



Key Stage 4

Options

Booklet



ASTON ACADEMY

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WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our Year 9 Options booklet. This is an exciting and important time for your child as they begin to think about their journey at KS4.

At Aston Academy we pride ourselves on providing a broad and balanced curriculum- we want to ensure all students have the opportunity to explore interests and passions in and outside of the classroom.

This booklet has been designed to provide information about the courses that we offer students in Years 10 and 11. It is also a guide to help your child make the right decisions about the options they choose for next year. We hope you will agree that our curriculum provides exciting opportunities that will challenge and inspire your child and above all provide an experience that they will both value and enjoy.

Please study this guide carefully and watch the subject videos on the website before making final option choices. It may also be a good idea for your child to speak to older students, friends and family. It is important that they understand how each option is structured and consider where their strengths lie. We want students to make decisions based upon what is right for them, and not to be influenced by what friends are doing or by a particular teacher they have as they may not have the same teacher next year.

When the option forms have been submitted, we will try our best to match your child's first preferences. However, it is important that all students provide a reserve choice as well, in case we cannot do this. In this instance, we will have a discussion with your child, so that we can finalise the options they will be taking and be sure that they have made an informed decision.

We hope you find this booklet helpful and wish students all the very best for the next exciting stage of their education at Aston Academy.



Mrs A Saeed
Principal



Resilience



Pride



Respect



Ambition



Responsibility

OVERVIEW

Core Curriculum

All students at Aston Academy will study a core curriculum of:

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Combined Science
- GCSE History or GCSE Geography
- GCSE RE or GCSE Sociology
- And for some, GCSE French or GCSE Spanish.

In addition to the above subjects, students will continue to study non-examined core RE/PSHE and Core PE.

EBacc

The English Baccalaureate recognises students' achievements across a range of specified subjects. It ensures a broad and academic foundation and provides an excellent platform for Post 16 and Higher Education. It is valued by both employers and further education providers.

Students achieve the EBacc if they gain a grade 4 or above in:

- GCSE English
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Science (x2)
- GCSE Geography or History
- A Modern Foreign Language

Options Subjects

In addition to the core curriculum, all students will have a choice of a further subject(s) to study. These subjects are delivered through vocational and GCSE courses.

GCSE Courses - a subject is taught over the period of two years and culminates in a final set of exams at the end of year 2 which determines the student's grade. Results are issued on a 9-1 grading system.

Vocational Courses - a subject is taught in chunks with continual assessments throughout the two-year period. Vocational courses test a larger number of skills often including practical alongside written assessment.

GCSE and vocational courses are equivalent courses that assess in different ways. The grading comparison of both types of course is explained in the below table.

GCSE Grades	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Vocational Grades	P1	M1	D1	P2	M2		D2	*2	

Exam Board: EDUQAS GCSE English Language

Course Information

All vocations and further study require a GCSE in English Language. This course will develop students' skills in reading and writing in a variety of fiction and non-fiction contexts.

Paper 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Section A: Reading

- One literature fiction text and 5 questions

Section B: Writing

- One piece of narrative writing (choice of 4 titles)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A: Reading

- Two non-fiction texts and 6 reading questions
- One text is post-2000 and the other is pre-1900

Section B: Writing

- Two pieces of transactional writing which can include letters, speeches, articles and reviews.
- Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
- Presenting
- Responding to questions and feedback

Why do I study this subject?

- Skills – you will learn how to investigate and analyse language and how to use language creatively.
- Knowledge/understanding – you will learn how to deconstruct a text and recognise/ interpret its meaning.
- Progression/Careers – All vocations and college courses require a GCSE in English Language. It is highly valued by employers, and providers of Further and Higher Education. A strong grade in English Language offers excellent preparation for A-Level study. Specific careers linked to English include Journalism, Marketing, and Publishing.
- For further information, see www.prospects.ac.uk – Careers Advice section

How will I be assessed?

- **Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing**
 - Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
 - 80 marks available
 - 40% of GCSE
- **Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives**
 - Written exam: 2 hours
 - 80 marks available
 - 60% of GCSE
- **Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language**
 - Teacher set throughout course
 - Marked by teacher
 - Separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)

Exam Board: EDUQAS GCSE English Literature

Course Information

What will I study?

English Literature allows students to experience a range of literature with a wide variety of appeal drawn from contemporary and modern texts, texts from across the globe and texts which have had a significant influence on our English literary and cultural heritage.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Poetry Anthology

- Section A: Shakespeare
- Section B: The Anthology

Paper 2: Prose, Drama & Unseen Poetry

- Section A: 'An Inspector Calls'
- Section B: 'A Christmas Carol'
- Section B: Unseen poetry

Why do I study this subject?

