



OPTIONS

2026-2028

Name:

Tutor Group:

Headteacher Richard Gilpin

Dear Member of Year 9

You are about to begin a new stage in your education.

So far, most of the decisions about the curriculum you have followed have been made for you, by the school. Now you have the chance to choose some of the subjects you will study in Years 10 and 11.

The choices you make now can potentially influence your academic and career opportunities in the future. It is essential therefore, that you take the time to make the correct decisions having considered all of the information and advice available to you.

You need to start by reading this booklet very carefully. Show it to your parents/carers too, so that they can help you in your decision-making. You will want to refer to it several times over the next few weeks so it would be a good idea to keep it with you.

If there is any further information that you need, do not hesitate to ask your tutor, your subject teachers or any other member of staff you know well. We are all available and keen to help you make the choices which will make your next two years as enjoyable and successful as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Gilpin
Headteacher

The Year 9 Options Process 2025/2026

Thursday 4th December 2025:

- Introduction to Options Assembly
- Initial discussions with tutor and time to explore options information on Unifrog as part of the second RSHE Drop Down Day
- The year 9 options booklet and options form will be published on the school website, a paper copy will be issued to all students.
- Pre-recorded presentations for each subject area will be published on the school website, providing subject specific information designed to support students in making informed options choices.

Monday 5th January – Friday 16th January 2026:

- Option taster lessons delivered during curriculum time and/or opportunities for students to discuss option subjects with subject staff.

Thursday 15th January 2026:

- Face to face progress evening where parents/carers and students can discuss progress with individual subject teachers.

Tuesday 27th January 2026: DEADLINE FOR ALL OPTIONS FORMS TO BE COMPLETED.

All options forms must have been signed by a parent/carer and handed back to tutors by Tuesday 27th January at the latest. Where forms are returned after this date, students increase the risk of not getting the options they want.

May 2026: All parents/carers and students will be notified of confirmed KS4 options choices.

Option Pathways

The following "Core" curriculum will be studied by all students across Years 10 and 11:

English Language	• These subjects will be sat as a GCSE qualification	
English Literature	• Combined Science is a double award qualification and can lead on to A level studies in any of the three individual sciences: Biology, Chemistry or Physics	
Mathematics		
Combined Science		
GCSE RE (Short Course)	• GCSE RE (Short Course) is an examination subject studied by all students leading to a fully recognised half GCSE	
PE (Core)	No Exam	Physical Education and healthy lifestyle information
RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education)	No Exam	Includes both statutory content and careers education

In addition to the core curriculum, at Pittville School we offer three pathways. These are designed to provide access to appropriate subjects and levels of support, increasing the chances of achieving the best overall outcomes at the end of year 11. Whilst these are our recommendations, they are not set in stone and there will be opportunities to discuss this if you have any concerns regarding the pathway we have recommended. We want all students to choose a broad and balanced selection of subjects that complement individual strengths and future career aspirations.

Options forms indicating the pathway we suggest students will follow have been sent out via Edulink. This decision has been made based on discussion with the SENDCo and curriculum leaders as well as looking at current progress data.

CURRICULUM PATHWAY INFORMATION	
Blue Pathway	Students must select at least one EBACC subject (history, geography, Spanish or French) in at least one of the option blocks. Students must then choose a further three option subjects from the remaining option blocks
Yellow Pathway	We would recommend students choose either history or geography as their EBACC subject, but would be very happy to discuss this further for any students that have a passion and strong desire to continue to study a language.
Green Pathway	We would recommend students choose geography as their EBACC subject, but would be very happy to discuss this further for any students that have a passion and strong desire to continue to study history and/or a language

Families of students who have an EHCP will be contacted in advance of the options process to discuss the most appropriate pathway to follow.

Making the Right Choice

Making the right decision is vitally important because the subjects students choose could influence future academic progression and career possibilities. During the next few weeks students are encouraged to:

- Look at their strengths and weaknesses and discuss these with tutors and subject teachers
- Choose subjects which they enjoy and in which they have the commitment required to be successful. Once students start on a course this cannot easily be changed; it is therefore vital that they take the time to make the right choices first time.
- Do some research into the careers and courses that might be of interest when leaving in Year 11. Students are encouraged to find out which subjects / entry requirements would be needed to access these courses. Unifrog can be used to support with this.
- **NOT** choose subjects because friends are doing them or preferring a particular teacher. There is no guarantee that students will be in the same group or with a particular teacher.

And remember.... all subjects will be **HARD WORK**. There is no such thing as an 'easy' subject. Regardless of prior attainment, a positive mind-set, resilience and a passion for the subject are essential to success at all levels in every subject.

GCSEs

Students will be studying GCSEs which are graded from 9 (highest) down to 1 (lowest). In many subjects, coursework has been removed, so for the majority of subjects - the assessment will be 100% exam at the end of Year 11. Practical subjects such as textiles, design technology, food & nutrition, drama, art, music and dance will still include practical elements, but expect at least 50% of the course to be formally examined, through a written paper(s), at the end of the course.

BTEC Technical Awards / Vocational Awards

BTEC and vocational qualifications are nationally recognised by employers and colleges and are offered by many schools in addition to traditional GCSE courses. This year we will be offering BTEC Health & Social Care, BTEC Sport and Vocational Award in IT.

BTEC and vocational courses are now assessed through formal assignments which are completed under exam conditions with the support of notes completed during lessons and independent study, followed by one unit which is externally examined in the same way as a GCSE exam. They are equivalent to one GCSE and are graded as Level 1 pass (GCSE grade 1), merit (GCSE grade 2), distinction (GCSE grade 3) and Level 2 pass (GCSE grade 4), merit (GCSE grade 5/6), distinction (GCSE grade 7) & and distinction* (GCSE grade 8/9).

These subjects have a more vocational basis and assessment is ongoing across the two years. It is important you are aware that in general, level 2 BTEC courses will lead on to level 3 BTEC courses rather than A levels. This needs to be considered carefully if students are intending to go on to study a suite of academic A Levels. Level 3 BTECs are equivalent to one A level and can lead to foundation degrees or higher vocational qualifications. Many of the local 6th form providers offer level 3 vocational courses in Health & Social Care, Sport and IT.

Very high levels of attendance are critical for BTEC and vocational subjects. Since lesson notes can be taken into some of the assessments, students put themselves at a very significant disadvantage if they regularly miss lessons and have gaps in their knowledge. Missed notes cannot be copied from another student or textbooks, all notes taken into assessments **MUST** be written in the students' own words or they risk disqualifications.

Attendance

Missing school can seriously affect students' chances of being successful in their studies. If students are not in lessons, teachers cannot teach, help, support and guide them through their courses. 90% attendance might sound very good, but ... 90% attendance means missing half a day of school every week. This equates to four weeks of school a year. 80% attendance means missing one day of school per week. This means eight weeks per year.

Research shows that a Year 11 student, who misses 17 days during the year, making their attendance 91%, will get ONE GRADE LESS AT GCSE than they would do with full attendance.

FULL attendance is critical in every subject whether it is a GCSE, BTEC or Vocational. BTEC and Vocational courses require tasks to be completed by set dates. Failure to complete any one part of any one task may result in the whole course being failed. Similarly in GCSE courses, it is a requirement that each component of the course is completed. It is therefore **ESSENTIAL** that students attend **ALL** lessons, keep up to date and complete **ALL** assignments by the deadlines given. If an absence is unavoidable, students must make sure that they catch up any missing work and speak to their teachers if they do not understand the work.

