



BEECHWOOD SCHOOL

GCSE Options

2025-2027



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Key Stage 4 Curriculum

As we approach Year 10 it will soon be time for the students to make their subject choices for GCSE level. Our GCSE curriculum is broad and balanced and designed to allow for a successful transition into their Post-16 studies.

The GCSE curriculum mixes compulsory examination, compulsory non-examination and optional examination subjects.

Compulsory examination subjects	Compulsory non-examination subjects	Optional examination subjects <i>Any 4 from the following</i>
<p>English- <i>English Language and English Literature which award 2 GCSE grades</i></p> <p>Mathematics- <i>Awards 1 GCSE</i></p> <p>Science - <i>Either Triple Science (Separate Science) which awards 3 GCSE grades or Trilogy Science (Combined Science) which awards 2 GCSE grades. The decision for the students to take either the Triple or Trilogy will be made at the end of the first term in Year 10 by the Science Department in consultation with parents/guardians and students</i></p>	<p>Games</p> <p>PSHE</p>	<p>Art</p> <p>Business Studies</p> <p>Classic Civilisations</p> <p>Computer Science</p> <p>Design Technology</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>English as an Additional Language</p> <p>Film</p> <p>Food Technology</p> <p>French</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>History</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Photography</p> <p>Physical Education</p> <p>Religious Education</p> <p>Spanish</p> <p>Statistics</p> <p>Textiles</p>

All native English speakers should consider taking at least one modern language (French, Spanish or German), alongside either History or Geography. Non-native speakers will attend English as an Additional Language lessons as one of their 4 options.

Pupils should aim for a broad base for learning by selecting courses from different subject groups, for example, one humanity, one creative option and a technology. In addition to their GCSE options, all pupils will continue with Games, general PE and PSHCE, all of which are not assessed.

When choosing optional subjects, pupils should try to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum and to avoid an undue emphasis in any one area to the exclusion of others.

In 2017 a new grading system was introduced for GCSE that removed letter grades and instead gave numerical grade. Please see below the approximate equivalence.

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
	8
A	7
B	6
	5 STRONG PASS
C	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

Source: Ofqual

BBC

Guide to choosing options

GCSE qualifications are assessed through either examination, coursework or a mixture of both. This means that, within some subjects, work produced from the very start of the course is directly assessed by the class teacher and could form a part of your final grade. It is important then that you start your GCSE choice subjects organised and ready to learn.

You should consider the following when choosing your options:

DO

- Do you have a plan for the future
- Where will you get success
- EBac (A Humanity and a Language)

DON'T

- Do not choose because your friend is doing it
- Do not choose it because you like the teacher
- Do not choose it because you think employers will like it

We hope that the information contained within this booklet and that you gain whilst talking to staff allows you to make the right choices that will see you well placed to succeed over the next two years and beyond. If you need any further support please contact either myself or your Head of Year.

Mr Kyle

Assistant Headteacher

Art & Design: Fine Art AQA

What will I gain from studying this subject?

GCSE Fine Art involves a broad range of study. You will gain experience of working in a wide range of media, ensuring that you achieve your best performance.

Your portfolio, completed over two years, will be made up of two units, each unit consisting of:

Preparation Studies – initial drawings/paintings recorded from your observations that form the basis of the initial investigation.

Research into Other Artists – you will be required to research into the works of both European and non-European Artists in order to understand the context in which your work belongs. These investigations should be a source of inspiration to your own work.

The Final Piece – this is the final realisation of all the research and development that you have done and should therefore reflect elements of your artist(s). It is to be hoped that these pieces will go on display around school or feature in the Virtual Gallery.

How will my work be assessed?

The final examinations will comprise:

- Portfolio of work – 60%

Two units of work of any size to include all preparation work and sketchbooks, which should represent a total of at least 45 hours of work. The work is internally assessed then moderated by the examination board.

- Externally set task – 40%

The conclusion of your course will be a ten-hour controlled test. This will take place over several days after a sustained preparatory period in which you will do all the necessary research. During this four-week period you may freely discuss your project with the Art department staff and all your preparation work can be taken into the examination.

The Key to success is as follows:

- To complete and build upon objectives of the course.
- To work inside and outside of the subject consistently throughout the course.
- The above points must be met to achieve the best possible results from the subject.

Art & Design: Textiles

OCR

What will I gain from studying this subject?

