



## OPTIONS BOOKLET



## YEAR 8 PROSPECTUS

**BLUE PATHWAY**

**2018-2021**



Dear Parents and students

## **Year 8 Options Process – BLUE Pathway (English Baccalaureate)**

Having the opportunity to choose the subjects that will make up your studies in our three year KS4 is an exciting one. It can also be daunting as it is important to make sure that your choices allow you to pursue interests and career aspirations in the future.

At Rainhill, we offer an exciting range of options to suit all abilities, skills and interests. The courses on offer to you are designed to ensure that you can meet your full potential, and this pathway could include the new English Baccalaureate should you chose to follow it. As a Media Arts College, your pathway also includes an Arts based subject. This pathway is being offered to you based on how well you have done so far. If you would like to be offered a different pathway, then you will need to discuss this with your Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Advisor.

We will try and give you every help in making your decisions about your options. You will already have been talking about career pathways during tutorial and will have completed a questionnaire about your preferred learning styles and subjects. In addition to this, you can approach your form tutor, your subject teachers or the SLT advisor attached to your tutor group. You may also find it useful to discuss the matter with older students in school or the Connexions service based in the school.

There are two evening events for Year 8 this term. On the 8th March, there will be a parents evening where you can discuss with your subject teachers how you are progressing in subjects now. On the 15th March, there will be an evening entirely dedicated to options. This will be held in the Sports Hall, and all the subjects will be represented. It is here that you can ask staff or pupils what it is really like to study their subject. There will also be people from Connexions and Rainhill Sixth Form Centre to give you advice.

I hope that you will enjoy making these choices and coming to decisions about your future curriculum. I look forward to seeing you on both the Parents and Options evenings.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr Anthony Cunningham**

Deputy Head Teacher – Director of Studies

**P.S. Do not forget to return your completed Option form to your form tutor by Friday 23rd March 2018.**

## Finding your way around this booklet

In this booklet you will find information on all of the subjects available to you in this pathway.

### CORE CURRICULUM

(You have to study these subjects)

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Trilogy Science

PE

RE, Citizenship, Health Education and Careers.

#### Helping you make your choices.

This key highlights the various skills and types of activity likely to be used in subjects. Use it to help you match your preferred ways of learning to different subjects.



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### OPTIONS

(You can choose within the blocks available to you)

#### Block J - Performance Subject

You must choose one performance subject from those available in the J block.

To qualify for the English Baccalaureate you must choose a Humanities subject (History or Geography) and a Modern Foreign Language subject (French, German, Spanish) from either Block K or Block L

#### Block K

You can choose one subject from those listed in this block

#### Block L

You can choose one subject from those listed in this block

**Block M** – You can choose one subject from those listed in this block

**All options subjects are listed in alphabetical order to help you find them.**

**NB. You cannot combine Fine Art or Art Textiles (J) with Art Graphics (M)**

## CAREERS CONNECT

This key highlights the various skills and types of activity likely to be used in subjects. Use it to help you match your preferred ways of learning to different subjects. The Careers Connect service has a personal advisor available in school to help students with their choices. Faye Rafferty is available to give information and guidance on subject choice, qualifications and future careers. Students can request to see her and make an appointment for a quick chat in her office in A block. She will be available to students and parents on both the Options Evening and the Parents Evening.

**E-mail: [adviser@careerconnect.org.uk](mailto:adviser@careerconnect.org.uk) Contact Number: 0800 0126 606.**

**More information can be found at [www.careerconnect.org.uk](http://www.careerconnect.org.uk)**



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- Clearly structured papers which allow candidates to show what they know, understand and can do
- Tasks covering a range of writing skills
- Prose reading from the 20th century
- Thematically linked 19th and 21st century non-fiction reading tasks which are accessible whilst offering appropriate stretch and challenge
- A focused approach to spoken language
- This skills-based specification allows breadth of study and flexible teaching approaches and offers excellent co-teachability with GCSE English Literature
- A course that will help students develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they will need for further study, work and everyday life

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in English Language specification builds on WJEC's long experience of assessing reading and writing skills in a variety of contexts.

GCSE	CORE
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <p><b>Examination (100%)</b></p> <p><b>Component 1:</b> 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes   40% of qualification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section A (20%) – Reading</li> <li>• Section B (20%) – Prose Writing</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 2:</b> 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional / Persuasive Writing Written examination: 2 hours   60% of qualification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section A (30%) – Reading</li> <li>• Section B (30%) – Writing</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 3:</b> Spoken Language Non-exam assessment: Unweighted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One presentation/speech, including responses to questions and feedback</li> </ul>	