Independent Study

To achieve success in any subject, it is important to understand that the work completed in the classroom **IS NOT ENOUGH**. Students should expect to do between one and two hours of **INDEPENDENT STUDY** 3-4 days per week. This could be tasks set by subject teachers, independent research, reading through notes or practising skills learnt in lessons. In some subjects, students will need to prepare for or complete NEA work (Non-Examined Assessments, previously known as coursework). There will be lots of support sessions available to help and students may be required to attend these regularly to ensure the highest level of success.

It is essential that students take responsibility for their own success. This ownership of their own learning will equip students with the skillset needed to succeed at college or 6th form, where the study load will increase again. Where students are completing vocational qualifications or an apprenticeship, they will still be required to complete assignments and portfolios outside of their working or college hours. This will be much easier if they have already established good study habits.

Option Subjects

The rest of this booklet explains the subjects that students can choose from. You can see below that there is a wide choice, some subjects you will be familiar with, others will be new due to them not forming part of the national curriculum at KS3. We have worked to provide a broad and balanced KS3 curriculum offer that ensures appropriate progression to KS4 study for all students, whatever their prior attainment, interests or future career plans.

ALL students are expected to choose at least one EBACC subject (either Spanish, French, geography or history)

In addition, **ALL** students must choose **two** reserve subjects. **It is vital that the reserve choices are considered carefully**, as a student may need to study this subject. Failing to provide reserve choices will not change whether a particular combination will fit and will not guarantee students a place in their first four choices.

It should be noted that subjects currently studied on rotation, must be chosen and continued for the second half of year 9 if a student wishes to continue the subject as part of their KS4 options (see additional information regarding rotation options on the form). Similarly, a student must be currently studying a language if they wish to continue the subject as part of their KS4 options. It should also be noted that students cannot choose both art and textiles.

In order to get a balanced curriculum, students are advised to consider the merits of choosing a range of subjects from different curriculum areas.

All subjects will have five lessons across a fortnight.

EBACC Subjects

GCSE History
GCSE Geography
GCSE French
GCSE Spanish

Expressive Arts Subjects

GCSE Art
GCSE Dance
GCSE Drama
GCSE Music
GCSE Textiles

Other GCSE Subjects

GCSE Business Studies
GCSE Film Studies
GCSE RE
GCSE Design Technology
GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

BTEC/Vocational Awards

Health & Social Care
Sport
ICT

Personal Development Programme (Selected students)

PDP course

Please note: Although we start by offering all of these courses, they will only run if there is sufficient demand.

Teaching staff will also be consulted about choices and may offer additional advice about the suitability of the course for individual students.

Y9 OPTIONS FORM 2026-2028

Name:

Tutor Group:

Pathway:

- You must choose at least one EBACC subject from history, geography, French and Spanish.
- You must choose ONE subject from each of the four blocks
- You CANNOT choose the same subject twice, even as a reserve
- You CANNOT choose both Art and Textiles
- You must currently be studying the language in year 9 if you wish to choose it as an option (French or Spanish).
- If you choose a rotation subject as part of your KS4 options, you will need to have studied it during the second half of Year 9. You must therefore choose these in the top half of the form overleaf
- You must choose TWO RESERVE SUBJECTS which can come from any block. These should be listed in priority order
- Please refer to the recommendations for subject choices on each pathway
- Look carefully at the information you have been given about the subjects and make sure you have chosen the right subjects for you.

ONCE YOU HAVE MADE YOUR CHOICES AND STARTED ON YOUR NEW COURSES, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO CHANGE – TAKE YOUR TIME, SEEK ADVICE, RESEARCH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE COURSES AND CAREERS CAREFULLY.

OPTION BLOCK A	OPTION BLOCK B	OPTION BLOCK C	OPTION BLOCK D
Art	BTEC PE	Business Studies	Art
Design Technology	Business Studies	Dance	BTEC PE
Drama	Design Technology	Geography	Business Studies
French	Food and Nutrition	Health and Social Care	Film Studies
Geography	Geography	History	Food and Nutrition
History	Health and Social Care	IT Vocational	French
RE	IT Vocational	RE	Geography
Spanish	Music	(PDP – selected students only)	History
	Spanish		Textiles

Name:

Tutor Group:

Pathway:

Year 9 Rotation Subject Choices

As part of the Rotation subjects offered, we would like you to **choose two** of the following subjects to continue to study for the remainder of Year 9. If you choose a rotation subject as part of your KS4 options, you will need to have studied it during the second half of Year 9. You **must** therefore choose these in the top half of the form below. (Please note that you must choose two subjects even if you are not intending to study them next year in KS4)

Subjects to continue (please tick 2 choices)	Choices (x2)	Reserve (tick one)
Design Technology		
Food Technology		
ICT		
Textiles		
Music		

Choices for GCSE Options:

OPTION BLOCK A CHOICE:		1 st RESERVE CHOICE	
OPTION BLOCK B CHOICE:		2 nd RESERVE CHOICE	
OPTION BLOCK C CHOICE:		Reserve choices should be listed in priority order	
OPTION BLOCK D CHOICE:			

Is there a combination of subjects that you would like to do but cannot? Do you have any other queries with your recommended options pathway?

I have read the information about each of the subjects carefully and have picked one subject from each block plus **two** reserve subjects. I have also chosen **two** Rotation subjects to continue in Year 9. I understand it may not be possible for me to study all of my first four choices and am therefore happy to study **any** of my reserve choices.

Signed: (Student)

Signed: (Parent/Carer) Date:



SUBJECT INFORMATION

- Core subjects - **Compulsory for all students**
- EBACC Subjects – Humanities (history & geography) and MFL (Spanish & French)
- Other GCSE subjects
- BTEC/Vocational subjects
- Students following the Blue pathway must choose at least 1 EBACC subject from French, Spanish, history or geography
- Students following the Yellow pathway are recommended to choose either history or geography as their EBACC subject
- Students following the Green pathway are recommended to choose geography as their EBACC subject
- Selected students will be spoken to in advance of the options process about PDP replacing an option in block C



CORE SUBJECTS

These subjects are compulsory for **all** students on **all** pathways

The Non-Examined Core Curriculum

RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education)

Our bespoke, age appropriate RSHE curriculum is delivered in three tutor times per fortnight and is consolidated by one drop down day per half term. This is a day where students engage with the RSHE curriculum in different ways such as trips, external speakers and facilitators, and workshops led by staff. Each half term has its own theme which is revisited each year in the same half term, so your child will receive pertinent information at the age that is deemed appropriate according to the statutory guidance from the Government and the National Curriculum for RSHE.

In RSHE sessions, students explore the knowledge, skills and attributes that they need to keep themselves healthy, safe and prepared for life and work. The RSHE curriculum empowers them to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. In addition to supporting young people to develop resilience, it also offers support in knowing how and when to ask for help, and where to access support.

RSHE is a statutory offer to all young people, although parents and carers are able to request that their child is withdrawn from *sex education only*. You are invited to review our RSHE curriculum documents and our RSHE policy on our school website, for further information please contact Mrs Wood, the Curriculum Leader for RSHE, or Miss Bottell, the Head of Personal Development at Pittville School.