- Skills – you will learn how to write analytical essays about the texts you have studied.' Knowledge/understanding – you will learn about plots, characters and themes of the text and the influence of the time in which the texts were written.
- Progression/Careers – GCSE English Literature is highly valued by employers, and providers of Further and Higher Education. A strong grade in GCSE English Literature offers excellent preparation for A-Level study. Specific careers linked to English include Journalism, Marketing, and Publishing.
- For further information, see www.prospects.ac.uk – Careers Advice section

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Poetry Anthology

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks available
- 40% of GCSE
- Extract response for Shakespeare (20 minutes)
- Essay response for Shakespeare (40 minutes)
- Single poem analysis (20 minutes)
- Comparison of two poems (40 minutes)

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 120 marks available
- 60% of GCSE
- Essay response on drama text (45 minutes)
- Essay response on prose text (45 minutes)
- Single unseen poem analysis (20 minutes)
- Comparison of two unseen poems (40 minutes)

Out of class opportunities

Visit to Sheffield theatres to watch a live performance of some of your set texts.

Exam Board: OCR GCSE Mathematics

Content Overview

Content is arranged by topic area and applies to both tiers.

- Number operations and integers
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Indices and surds
- Approximation and estimation
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Algebra
- Graphs of equations and functions
- Basic geometry
- Congruence and similarity
- Mensuration
- Probability
- Statistics

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed at the end of the 2-year course by completing 3 exam papers.

Assessment Objectives

The Maths GCSE specification has 3 assessment objectives: AO1 is about using and applying standard techniques. AO2 is about reasoning, interpreting and communicating mathematically. AO3 is about solving problems with a much greater focus on solving non-routine problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.

Foundation Tier (Grades 5-1)

Paper	Marks	Duration	Weight
Paper 1 - J560/01 ▪ Calculator allowed	100	1 Hour 30 Minutes	33 ⅓%
Paper 2 - J560/02 ▪ Calculator not allowed	100	1 Hour 30 Minutes	33 ⅓%
Paper 3 - J560/03 ▪ Calculator allowed	100	1 Hour 30 Minutes	33 ⅓%

Higher Tier (Grades 9-4)

Paper	Marks	Duration	Weight
Paper 04 - J560/04 ▪ Calculator allowed	100	1 Hour 30 minutes	33 ⅓%
Paper 05 - J560/05 ▪ Calculator not allowed	100	1 Hour 30 minutes	33 ⅓%
Paper 06 - J560/06 ▪ Calculator allowed	100	1 Hour 30 minutes	33 ⅓%

Why is Maths important?

The learning of Mathematics helps strengthen reasoning skills, critical thinking and develop higher order thinking skills. It helps us think analytically about the world and reason logically. The same steps you take to understand a maths problem, identify the knowns and unknown and then solve it, can be applied to other areas of your life.

Any Specific Equipment information

- A calculator (we recommend that students should buy the Casio FX-83GT CW).
- A mathematical set that includes rulers, pencils, protractors, and a pair of compasses.

Out of class opportunities

UKMT Maths challenge, trip to New York (Finance and Business based), Maths club and more.

Exam Board: AQA

Course Information

What will I study?

In Combined Science, you will continue to study the big ideas that underpin the world around us. Are you fascinated by the mysteries of the natural world? If so, Science will help you to answer questions such as:

- “How does your genetic information affect the chances of inherited diseases?”
- “How is our changing atmosphere impacting on global biodiversity?”
- “How can the Earth's energy resources help to provide the energy needed for our society?”

But it's not just about memorising facts and figures. This course challenges you to think critically, to observe keenly, and to solve problems creatively. Whether you're conducting experiments in the lab or analysing data, you'll develop essential skills that will serve you well in any field.

How will this course be assessed and where can it take me?

Assessment is through six 1 hour 15 min written papers – two in biology, two in chemistry, and two in physics – each covering distinct topic areas. These examinations, held in the summer of Year 11, will test your knowledge and understanding, rewarding your dedication and curiosity.

Choosing between Triple Science and Combined Science isn't just about classes – it's about opening doors to a world of opportunities. Whether you dream of pursuing further studies in Science or Forensic Science at A Level/BTEC, or you aspire to a career where scientific knowledge is invaluable, this course lays the foundation for success.

The knowledge and discipline you gain from studying science will not only propel you towards academic achievement but also prepare you for a future filled with exciting and lucrative employment opportunities. So, seize the chance to unlock your scientific potential with Combined or Triple Science.