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks

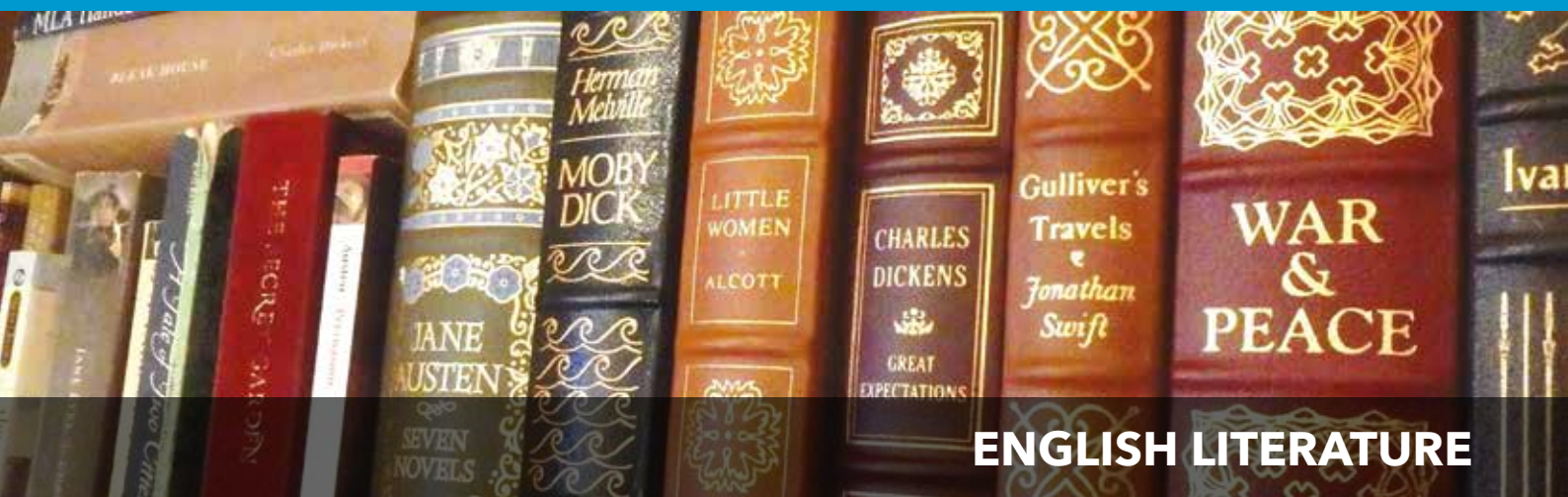


Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

English Language is a core subject in the National Curriculum. It can, therefore, be studied at a higher level as a subject in its own right. The school offers extremely popular courses in A-Level English Literature and English Language A-Level.

A qualification in English continues to be demanded in all walks of life, and skills acquired in this subject can be put to positive use in almost all areas of employment.



## ENGLISH LITERATURE

### GCSE

### CORE

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

##### Component 1:

Shakespeare and Poetry

Written examination – 2 hours - 40% of qualification

Section A - (20%) Shakespeare

Section B - (20%) Poetry from 1789 to present day

##### Component 2:

Post-1914 Prose/Drama, Century Prose and Unseen Poetry

Written examination – 2 hours and 30 minutes - 60% of qualification

Section A - (20%) Post-1914 prose/drama

Section B - (20%) 19th century prose

Section C (20%) Unseen poetry from the 20th/21st century.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- Clearly structured papers which allow candidates to show what they know, understand and can do including opportunities for close analysis of texts and opportunities for extended writing
- Questions that are designed to promote accessibility within an untiered qualification and allow all candidates a chance to succeed
- A wide choice of novels and plays, from Shakespeare to contemporary fiction that give centres a great deal of flexibility when they are choosing texts to be studied
- An exciting poetry anthology that covers poetry from 1789, including Romantic poetry, and includes some of Britain's best-loved poems alongside some less well-known works
- Thematically-linked unseen poetry which draws on WJEC's long experience of accessible but differentiating assessment of this kind.
- A skills-based approach which allows for a breadth of study and flexible teaching, and offers excellent co-teachability with GCSE English Language.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in English Literature will help students develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they will need for further study and to take a general pleasure in reading.

#### BEYOND GCSE

English Literature is a core subject in the National Curriculum. It can, therefore, be studied at a higher level as a subject in its own right. The school offers an extremely popular course in A-Level English Literature.

This qualification is highly valued by Higher Education institutions and employers alike and skills acquired in this subject can be put to positive use in most areas of employment.

#### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



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Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others



## MATHEMATICS

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

The study of GCSE Mathematics should enable students to:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Mathematics will be taught over nine one-hour periods per fortnight in Years 9 to 11. The course is organised into six broad topic areas: number, algebra, probability, ratio, geometry, probability and statistics. Problem-solving and a deep understanding of mathematics underpin the new demands of this new specification. You must be equipped with a protractor, a scientific calculator and a pair of compasses.

GCSE	CORE
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <p><b>Examination (100%)</b></p> <p><b>Paper 1:</b> Non-calculator (80 marks) 1h 30 mins</p> <p><b>Paper 2:</b> Calculator (80 marks) 1h 30 mins</p> <p><b>Paper 3:</b> Calculator (80 marks) 1h 30 mins</p> <p>All papers carry an equal weighting for the final grade</p> <p>Foundation Tier Grade 1-5 available</p> <p>Higher tier Grade 4-9 available</p>	

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

Mathematics underpins the global economy at every level so A-Levels and courses in Higher Education have become increasingly mathematical, often due to an increased emphasis on using statistics. Students studying a wide range of subjects from engineering to psychology require some level of mathematics if they are to succeed on their chosen course. A-Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics and Core Maths are different options to study in the Sixth Form.