Core PE

Year 10 and 11 students have two hours of physical education a week. This will be in addition to BTEC sport should it be chosen as an option.

It is our aim as a department that in KS4 all students continue to find enjoyment through physical activity and experience a wide range of sport and physical exercise, finding something that they will continue to participate in after they leave Pittville School. We offer an 'options' approach at the beginning of each half term. Students are given a choice of activities to take part in for that half term.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Core)	
Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>Paper 1 - Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing The aim of this paper is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in section A, reading a literature fiction text in order to consider how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers • in section B, writing their own creative text, inspired by the topic that they have responded to in section A to demonstrate their narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario or visual image. <p>Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives The aim of this paper is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. It will encourage students to demonstrate their skills by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in section A, reading two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader • in section B, producing a written, persuasive text to a specified audience, purpose and form in which they give their own perspective on the theme that has been introduced to them in section A. <p>Non-exam assessment The aim of the assessment is to allow students to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving a presentation in a formal context • responding appropriately to questions and to feedback, asking questions themselves to elicit clarification • using spoken Standard English.
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>100% Final Exam</p> <p>Paper 1: 1¾ hours 50%</p> <p>Paper 2: 1¾ hours 50%</p>
Choose this subject if	This is a core subject, compulsory for <u>all</u> students
Possible careers / future pathways	Teaching, journalism, law, advertising, marketing, broadcasting, journalism, author and editor
Subject Requirements	This is a core subject, compulsory for <u>all</u> students

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE (Core)

Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>This course encourages students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking.</p> <p>Studying English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure.</p> <p>Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel</p> <p>Students will be required to write in detail about an extract from a Shakespeare play that they have studied, and then write about a 19th Century novel in the same way. Knowledge of the wider text is also expected, not just the extract.</p> <p>Paper 2 – Modern texts and Poetry</p> <p>Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on a modern prose or drama text that they have previously studied in class. They will answer a comparative question based on two poems from an anthology. They will then answer a question on two unseen poems, comparing the similarities and differences between them.</p> <p>Students are not allowed to take any of their set books into the examination.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>100% Final exam</p> <p>Paper 1: 1$\frac{3}{4}$ hours 40%</p> <p>Paper 2: 2$\frac{1}{4}$ hours 60%</p>
Choose this subject if	<p>This is a core subject, compulsory for <u>all</u> students.</p>
Possible careers / future pathways	Teaching, journalism, law, advertising, marketing, broadcasting, journalist, author and editor
Subject Requirements	<p>This is a core subject, compulsory for <u>all</u> students.</p>

GCSE Mathematics (Core)

Exam Board	Edexcel						
Outline of course	<p>The aims and objectives of GCSE Mathematics are to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 appropriate to the information and context. 						
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>100% Final Exam</p> <p>Two tiers of Entry: Higher Grades 9-4 Foundation Grades 5-1</p> <table> <tr> <td>Paper 1: 1½hrs non-calculator</td> <td>33.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper 2: 1½hrs calculator</td> <td>33.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper 3: 1½hrs calculator</td> <td>33.3%</td> </tr> </table>	Paper 1: 1½hrs non-calculator	33.3%	Paper 2: 1½hrs calculator	33.3%	Paper 3: 1½hrs calculator	33.3%
Paper 1: 1½hrs non-calculator	33.3%						
Paper 2: 1½hrs calculator	33.3%						
Paper 3: 1½hrs calculator	33.3%						
Choose this subject if ...	This is a core subject, compulsory for all students.						
Possible careers / future pathways	Accounting, aerospace, criminology, data analysis, engineering, finance, insurance, meteorology, science and software development.						
Subject Requirements	<p>This is a core subject, compulsory for all students.</p> <p>A scientific calculator is required, these are available in each classroom but it is essential that students have one at home to complete independent work. These can be purchased on parent pay. Students eligible for the pupil premium are able to borrow one until they leave year 11.</p>						

GCSE Combined Science (Core)	
Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>Combined Science consists of studying topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.</p> <p>This course will allow you to achieve two GCSE grades in Science.</p> <p>In Biology, you will learn a range of topics, covering concepts in cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, and ecology.</p> <p>Chemistry covers concepts in atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere, and using resources.</p> <p>Physics covers concepts in forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter, and atomic structure.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>100% final exam</p> <p>2 x Biology 1½ hrs 33.3% 2 x Chemistry 1½ hrs 33.3% 2 x Physics 1½ hrs 33.3%</p> <p>Higher tier graded 9-9 to 4-4 Foundation tier graded 5-5 to 1-1.</p> <p>The final grades will be based on the total marks from the exams on a ladder from 1-1, 2-1, up to 9-9. Students are expected to complete required practicals during lessons and will be examined on these in the exam papers.</p>
Choose this subject if	This is a core subject, compulsory for <u>all</u> students
Possible careers / future pathways	<p>Studying Science beyond GCSE gives you access to a wide variety of career opportunities, both in science industries and in scientific research in areas including medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, chemical engineering, forensics, environmental science, food and textiles sciences, genetics, pharmacy, biochemistry, biotechnology, engineering, biomedicine, astronomy, electronics, environmental health, meteorology, nursing and education.</p> <p>Science graduates are also extremely attractive to employers in non-science fields because of their high levels of analytical skills, excellent problem solving and decision making.</p> <p>If you do not intend studying science beyond GCSE, you will still find that college entry requirements for most A Level courses include a good qualification in Combined Science.</p>
Subject Requirements	This is a core subject, compulsory for <u>all</u> students

GCSE RE: Short Course (Core)

Exam Board	AQA
<p>Please note that all students at Pittville School will be entered for short course RE at the end of Year 11, unless they choose to sit the full course as one of their options.</p> <p>The short course will earn a grade in RE that is in points equivalent to half of a GCSE qualification. This grade will be transferrable to CVs and Post 16 options. It is an excellent way for us to use the curriculum time for Core RE in Year 10 and 11 as students benefit from an additional qualification from these compulsory teaching hours.</p> <p>Students who particularly enjoy RE or achieve highly in the subject are recommended still to opt for the full course and gain a full GCSE. They will still attend short course lessons which cover half of the same content that they learn for the GCSE. This therefore means that students who pick the RE option will get lots more time to consolidate their learning during short course lessons.</p> <p><i>Parents who have exercised their right to withdraw will not have their children included in this entry.</i></p>	
Outline of course	<p>The AQA RE GCSE Short Course is a humanities course that allows you to use skills you have gained in your previous study of History, Geography and RE to study Christian and Muslim beliefs in the modern world.</p> <p>The course is designed to help you understand how and why religion influences individuals and groups in today's society, and apply those beliefs to the themes of War and Peace and Issues of relationship.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>100% Final Exam</p> <p>Paper 1 – 1 hr 45min: Christian and Muslim beliefs</p> <p>Theme A: Relationships and families; Theme D: Religion, peace and Conflict; 100% of short course GCSE, mixture of short and long written questions)</p>
Possible careers / future pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law • Business • Politics • Publishing and writing, journalism • Education and public services • Council work/community work, charity work • Higher education
Subject Requirements	<p>There are no previous learning requirements for this specification, and all students who have not been withdrawn from RE will be entered in the short course exam at the end of Year 11. This specification builds on subject content which is typically taught at Key Stage 3.</p>

Physical Education (Core) NON-EXAMINATION

Exam Board	N/A
Outline of course	Students will take part in four Core PE lessons over the fortnight. KS3 students follow a traditional curriculum which contains a variety of different sports and activities. In Years 10&11 students are given selected options for each half term to promote ownership and accountability for their learning.
Method(s) of Assessment	Whilst this is a non-examination subject, students are still assessed on their practical ability shown in lessons across the different sports as well as their knowledge and understanding of rules, tactics and officiating.
Choose this subject if	This is a core subject, compulsory for <u>all</u> students.
Possible careers / future pathways	Core PE promotes leadership, teamwork and the knowledge to lead a healthy active lifestyle in all aspects of their lives during and post education.
Subject Requirements	Full PE kit is required for all lessons as well as a committed and resilient attitude towards sport and physical activity.