Exam Board: EDEXCEL GCSE History

Course Information

History tells you where our present world came from and gives you the tools to analyse and understand information.

Paper 1: Medicine and Health in Britain from 1250 to present day.

- Includes an in-depth study of medicine, wounds and health on the Western Front during World War I.
- You will study changes and continuities in causes, treatments, healers and prevention.
- You will learn to explain, analyse and evaluate changes and developments.
- You will have to write short comparisons of different time periods, longer essays explaining why there was progress at times, and you will evaluate different contributions.

Paper 2: Anglo-Saxons and Normans 1060-1098 & Superpower relations and the Cold War 1943-1992.

- For the Anglo-Saxons & Normans section you will learn to describe, explain and evaluate causes, consequences and changes over a very brief period of time in just one country.
- You will learn about the land that William the Conqueror took over in 1066 and how much he changed it. You will also study his battles in depth.
- For the Cold War section, you will learn how Britain, the USSR and USA defeated Fascism together in World War II and then became enemies. You will learn how Europe and Germany were divided by an iron curtain, and how nuclear weapons were developed in an arms race that nearly wiped out the planet in a nuclear war in 1962.
- You will learn how to memorise large amounts of facts and details and use them to argue your opinions in essays.

Paper 3: Depth Study: Germany 1918-39

- You will learn about how Germany lost WWI and tried to build a new free democracy. Then how that was torn apart by the Great Depression, allowing the Nazis to take power and turn Germany into a murderous fascist state.
- You will learn how to evaluate historical sources and interpretations.
- You will learn how to spot 'fake' information and to be thoughtful about who is telling you what and why.

Out of class opportunities

Trips to Leeds Thackray Medical Museum and the chance to visit Berlin.

Exam Board: EDEXCEL GCSE Geography

What will I study?

Geography is a fascinating and diverse topic that will prepare you to take your place in the world as a global citizen.

Below you can see the topics you will learn in AQA Geography and just some of the questions you will be able to answer:

Exam Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (1hr 30mins)

- **The Challenge of Natural Hazards.**
 - How do different societies cope with the devastation of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes and catastrophic flooding? What causes these powerful natural forces, and how do we make them worse? What was The Beast from the East?
- **The Living World.**
 - What creates deserts? Why are rainforests only found at the equator? How do different species evolve to fit their environments, and how can we save precious natural habitats such as the Amazon Rainforest from exploitation and destruction?
- **Physical Landscapes**
 - Which forces shape the world around us? Why do rivers twist and turn? Why are houses falling into the sea in Yorkshire? Why does flooding seem to be getting worse every single year?

Exam Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (1hr 30mins)

- **Urban Issues and Challenges**
 - Why are cities growing at tremendous rates? Why do people want to live in cities, even if their living conditions are terrible? What is life like for people in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria? How could you design the city of the future?
- **Changing Economic World**
 - What holds countries back from developing? What can be done to help people in poverty-stricken countries? How has the economy in the UK changed, and how will it work in the future? Can the environmental destruction caused by the oil industry in Nigeria be justified?
- **The Challenge of Resource Management**
 - How can we avoid running out of essential resources such as food, water and energy? Why are we so dependent on fossil fuels? Why do millions of people each year around the world face starvation? How can we power our society in the future without destroying the planet?

Exam Paper 3: Geographical Application (1 hr 30mins)

This paper is in two halves. The first half is answering questions about a pre-release document which will be given to you in advance and prepared for with your teacher.

Previous topics have included:

- Logging in the Bolivian rainforest
- Debates over a reservoir.

Where can this subject take me?

- Employers and universities view geography as a subject that creates well rounded graduates with a wide knowledge of how the world works.
- You will gain experience with designing and completing research and investigations that are common in many careers.
- Geography gives you the knowledge and skills to help answer many of the biggest questions facing us in the future.

Out of class opportunities

Two days compulsory fieldwork which include a day in the city centre conducting research into the recent changes to The Moor, and a day investigating how a river changes downstream. This is a chance to learn outside of the classroom and experience Geography first hand. There are also a number of international whole school visits available including a trip to New York, Ski Trip, Paris and many more.

Exam Board: EDEXCEL GCSE Spanish/French

Course Information

Why learn a language?

- You will be highly employable, and your language skills can add between 10-15% to your salary.
- Learning one language can help you to learn another more easily in the future.
- It boosts your memory and communication skills.
- You learn about different cultures as well as about the language itself.
- Lessons are varied and interactive.
- You're rewarded with a real sense of achievement.
- You can use it when you travel abroad on holiday or for business.
- You won't turn into one of those adults who say "I wish I could speak a foreign language!"
- You may have the opportunity to go on a trip to Spain or France depending on your language.