## TRILOGY SCIENCE

### GCSE

### CORE

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

##### Examination (100%)

Trilogy Science GCSE will count as 2 GCSEs and will be examined in 2021 with linear written assessments.

The assessments will be six written papers; two for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In addition to theory, questions will be based on a series of prescribed practical activities which are carried out throughout the course.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- The opportunity to study a core subject in the National Curriculum
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- A combination of a practical and academic subject

A qualification in Science continues to be highly desirable to employers and is part of the English Baccalaureate qualification that universities and employers now consider to be an important indicator of a fully rounded student.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

**Biology** – Study of human biology, organisms, evolution and the environment.

**Chemistry** – Study of the nature of substances and how they react together, how chemistry is used in business and industry, and how our use of fuels affect the local and global environment.

**Physics** – Study of the use and transfer of energy, as well as an insight into the nature of waves, radiation and space. They will also learn about the application of physics in the real world they live in.

### BEYOND GCSE

GCSE Trilogy Science gives students a good knowledge of science and provides a firm foundation for further study at A-Level and Level 3 BTEC which can be studied in the Sixth Form.

Continue to:

A-Level Sciences (you must achieve an equivalent 5:5 grade minimum)

Careers in Science based subjects including: Engineering, Medicine, Nursing and Veterinary Science.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others



## CITIZENSHIP

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

Citizenship will give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective role in society at local, national and international level. It will help students become informed, thoughtful and responsible citizens who are aware of their duties and rights and those of others. It will also promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects which will develop self-confidence and personal responsibilities in and beyond the classroom. Health Education promotes how best to keep healthy and be able to access levels of risk by considering lifestyles adopted by various ages groups. Careers Education develops the skills of independence in solving problems, making decisions and plans for the future as students emerge in to young adults.

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

At the end of KS4 students will have comprehensive knowledge and understanding of rights, responsibilities, duties as citizens, forms of government, criminal and civil justice system, legal and economic systems to be able to form and express an opinion. Students will explore other peoples lifestyles, attitudes and decisions and use this to consider ways of keeping safe and where help is provided. They will identify qualities needed in a relationship to help in future roles as parents and gain knowledge of caring for themselves in intimate relationships. The impact of drug use on lifestyles is considered by gaining a wider perspective of drug use in society. Develop an understanding of how exercise promotes wellbeing and improve mental and physical health. Students will be given guidance about self-awareness, options that will shape their future, and experience the world of work through work experience, mock interviews, exposure to future options after school either apprenticeships or further and higher education and the importance of economic wellbeing. This is supported by the Connexions sen/ice based in school who offer individual interviews to develop action plans and information.

### CORE

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will evaluate the effectiveness of bringing about change at different levels of society and their own attitudes towards health and future plans. School and community based activities encourage students to evaluate their experiences critically.

Students will demonstrate personal and group responsibility in their attitude to themselves and others.

Work experience will be offered to some students who follow a vocational course to support choice of progression course at aged 16.

The mock interview process will give direct feedback to the student on the suitability of their application.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

To be successful on this course you will need to have a willingness to play a helpful part in school life, neighbourhood and the wider world. A mature respectful attitude of a wide range of diversity aspects with the ability to discuss ideas sensitively. Be responsible in accepting, making and justifying personal choices and decisions.





## PE - GAMES

### CORE

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be no formal assessment in this subject

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

PE/Games will allow all students to undertake a range of activities which will allow them to develop practical skills in their chosen field as well as develop and maintain a healthy and active life style through their participation in a physical activity.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Throughout the year students will be placed on a carousel of different activities which they will be able to undertake for 1 hour per week. This will help to keep them both physically and mentally fit given the increasing emphasis on healthy lifestyle and establishing good habits for life.

### BEYOND GCSE

PE is a core subject in the National Curriculum.

It can therefore be studied at a higher level as a subject in its own right. The skills learnt here link well with both A-Level PE and also to a BTEC National qualification. A qualification in Physical Education continues to be a vital tool for all walks of life, and skills acquired in this subject can be put to positive use in almost all areas of employment.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others



## ART GRAPHICS

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- The aims of this course are to develop a range of drawing and digital skills that translate from initial design ideas right through to computer realisations
- Students will learn how to successfully use sophisticated industry standard software such as Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign
- Students will be given opportunities to work on real design brief situations, following all steps in the design process from idea concepts to final completed outcomes
- Alongside the technical aspect of the course, students will also investigate and learn to contextually understand the works of key designers, under standing how they communicate their meaning visually.
- Pupils will work in a highly creative and stimulating environment, learning from innovating schemes of work that help facilitate accelerated creativity and progression within the Arts

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The Graphic design course is based around creating initial drawings/ideas - developing and experimenting and creating finals images with the help of Adobe CS6.

Topics include – Typography / Digital Manipulation / Poster Design / Advertising / Brand Identity / Logo Design / Digital Drawing / Vector Creations.