EBACC SUBJECTS

(In alphabetical order)

GCSE French (EBACC)	
Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>You will develop your language skills in a variety of contexts and will be able to communicate your ideas on the following topics:</p> <p>Theme 1 Identity and culture, me, my family and friends, technology in everyday life, free time activities, customs and festivals in French speaking countries.</p> <p>Theme 2 Local, national, international and global areas of interest, hometown, neighbourhood and region, social issues e.g. healthy living, global issues e.g. the environment, travel and tourism.</p> <p>Theme 3 Current and future study and employment, my studies, life at school/college, education post-16, jobs, career choices and ambitions.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment Two tiers of Entry: Higher Grades 9-4 Foundation Grade 5-1	<p>100% final exam, divided equally between four skills:</p> <p>Paper 1: Listening 25% Higher tier 45 mins. Foundation tier 35 mins. Section A all questions and answers in English and Section B is a dictation task in French. Most questions are multiple choice but some require a longer written response.</p> <p>Paper 2: Speaking 25% Higher tier 10-12 mins. Foundation tier 7-9 mins both plus 12-minute preparation time. Oral exam includes a role-play, a photo-card discussion and general conversation. All questions and answers are in French.</p> <p>Paper 3: Reading 25% Higher tier 60 mins. Foundation tier 45 mins. Section A all questions and answers in English and Section B all questions and answers in French. Most questions are multiple choice but some require a longer written response. There is also a translation task from French into English.</p> <p>Paper 4 Writing 25% Higher tier 75 mins. Foundation tier 60 mins All questions and answers are in French and there is a translation task from English into French.</p>
Choose this subject if ...	You enjoy French and learning about different cultures. You are interested broadening your horizons and increasing your confidence. You would like to achieve the English Baccalaureate which is highly regarded when going on to further study.
Possible careers / future pathways	Languages are great for a wide variety of careers especially those involving communication with people from different countries. This can include careers in tourism, government, politics, media, publishing and journalism. You can also work in education, fashion or law. <i>'One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.'</i> Frank Smith
Subject Requirements	You must be studying this language in year 9

GCSE Geography (EBACC)	
Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment Section A: The challenge of natural hazards Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK Section C: The living world</p> <p>Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment Section A: Urban issues and challenges Section B: The changing economic world Section C: The challenge of resource management</p> <p>Paper 3: Geographical applications Section A: Issue evaluation Section B: Fieldwork</p> <p>Geographical Skills is assessed throughout all three papers.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>Paper 1 & 2: written exam 1½hrs 88 marks (inc 3 marks for SPGST) 35%</p> <p>Paper 3: written exam 1hr 76 marks (inc 6 marks for SPGST) 30%</p> <p>Pre-release resources made available from 15 March in the year of the exam.</p>
Choose this subject if	You are interested in the world around you, want to learn about issues which will affect your life in the future and have the ability to develop different skills then Geography is for you.
Possible careers / future pathways	Geography is one of the most adaptable subjects and is often one that works well with both art and science subjects. Geographers are one of the most employable people due to their ability to adapt their skills and interpret it for a human focused audience. Therefore, you will find Geographers in all walks of life from lawyers and politicians to public service workers and film.
Subject Requirements	Students are required to participate in two fieldwork trips.

GCSE History (EBACC)	
Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>Paper 1 Section A (Option B): Germany, 1890 -1945 Democracy and Dictatorship</p> <p>Paper 1 Section B (Option D): Conflict and Tension in Asia 1950 – 1975</p> <p>Paper 2 Section A (Option A): Health and the people C1000 to the present day</p> <p>Paper 2 Section B (Option C): Elizabeth England C1568 – 1603</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>100% Final Exam</p> <p>Paper 1: 2 hrs 50%</p> <p>Paper 2: 2 hrs 50%</p>
Choose this subject if ...	<p>History is a very popular choice at GCSE and A Level. It gives students a valuable understanding of the world that they live in. It also trains them to use, evaluate and analyse a wide variety of pieces of evidence.</p> <p>History is highly regarded as a rigorous subject by employers and universities. Most importantly History is a fascinating, engaging and enjoyable subject.</p>
Possible careers / future pathways	<p>GCSE History prepares students for further study at A Level and beyond.</p> <p>Careers where a history qualification is regarded as valuable include law, teaching, business and accountancy.</p>
Subject Requirements	<p>GCSE History is a heavily literacy based course. To achieve higher grades, a good level of literacy is needed. Students with a lower level of literacy should have a real passion for the subject and be prepared to complete a lot of written work.</p>

GCSE Spanish (EBACC)	
Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>You will develop your language skills in a variety of contexts and will be able to communicate your ideas on the following topics:</p> <p>Theme 1 Identity and culture, me, my family and friends, technology in everyday life, free time activities, customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries.</p> <p>Theme 2 Local, national, international and global areas of interest, hometown, neighbourhood and region, social issues e.g. healthy living, global issues e.g. the environment, travel and tourism.</p> <p>Theme 3 Current and future study and employment, my studies, life at school/college, education post-16, jobs, career choices and ambitions.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>100% final exam, divided equally between four skills:</p> <p>Paper 1: Listening 25% Higher tier 45 mins. Foundation tier 35 mins. Section A all questions and answers in English and Section B is a dictation task in Spanish. Most questions are multiple choice, but some require a longer written response.</p> <p>Paper 2: Speaking 25% Higher tier 10-12 mins. Foundation tier 7-9 mins both plus 12-minute preparation time. Oral exam includes a role-play, a photo-card discussion and general conversation. All questions and answers are in Spanish.</p> <p>Paper 3: Reading 25% Higher tier 60 mins. Foundation tier 45 mins. Section A all questions and answers in English and Section B all questions and answers in Spanish. Most questions are multiple choice, but some require a longer written response. There is also a translation task from Spanish into English.</p> <p>Paper 4 Writing 25% Higher tier 75 mins. Foundation tier 60 mins All questions and answers are in Spanish and there is a translation task from English into Spanish.</p>
Choose this subject if ...	You enjoy Spanish and learning about different cultures. You are interested broadening your horizons and increasing your confidence. You would like to achieve the English Baccalaureate which is highly regarded when going on to further study.
Possible careers / future pathways	Languages are great for a wide variety of careers especially those involving communication with people from different countries. This can include careers in tourism, government, politics, media, publishing and journalism. You can also work in education, fashion or law. <i>'One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.'</i> Frank Smith
Subject Requirements	You must be studying this language in year 9



