



**Rainhillhighschool**  
REACH FOR THE SKY @ RAINHILL HIGH MEDIA ARTS COLLEGE

# OPTIONS BOOKLET



## YEAR 8 PROSPECTUS

**RED PATHWAY**

2018-2021



Dear Parents and students

## **Year 8 Options Process – RED Pathway (LFC)**

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 Digital Media from this block

**Block K**

You can choose either History or Geography from this block

**Block L**

You must choose Business Studies from this block

**Block M**

You must choose BTEC PE from this block

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

### 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



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Short Written Tasks

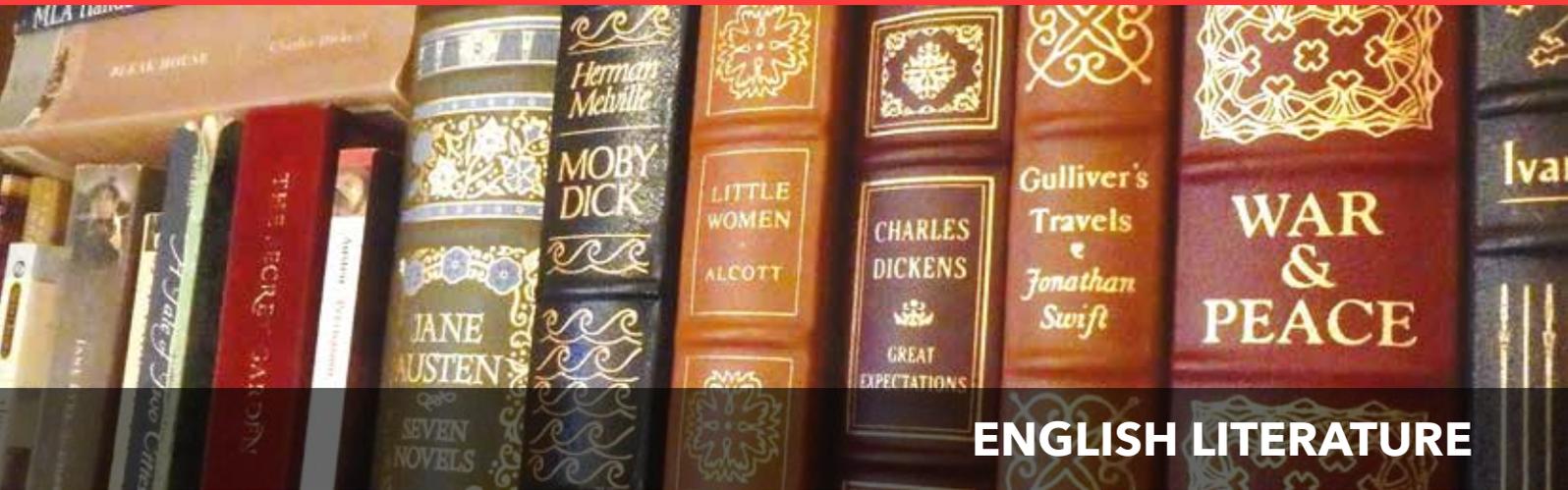


Speaking in front of Others

### 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



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## 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



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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



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## 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.



## 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



## BUSINESS STUDIES

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?

Studying Business will allow you to develop a broad range of skills and explore a variety of topics including:

- How businesses are run, considering both internal and external influences
- An awareness of the opportunities and needs of different markets
- The skills to create your own business in the future or study further business related courses in the Sixth Form
- Development of practical and logical thinking skills
- Development of a skillset that employers see as essential

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course will involve studying all aspects of business, focusing on the four main functional areas; Production, Marketing, Finance and Human Resources. The course will develop your analytical and evaluative skills through the study of real life business examples.

### TECH AWARD

### OPTION

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**Component 1** – Exploring Enterprises (coursework)

**Component 2** – Planning for and Running an Enterprise (coursework)

**Component 3** – Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (exam)

### 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

Business Studies allows students to progress through a variety of pathways. Many students choose to attend Rainhill Sixth Form and complete further study in Business Studies, Economics or both at A-Level.

Business Studies is also one of the sought after qualifications by employers, who value the qualification as a key employability indicator.



PE

**TECH AWARD**

**OPTION**

**HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

Initial 6 week assessment consisting of:-  
**Practical Controlled Assessment (30%)**  
**Examination (70%)**

Then pupils will complete a coursework based qualification-  
 20% Exam 80 % coursework

**WHAT DOES THE COURSE OFFER ME?**

During the Physical Education course I will learn to:

- Develop knowledge and practical skills in a range of practical activities
- Examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity
- Appreciate the benefits of promoting 'sport for all'

**WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?**

The course will start with a 6 week assessment period, after this time pupils will be placed on a pathway that will suit their abilities in PE. This will either be a majority coursework based qualification or a fully examination course. Both courses will require students to actively participate in both practical and theory based lessons.