GCSE	OPTION
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <p>When addressing the requirements of the new 'written element', students must record their ideas, observations and insights both visually and through written annotation using a sketchbook / visual journal, as work progresses. Annotation must be explicitly evidenced in both coursework and exam work.</p> <p><b>Coursework (60%)</b> In Year 9 pupils learn to explore a range of various design and multimedia techniques to create experimental graphic design. Throughout year 10, pupils choose to explore a personal investigation on a chosen topic / theme and create a portfolio of design work.</p> <p><b>Examination (40%)</b> One examination worth 40% of the marks set by the exam board AQA. This exam comes with at least 12 week preparation time and a 10 hour practical exam.</p>	

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

All art endorsements are available to study at A-Level within the Sixth form. Furthermore - 100% of all Sixth Form Art students who applied for a University degree course over the past seven years have achieved their first choice place.

The creative industry is always one of largest growing industry sectors in Britain. A Graphics Design qualification will help you to develop a career in the following sectors: Graphic Design, Illustration, Copywriting, Advertising, Creative Direction, Art Direction, Set Design, Web Design, Architect, Interior design.



## ART TEXTILES

### GCSE

### OPTION

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

##### Coursework (60%)

In year 9 pupils learn to explore a range of various fashion sewing, stitching and design techniques. Throughout year 10, pupils choose to explore a personal investigation on a chosen topic / theme and create a portfolio of design work.

##### Examination (40%)

One examination worth 40% of the marks set by the exam board AQA. This exam comes with at least 12 week preparation time and a 10 hour practical exam.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- This course is an opportunity for students to gain experience in wide range of innovative practices related to textiles craft, design and construction inspired by contemporary art and fashion
- Students will learn how to successfully develop skills in a wide variety of techniques and media ranging from paper construction and corsetry to sculpture and costume design
- Students will be given opportunities to produce unique and highly individual textiles solutions based on their own research
- Alongside the technical aspect of the course, students will also investigate and learn to understand the works of key fashion designers informing critical understanding of Art Textiles
- Pupils will work in a highly creative and stimulating environment, learning from innovating schemes of work that help facilitate accelerated creativity and progression within the Arts

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The Art Textiles course is based around learning a variety of textiles design & techniques.

Topics include Felt Making / Weaving / Embroidery / Textile Construction and Sculpture / Paper Manipulation / Artist Research / Experimental Workshops / Clay modelling / Adobe digital work.

### BEYOND GCSE

All art endorsements are available to study at A-Level within the Sixth form. Furthermore - 100% of all Sixth Form Art students who applied for a University degree course over the past seven years have achieved their first choice place.

The creative industry is always one of largest growing industry sectors in Britain. A qualification in Art Textiles will help you to achieve a career in the following sectors: Fashion Design, Fashion Illustration, Clothes Design, Interior Design, Visual Merchandise, Art Direction, Set Design, Fashion Buyer, Jewellery & Accessory Design.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others



## COMPUTER SCIENCE

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- A qualification in Computing/ICT, which nowadays is almost essential.
- Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly.
- Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. You will learn how that happens and become part of it.
- You will become part of the growth in the use of mobile devices, programming languages and web-related technologies, which will make you a prime candidate to solve the new challenges faced by employers and employees in this sector.

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The qualification has been devised in partnership with Microsoft, making it an excellent choice for anyone interested in going to work in the industry, or looking to study Computer Science at A-level and beyond. Students studying this specification will learn how to create:

- Applications that operate in a web enabled environment.
- Gain an understanding of the fundamental concepts around creating software applications
- Have opportunities to work collaboratively and independently.

GCSE	OPTION
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <p>This specification has one tier of assessment.</p> <p><b>Component 1 (50%)</b> Computational thinking and problem solving (1 hour 30 minutes Exam)</p> <p><b>Component 2 (50%)</b> Computing fundamentals (1 hour 30 minutes Exam)</p>	

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

The performing arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. Overall, the industry contributes £3.5 billion to the UK economy. There are 5,480 businesses and 101,593 people working in the performing arts sector. Study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical exploration and application alongside conceptual study, leading to strong opportunities to progress post-16.



## DANCE

### TECH AWARD

### OPTION

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

##### Internal assessment

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice.

##### Synoptic external assessment

Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation. The external assessment takes the form of a set task taken under supervised conditions that are then marked and awarded a grade awarded by Pearson. Learners are permitted to resit the external assessment once during their programme by taking a new assessment.

