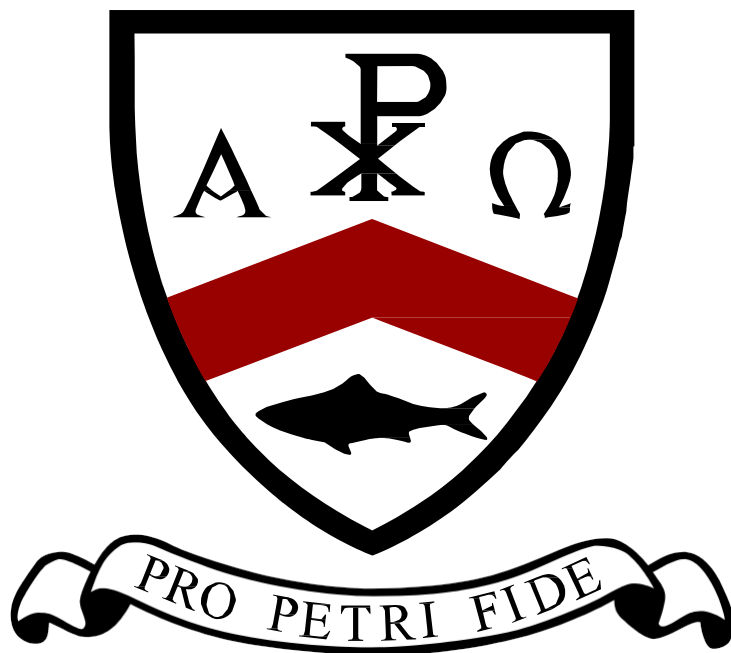


Bishop Milner Catholic College



**Course Descriptions
for KS4
Commencing
September 2024**

Bishop Milner Catholic College

KS4 Courses from September 2024

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Students must study the following GCSE courses :	
➤ Religious Education	4
➤ English Language and English Literature	5 & 6
➤ Mathematics	7
➤ Science (combined double Award or Triple Science)	8 & 9
Students are encouraged to study the following GCSE courses to complete the 'English Baccalaureate'	
➤ Humanities (at least one from Geography or History)	17 & 18
➤ French	16
Additional GCSE/BTEC courses are available to choose:	
➤ Art & Design	10
➤ Business & Enterprise	11
➤ Design & Technology	12
➤ Computer Science	13
➤ Drama	14
➤ Hospitality and Catering	15
➤ Media	19
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All students also study **2 non-GCSE core courses** in the following subjects which are essential preparation for adult life:

- Physical Education
- PSHE encompassing Citizenship, British Values and Careers Education; as part of the tutor programme and extended pastoral programme.

April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

This booklet contains information on the courses that make up our Key Stage 4 curriculum at Bishop Milner Catholic College from September 2024. All students will study Religious Education, English, Mathematics and Science. They will also have three additional option subjects to choose from.

Informed Choices.

Our 2024-2026 Year 10 curriculum will be centred around students studying three option subjects/courses which will inspire them to achieve to their very best potential. One of the key drivers to future success is for young people to have a genuine interest in the option choices they decide to study through to Year 11. Concurrently, it is important for students and parents/carers to choose wisely.

In previous years it has been compulsory for students to opt for courses which make up what is referred to as the English Baccalaureate; a set of qualifications most valued by employers and universities. Students achieve this standard for attaining a GCSE level 4 or above in English Language, Mathematics, at least two Sciences, a Modern foreign language and a Humanities subject-namely History or Geography. We envisage that guided by this model, a significant number of our students will still be encouraged by parents, carers and teachers to opt for at least one Humanities subject, Geography or History and French. Alternatively, you may decide that other options courses will benefit your child more in their future career. Teachers and senior leaders will also provide advice to individual parents and students regarding the most suitable options to take based on the academic ability or individual needs. We will always have the best interests of the student at heart when providing guidance and we use our previous experience of options when giving this advice.

Modern Foreign Languages

All our students study French from Year 7, and whilst there has been an opportunity to learn some Spanish, the expertise within the department and the strength of the French curriculum means that only one language will be offered at GCSE. All GCSE examinations will be sat at the end of Year 11, and you will find more information on this topic on the individual subject pages.

Why three choices rather than four?

To ensure that all students have the opportunity to cover this content and to develop an expertise in their chosen subjects, they will study their three chosen options for five hours across the course of the two-week timetable.

