportunities

The foundation gained in language learning skills and the GCSE grade obtained will equip students to continue the study of a Modern Foreign Language at A Level. The number and variety of university degree courses offering a vocational qualification combined with a language and the opportunity to study and work as an undergraduate are increasing each year as we become aware of the need to equip British students for life and work in the wider world. As the United Kingdom moves into close political and economic relationships with other countries, the GCSE student of today will be the work force of tomorrow and will be expected at all levels to be prepared to live and work beyond our country's boundaries. The languages, the language learning skills and especially the communication skills which we offer will be of increasing importance throughout our students' lives.



Examination Board: AQA
Course Codes - French: 8658
German: 8668

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by exploring and developing their musical skills and techniques, and by responding to a music industry brief as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden the learners experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

COMPONENTS

The components that will be studied include a range of activities relating to the student's own interest in music based around themes which include:

Exploring music products and styles, music skills development, and responding to a commercial music brief.



Level 2 students would probably be looking to consider a range of music related courses at Key Stage 5 as well as providing them with useful skills in order to enter the world of work including apprenticeships.

A BTEC Level 2 Award will have the equivalent value of a GCSE for those looking to further their education. Students will be awarded a Pass (approximately Grade 5), Merit (Grade 6) Distinction (Grade 7) and Distinction* (Grade 8/9). Students achieving the Level 1 Award will gain a low GCSE equivalent qualification (approximately Grade 2/3).

Students wanting to discuss the content of the components in more detail are encouraged to speak to the Performing Arts staff in school.

Optional Subjects - PE Faculty

Physical Education GCSE /

OCR Cambridge National in Sports Studies

Belper PE Department offers two courses to our Key Stage 4 students. These courses provide an interesting and challenging option for any student who has a keen interest in sports and physical activity. To follow a PE course, students must have shown a commitment to PE and sport during their time at Belper School. They will be involved in sport most days and will be expected to be heavily involved in the school's extra-curricular programme in order to maximise their chance of success. They will need to develop an interest in a range of sports as outstanding ability in just one sport will not bring success on these courses.

Our two-year courses are both nationally recognised alongside other qualifications - they are by no means a 'soft option'! Students will develop their sporting ability in a range of activities, whilst also undertaking class-based theory work on a number of sports-related topics.

OCR GCSE PE

Practical (This counts for 40% of the final grade)

Students will be assessed at the end of the course in a variety of sports - their **three** strongest sports will account for 30% of their final grade. Sports are categorised as individual and team activities. Students must have at least one from each category in their final three. A further 10% will be awarded for a Personal Development Programme which students plan and undertake in Year 11 for one of their chosen sports.



Examinations

60% of the marks are awarded for students' performance in two written exams -

- Paper 1 - 1hr Physical Factors Affecting Performance
60 marks / 30%
- Paper 2 - 1hr Socio-Cultural Issues and Sports Psychology
60 marks / 30%



OCR Cambridge National in Sports Studies

As an alternative to the more academically challenging GCSE PE course, the PE Department now offers the 'OCR Cambridge National in Sport Studies' qualification. This is a Level 2 course assessed by a combination of written coursework and examinations. The exams are taken at various points throughout the course. Students cover a variety of sports-based topics including: improving practical performance, factors affecting participation, sport and the media, sport leadership.

PE courses provide an ideal foundation for a wide variety of career pathways in the sports, leisure, fitness and tourism industries. They are also useful for those thinking of going into various aspects of education or any physically challenging career such as the armed forces or emergency services.

Students who opt for PE will be allocated a place on the course which best suits their sporting abilities and experiences, as well as their academic ability.

For further details about the courses, students can collect an information booklet from the PE office.

Examination Board GCSE: OCR
Course Code GCSE: J587

Optional Subjects - Humanities Faculty

GCSE Religious Studies

This GCSE course aims to get you thinking about yourself and to ask questions about the nature of society and culture and the meaning of life.

Religious Studies includes the following topics: Beliefs and Practices in Christianity, Beliefs and Practices in Judaism, Philosophical exploration of the concept of God and the world and scientific reasons for rejecting them, Ethical, Secular and Religious Perspectives on a variety of ethical issues.

Students look at a range of philosophical and ethical issues that are relevant to life in the 21st century from religious and secular perspectives. It is a course that will cause you to think sensitively about current issues and challenge your intellect as well as help you to develop a wide range of skills which will put you at an advantage whatever you choose to do Post-16.



Assessment

This course is externally assessed by 3 examination papers.

Examinations

Three Exam Papers - All to be taken at the end of Year 11

Component 1: Religious Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World - 2 hours

Component 2: Christianity - 1 hour

Component 3: Judaism - 1 hour

Career Pathways

- Medicine
- Education
- Research
- Vocation
- Charity Worker
- Armed Forces
- Chaplain
- Politics
- Media

Student comments about Religious Studies:

'Religious Studies is great for debating and discussing issues.'

'Religious Studies has a wide variety of interesting topics to learn about.'

'It's always a fun lesson and you talk about great topics.'

Examination Board: Eduqas
QAN/Course Code: 601/8879/0

Separate Sciences GCSE:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

If Separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics is chosen as a GCSE option, the students will study the same content of the topic areas listed for GCSE Combined Science but parts of the topic areas will be covered in more breadth and in greater detail.

GCSE Separate Sciences: (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) is worth three GCSEs

The GCSE Separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics is worth three GCSEs and it is made up of the following Biology, Chemistry and Physics topic areas:

Biology - Cells and Control, Genetics, Natural Selection and Genetic Modification, Health, Disease and Development of Medicine, Plant Structures, Animal Coordination, Control and Homeostasis, Exchange and Transport, Ecosystems.