The external assessment contributes 40 per cent of the total qualification GLH.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

You will study the following units:

- Exploring the Performing Arts
- Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts
- Performing to a Brief

You will take part in a minimum of two professional performance opportunities in a theatre each year in addition to attending the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The qualification gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in performing arts such as reproducing repertoire or responding to stimuli in a range of dance styles such as Jazz, Contemporary, Commercial Dance and Choreography.
- Process that underpins effective ways of working in the performing arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance attitudes that are considered most important in a wide range of professional industries, including personal management, discipline, prioritisation, confidence and communication
- knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector, such as creative industry roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles

### BEYOND GCSE

The performing arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. Overall, the industry contributes £3.5 billion to the UK economy. There are 5,480 businesses and 101,593 people working in the performing arts sector. Study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical exploration and application alongside conceptual study, leading to strong opportunities to progress post-16.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Using Numbers



Design & Create Projects



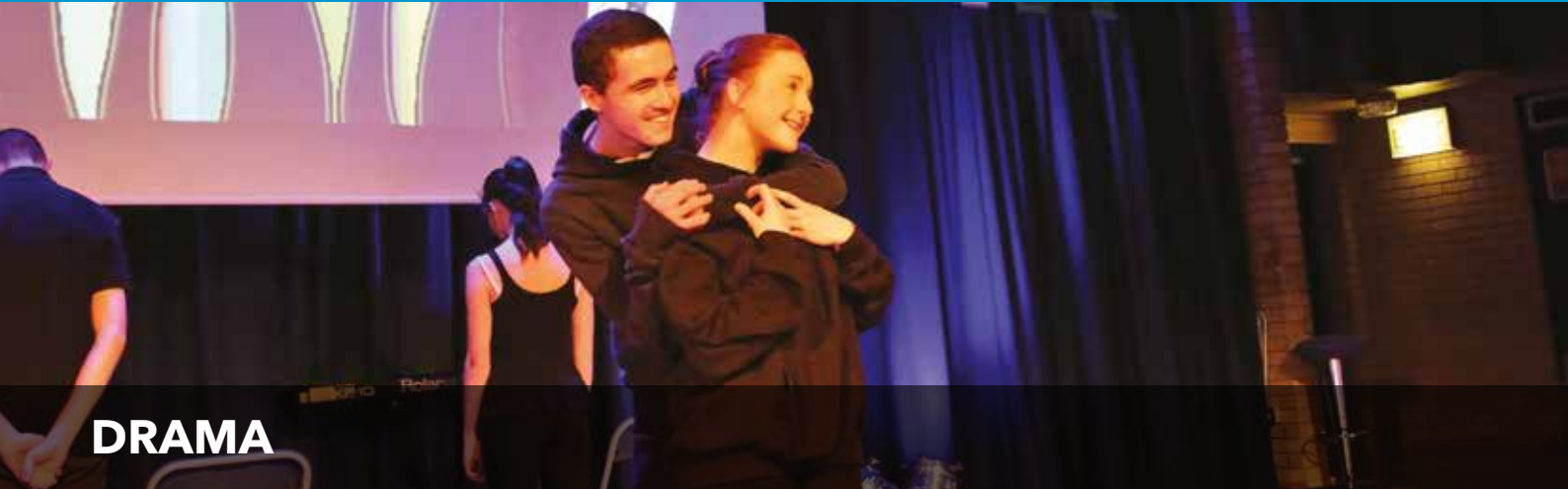
Short Written Tasks



Performing Activities



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



## DRAMA

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- You will develop self-confidence by taking part in practical workshops and performances.
- You will develop co-operation skills by working with others to create original and exciting pieces of theatre.
- You will develop creativity by devising your own performances using your ideas and your talents.
- You will develop your evaluations skills, enabling you to recognise your strengths and reach your potential.

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

GCSE Drama encourages all students to work imaginatively in a collaborative context, creating, developing and communicating ideas. You will create and develop characters, explore fascinating plays from different times and cultures, devise your own plays and evaluate your work and the work of others.

### GCSE

### OPTION

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

#### Examination (40%)

You will practically explore a play text, write about it and complete a theatre review of a production you have seen.

#### Coursework (60%)

You will devise your own play and record the process in a portfolio.

You will perform two extracts from a play.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

GCSE Drama is a solid foundation for A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies. It can lead to employment as an actor, stage technician, director, teacher or writer. Drama teaches invaluable skills which are transferable to any chosen career pathway.

Employers always look favourably upon a Drama qualification as it represents someone who is creative, co-operative and confident.



## FINE ART

### GCSE

### OPTION

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

##### Coursework (60%)

In Year 9 pupils learn to explore a range of various skills and media techniques to create original imagery. Throughout Year 10, students start to build their practical coursework units to explore a personal investigation on a chosen topic/theme.

##### Examination (40%)

One examination worth 40% of the marks set by the exam board AQA. This exam comes with at least 12 week preparation time and a 10-hour practical exam.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- The course aims to provide students with opportunities to experiment with a broad range of materials, equipment and techniques to produce a portfolio of work that demonstrates individual strengths
- Students will learn how to use and master techniques from various art mediums such as ceramics, painting & drawing, printmaking, mixed media and digital technologies to create exciting work based on a range of themes
- Students will also learn and understand about critical and cultural understanding related to specific artist attached to key art movements & genres
- Pupils will work in a highly creative and stimulating environment, learning from innovating schemes of work that help facilitate accelerated creativity and progression within the Arts

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The Fine Art course is based around using a variety of painting and drawing techniques:  
Oil Painting, Drawing, Collage, Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator, Experimental Workshops, Dyes, Watercolour, Printmaking, 3-D Sculpture and Ceramics.

### BEYOND GCSE

All art endorsements are available to study at A-Level within the Sixth Form. Furthermore - 100% of all Sixth form Art students who applied for a University degree course over the past seven years have achieved their first choice place.