GCSE Art Textiles technology is a vibrant and dynamic course which teaches skills such as weaving, stitching, appliqué, embroidery, construction methods, and printing. It gives students the freedom to express themselves using techniques and materials they enjoy using. It is not only inspiring and enjoyable but equips them with the skills to continue the subject with confidence at AS, A-level and beyond.

How will my work be assessed?

All assessment is done at the end of Yr11. Students must produce work for two components.

- Component 1
A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. Students create a portfolio showing all the necessary skills through creative samples, designs, and also their knowledge of the subject.
96 marks = 60% of GCSE

- Component 2
An extended project based on a set theme by the exam board. Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time
96 marks = 40% of GCSE

Students will also have the opportunity to go on trips to develop a broader understanding of textiles within the wider world to events and places such as Textile exhibitions, shows and London Fashion week.

Post 16 progression qualifications

S levels and A2's are available in all design and technology subject areas. Vocational courses, for example foundation, higher and advanced diplomas and BTEC qualifications are also available in all subject areas. Look at <https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects/art-and-design> for further information.

CAREER OPTIONS/PATHWAYS

Costume, fashion, footwear, clothing, tailoring, textile designer, artist.

Business Studies

EDEXCEL

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Business Studies will provide you with an insight into the world of all types of businesses and industries whether you want to run your own company or work for someone else, learning about Business will give you an advantage into the many different processes businesses go through. You will learn about Finance, Marketing, Human Resources and Operations amongst other things. Work will be based around real business case studies and open your eyes to the 'behind the scenes' of not only small businesses but the major brands you see and use every day.

How will my work be assessed?

Students will sit two final exams comprising of multiple choice, calculations, short answer and extended writing questions. Each paper comprises of 100 marks and is worth 50% of the final grade. The papers are 1 hour 45 minutes each. Throughout the course students will complete pieces of work and end of unit assessments that will be assessed within school and feedback given to students. They will also complete End of Year Exams in Year 10 and Mocks in Year 11.

There is a mathematical element to the course and the exams will require some essay-based responses in each paper.

Post 16 progression qualifications

We offer the A-Level Business course which follows on from the GCSE specification and looks at Business in more depth. Many students who study Business at A-Level go on to take this subject at degree level.

Successful Students

To be successful in Business Studies, students need an enquiring mind and be willing to delve deep into business rationale and thinking. They need to be able to contrast and compare different ideas and draw suitable and well-balanced conclusions based on evidence. They need to be able to apply their responses to real case studies and provide contextual evidence to support their answers.

Classical Civilisation

OCR

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Classical Civilization will give you the rare opportunity to study the art, literature and history of the Ancient World.

It complements the study of many other subjects such as Drama, English and History. You will develop essential skills of research and analysis as well as acquiring essential knowledge of the myths, literature and history that have helped to create our modern world.

Topics:

There are TWO components to the GCSE, one is a thematic study which will focus upon Myth and Religion in ancient Greece and Rome. This will involve comparative work, examining the differences and the similarities between the two cultures. The second component, The Homeric World, will focus upon the literature and culture of the Mycenaean Age (1600-1150BC). You will analyse ancient Mycenaean sites such as Tiryns and Mycenae and examine the question, did the Trojan War really happen? The core text will be The Odyssey, but you will also study the cultural world in which Homer's poems were set, including a study of art, religion, weaponry and architecture.

How will my work be assessed?

Both components are worth 50% and will be examined via two 90-minute examinations. There will be NO coursework or controlled assessment. There are no SPG marks in the Classical Civilization exams.

Computer Science OCR

What will I gain from studying this subject?

By studying Computer Science, you will develop an in- depth understanding of how computers work, and how to create the code applications that are shaping the world we live in. With this GCSE, you will gain the technical skills that are in demand across the economies of the world as companies become increasingly dependent upon the web and mobile devices. You may even become a programmer for reputable companies such as Google or Facebook or one of the many smaller software houses.

The prime minister, Boris Johnson, recently announced that the National Cyber Force (NCF) will receive a £5 Billion investment with the aim of recruiting up to 1000 hackers before 2030. This demonstrates just how important computing is today as most transactions are undertaken over the internet.

The key skill that you will gain is problem solving – how to take a real-world problem, such as managing an event or creating a game, and be able to work out an algorithm that will form the basis for the computer program to create the solution.