What will I learn?

This two-year GCSE course will build perfectly on the skills you learnt in Years 7-9 and provide you with the opportunity to develop into skilled linguists ready to use your language skills in real life situations. The topics you will study at GCSE French/Spanish have been updated to be much more current and up to date which makes language learning more relevant than ever before.

Topics will include

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

All topics will cover cultural elements of the Spanish or French speaking world, opening up opportunities to understand the world and different traditions, celebrations and beliefs.

Useful skills you will gain

- Willingness to make oral contributions in lessons
- Good listening skills
- Attention to detail
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Appreciation of other cultures

How will I be assessed?

You will either be entered for the higher tier or foundation tier. There are four key skills you will be assessed on at either tier, and each skill is weighted equally.

Higher

- 25% - Speaking exam (10-12 minutes + 15 minutes preparation time)
- 25% - Writing exam (1 hour 20 minutes)
- 25% - Reading and translation exam (1 hour)
- 25% - Listening and dictation exam (1 hour)

Foundation

- 25% - Speaking exam (7-9 minutes + 15 minutes preparation time)
- 25% - Writing exam (1 hour 15 minutes)
- 25% - Reading and translation exam (45 minutes)
- 25% - Listening and dictation exam (45 minutes)

We would love to help you learn a language and see the real benefits of being multilingual.

In today's multicultural society the ability to use and understand a foreign language will continue to grow in importance and a GCSE qualification will be impressive and useful in a range of careers, such as:

- Travel and tourism
- Hotel catering
- Management
- Business
- Leisure
- Education
- Translation/interpreting

Many universities across the country request a GCSE language, meaning you could already be one step ahead of your peers by choosing a language, and the complex skills involved with learning languages will give you the edge in the job market.

Out of class opportunities

- A trip for Year 10 students to visit Spain or France. This will be an excellent opportunity to develop your speaking skills and experience Spanish/French culture first-hand!
- Are you interested in film? We'd love you to join our Cinema Club! Popcorn will be provided, and we'll show a range of films in Spanish/French or set in Spanish/French speaking countries. We'll also show films you'll be very familiar with, but with Spanish or French dubbing. This is a great way to build confidence with listening skills!
- There are also a number of international whole school visits available including a trip to New York, Ski Trip in Italy, Paris, Berlin and many more.

Exam Board: AQA GCSE Religious Studies

Course Information

Religious Studies is all about people, religion, culture, morality (what is right and wrong) and philosophy (asking big questions). As well as gaining knowledge about religious beliefs and practices, you will also study belief systems towards a range of highly engaging, topical and controversial issues in everyday society.

You do not have to be religious to study Religious Studies and it is not about making you believe in any viewpoint. Instead, you will listen to different viewpoints, as well as debate and give your view on how and why people respond to important ethical issues that affect everyone in the 21st Century world.

What will you study?

The GCSE course involves learning about the viewpoints of two religions (Christianity and Islam) and also non-religious viewpoints (atheist and humanist). We look at a range of debate topics:

- Should we allow the death penalty?
- Is it acceptable to experiment on animals?
- Can war ever be justified? Are nuclear weapons acceptable?
- Is abortion acceptable?
- Should humans be given the right to die (euthanasia)?
- How should criminals be treated?
- Should we always try to forgive people?
- Is there a life after death?
- How did the world and human life begin?

How will I be assessed?

Two written exams (50% each): 1 hour 45 minutes each.

- Component 1:
 - The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam.
- Component 2: Thematic Studies
 - Theme A: Relationships and families
 - Theme B: Religion and life
 - Theme D: Peace and conflict.
 - Theme E: Crime and punishment.

What could the course lead to?

RE GCSE is a valuable qualification for anyone wishing to work in sectors of the employment market where communication skills are important. Jobs in the caring professions such as nursing, nursery work, social work or teaching, require skills of empathy and tolerance that Religious Studies fosters in its students. People who study Religious Studies also go on to careers in law, politics, the civil service, journalism, the media and the charity sector. In short, Religious Studies can take you anywhere!

As an academic subject, Religious Studies complements other Humanities subjects such as History, as well as social science subjects like Psychology.

Out of class opportunities

- Educational visit to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham.
- Student leadership opportunities within the Religion, Philosophy and Ethics Faculty.

Exam Board: AQA GCSE Sociology

Course Information

What will I study?

In Sociology you will study the structure of human societies, as seen through a range of perspectives including Marxism and Feminism. We study social structures, processes and issues, through looking at families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. You also consider what types of research methods are used in social science.