Within theory lessons students will look at healthy and active lifestyles, learning the anatomy and physiology of the human body and the effects of lifestyles on performance.

**BEYOND GCSE**

Physical Education is a core subject of 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 BTEC National qualification. A qualification in Physical Education continues to be a vital tool for all walks of life, and the 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



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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others



## GEOGRAPHY

### 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.

GCSE	OPTION
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <p><b>Examination (100%)</b></p> <p>Students will complete exams at the end of the course.</p> <p><b>There are three exams:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical geography.</li> <li>Human challenges.</li> <li>Geographical application (skills paper to replace the coursework element).</li> </ul>	

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



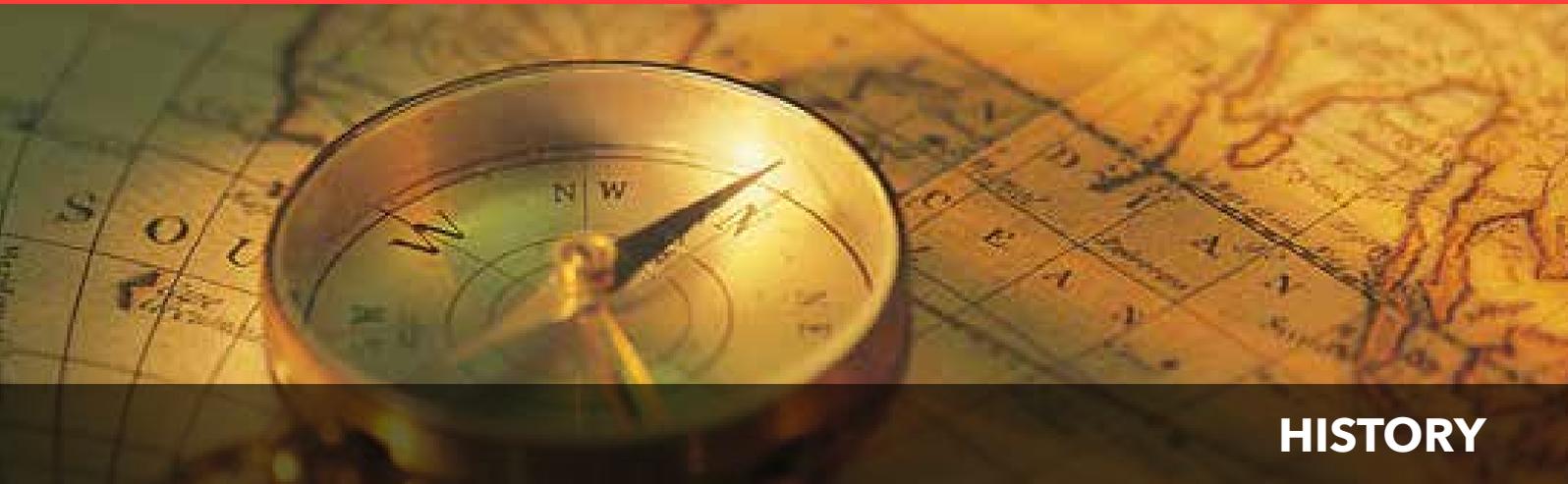
Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

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.



## HISTORY

GCSE	OPTION
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <p><b>Examination (100%)</b></p> <p><b>Paper 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</li> <li>• 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)</li> <li>• 50% of GCSE</li> </ul> <p><b>Paper 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</li> <li>• 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)</li> <li>• 50% of GCSE</li> </ul>	

### 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



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Performing Activities



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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.

GCSE	OPTION
<h3>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</h3> <p><b>Component 1: Coursework</b> 30% of final grade Internally assessed Externally Moderated</p> <p><b>Component 2: Coursework</b> 30% of final grade Internally assessed Externally Moderated</p> <p><b>Component 3: Written Exam</b> 40% of final grade Externally assessed</p>	

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Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### BEYOND GCSE

Skills acquired through ICT will support entry into work or progressions to further studies through further education. A qualification in ICT is still demanded by many employers and colleges, and the practical nature of ICT demonstrates an ability to use ICT rather than just understand it.

## OPTIONS PROCESS 2018-2021 YEAR 8

**RED PATHWAY - Choose only one subject from each**

Pupil Name	
Pupil Form	

BLOCK J	BLOCK K	BLOCK L	BLOCK M
Media Studies (Digital)	History	Business Studies	PE
	Geography		

### OPTION CHOICES

BLOCK J	BLOCK K	BLOCK L	BLOCK M
Media Studies (Digital)		Business Studies	PE

Signed	
Pupil	
Parent	
Form Tutor	













# OPTIONS BOOKLET

## YEAR 8 PROSPECTUS

RED PATHWAY

2018-2021



[WWW.RAINHILLHIGHSCHOOL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.RAINHILLHIGHSCHOOL.ORG.UK)

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