OTHER GCSE SUBJECTS

(In alphabetical order)

GCSE Art (option)	
Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>If students choose to study Art at GCSE level, they will be introduced to a wide variety of artistic experiences. The course is suitable for students who have imaginative ideas and enjoy working independently to develop them. Students will be taught a range of skills, techniques, and processes in the areas of; drawing and painting, printmaking, photography, textiles, and mixed-media work.</p> <p>This two-year GCSE course is project based, students will complete two or more projects inspired by different themes. In addition to developing their knowledge of artistic skills and experiences, they will also research and learn about significant and relevant art movements and artists to help you develop their own ideas further.</p> <p>Component 1 Portfolio of work Students will work on producing a portfolio of coursework throughout the two-year course. The portfolio will be made up of a sustained project and further work.</p> <p>Component 2 Externally set task During the final year of the course, students will complete an externally set task which is set by the exam board AQA. Students will select a question from the paper produced by the exam board and will then complete a project of work in response to this question. Students will produce a final piece of work as a personal response to their chosen theme within a ten-hour formal exam.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>Component 1 Portfolio of work: Sketchbooks, sheets of work and final pieces produced are worth: 60% of the Art GCSE</p> <p>Component 2 Externally set Assignment: Preparatory work (evidence produced during the informal supervision period) may be presented in any suitable format such as mounted sheets or a sketchbook. Students will the complete a ten-hour practical exam across two school days in exam conditions. Worth 40% of the Art GCSE</p>
Choose this subject if	<p>This course is suitable for students who are passionate about Art and are willing to be creative and imaginative. Students need to be prepared to develop their confidence when drawing freehand and are encouraged to practise outside of lesson time. Students should also have an interest in using a wide range of media such as paint, mixed media and photography. Students are encouraged to be experimental, to work from observation and be able to work independently.</p>
Possible careers / future pathways	<p>GCSE Art can lead onto taking A levels in Art, Photography and Textiles at Sixth Form. There are also a whole range of Art related courses available at a variety of colleges from full time courses to receive a diploma, to short courses in more specialist areas such as Ceramics and Floristry.</p> <p>Taking GCSE Art can help you work towards a career in a wide range of creative fields including Photography, Textiles, Fine Art, Architecture, Hair & Beauty, Illustration, Graphic Design and many more.</p>
Subject Requirements	The Art GCSE is a demanding course. Producing artwork takes time and dedication. It is an expectation that you will regularly take coursework home and attend afterschool sessions. You will need to be able to work to deadlines throughout the course.

GCSE Business Studies (Option)

Exam Board	EDUQAS
Outline of course	<p>Business Activity: understanding the nature of business activity and how it is concerned with meeting the needs of customers by providing a product or service, in most cases, for a profit. Exploring enterprise and entrepreneurial attributes that lead to great business leaders.</p> <p>Influences on Business: looking at real business situations and explore the factors that influence their ability to be successful for example competition, tax, interest rates, exchange rates. You will also explore the impact of business decisions on stakeholders (customer, employees, local residents, shareholders etc.)</p> <p>Business operations: investigating different business organisations from sole traders to PLCs; large to small; those selling products and those selling services. Different production methods are explored and discussed in terms of efficiency. You will also examine how different business structures affect decision making.</p> <p>Finance: understanding the role of the finance department including start-up finance, the preparation and creation of financial accounts, maintaining financial records, paying bills and analysing financial performance.</p> <p>Marketing: exploring the role of marketing within a competitive, global marketplace. Examining the four Ps price/product/place/promotion.</p> <p>Human Resources: exploring the role of human resource management in terms of recruitment, training, organisation, retention, development and motivation of employees.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>100% final exam</p> <p>Paper 1: 2 hrs (62.5%)</p> <p>Paper 2: 1½ hrs (37.5%)</p>
Choose this subject if ...	You have a real interest in the world around you. (Do you watch Dragon's Den or The Apprentice? Does a family member own a business? Have you started your own business? Do you have an interest in starting your own business?) You are willing to work hard in developing your writing and numerical skills.
Possible careers / future pathways	Anyone hoping to study business/economics related subjects in the future. Any job in retail, law, leisure and tourism, business and marketing.
Subject Requirements	Students will be expected to use a range of mathematical skills and make justifiable decisions using both quantitative and qualitative methods applied in the context of GCSE Business.

GCSE Dance (Option)

The intention is that the course will run as a GCSE, however this will be cohort driven and should we feel the BTEC is more appropriate for the majority, it will be changed to BTEC dance.

Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	GCSE Dance will develop your skills, knowledge and understanding of dance as a choreographer, performer and viewer. You will perform a solo dance to test your technical, physical and expressive skills and you will perform in a group dance to show sensitivity to other dancers and correct spatial awareness. You will develop an understanding of a variety of dances and different dance styles. Finally, you will develop choreographic skills and devices to produce an original piece of dance created by yourself.
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) Performance - 30% Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration). Duet/trio performance (three minutes in a dance which is a maximum of five minutes in duration).</p> <p>NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) Choreography - 30% Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes).</p> <p>Written Paper - Dance Appreciation Paper 1 - 40% Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills. Critical appreciation of own work. Critical appreciation of professional works.</p>
Choose this subject if ...	You are self-motivated and full of energy and love to dance two or three times a week. You will need to be enthusiastic to learn new skills and styles and be prepared to learn new things and work with other students. You will need to perform in front of others, in your class, in professional performances in the theatre or with professional dance companies.
Possible careers / future pathways	Dancer/performer, dance teacher, choreographer, theatre, dance school, costume/set designer, dance film maker, dance producer, Pilates/yoga instructor. NB: Should the course change to BTEC, this will still allow progress onto a level 3 BTEC course and/or A Level dance course.
Subject Requirements	You MUST have the confidence to dance on your own as it is a requirement for the assessment. You also must be happy to be filmed dancing regularly. Recordings of your performances have to be sent to the exam board for marking.

GCSE Design and Technology (Option)

Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>This course is aimed at creative students who may be interested in a career in designing and making products.</p> <p>During this course, you will learn about:</p> <p>The GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.</p> <p>The GCSE places greater emphasis on understanding and applying repeated rounds of analysis in the design process. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make a prototype that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>NEA (non-exam assessment) 50% - Design & making portfolio Approximately 30-35 hrs - around 25 pages of A3 sheets that starts at the end of Year 10 along with a prototype product.</p> <p>External Assessment 50% Written exam 2 hrs – split in three sections with a specialist area</p>
Choose this subject if	<p>You have patience, perseverance and have a desire to solve problems.</p> <p>This is a part practical course with key design elements, so if you enjoy making using a range of different materials, you are already ahead of the game.</p>
Possible careers / future pathways	Product design or product manufacture, engineering roles, architecture, mechanical or civil engineering, practical apprenticeships and A level Product Design.
Subject Requirements	<p>Students must choose to continue with DT for the remainder of year 9</p> <p>First and foremost an interest in designing and making. A good level of maths and English will be an advantage when solving problems and presenting assignments. Must have good time management skills to complete coursework on deadlines. We ask that a contribution of £30 per year is made to support with the cost of materials over the course.</p>

GCSE Drama (option)