You will explore such questions as:

- What is the purpose of the family and is it good for its members?
- What is the function of education and why do some students do better than others?
- Why do people commit crime, especially people from certain groups in society?
- Who is most at risk of poverty and why?

You will investigate and compare alternative explanations for the causes of problems in society and consider ways these theories could be used to suggest improvements. By the end of the course, you will have a deeper insight into social issues and structures, and an appreciation of the diversity of modern life. You will learn how to construct logical, evidence - based arguments, and draw justified conclusions. You will need to think critically and will be constantly encouraged to look at alternative viewpoints, reflecting on your own opinions. Sociology increases your curiosity about the social world around you, your place in it, and how society could progress.

How will this course be assessed?

There are two written papers in the Summer of Year 11. The first assesses your knowledge and understanding of the families and education units. The second paper assesses knowledge and understanding of the crime and deviance and social stratification units. On both papers, there will be questions throughout which also assess knowledge and understanding of research methods in sociology.

Where can this subject take me?

Sociology GCSE is excellent preparation for further A Levels in social sciences such as Psychology and Philosophy. Due to the development of critical thinking skills, it also prepares you to write at length, for example during Higher Education at university. As you will have studied people and society, it leads into a range of careers dealing with diverse types of people such as Social Work, Health, Criminal Justice and Education.

Exam Board: AQA Art, Craft and Design Specification with a focus on Fine Art or Photography

Course Information

In Year 10 you will complete a series of workshops which will build your skills in specialist areas, whilst exploring specific themes (year 10 work will contribute to your Portfolio). In Year 11 you will develop a project with a final piece and also complete the externally set task.

Do I get to choose what kind of things I make/create?

Like all GCSE subjects we have to work to the exam boards requirements, but we design our courses so that you get a lot of personal choice. We give you a range of starting points that you can then choose to develop in your own way. The more involved you are, the more choices you get to make! You will also get to exhibit your work at the end of the course.

Components:

- Portfolio – 60%; Externally Set Task – 40%

How will this course be assessed?

All your work is assessed by your teacher at regular intervals throughout the year and you are continually given verbal feedback in lessons. At the very end of the year, an external moderator, from the exam board, comes to check and agree with the marks.

Areas of study for **FINE ART** can include:

- Drawing Techniques
- Still Life
- Portrait
- Landscapes
- Experimental Drawing
- Painting Techniques
- 3D Media
- Printmaking Techniques
- Mixed Media
- Land Art
- Skills: Mark-Making, Monoprint, Collagraph and Block Printing
- Assemblage
- Construction
- Carving

Areas of study for **PHOTOGRAPHY** can include:

- Portraiture Photography
- Location Photography
- Studio Photography
- Experimental Imagery
- Photojournalism
- Fashion Photography
- Conceptual and Installation Art
- Skills: Digital Working Methods
- Lighting
- Viewpoint
- Aperture
- Depth Of Field
- Shutter Speed and Movement
- Use Of Enlarger
- Chemical and/or Digital Processes

What can I do with an Art qualification?

The term 'creative industries' describes businesses with creativity at their heart, for example: design, music, publishing, architecture, film and video, crafts, visual arts, fashion, TV and radio, advertising, literature, computer games and the performing arts. Employers really value creativity as an attribute. Some examples of jobs in the creative industries are: Video Game Designer, Graphic Designer, Marketing and Advertising, Film And TV Set Designer, Architect, Fashion Designer, Design Engineer, Illustrator, Animator...and these are just a few!

Any specific equipment information

We provide a pack of high-quality equipment for you to use in lessons and at home in order to complete tasks.

Out of class opportunities

We do a trip in Year 10 – the aim which is to gain inspiration to help you develop your Year 10 projects. Last year, Year 10 went to The Natural History Museum in London because they were studying anatomy and organic forms.

Exam Board: Cambridge National Level 2 in Enterprise & Marketing

Course Information

- Are you interested in business?
- Would you like to start your own business in the future?
- Can you see yourself on Dragons' Den or The Apprentice one day?

You will get to study many different areas of business through applied knowledge and practical skills, including enterprise and marketing concepts, which will enable you to understand the main activities that will need to happen to support a start-up business, and what the key factors are to consider when starting up a business you will then get to design a business proposal and also market and pitch your business proposal. This qualification is complemented by a range of GCSEs such as Maths and English and it also complements creative subjects such as Art and Design.

You will be required to complete 3 units of work over the 2 years, two of which will be coursework and assessed by your teacher and 1 will be an external exam.