Programs are what is required to create all the apps, web pages, city finance systems and robots that make the interconnected digital world. For programming, you will use the text-based programming language, Python 3. Programming is a creative craft that gives you great satisfaction when you have put all the right parts together and can see your program run. It is about making a machine that can perform useful work. It is engineering.

In computing, it is something of a misnomer to say that to be good at programming, you will need to be good at Maths. That is not entirely true. Mathematic formulae are applied in coding; however, these can be researched as and when the programmer develops his or her code.

Pattern recognition is, however, crucial in coding and humans are particularly good at it. We engage in pattern recognition daily, without even knowing it.

You will also find out how computer hardware works; from transistors to the internet and learn about the wider social cultural, environmental, and legal implications of computer use.

How will my work be assessed?

Exam paper 1: Computer Systems (50%)

Exam paper 2: Computational Thinking (50%)

Food Preparation & Nutrition

WJEC

What will I gain from studying this subject?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

The course has been designed to enable a balance between an innovative delivery of the subject theoretical knowledge and practical demonstrations and sessions.

By studying food preparation and nutrition learners will:

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

How will my work be assessed? Summary of Assessment:

Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition Written examination: 50% of qualification

Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action

Non-examination assessment: 50% of qualification

Assessment 1: The Food Investigation (8 hours)/Assessment 2: The Food Preparation (12 hours)

Design & Technology: Product Design

AQA

What will I gain from studying this subject?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise through a series of short themed projects in Year 10, before moving onto a major design and make project in Year 11.

Students will gain an understanding of designing and making products using; timbers, polymers, metals, paper and boards and textiles.

How will my work be assessed?

The assessment comprises of:

1. 2hr exam at the end of Year 11.

100 marks equating to 50% of the total.

2. A Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) which assesses the practical application of:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and Making principles

The NEA project will comprise a substantial design and make task with the following assessment areas:

- Investigating
- Designing
- Making
- Analysing and Evaluating

Students will design to a contextual challenge to be set by the exam board on 1 June in Year 10. They will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

Drama

AQA

What will I gain from studying this subject?

This course will introduce a range of different theatre styles and genres, which will inspire your own devising and text-based work. There will be regular theatre trips to allow you to form your own creative opinions and provide the opportunity to evaluate live theatre productions.

Alongside developing creative skills, you will increase self and group awareness as you reflect on and evaluate your own and others' work. Drama helps you excel in the 'soft skills' **ALL** employers value; communication, confidence, teamwork, self-motivation, problem solving, flexibility and negotiation.

You will develop self-discipline as other students will rely on you. There will be opportunities to take part in workshops with theatre companies and industry professionals.

Studying Drama has the ability to empower; you will make mistakes but then go on to solve your own problems. Above all, you will learn to be an effective communicator, which is fundamental to achievement in life.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: Understanding Drama – 40% of final GCSE – written paper. The written paper comprises three sections:

- A. Theatre roles and terminology.
- B. Study of a Set Text.
- C. Evaluation of a live theatre production.

Candidates are given 1 hour and 45 minutes to answer all three sections of the written paper.

Unit 2: Devising Drama – 40% of final GCSE. For this component students are required to complete the following two assessment tasks:

- produce a written devising log documenting the devising process (worth 30%)
- contribute to a final devised performance. (worth 10%)

Unit 3: Texts in Practice – 20% of final GCSE. For this component students must complete two assessment tasks:

- You will perform two extracts from a scripted play
- For this component you are assessed by an outside examiner on your performance skill (worth 20%)

English Language & English Literature iGCSE

What will I gain from studying this subject?

English is indispensable for life and probably one of the most important subjects on the curriculum. To be able to communicate confidently, having a good command of the spoken and written word, is invaluable for your future – no matter what you decide to do.

Studying English encourages you to think logically, analytically, critically and independently, which benefits all your other GCSEs subjects as well, while allowing you to be creative in your thinking and writing. It will also introduce you to a range of literature across time: books, plays and poetry.

How will my work be assessed?

We will be using the Edexcel IGCSE 9-1 Specification for both English Language and English Literature.

English Language

The English Language course consists of both final examination and coursework. In the examination you will be tested on your ability to read for meaning and identify and comment on the use of literary techniques. You will also be asked to be able to write for different purposes. There are two pieces of coursework which will consist of a reading and writing assessment which will be marked internally and moderated externally.