Exam Board	AQA								
Outline of course	<p>You will learn to create, perform and respond to theatre.</p> <p>You will explore set works of key theatre practitioners and be able to analyse and evaluate their work.</p> <p>You will devise your own work using a stimulus and following a theatrical style.</p> <p>You will also rehearse and perform a professionally commissioned work for your scripted exam.</p> <p>You will look at acting as well as technical theatre for a rounded understanding of the theatre and theatre-making.</p>								
Method(s) of Assessment	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Externally assessed script exam</td> <td style="width: 15%;">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Devised performance</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Devising log book</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Written examination (1¾ hours)</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> </table>	Externally assessed script exam	20%	Devised performance	10%	Devising log book	30%	Written examination (1¾ hours)	40%
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Choose this subject if ...	<p>You love performing, creating, and analysing theatre.</p> <p>You have an interest in theatre, character, and storytelling.</p> <p>You enjoy collaborating with others.</p> <p>You like challenging yourself</p> <p>You wish to expand your creative thinking skills.</p>								
Possible careers / future pathways	<p>Acting Teaching Directing Design (costume, set, props, make-up) Writing Media Performance</p>								
Subject Requirements	<p>You must be available and committed to attend after school rehearsals. You must be able to work with others, creating and collaborating work. You must also have a basic understanding of what theatre is, how to create a character and what skills are used in performance. You must attend extra-curricular activities including clubs/trips and have the confidence to perform on your own and in groups in front of others as it is a requirement for the assessment. You must be confident and accepting of the written side of the course, as this equates to the majority of the final mark.</p> <p>It is a requirement of the exam board that every student on the course sees at least one professional live show in year 10 or year 11.</p>								

GCSE Film Studies (option)	
Exam Board	WJEC EDUQAS
Outline of course	<p>Component 1 (exam) - Key developments in US film US film Comparative study Key developments in film and film technology US Independent film</p> <p>Component 2 (exam) - Global Film Narrative, Representation and Film Style This component assesses knowledge and understanding of three global films outside the US</p> <p>Component 3 (non examination assessment) Students produce one genre based film extract plus an evaluation of their own film or screenplay</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	Paper 1 1½ hours 35% Paper 2 1½ hours 35% Non examination assessment 30%
Choose this subject if	You are particularly good at analysing texts in English lessons and you have an excitement and passion for films. If you are interested in the history of film and film technology and you understand how films are constructed, this course is for you.
Possible careers / future pathways	Performers (acting and casting), movie development, film sound, camera operators, film music, film finance, movie production designer, screen writer, photographer, project management.
Subject Requirements	You need to have a real passion for film, excellent communication skills, and a clear understanding of how to analyse a moving text. You also need an understanding of how films reflect the social, cultural and political contexts in which they are made.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (option)

Exam Board	EDUQAS
Outline of course	<p>You will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food commodities • Principles of Nutrition • Diet and good health • The science of food • Food Provenance • Cooking and food preparation <p>You will develop your understanding of these topics and food preparation skills through a variety of theory, practical food preparation and food science investigations.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>NEA 1 (non-examined assessment 1) 15% Food Science Investigation – investigating the chemical reactions, functions of, and effectiveness of a range of ingredients in a recipe. This comprises of a 2000-word report and practical investigation.</p> <p>NEA 2 (non-examined assessment 2) 35% Food preparation assessment – researching, planning and preparing a 3-dish menu suitable for a brief set by the exam board. Includes a report up to 30 pages long and a 3-hour practical exam preparing the chosen menu.</p> <p>Written exam 50%</p>
Choose this subject if ...	You are enthusiastic about everything relating to the diverse subject of food. You should be interested in nutrition and its impact on health, the science of food preparation (the chemistry and physics of food), where food comes from, food safety, and preparing a wide range of foods while developing your skills. This course links with learning in the sciences, maths, English language, PE, geography, health and social care and many others. Content will be taught in a combination of theory lessons (approx. 60%) and practical lessons (approx. 40%).
Possible careers / future pathways	Food scientist, nutritionist, dietitian, chef, product developer, sports science, home economist, buyer, health promotion, food retail, hospitality and many more.
Subject Requirements	<p>Students must choose to continue with Food for the remainder of year 9</p> <p>Commitment to complete homework and on occasions use break time to complete or set up for a practical lesson. Good understanding of nutrition, science and food preparation. Open minded to cooking a whole range of dishes and trying foods that are new to you. We ask that a contribution of £30 per year is made to support with the cost of materials over the course.</p>

GCSE Music (Option)	
Exam Board	EDUQAS
Outline of course	<p>Whilst studying the course you will focus on performing, composing and appraising music. Through each component of the course you will learn about four different areas of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musical forms and devices Music for ensemble Film music Popular music
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>NEA (Non Exam Assessment) Component 1: Performing - 30% You must perform at least two pieces lasting between four and six minutes. At least one of these pieces must be an ensemble piece lasting at least one minute. You must provide a score for each piece you perform. At least one piece must link to an area of study.</p> <p>NEA (Non Exam Assessment) Component 2: Composing - 30% You must compose two pieces of music, lasting between three and six minutes. One of these compositions must be in response to a brief set by the exam board. The other composition can be free, which you must write your own brief.</p> <p>Written Exam Component 3: Appraising - 40% This component is assessed by a listening exam of 1½ hours. There will be eight questions, two on each of the four areas of study. Two of these questions will be based on set works, in which you will study in detail.</p>
Choose this subject if ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You enjoy listening to music and performing music both as an individual and in an ensemble. • You are creative and willing to explore various techniques to write your own music. • You enjoy learning about a wide range of music genres and you are innovative and dedicated, whilst working as part of a team. • You are interested in exploring music using music technology and software. • You want to develop your skills for writing your own music. • You wish to build your confidence in musical performance.
Possible careers / future pathways	GCSE Music will show employers you have a wide range of interests and skills, as well as demonstrating that you have shown dedication and commitment to learning a musical instrument and to studying music. This could lead on to becoming a performer, composer, arranger, studio engineer, producer, teacher, theatre technician, or music therapist.
Subject Requirements	<p>Students must choose to continue with Music for the remainder of year 9</p> <p>Attend at least one extra-curricular music ensemble on a weekly basis. You can already play an instrument reaching grade 3 by the end of Year 11 OR are prepared to learn an instrument/singing as part of the course.</p>

GCSE RE (Option - Full Course)

Exam Board	AQA
Those who choose the RE option will still attend short course RE lessons as part of the fortnightly timetable, but will only sit the Full Course exam at the end of Year 11. This will really benefit students who choose the RE option as they will have more time to revise and learn in the short course lessons.	
Outline of course	<p>The AQA RE GCSE Full Course (Option A) is a humanities course that allows you to use skills you have gained in your previous study of History, Geography and RE to study Christian and Muslim faith and practice and apply these religions to important themes in society.</p> <p>The course is designed to help you understand how and why religion influences individuals and groups in today's society, as well as applying those beliefs to big issues such as Human Life and Animal Rights, War and Peace, Crime and Punishment and Human Relationships.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>100% Final Exam</p> <p>Paper 1: Christian and Muslim beliefs and practices. (1.45 hours, 50% of GCSE, mixture of short and long written questions)</p> <p>Paper 2: Themes: Theme A: Relationships and families; Theme B: Religion and Life; Theme D: Religion, peace and Conflict; Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment. (1.45 hours, 50% of GCSE, mixture of short and long written questions)</p>
Choose this subject if	Choose the full course if... enjoy reading and writing – RE is a literacy heavy subject! You enjoy forming academic arguments and using evidence to support and argument. You want to learn about and have greater tolerance for other faiths, and have more knowledge of the world around us, and how British society works.
Possible careers / future pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law • Business • Politics • Publishing and writing, journalism • Education and public services • Council work/community work, charity work • Higher education
Subject Requirements	There are no previous learning requirements for this specification, there are no tiered exam papers. This specification builds on subject content which is typically taught at Key Stage 3 and provides a suitable foundation for the study of Religious Studies at A Level.