If you're thinking about being your own boss or carrying out a role in any area of a business, then this course will equip you with the knowledge and skills to run your own business or become a valued employee in any organisation. You'll explore business concepts and terminology, as well as study how different business functions are interconnected.

Out of class opportunities

There are a range of international trip opportunities available with the New York trip have a key focus on Business and Finance.

Exam Board: OCR Cambridge National in Child Development

Course Information

You will study key knowledge, understanding and skills that relate to working in the Child Development sector. You will also have the opportunity to apply what you learn by completing practical activities. This qualification has three mandatory units:

Unit R057: Health and well-being for child development

This is assessed by an exam. In this unit you will learn about the importance of pre-conception health and reproduction, antenatal care and preparation for birth. You'll also learn about postnatal care and the conditions in which a child can thrive. Topics include:

- Pre-conception health and reproduction
- Antenatal care and preparation for birth
- Postnatal checks, postnatal care and the conditions for development
- Childhood illnesses and a child safe environment.

Unit R058: Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years

In this unit you will learn how to create a safe environment for children from birth to five years in childcare settings. You'll research and choose equipment that is suitable and safe for use and will learn about children's nutrition and dietary needs. Topics include:

- Creating a safe environment in a childcare setting
- Choosing suitable equipment for a childcare setting
- Nutritional needs of children from birth to five years.

Unit R059: Understand the development of a child from one to five years

In this unit you will learn the physical, intellectual and social developmental norms for children from one to five years. You'll understand the importance of creating plans and providing different play activities to support children in their development. Topics include:

- Physical, intellectual and social developmental norms from one to five years
- Stages and types of play and how play benefits development
- Observe the development of a child aged one to five years
- Plan and evaluate play activities for a child aged one to five years for a chosen area of development.

What can I do with this qualification?

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- Preparing a feed or meal for a child
- Choosing suitable equipment to use in a childcare setting
- Planning suitable play activities
- Helping to prevent accidents in a childcare setting.

This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the Childcare sector. This qualification will complement other learning that you're completing for GCSEs or vocational qualifications at Key Stage 4 and help to prepare you for further study.

Out of class opportunities

Opportunities to visit and/or conduct work experience in childcare settings.

Exam Board: OCR Computer Science | BTEC Digital IT

Course Information

Please note: If you choose Computing as an option, you will be allocated one of the courses below to best suit your skills.

OCR Computer Science

Would you like to know how your favourite apps actually work? Do you have an idea for the next must-have app but lack the skills to create it? If this sounds good, then GCSE Computer Science is the course for you.

This course will take you from beginner to advanced levels in computer science. This will cover the theory of computer science and how you can use this information to create software to solve problems.

This qualification is extremely challenging but rewards you with highly transferable skills and good employability prospects. If you would like to get into the computing industry this is a good qualification to complement courses such as Art or Product design.

The course is assessed completely by exams. There are 2 exams that both represent 50% of the overall grade.

BTEC Digital IT

Are you ready to embark on a dynamic journey into the heart of the digital realm? Look no further than our BTEC Digital Information Technology course! Designed for tech enthusiasts and aspiring digital leaders, this program is your gateway to a thrilling career in the ever-evolving world of technology.

Dive into a comprehensive curriculum that covers everything from data analysis to interactive design. Stay ahead of the curve with the latest industry-relevant skills. You will gain hands-on experience through practical projects, providing you with the confidence and competence to tackle real-world challenges in the digital landscape.

So, whether you dream of developing cutting-edge applications, securing networks, or analysing big data, our BTEC Digital Information Technology course sets you on the path to success.

The course consists of two coursework components and an examination to be taken in Year 11.

Exam Board: EDUQAS Level 2- Construction and the Built Environment

Course Information

Would you love the opportunity to transform the world around you? Are you looking to learn about new technologies, materials and processes that are involved in construction projects? Do you want to develop a good foundation for a successful career in construction?

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment

You will be introduced to the principles of the built environment and have the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment. Explore a range of professional and trade roles. Explore some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment.

Unit 2: Constructing the Built Environment

You will study three construction trade areas of the built environment, including planning, undertaking and evaluating construction tasks.

How will I be assessed?

You will have one exam for Unit 1 which will be worth 40% of your qualification. The exam will last 1 hour and 30 minutes, it will be made up of short and extended response questions. Unit 2 will be assessed via project work (no exam), which is worth 60% of your qualification. Here you will be asked to prepare and complete three trade-based tasks e.g., creating a simple lighting circuit, building a brick structure and making a wooden planter.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Independent learning
- Research
- Time management

Careers with constructing the built environment?