English Literature

The English literature course consists of the study of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' or 'Of Mice and Men' - depending on the cohort's ability and a comprehensive Poetry Anthology. During the examination you are expected to be able to compare two poems from the anthology and write a response on an unseen poem. There are two pieces of coursework on the plays 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Romeo and Juliet' which will be marked internally and moderated by the exam board.

English as an Additional Language

What will I gain from studying this subject?

All students join the mainstream IGCSE English class when they begin year 10, but as an overseas student, you will be assessed when you enter the school to determine your level of English and whether you should attend EAL lessons.

Through these lessons, students improve their language skills and therefore gain a better level of understanding in all subject areas. They also prepare for the Cambridge B2 First for Schools exam which they take in Year 11. This qualification proves you have the language skills, to live in an English-speaking country and study on courses taught in English. Year 10 pupils receive instruction in Grammar, Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. At this level they will be able to cope linguistically in a range of everyday situations and be able to use English for general and academic purposes, in contact with native and non-native speakers.

The Cambridge B2 First for Schools corresponds to an upper intermediate stage of proficiency. Learners at this level are expected to be able to handle the main structures of the language with confidence and demonstrate knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary and use appropriate communicative strategies in a variety of situations. They should be able to produce written texts of various types, showing the ability to develop an argument as well as write formal letters and reports and detailed descriptions. At this level, pupils will have sufficient ability to operate effectively in English in an academic environment.

If a student requires extra support this is available on an individual basis.

How will my work be assessed?

Cambridge B2 First for Schools is a test of all areas of language ability. The exam is made up of four papers: Reading and Use of English (1 hour 15 minutes), Writing (1 hour 20 minutes), Listening (40 minutes) and Speaking (15 minutes).

What will I gain from studying this subject?

As well as gaining an appreciation of film as an art form in terms of its visual storytelling; studying film can enhance your understanding of the world, for example by exploring different lifestyles, era, attitudes and beliefs.

The course also incorporates a creative production element where you will be able to put what you have learned into practice by making a short film or writing a screenplay.

You will watch and analyse six whole films in class over the course in addition to many clips. The specification includes 30 films in total and students are encouraged to watch all of them. The topic list includes American and Global films; historical and contemporary.

Eduqas Film Studies helps develop critical and creative thinking enhancing many different career paths and being a much sought after skill in both employment and further study.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment will be by two written examination papers at the end of the course which make up 70% of the available marks. These papers include a selection of lower and higher tariff questions from 1 to 20 marks.

For the coursework component, students will choose one from a choice of different options and create a two and a half minute film extract or an 800 word film screenplay with a storyboard. There is also an evaluation of 750 words to go with it. This work constitutes 30% of the total mark and is externally moderated. This is completed at the end of Year 10.

Geography

AQA

What will I gain from studying this subject?

The course will enable you to develop a wide range of transferable skills and provide you with a balanced view of the modern world. It is relevant to everyday life and provides a firm foundation for understanding current affairs and the environment upon which we depend.

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

What's assessed?

- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- The living world
- Geographical skills

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))
35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

What's assessed?

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management
- Geographical skills

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG)
35% of GCSE

Paper 3: Geographical applications

What's assessed

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork
- Geographical skills

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)
30% of GCSE

There is a compulsory residential field trip costing approximately £300 that is a requirement for those taking GCSE Geography.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

When you study History, you will develop skills that are essential for making informed decisions and balanced judgements. History complements the study of many other subjects, particularly English, Drama, Classical Civilization, Science, Geography and Modern Languages. The principles used by historians are the same as those used in today's business community and are, therefore, essential ingredients for many careers, especially Law, Media, Drama, Journalism, Museums and Galleries, Heritage Sites and Organisations, Archives, Record Offices, Libraries and Universities, Archaeology and Architecture, Conservation, National and Local Government, Civil Service and Diplomatic Service and The Police and Armed Forces.

Historians are challenged to examine past events, explore their historical context and understand the impact they have on the present. In doing so, Historians develop a great foundation of general knowledge of historical events.

How will my work be assessed?

The course consists of four units, which will be examined across three papers. The breakdown of the topics are as follows:

Paper 1: Crime and Punishment in Britain, c1000- present *and* Whitechapel, c1870-c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.