GCSE Textiles (option)

Exam Board	AQA
Outline of course	<p>If students choose to study Textiles at GCSE level, they will be introduced to a wide variety of artistic experiences. The course is suitable for students who have lots of their own ideas and enjoy working independently to develop them. Students will be taught a range of skills, techniques, and processes in the areas of; drawing, designing, embroidery, fashion illustration, fabric painting, sublimation printing, photography, needle felting and a variety of fabric surface techniques.</p> <p>This two-year GCSE course is project based, students will complete two or more projects inspired by different themes. In addition to developing their knowledge of artistic skills and experiences, students will also research and learn about significant artists, fashion designers.</p> <p>Component 1 Portfolio of work</p> <p>Students will work on producing a portfolio of coursework throughout the two-year course. The portfolio will be made up of a skills-based project and a sustained project.</p> <p>Component 2 Externally set task</p> <p>During the final year of the course, students will complete an externally set task which is set by the exam board AQA. Students will select a question from the paper produced by the exam board and will then complete a project of work in response to this question. Students will produce a final piece of work as a personal response to their chosen theme within a ten-hour formal exam.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>Component 1 Portfolio of work: 60% of the Textiles GCSE Sketchbooks produced alongside, sheets of work and final outcome.</p> <p>Component 2 Externally set Assignment: 40% of the Textiles GCSE Preparatory work (evidence produced during the informal supervision period) may be presented in any suitable format such as mounted sheets or a sketchbook. Students will complete a ten-hour practical exam across two school days in exam conditions.</p>
Choose this subject if	<p>This course is suitable for students who are passionate about Textiles and enjoy being creative and imaginative. Students need to be prepared to develop their sewing skills outside of lessons by completing homework and attending after-school sessions. Students should also have an interest in learning new practical skills, fashion, and design. Students are encouraged to work independently.</p>
Possible careers / future pathways	<p>GCSE Textiles can lead onto taking A levels in Textiles, Photography and Art at Sixth Form. There are also many Textiles related courses available at a variety of colleges from full-time courses to receive a diploma, to short courses in more specialist Textiles areas such as Fashion Styling.</p> <p>Taking GCSE Textiles can help you work towards a career in a wide range of creative fields including fashion designer, costume & set designer, fashion & textiles buyer, visual merchandiser, fashion stylist, fashion illustrator, fashion blogger, interior designer and many more.</p>
Subject Requirements	<p>Students must choose to continue with Textiles for the remainder of year 9</p> <p>The Textiles GCSE course is a demanding course. Producing samples and final pieces takes time and dedication. It is an expectation that you will regularly take work home and attend afterschool coursework sessions. You will need to be able to work with independence and to meet deadlines throughout the course.</p>



BTEC/VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS

(In alphabetical order)

BTEC Level1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health & Social Care (Option)

Exam Board	Edexcel
Outline of course	<p>Human Lifespan Development: Understanding human growth and development across the six life stages, the factors that affect it and how individuals deal with expected and unexpected life events.</p> <p>Health & Social Care Services and Values: Understanding the different types of health and social care services and barriers to accessing them. Demonstrating care values in different scenarios and reviewing your own practice.</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing: Understanding factors that affect health and wellbeing, including physiological indicators of health such as blood pressure and pulse rate and writing health improvement plans for individuals.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>Internal exams that are externally moderated: 60% Human Lifespan Development and Health & Social Care Services & Values.</p> <p>External Assessment- Formal Exam: 40% (2hr written paper) Health & Wellbeing.</p>
Choose this subject if ...	You have an interest in the health & social care industry, and you want to develop your independent learning and teamwork skills and empathy towards others. You will need to make contributions in lesson, do presentations in teams and write assignments within a set amount of time.
Possible careers / future pathways	Nurse, midwife, ambulance paramedic, care worker, childcare/nursery worker, nutritionist, physiotherapist and beauty therapist.
Subject Requirements	<p>Good organisational and time management skills are needed, as is the ability to make a comprehensive set of notes in your own words.</p> <p>Working independently and being self-motivated is critical to success.</p> <p>It would be beneficial for you to carry out your work experience in a Health & Social Care setting. Any part time or voluntary experience will also help you apply your knowledge.</p>

BTEC Tech Award Sport Level 1/2 (option)

Exam Board	Pearson Edexcel
Outline of course	<p>BTEC Tech Award Sport is a level 2 award and assessed with coursework and one exam paper over a two-year course.</p> <p>The course covers:</p> <p>Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore types and provision of sport and physical activity for different types of participant - Examine equipment and technology required for participants to use when taking part in sport and physical activity - Be able to prepare participants to take part in physical activity <p>Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand how different components of fitness are used in different physical activities - Be able to participate in sport and understanding the roles and responsibilities of officials - Demonstrate ways to improve participants sporting techniques. <p>Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of fitness - Training principles - Fitness testing methods physical and skill-related - Interpretation of test results - Fitness training methods - Effects of long-term training on body systems
Method(s) of Assessment	<p>Component 1 – coursework 30% (4 tasks) Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity</p> <p>Component 2 – coursework 30% (4 tasks) Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance</p> <p>Component 3 – exam (1hr30mins) 60 marks 40% Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity</p>
Choose this subject if ...	You are a hardworking student who works exceptionally well on independent tasks, and you are interested and engaged in sports, sport technology, preparation for sport, how we can improve sports performance, body systems and fitness. Pick BTEC Sport if you are looking to go into further education to complete either A level PE or a BTEC Level 3 course Sport.
Possible careers / future pathways	<p>This course provides a firm grounding for A level PE and BTEC Level 3 Sport and Science courses in Sixth Form and/or College establishments.</p> <p>Sports specific careers include coaching, leisure management, sports nutrition, physiotherapy, nutritionist, sports analyst, sports psychology and teaching.</p>
Subject Requirements	<p>You must be prepared to be filmed / recorded for assessment purposes. You must understand that the majority of the course is taught in the classroom with written assessments.</p>