The construction industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities, from tradesperson to leading large scale construction projects, and from an architect to renovator of our historic built environment.

Exam Board: AQA GCSE Drama

Course Information

The AQA Drama specification engages and encourages students to become confident performers and designers. Through study of a range of plays, students can develop their own performance style, develop their confidence, and get to know the theatrical world through practical application of their knowledge.

The GCSE course is a fantastic opportunity for students who love performance and expression to develop their skills working collaboratively.

Students can choose to develop as a:

- Performer
- Designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets)
- Performer and designer.

Whichever option they choose, students can be sure to gather many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.

Component 1 - Understanding Drama

What's assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of nine
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How it's assessed

- One written exam - 1 hour and 45 minutes
- 40% of the GCSE

Component 2: Devising Drama

What's assessed

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

How it's assessed:

- One devising log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 40% of the GCSE

Component 3: Texts in Practice (Practical)

What's assessed

Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer).

How it's assessed

- Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks)
- 20% of the GCSE

Where could this course take me?

Eventually, this course could lead you to opportunities in acting, directing, teaching, costume design, set design, stage management, lighting and technical work involving lighting and special effects.

Out of class opportunities

Visits to Sheffield theatres in order to watch and review live performances. Performing Arts trip to London and Paris.

Exam Board: OCR Level 2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care

Course Information

OCR Cambridge National in Health and Social Care is the ideal course for students with an interest in the Health and Social Care industry. This course equips students with the knowledge and understanding of how to meet the needs of individuals in a range of Health, Social and Childcare Settings. We also aim to give students opportunities to gain experience of working with a range of individuals during curriculum time.

How will this course be assessed?

Over the two-year course, three units will be studied. Students will complete 2 coursework units and a written exam. Coursework tasks will include information leaflets, brochures, presentations and delivering campaigns to individuals, young children and elderly people in our local community.

- Unit R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings
- Unit R033: Supporting individuals through life events
- Unit R035: Health promotion campaigns

Out of class opportunities

Throughout the two years, there will be many opportunities to participate in enrichment activities as part of the course. Some of these include; visiting local special schools, running craft activities for local primary schools and helping plan and run the various charity events we hold in school.

If you are interested in working with a wide range of individuals and gaining confidence doing so then Health and Social Care is the ideal course for you.

This course prepares students for further Health and Social Care studies at Aston Academy Post 16, it leads onto the Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care. Health and Social Care is a subject that will provide you with the skills, experiences and knowledge needed to progress onto a range of careers. Some of these include teaching, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, social work and care workers.

Exam Board: EDUQAS Level 2 in Hospitality and Catering

Course Information

What will you study?

This is a practical course where students will make a range of food products and develop skills related to food preparation, food hygiene, food presentation and production. The course is split into two units:

Unit One

- You will learn and develop the skills and knowledge to be able to create a new hospitality and catering outlet to open in a specific location. During this unit, you will explore all the different job roles in the hospitality and catering industry and how you could go on to study further for these careers.
- This will result in a formal written exam at the end of Year 11.

Unit Two

- You will learn and develop the skills and knowledge to safely plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes.
- The aim is to develop a range of practical skills and use a variety of catering equipment to produce a wide range of dishes.
- There will be an assignment that is to be completed to show your knowledge and understanding of the subject and demonstrate your practical skills. This is called a Non-Exam Assessment (NEA). For the final part of this assessment, you will complete a 4-hour practical exam: this is split into two 2-hour exams.

What specific skills do I need to succeed on this course?

You will need to be organised and show some flair for cooking. However, if you feel you're not that good at cooking – don't worry! If you want to improve your skills, this course is designed to help you and you will be surprised by just how professional you will become.

The course involves written work, and so complements skills expected in all other subjects. Your creativity will be called upon to design amazing dishes.

How is this course assessed?

The course is broken up into 2 assessments:

- Unit 1 – The Hospitality and Catering Industry: External exam - 40%
- Unit 2 – Hospitality and catering in Action: Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) - 60%

For the NEA you will design and make a product to meet the criteria of one of the set contexts from the exam board.

If I follow this course, where can it lead me?

There are many different careers linked to catering and hospitality that we couldn't possibly mention them all but here are a few: Chef, Food Developer, Sports Nutritionist, Hotel Administrator, Hospitality Manager.

Exam Board: EDUQAS GCSE Music

Course Information

GCSE Music is the ideal course for any students with an interest in performing, composing and listening to a variety of different styles of music. You will develop knowledge and understanding of:

Performing Skills

- Students will need to record two pieces of their choosing on any instrument.
- One must be an ensemble (for two people or more) and the other can be a solo or another ensemble.
- These will be worked on in class and with instrumental teachers

Composing Skills

- Students will need to produce 2 compositions (one in response to a brief set by the exam board and the other a free choice).