30% of the qualification

Paper 2 (British Depth Study): Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

20% of the qualification

Paper 2 (Period Study): Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

20% of the qualification

Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

30% of the qualification

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Mathematics is the language of the universe, and it equips you with the skills needed by many other subjects. Maths is essential for many careers; earns you a higher salary; teaches you logical thought and makes everything else look easy. Enjoy it!

How will my work be assessed?

At the end of Year 11 you will sit the linear Edexcel iGCSE examination at Higher or Foundation Tier. Each Tier is examined by two 2 hour written papers: both papers allow the use of a calculator. Both papers are marked out of 100 and contribute equally to the final examination result. Students will be entered to the Foundation or Higher Tiers dependent upon which one they are most likely to achieve the higher grade. The Foundation Tier awards grades 1-5, whilst the Higher Tier awards grades 3-9.

The papers ask candidates to:

- Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Number (22-28% of the Foundation paper content and 12-18% of the Higher)
- Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Algebra (17-23% of the Foundation paper content and 27-33% of the Higher)
- Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change (22-28% of the Foundation paper content and 17-23% of the Higher)
- Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Geometry and Measures (12-18% of the Foundation paper content and 17-23% of the Higher)
- Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Statistics and Probability (12-18% of the Foundation paper content and 12-18% of the Higher)

Modern Languages

French, Spanish

AQA

French, Spanish

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Knowledge of a foreign language can be a great asset when seeking employment. Languages allow you to study and work abroad; they also give you an advantage in the UK job market when you are in competition with English-speaking Europeans looking for employment opportunities in the UK. Studying a foreign language enables you to learn about different cultures and civilisations, and could even help you to understand the grammar and structure of your own language! We therefore recommend that every pupil, whose first language is English, should study French or Spanish to GCSE. If you are a native speaker of another language, we might be able to enter you for GCSE or A-Level in your own language. It may also be possible to arrange private tuition in other languages to GCSE and A-Level.

The following topics will be studied:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle
- Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

- Topic 1: Free-time activities
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Topic 2: Media and technology
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live

How will my work be assessed?

The four language skills, Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing will be assessed with equal weighting, at either Foundation or Higher level. All examinations will be taken at the end of year 11. The speaking examination will be conducted by the Language teacher in the summer term.

What will I gain from studying this subject?

If you can play an instrument or sing to least at the equivalent of grade 3 standard then you could consider studying Music for GCSE. The course will encourage you to develop your musical skills and interests; there is a high practical element so you will spend much of the time performing, composing and listening, and you will be expected to contribute to some of the school ensembles.

You will experience a wide range of musical styles, which will allow you to increase your understanding and appreciation of a range of different kinds of music from four Areas of Study:

- Instrumental Music 1700-1820
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Vocal Music
- Fusions

How will my work be assessed?

Performance 30% Performance skills are an integral part of the course. They are assessed every term by one solo performance and one ensemble performance (2 or more people on separate parts). The best performance in both categories is internally assessed under controlled conditions.

Composing 30% You will write two compositions of about 3 minutes in total according to an idea decided on by both you and the teacher. You will use the latest music- writing software to produce professional-looking scores. Your compositions will be based on two different Areas of Study and will again be internally assessed under controlled conditions.

Listening and Appraising 40%

Section A – Areas of study, dictation, and unfamiliar pieces (68 marks)

- Six questions related to six of the eight set works.
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
- One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided) with questions on its musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

Section B – Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)

- One question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music.
- A CD with the music extracts will be played to all students at the same time and will repeat the extracts a set number of times.

Physical Education

What will I gain from studying this subject?

On this course you will develop knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities, building on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3. You will examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance.

You will also identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, learning to plan, perform and evaluate a Personal Exercise Programme and discovering the benefits of promoting 'sport for all'. You will be required to spend your own time enhancing your individual skills in your chosen sports. And you will be encouraged to join a sports club out of school. You will have three practical components, one team sport, one individual sport and one choice. To ensure the best practical grades are achieved, students will receive coaching for Badminton and Rock Climbing, the cost will be added to the school bill.

There is much to gain from this course, but it is not for the faint-hearted!

How will my work be assessed?