The creative industry is always one of largest growing industry sectors in Britain. A Fine Art qualification will help you to achieve a career in the following areas:  
Animation, Ceramics, Exhibition Design, Fashion design, Fine Artist, Furniture design, Museum curator, Make-up Artist, Printmaker.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others



## FRENCH

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- Within today's job market, multilingualism is almost certainly a necessity. France, Spain, Latin America and Germany are among Britain's major trading partners as well as being popular tourist destinations.
- The course will enable you to develop the verbal and written communication skills in the languages of these countries, as well as providing you with greater cultural understanding.

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The new style GCSE specification, which was introduced for first examination in 2018, is designed to be more rigorous and touch on a wide variety of daily life. Students will learn interaction, grammar and nuance through three themes. Identity and Culture explores relationships, marriage and partnership, social media, mobile technology, music, cinema, food, sport, customs and festivals. Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest focuses on hometown and neighbourhood, charity work, healthy living, the environment, poverty, homelessness, travel and tourism. The final theme, Current and Future Study and Employment delves into studies, life at school, post-16 education, jobs and ambitions.

The topics and structure are the same for French, German and Spanish and you will have the opportunity to embark on school trips to the country/countries of study throughout the duration of your course.

GCSE	OPTION
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening (25%);</li> <li>• Speaking (25%)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ General conversation</li> <li>◦ Photo card</li> <li>◦ Role play;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reading (25%)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Including translation from French;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Writing (25%)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Including translation into French;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All examinations are sat as terminal examinations at the end of the course;</li> <li>• All examinations (including speaking) are internally conducted but externally assessed.</li> </ul>	

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

After GCSE you can continue your language studies in the Sixth Form.

Universities offer a wide range of language courses, often in combination with other disciplines, such as business studies, law, economics, etc.

A knowledge of a foreign language is highly valued by employers both as a practical skill and as evidence of higher order thinking skills.





## GEOGRAPHY

### GCSE

### OPTION

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

##### Examination (100%)

Students will complete exams at the end of the course.

##### There are three exams:

- Physical geography.
- Human challenges.
- Geographical application (skills paper to replace the coursework element).

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

The GCSE Geography course aims to stimulate pupils' interest in Geography, develop a sense of place and an appreciation for the environment and help them to act in an informed and responsible way. Students acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of places, environments and geographical patterns and develop their understanding of the physical and human processes, including decision-making, which affects their development.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Over the three-year course, pupils will study a number of topics based around both physical and human geography. The GCSE specification is divided into some interrelated themes which are studied on local, national and global scales. Physical Topics studied will include coasts and coastal management, ecosystems, rivers, weather and climate (hurricanes) and plate tectonics (Earthquakes and Volcanoes). Human Topics explored will include changing urban areas, development, resources and population. During the course you may also be invited on two local field trips to collect data for the skills exam, gaining an understanding of catering and an awareness of related career paths.

### BEYOND GCSE

Employers and universities value Geography for the generic skills it teaches students. Employers are looking for people who can make good decisions, solve problems and look at issues from more than one angle. These skills are at the centre of this course. GCSE Geography is an excellent foundation for A-Level Geography. It also involves a lot of skills that are of value across modules and other subjects. Geography is considered as both a Science and a Humanities subject and therefore leads to a wide range of careers. As an A-Level it gives access to most degree subjects.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others



## GERMAN

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- Within today's job market, multilingualism is almost certainly a necessity. Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and Spain are among Britain's major trading partners as well as being popular tourist destinations.
- The course will enable you to develop the verbal and written communication skills in the languages of these countries, as well as providing you with greater cultural understanding.

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The new style GCSE specification, which was introduced for first examination in 2018, is designed to be more rigorous and touch on a wide variety of daily life. Students will learn interaction, grammar and nuance through three themes. Identity and Culture explores relationships, marriage and partnership, social media, mobile technology, music, cinema, food, sport, customs and festivals. Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest focuses on hometown and neighbourhood, charity work, healthy living, the environment, poverty, homelessness, travel and tourism. The final theme, Current and Future Study and Employment delves into studies, life at school, post-16 education, jobs and ambitions.

The topics and structure are the same for French, German and Spanish and you will have the opportunity to embark on school trips to the country/countries of study throughout the duration of your course.

GCSE	OPTION
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening (25%);</li> <li>• Speaking (25%)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ General conversation</li> <li>◦ Photo card</li> <li>◦ Role play;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reading (25%)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Including translation from German;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Writing (25%)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Including translation into German;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All examinations are sat as terminal examinations at the end of the course;</li> <li>• All examinations (including speaking) are internally conducted but externally assessed.</li> </ul>	

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

After GCSE you can continue your language studies in the Sixth Form.

Universities offer a wide range of language courses, often in combination with other disciplines, such as business studies, law, economics, etc.

A knowledge of a foreign language is highly valued by employers both as a practical skill and as evidence of higher order thinking skills.