Level 1/2 Vocational Tech Award in IT (Option)	
Exam Board	EDUQAS
Outline of Course	<p>This qualification is made up of two units:</p> <p>Unit 1: ICT in Society (Examination worth 40% of the final grade)</p> <p>1.1 How IT can be used to fulfil the needs of organisations and individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functionality of different hardware devices and software • Services provided by IT <p>1.2 How data and information is used and transferred</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why data must be fit for purpose • How input data is checked for errors • How data transfers over different types of networks and connectivity <p>1.3 Legal, moral, ethical, cultural and environmental impacts of IT and the need for cybersecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks to information held on computers • The impact of data loss • Methods used to protect information • Legal, Moral and ethical issues • The cultural, personal and environmental impact of ICT • How a digital footprint can impact computer users <p>Unit 2: ICT in Context (Controlled Assessment worth 60%)</p> <p>This work will be carried out in lesson time, under Controlled Assessment conditions. Students will be set a series of tasks to complete by the exam board, with preparation lessons teaching them the skills needed for the tasks set. Tasks include Databases, Spreadsheets, Automated documents and Graphic Design.</p>
Method(s) of Assessment	40% Written examination (Unit 1) 60% Controlled Assessment – carried out in lesson (Unit 2)
Choose this subject if	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you passionate about technology? • Do you like solving problems? • Do you like working with data and looking at how organisations manage their systems? • Are you curious about all things digital, and want to learn some fantastic new skills? • Do you like working on projects independently? <p>If so, this could be the option for you!</p>
Possible careers/future pathways	<p>College courses in Level 3 ICT / related subjects (e.g. iMedia, games design, digital production, graphic design etc.)</p> <p>Careers in the digital sector, IT project management, systems engineer, web designer, marketing, business analyst and so on!</p>
Subject Requirements	<p>Students must choose to continue with IT for the remainder of year 9</p> <p>Good organisational skills and time management skills to make sure all assignments are completed by the deadlines.</p> <p>Self-motivation and ability to research independently.</p> <p>Numeracy skills to access the spreadsheet and database calculations.</p>

Personal Development Programme	
Exam Board	ASDAN
Outline of course	<p>The ASDAN Personal Development Programme enables us to personalise the units studied to the interests and skills of the individual students. You can achieve a Bronze, Silver and Gold certificate dependent upon your effort and achievement. You must demonstrate your skills across six key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teamwork • Learning • Coping with problems • Use of Maths • Use of English • Use of IT <p>These skills can be demonstrated through activities taken from any of the following modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined Studies • Beliefs and Values • Expressive Arts • The Wider World • Science and Technology • World of Work • Health and Survival • Number Handling • The Environment • Home Management • Sport and Leisure • The Community • Communication.
Tiers/Grades	Bronze, Silver and/or Gold Certificate
Method(s) of Assessment	You will be assessed throughout the programme of study and your work will be assessed by your teachers.
Possible careers / future pathways	Post 16 courses related to the above modules.
Subject Requirements	This is only available to a small number of students that will have had separate meetings with the SEND team



BEYOND YEAR 11

Further Education Options

Beyond Year 11

When students leave Pittville School at the end of Year 11, they **MUST** then enter further education or training. There are a number of options open to them. In most cases, students' choices at this stage are unlikely to restrict their options following the completion of their KS4 studies. However, where students have a particular career or further education course in mind, it is essential that they find out if any particular GCSEs are required.

After Year 11, students could opt to continue their studies / employment-based training at one of the following options:

- A Sixth Form provider (e.g. All Saints Academy, Balcarras, Bournside, Cleeve, Pates)
- A Further Education (FE) College (e.g. Cirencester, GlosCol, Hartpury, Stroud)
- An apprenticeship or training provider

There are a great variety of courses available at post-16, both in terms of the subjects available and the type of course students can study. These include:

- A levels
- Applied A levels
- Apprenticeships
- BTECs
- Diplomas
- T-Levels

To study A levels, students need a minimum of 5 grade 9-5/4s including English and maths. Most sixth forms will have higher requirements and expect at least a grade 6 in the subjects that students wish to study at A level.

For BTECs and diplomas, the grades achieved in Year 11 will determine the level of qualification students can study. Students should expect that 5 grade 9-4s will be required as a minimum for a level 3 course.

Students also need to be aware that wherever they continue their academic studies/ employment based training, if they have not achieved at least a grade 4 in English or maths, they will be required to retake these subjects. Colleges and training providers that students progress to will make provision for them to do this, along with a few sixth forms.

Our careers lead Ms Lawton is available at Year 9 Progress Evening and contactable by email on klawton@pittville.glos.sch.uk to discuss any queries.

Sixth Form and College Contact Details & Entry Requirements 2026

Please note - information correct at time of printing

All Saints' Academy Sixth Form <https://www.allsaints.com>

Blaisdon Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 0WH

Tel: 01242 711200
email: admin@asachelt.org

Entry Requirements: Dependent on chosen pathway of which there are four. A level applicants typically need a minimum of 5 GCSE's at grade 5 or above including English and maths. Vocational course requirements may differ.

Balcarras School Sixth Form <https://www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk>

East End Road,
Charlton Kings
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 8QF

Tel: 01242 515881
email: admin@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Entry Requirements: The minimum requirement for entry to the sixth form is 2 grade 6s and 3 grade 5s in full GCSE courses. These must include a grade 5 or above in both mathematics and English language or literature. In addition, many A-level subjects will require a specific grade in that particular subject at GCSE.

Bournside School Sixth Form <https://www.bournside.glouc.sch.uk>

Warden Hill Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 3EF

Tel: 01242 229511
email: sixthform@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk

Entry Requirements: Dependent on chosen pathway of which there are three. A Levels, and BTEC courses are available.

Cirencester College <https://www.cirencester.ac.uk>

Cirencester College
Stroud Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1XA

Tel: 01285 640994
email: student.journeysteam@cirencester.ac.uk

Entry Requirements: Dependent on pathway chosen, ranging from A Levels, T Levels, Level 2 & 3 Qualifications and Apprenticeships.

Cleeve School

Two Hedges Road
Bishops Cleeve
Gloucestershire
GL52 8AE

<https://www.cleeeschool.net>

Tel - 01242 672546
email: office@cleeeschool.net

Entry Requirements: Dependent on subject and qualification choice

GlosCol <http://www.gloscol.ac.uk/>

Cheltenham Campus
Princess Elizabeth Way
Cheltenham
GL51 7SJ

GlosCol

Gloucester Campus
Llanthony Road
Gloucester
GL2 5JQ

Tel - 0345 155 2020
email - info@gloscol.ac.uk

Entry Requirements: Dependent on pathway chosen. T Levels, Level 2 & 3 Diplomas and Apprenticeships are available.

Hartpury College <http://www.hartpury.ac.uk/>

Hartpury House
Gloucester
GL19 3BE

Tel - 01452 702345
email - enquire@hartpury.ac.uk

Entry Requirements: Dependent on pathway chosen. A Levels, T Levels, Level 2 & 3 Diplomas and Apprenticeships are available.

Pate's Grammar School <http://www.patesgs.org/>

Princess Elizabeth Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 0HG

Tel - 01242 523169
email - office@pates.glos.sch.uk

Entry Requirements:

- A minimum total 'points' score across their best 8 GCSE grades of 57 points.
- A minimum score of 5 in both Mathematics and English.
- A predicted GCSE grade of at least a 7 in any subject to be studied at A Level, as specified in the Sixth Form Prospectus

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College

Stratford Road

<http://www.sgscol.ac.uk/>

Stroud
Glos
GL5 4AH 01452 763424

Entry requirements: Dependent on pathway chosen. T Levels, Level 2 & 3 Diplomas and Apprenticeships are available.

Forces

R.A.F.

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/>

Tel: 0345 605 5555

Army

<https://www.army.mod.uk/join/join.aspx>

Tel: 01452 524539

Royal Navy / Royal Marines

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Careers/How-To-Join/Recruitment-Process>

Tel: 01452 521676