COMPONENT	CONTENT	ASSESSMENT
Fitness and Systems	Applied anatomy Exam and physiology Movement Analysis Physical Training	Exam 8 x multiple choice Short answer questions 2 x extended answer questions
Weighting: 36% / 90 marks. Duration: 1 Hour 45 Minutes		
Health and Performance	Health fitness and well-being Sport Psychology Socio-cultural influences	Exam 6 multiple choice 2 extended answers
Weighting: 24% / 70 marks. Duration: 1 Hour 15 Minutes		
Practical Performance	Skills during individual activities Skills during team activities	Practical Assessment 1 Individual activity 1 Team activity 1 Choice
Weighting: 30% / 90 marks. Duration: Assessed at the end of the course		
Personal Exercise Programme	Analysis of PEP Carry out and monitor the PEP Evaluation of the PEP	Written (1500 words)
Weighting: 10% / 20 marks. Duration: 6-8 weeks of the course		

What will I gain from studying this subject?

The GCSE course provides an opportunity for students to engage with a variety of topical questions around belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth.

Students will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt. There will be a range of relevant and contemporary themes to study that will promote awareness of modern world issues and engagement within the classroom.

Students of all abilities will be challenged and inspired, whilst developing valuable skills sought after by higher education and employers.

Course content

Full Course: two religions:

- Christian beliefs, teachings and practices.
- Jewish beliefs, teachings and practices.

Four religious, philosophical and ethical themes studied through different religions.

- Relationships and Families (sexuality, sex before marriage, contraception, homosexuality, marriage and divorce, families, gender equality)
- Religion and Life (science v religion, the environment, the use of animals, abortion, euthanasia, life after death)
- Religion, Peace and Conflict (justice, forgiveness, reconciliation, violent protest, terrorism, war and peace, victims of war, weapons of mass destruction)
- Religion, Human Rights and Social justice (human rights, freedom of expression, prejudice and discrimination, racism, wealth, poverty, people trafficking, charity)

How will my work be assessed?

Two written papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each

Religions paper – both given out together and can be completed in any order

- Christian beliefs, teachings and practices
- Jewish beliefs, teachings and practices

Themes paper - four religious, philosophical and ethical themes - see the content of these above.

Art & Design: Photography

OCR

What will I gain from studying this subject?

Pupils are required to have a real passion for the subject and the ability to work independently, exploring their own ideas and creative thinking. They are also required to annotate and write about other artworks as well as their own work as ideas progress. Pupils are encouraged to attend after school sessions as often as possible where they can take advantage of the photography facilities and staff expertise.

Possible career options include commercial photographer, photojournalist, animator, fine art photography, fashion photographer, forensic photographer and visual merchandiser.

How will my work be assessed?

There are 4 assessment objectives which are used to mark both the portfolio and the externally set task relating to the following.

- Observing and recording ideas in relation to a theme.
- Studying other artists' work and using this to develop own ideas, researching other artists' work in depth, commenting upon their work and using this to influence the direction of your own work.
- Experimenting with materials and processes, and refining ideas. Experimenting with ways of working and different media appropriate to the theme or idea, refining ideas by trying them out in a variety of ways in order to come to a great final piece.
- Creating a personal response - Creating a successful final piece.

Assessment Overview

- Portfolio (Component 1) non-exam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated) 60% of total GCSE.
- Externally set task (Component 2) 10 hours non-exam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated) 40% of total GCSE.

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

What will I gain from studying this subject?

In Year 9 we start the GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and students will continue to study all three subjects in Year 10 and 11 with specialist subject teachers in each discipline. We follow the AQA syllabus which combines relevant, inspiring content and practical work.

Every student will have the same number of lessons in science and most students will work towards a Separate (Triple) Science award (equivalent to three GCSEs). A smaller group of students will work towards Combined (Trilogy) Science GCSE (equivalent to two GCSEs).

How will my work be assessed?

Trilogy Science

There are six 75-minute papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas and will contribute 16.7% of the GCSE marks.

Triple Sciences

There are two 105-minute papers for each separate subject. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas and will contribute 50% of the GCSE mark.

Practical work

Within the written question papers, a minimum of 15% of marks will be from questions concerning practical work. Students must carry out a minimum number of practical activities defined by AQA which will be 8 for GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics and 16 for GCSE Trilogy Science

Students have already commenced the GCSE course in Science with all students currently progressing along the Triple Science route. Decisions as to Triple or Trilogy will be taken at the end of the first term in Year 10 by the Science Department after conversations with students.