Chemistry - States of Matter and Separation, Atomic Structure, The Periodic Table, Ionic and Covalent Bonding, Acids and Alkalis, Mass Calculations, Electrolysis, Rates of Reaction, Fuels, Hydrocarbons, Quantitative Analysis.

Physics - Motion, Forces and Motion, Conservation of Energy, Waves, Light and the Electromagnetic Spectrum, Radioactivity, Astronomy, Energy and Work, Electricity and Circuits, Magnetism and the Motor Effect, Particle Model Forces and Matter.



If you are considering a career in areas such as Medicine, engineering, veterinary studies or taking a science degree then choosing the Separate Science option would be a good step in that direction.

Assessment - A total of six exams will be taken at the end of Year 11. These consist of two exams for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These will be longer exams than the Combined Science exams to reflect the extra Science content covered. There is no assessed coursework but 'Core Practicals' are completed in class and details of these may be included in written examination questions.

If a student achieves grades 9 - 6 in GCSE Separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics, they may choose traditional A levels in Science or a Science related course Post-16. However, students can still study A-Level Science if they have followed the Combined Science route and achieved grades 9/9 - 6/6.

Examination Board: Edexcel
Course Code: 1BI0, 1CH0, 1PH0

What is.....?

Documents written about school nowadays may include some jargon or other words and phrases which may need explaining. We've tried to include some of them below.

Aural means a test where the questions are read out to the students, either by the teacher, or on a tape. An **Oral** test means a speaking exam. Both are commonly only used in Languages.

BTEC is an awarding body offering vocational or work-related courses to students. These courses are graded with Pass, Merit or Distinction grades rather than the 1-9 grades used for GCSE.

Controlled Assessment is a piece of coursework which is generally completed in school under supervision of teachers and counts towards the final grade.

DfE stands for the Department for Education.

English Baccalaureate is the name given to a suite of qualifications which the current Government recognises as being a measure of students attainment by the end of Year 11. Students who gain a higher grade pass (a grade 5 or higher) in English, Maths, Combined Science, a Modern Foreign Language, History and Geography will be deemed to have passed the English Baccalaureate.

Entry level courses are designed for students who are not yet ready to take GCSE in that area. They may lead on to GCSE later.

GCSEs (or General Certificate of Secondary Education) concentrate on academic rather vocational matter for assessment. In some subjects students will complete both controlled assessments and terminal exams but other subjects are assessed by terminal exams.

Homework is a vital part of all GCSE courses. Students must study at home as well as at school if they are to do well. As a minimum, students in Years 10 and 11 are expected to have one hour's homework a week in each subject. Many students do much more.

Linear assessment is at the end of the course, whether in the form of an exam or a mix of exam and coursework.

Moderation is the process by which teachers check that they are awarding marks which are fair and in line with those awarded in other schools. Teachers mark each other's work first, and then a sample of work is marked by the exam boards who can move all students' marks up or down. In some cases, like Art or Drama, an examiner visits the school and checks the marking personally.

The **National Curriculum** is made up of the subjects that the Government has insisted that students in schools must study.

Portfolio is another word for the collection of coursework that a student completes. It can be pieces of writing or, in the case of Art, pictures or sculptures.

Technical Awards (level 1/level 2) can be studied alongside GCSE and give students a taste of what a sector is like. They will fulfil entry requirements for both academic and vocational study Post-16, alongside GCSEs.

Tiers mean levels of entry for exams. In a minority of subjects there are 2 tiers; Higher and Foundation (or lower), but in others there is only one tier. In some subjects the topics taught to students in different tiers are similar. In others they are different, and in these subjects, we often have to teach students in classes grouped according to which tier they will be entered for.

Students wishing to change their option choices

Students should be encouraged to think carefully about their option choices before submitting their forms and seek any help they may need from the relevant people: their tutor, their subject teachers, the school's Careers Adviser, their Head of Year, the Assistant Head responsible for Options at 14 Plus and parents/carers.

We recognise that choosing appropriate options can be a challenging process for some students, however, and some students may have second thoughts about their original subject choices. The procedure outlined below explains the steps which should be taken in these circumstances.

Students wishing to change their choices after submitting their options choice form but before their subjects have been allocated in the summer term

Students should speak to their tutor in the first instance, who will then refer them to the Assistant Head responsible for Options at 14 Plus, who will talk to the student before making a decision regarding the student's request to change option choices.

Students wishing to change their choices after their subjects have been allocated in the summer term but before the beginning of Year 10

Students should speak to their tutor in the first instance, who will then refer them to their Head of Year, who will talk to the student before making a decision regarding the student's request to change option choices. As groups will already have been created by this stage, it may not be possible to meet the student's request.

Students wishing to change their option subjects after the beginning of Y10

In most cases, students should be discouraged from changing courses at this late stage. In any case, **no students will be permitted to swap course after the end of Week 3 in September** as too much work will have been missed and any change is likely to be both disruptive and counter-productive after this point.

Before the end of Week 3, students who feel that they have a strong case for moving course should speak to their Head of Year who will guide them through the process.

The school reserves the right to decline the student's request at any point during this process.



Belper School and Sixth Form Centre
John O'Gaunts Way
Off Kilbourne Road
Belper
Derbyshire
DE56 0DA
Tel: 01773 825281
Email: belperschool@belperschool.co.uk
Website: www.belperschool.co.uk
Twitter: [@belperschool](https://twitter.com/belperschool)



BELPER
SCHOOL
and Sixth Form Centre