## HISTORY

### GCSE

### OPTION

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

##### Examination (100%)

##### Paper 1:

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- 50% of GCSE

##### Paper 2:

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- 50% of GCSE

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

This is a fantastic course which provides the opportunity to acquire a wealth of interesting subject knowledge. Studying History at GCSE level offers a range of important skills:

- Learning how to recognise bias not only in historical sources but also in the media and the world around you
- Compiling reports and learning how to communicate and convey information clearly and effectively

You have the opportunity to learn in a well-resourced environment. In addition to learning in the classroom, in recent years there have also been enrichment opportunities. For example, GCSE History students have the chance to take part in trips such as visiting the WW1 Battlefields, Berlin, Germany and visiting the Thackray Museum, Leeds

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Year 9 you will undertake half a year of studying 'History Mysteries' which will allow you to build GCSE skills by investigating some of History's most discussed and controversial debates. For example, 'Who was Jack the Ripper?', 'Who shot JFK?', 'Why was the Civil Rights Movement so important?' and 'Can terrorism ever be justified?' The GCSE course will then commence. The GCSE course we offer is AQA HISTORY:

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World:

- Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship
- Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950-1975

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation:

- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day
- Elizabethan England, c1568-1603

### BEYOND GCSE

History GCSE is an excellent foundation for A-Level History. It is an academic subject that is highly respected at colleges, universities and with employers leading to careers in media, journalism, the police, the armed forces, accountancy, administration, law, teaching, politics and banking.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others



## MEDIA STUDIES (DIGITAL)

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- BTEC Tech Award - Creative Media Production course makes learning interesting, challenging, creative and collaborative.
- It develops skills of enquiry, critical thinking and decision making through consideration of issues that are relevant, real and important for understanding the world they experience.
- It also offers an appreciation and critical understanding of the media and its role in daily lives
- The course studies the four areas of theory in media language, representation, industries and audiences

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

#### Component 1 – In this component you will explore:

- Content and purpose of digital media products
- Style and the use of digital design principles
- Idea generation and the production process
- Industry regulations and professional practices.

#### Component 2 - you will:

- Experiment with a variety of media production skills and techniques
- Apply the technical skills that they learn
- Reflect on their progress and use of skills, as well as how they could improve.

#### Component 3 – you will:

- Learn how to respond to a media brief
- Plan their response to the brief
- Apply skills and techniques to a production
- Justify the process and outcome that they have developed
- Reflect on their application of skills, time management and use of resources.

### TECH AWARD

### OPTION

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

#### Component 1: Coursework

30% of final grade  
Internally assessed  
Externally Moderated

#### Component 2: Coursework

30% of final grade  
Internally assessed  
Externally Moderated

#### Component 3: Written Exam

40% of final grade  
Externally assessed

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



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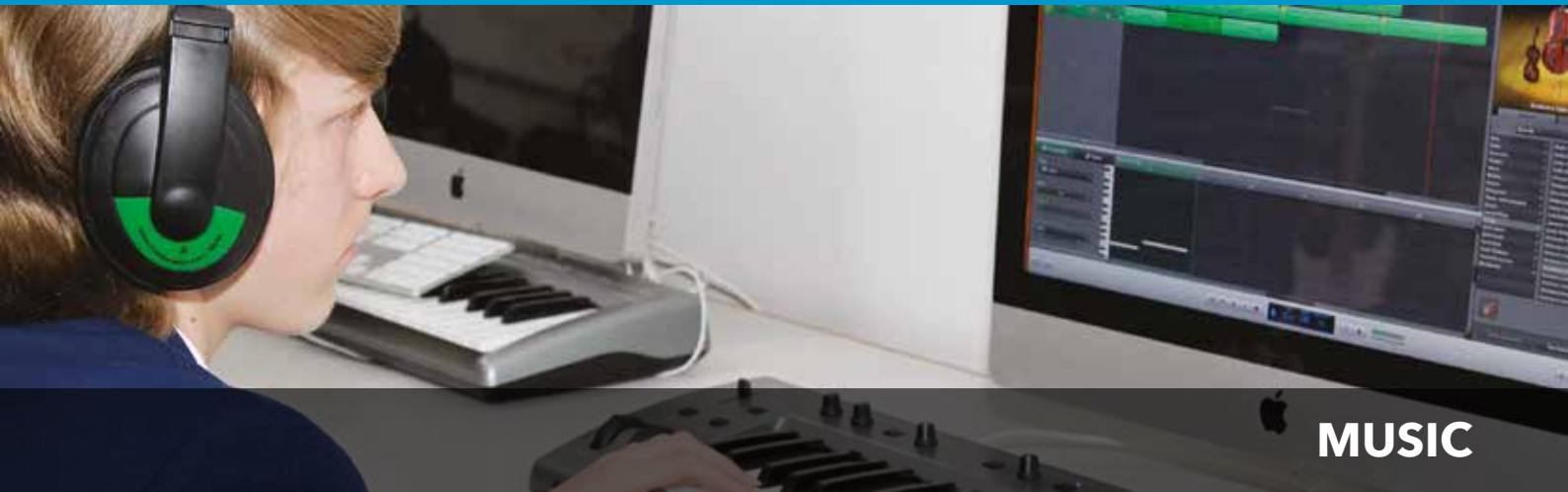
Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

The UK leads the way worldwide in the study of media related subjects; globally media industries are worth £977 billion. Media Studies naturally leads to careers in journalism, film/TV, marketing, advertising or public relations, but an awareness of how the world of media can also support other careers, such as business, social work, law, medicine and education.