Why should I study GCSE Statistics?

GCSE Statistics gives students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge in a key component of maths that is relevant to everyday life. They'll develop a core statistical grounding, as well as transferable skills and understanding that's applicable to a range of other subjects. It will also benefit those progressing to many A-level subjects.

What will I study?

GCSE Statistics studies three key areas:

1. The collection of data
2. Processing, representing and analysing data
3. Probability

The order of the content, for each tier, follows the order of the statistical enquiry cycle.

Practical investigations are part of a programme of study so that students have the opportunity to understand that different approaches, including the use of technology, may be appropriate at each stage of the statistical enquiry cycle, and that statistical conclusions are developed through an iterative process of testing and refinement

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Statistics is assessed in two exams at the end of the course. Calculator allowed throughout.

Unit 1: examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.

Unit 2: examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.

Which skills will I develop and use?

This course will help you to develop the following skills 

- Selecting and organising information.
- Interpersonal and Intrapersonal.  Preparing and presenting arguments.
- Analysing and synthesizing information
- Evaluating sources of information and interpretations.

Non-Examination Subjects

Games

Students in Years 10 and 11 experience a wide variety of sports.

Within the curriculum you will have the opportunity to work in teams and as individuals, by following courses which will improve your skill and your body management training. We also continue to work on components of fitness like cardiovascular fitness.

We aim to provide many and varied experiences, to include: netball, hockey, circuit training, aerobics, tennis, table-tennis, badminton, basketball, trampoline, rounders, football, rugby and cricket.

You will also be encouraged to improve your sporting skills in extra-curricular time by joining clubs run at lunchtime and after school and to participate in inter-school and inter-house matches.

PSHE

PSHE continues in Years 10 & 11, with an increasing emphasis on work related learning, careers development and a more specific preparation of the skills useful in adult life. You will be encouraged to make informed decisions on a wide range of issues and enjoy greater opportunity to express your views openly and freely.

Learning Development

The Learning Development Department supports pupils of all abilities including the able, gifted and talented and those with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia. The Learning Resource Centre provides teachers and pupils with materials to support and extend the curriculum. The aim is to enable them all to achieve their best in secondary education.

Our dedicated team includes trained teachers, specialising in areas such as Dyslexia, Maths, Speech and Language and ASD. Pupils needing support are identified when they enter Beechwood, through screening, or referral by teachers, and an individual programme is put in place. This may include individual lessons or Directed Study and may involve replacing a curriculum subject with time spent in Learning Development. The subject to be replaced is considered on an individual basis, so that we can give the pupils the best curriculum programme to suit their needs. Pupils are screened for extra time and other access arrangements in external examinations. This can include in-school assessment or referral to other professionals such as an Educational Psychologist. We work closely with subject teachers and the Learning Resource Centre to improve pupils' learning experience and skills. All pupils are base-line assessed at the beginning of the school year and these results are used to form reading and spelling booster groups before school and at lunchtimes if necessary. Other support groups are put in place depending on need. For new pupils

entering the school, we help to ensure a smooth transition by visiting their previous schools, through taster days at Beechwood and our booklets. We run friendship and social skills groups in Key Stage 3 to enable pupils to integrate successfully into their peer group. We have two welcoming Learning Development rooms for pupils to use at break time and lunch time if they need a retreat.

Clubs and Activities

The chief aim of the Beechwood Clubs and Activities Programme is to provide something for everyone. Our activities include Sport, Drama and Music, and we also offer a wide range of craft skills as well as Young Enterprise and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Our clubs cover those things which you do not necessarily need to know but you choose to do them either for fun or to have a new challenge. Clubs also help you to learn how to be a part of a team because winning the match, or putting on the show, depend upon everyone working together. Most of the clubs and activities run either at lunchtime or after school. After school there are two activity sessions: from 4.15pm to 5pm and from 5pm to 6pm. Most of the activities that we provide are free of charge.

Some, such as Speech and Drama, tennis lessons and yoga lessons, have a termly charge, payable directly to the staff running the activity. You may be the star of the show, the captain of the team or you may be the person who tells the best tales in the knitting club. Whatever it is, here is the opportunity to find out just what makes you tick and where you are going. With more than fifty clubs and activities at Beechwood – the choice is yours.