Listening and Appraising Skills

Students will study four areas:

- Musical forms and Devices,
- Music for Ensemble,
- Film Music
- Popular Music

How will this course be assessed?

Students will complete two coursework units - Performance (2 pieces), Composing (2 pieces) and a written listening exam. The final external exam will be sat in the Summer of Year 11 and contains a variety of multiple-choice questions, short text answers as well as an essay style question on film music.

If you chose this course, it can lead to:

- Further studies - BTEC/A Level music or music technology courses.
- Many careers including:
 - Teaching
 - Performing
 - Music Technology
 - Music Producing
 - Music Marketing, to name just a few!

Out of class opportunities

- Performances during school and after school events.
- External music lessons.

Exam Board: EDEXCEL GCSE PE/ Level 2 Cambridge National in Sports Science

Please note: If you choose PE and Sport as an option, you will be allocated one of the courses below to best suit your skills.

Throughout the GCSE PE course students will complete practical PE lessons each week with a focus on promoting physical fitness, developing a range of skills across a broad and varied curriculum and an understanding of the benefits of exercise that can last beyond school years. In Year 10 students will have the opportunity to select particular sports to specialise in. Here they will spend time developing advanced skills and have access to competitions alongside creating a sport specific fitness training programme. By Year 11 students will have to select three sports to be assessed in and prepare for the two written theory exams.

How will this course be assessed?

Students are assessed in 3 ways:

- 60% of the final grade is achieved in two written theory exams. One on Fitness and Body Systems which is 1 hour and 30 minutes marked out of 80 (applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis and physical training) and one on Health and Performance which is 1 hour and 15 minutes marked out of 60 (health, fitness and well-being, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences).
- 30% of the final grade is achieved through three practical performances. One team game/sport, one individual game/sport and one more of your choice.
- 10% of the final grade is achieved through the writing and completion of a Personal Exercise Programme (coursework).

The OCR Cambridge National Sport Science course appreciates how sport science underpins sport at all levels. Students will develop their knowledge on injury prevention and the effects of injury on the body, improving personal fitness through appropriate training and diet.

How will this course be assessed?

Students will complete three units, two of which will be coursework units and one a written exam. Coursework tasks will include information leaflets, brochures, presentations and even participating in fitness testing sessions while the exam unit will be a 1 hour 15-minute written exam in Year 11.

The three units are:

- R180 Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions (exam). This will be the final assessment students will complete at the end of Year 11 - 80 marks
- R181 Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance - 80 marks
- R183 Nutrition and sports performance - 40 marks

Throughout the course students will complete practical PE lessons each week with a focus on promoting physical fitness, developing a range of skills across a broad and varied curriculum and an understanding of the benefits of exercise that can last beyond school years.

Sports Science can lead you to study at Aston Academy Post 16 with a Cambridge Technical in Sport or A Level in PE, any other A Levels and equivalent qualifications.

PE and Sport can lead into careers such as a Sports coach, Physiotherapy, Sports Nutritionist, Sports/PE teacher and many more exciting opportunities in the industry of Sport, Fitness and Health.

Exam Board: AQA GCSE Biology | AQA GCSE Chemistry | AQA GCSE Physics

If you choose triple science, this will ‘top up’ your combined science qualification from two science grades to three (as shown above).

What will I study?

In Triple Science you will continue to study the big ideas that underpin the world around us. You will explore questions such as:

- ‘What can fossils tell us about the history of life on Earth?’
- ‘How do forces affect the speed of a racing car?’
- ‘Why are the Earth’s resources so important to our society?’

If you have a hunger for knowledge and a real curiosity for understanding how things work, science offers a constant challenge and, the best thing of all, the excitement of new discoveries.

To succeed, you will need to be willing to use your observational, practical and problem-solving skills in the science lab, to explore new scientific concepts. You need to be critical when evaluating and analysing the methodology, evidence and conclusions from your fellow scientists.

How will this course be assessed and where can it take me?

There are six written papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess your knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. All examinations are held in the Summer of Year 11.

Choosing between Triple Science and Combined Science isn't just about classes – it's about unlocking doors to incredible opportunities!

Both routes in science will give you the skills to go on and study Science or Forensic Science at A Level/BTEC. The knowledge you gain, and discipline you develop, in science will help you to excel in all areas of future life and there are numerous associated, exciting and lucrative employment opportunities.

Out of class Opportunities

- Practical field work.
- National chemistry competition.