## MUSIC

### GCSE

### OPTION

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

##### Component 1

Integrated Portfolio- 30%  
Performance on the learner's chosen instrument.  
Composition to a brief set by the pupil.

##### Component 2 - Practical 30%

Ensemble performance and composition.

##### Listening exam – 40%

1 hour 30 minute listening exam covering a wide range of music.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

GCSE Music is suitable for all students with a love of and interest in music. It is a particularly good option for those who already play an instrument as these skills count towards your final grade. In addition to developing music based skills, students also develop many general skills such as independent learning, research techniques, planning and problem solving.

#### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Studying Music to GCSE allows students to extend and develop their skills and knowledge in the three key areas of Listening, Composing and Performing. Students will find out more about different types of music, investigate how music is put together, write their own pieces and improve their performance skills both as a soloist and within a group.

All Music students will also benefit from one to one instrumental tuition, delivered by professional musicians free of charge.

### BEYOND GCSE

Music qualifications are highly regarded by colleges of further education and employers alike as musicians are trained to work methodically and to be self-disciplined. You may wish to use GCSE Music as a basis for further studies such as A-Level Music or a BTEC course based on performing arts.

You may want to use it as a springboard into other related areas such as Music Technology.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



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Using Numbers



Performing Activities



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others



## PHOTOGRAPHY

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- This aims of the course are to develop greater control and understanding of both point & shoot and Digital SLR camera technologies.
- Students will learn how to develop a clear understanding of how photographs can be viewed to communicate and express their vision or understanding of the world.
- Throughout the duration of the course, pupils will learn how to edit images using various computer software such as Adobe CS6 and Adobe Light room.
- Underpinning the course is a rich and solid investigative approach to photographic history, critical understanding and emerging technologies in photography
- Pupils will work in a highly creative and stimulating environment, learning from innovating schemes of work that help facilitate accelerated creativity and progression within the Arts.

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

GCSE photography is built upon the fundamental key skills involved with digital camera technologies. Allowing students to explore a variety of diverse projects on topics that cover: Studio Photography / Fashion Photography / Advertising / Experimental Photography / Landscape & Urbanscape photography.

GCSE	OPTION
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <p><b>Coursework (60%)</b> In Year 9 pupils learn to explore a range of various Photographic techniques exploring the formal elements of photographic practice. Throughout year 10, students choose to explore two personal investigations on a chosen topic/ theme to create a portfolio of work.</p> <p><b>Examination (40%)</b> One examination worth 40% of the marks set by the exam board AQA. This exam comes with at least 12 week preparation time and a 10-hour practical exam.</p>	

### SKILLS INVOLVED



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

All art endorsements are available to study at A-Level within the Sixth form. Furthermore - 100% of all Sixth form Art students who applied for a University degree course over the past seven years have achieved their first choice place.

The creative industry is always one of largest growing industry sectors in Britain. A qualification in Photography will help you to achieve a career in the following sectors: Fashion Photography, Sports Photography, Movie Photography, Band Photographer, Magazine Photography, Journalist, Paparazzi, Forensic Photography.



## SPANISH

GCSE	OPTION
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listening (25%);</li> <li>Speaking (25%)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General conversation</li> <li>Photo card</li> <li>Role play;</li> </ul> </li> <li>Reading (25%)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including translation from Spanish;</li> </ul> </li> <li>Writing (25%)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including translation into Spanish;</li> </ul> </li> <li>All examinations are sat as terminal examinations at the end of the course;</li> <li>All examinations (including speaking) are internally conducted but externally assessed.</li> </ul>	

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

- Within today's job market, multilingualism is almost certainly a necessity. France, Spain, Latin America and Germany are among Britain's major trading partners as well as being popular tourist destinations.
- This new course will enable you to develop your verbal and written communication skills in Spanish, as well as providing you with greater cultural understanding through authentic Spanish stimuli and literature.

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## OPTIONS PROCESS 2018-2021 YEAR 8

### BLUE PATHWAY - Choose only one subject from each

Pupil Name	
Pupil Form	

BLOCK J	BLOCK K	BLOCK L	BLOCK M
Media Studies (Digital)	History	History	Dance
Drama	Geography	Geography	Business Studies
Art Textiles	French	French	Food and Catering
Fine Art	German	German	PE
Photography	Spanish	Spanish	Art Graphics
Art Graphics			Photography
Music			ICT
Dance			Religious Education
Computer Science			
PE			

### OPTION CHOICES

BLOCK J	BLOCK K	BLOCK L	BLOCK M

NB You cannot combine Fine Art or Art Textiles (J) with Art Graphics (M)

Signed	
Pupil	
Parent	
Form Tutor	









# **OPTIONS BOOKLET**

## **YEAR 8 PROSPECTUS**

**BLUE PATHWAY** 2018-2021

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