Also attached is an 'Option Choices' document that shows the options choices. **I would be most grateful if you could ensure that the online form, on the options page of the college website, is completed by Friday 10th May.** If you have any questions about the 2024 - 2026 Key Stage 4 curriculum you will have the opportunity to speak to all of our staff on Thursday 2nd May at our options evening, or if there is anything that you need to know prior to this then please do not hesitate to contact the college and the most appropriate member of staff in relation to your query will get in touch with you.

Finally, while we will always endeavour to meet the requests of students, we do require a second choice for each option subject in each option block as there are maximum and minimum numbers for option subjects due to teacher capacity and functional spaces.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to your son/daughter fulfilling their true potential.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hambrook
Senior Assistant Principal Quality of Education



Bishop Milner Catholic College Careers Education Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Careers Support at Bishop Milner

We are proud of our careers provision at Bishop Milner Catholic College. As well as a wide range of events throughout the year, including Careers Convention, STEM Fairs, visiting speakers, off site visits, masterclasses and Mock Interview events, we also have access to an independent Connexions Careers Advisor. If your son / daughter would like an individual Connexions meeting, please ask them to see Mrs Herron-Griffin in the Sixth Form Office to request an appointment. Appointment requests will also be accepted from students via email. Mrs Herron-Griffin is available for informal discussions regarding career pathways before college, at break time and after college in the Sixth Form Office. To contact Mrs Herron-Griffin (college careers coordinator) please call [01384889422](tel:01384889422) or email lgriffin@sjbca.co.uk

Further resources and information relating to careers for parents and students can be found on our college website <http://bmilner.dudley.sch.uk/parents-students/careers>

GCSE choices and keeping career options open:

- Most GCSE's provide a good general preparation for further learning and work and for the majority of students, keeping a specific subject or dropping it is not going to have a major effect on their future careers
- GCSE Maths & English are nearly always asked for whether applying for 6th Form, College, Apprenticeships or University. However, certain professions / Apprenticeships / Degree courses require specific A level subjects which would usually require your child to study that subject at GCSE.
- GCSE level entrance requirements for individual degree courses are quite varied. In some cases, a particular subject or grade is required at GCSE level if it isn't being offered at A Level.

If your child has some career ideas:

- They need to find out the entry routes and what is required and work backwards.
- Research the careers / career sector they are interested in to broaden knowledge of careers and decide if they want to keep it as an option.
- Find out the specific GCSE / A Level / BTEC qualifications that are preferred for that career (further information is below in this booklet).
- 6th Forms and Colleges: Look at current courses on offer and their entry requirements.
- University: Use the UCAS website to find universities offering a preferred degree of your choice (see below for a guide to using UCAS).
- Does the 6th Form, College or University mention specific GCSE's and 'A' levels as a must and state whether you will be able to take that course without those specific qualifications?
- Some university courses - such as Sciences, Medicine and Nursing - will be looking for specific GCSEs in the science subjects and a level/grade 6 or above in Mathematics.
- Please also look at the Russell Group advice in the document 'Informed Choices' for advice about applying to competitive universities - www.russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf.
- For Jobs / Apprenticeships - try looking at the current vacancies on the National Apprenticeship Service website or look on company websites e.g. Google BMW Apprenticeships to see if any specific subjects are required / preferred.

No Career Ideas?

- Encourage your child to research careers related to the subjects they enjoy - see below for websites.
- **Most Year 9 students won't know what they want to do yet so in this case choosing subjects they enjoy / are good at is sensible. It's unlikely they will rule many careers out at this stage.**
- After Year 11, if they are still unsure which career to choose or what to study at University choosing 'facilitating' subjects at A level will help to keep options open. The 'A' Level subjects which the elite Russell Group of Universities value as being "facilitating" subjects are:

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

English Literature

Physics

Biology

Chemistry

Geography

History

Languages (Classical & Modern)

GCSE's for Apprenticeships / Jobs

- If your child is interested in an Apprenticeship / School Leaver Job after Year 11 - GCSE subjects and grades will be especially important.
- For Level 2 Apprenticeships – the requirements are usually around GCSE's grades 3-4.
- For Advanced level 3 Apprenticeships most employers will be asking for min 5 GCSE's grade 4+ including Maths & English at grade 4 - 6 (previous grade B / C).
- Depending on the career sector, as well as good grades in English and Maths, other subjects that may be helpful include:

Engineering - Physics & Design Technology

Construction - Design Technology

Business / Finance - Business Studies

Business / Media - Business Studies & Media Studies

Childcare - Child Development

I.T. - ICT or Computer Science

Catering / Hospitality - Business Studies, Culinary Arts

RPA - Raising the Participation Age

- When students leave Year 11, they must stay in some form of education but this doesn't just mean school or college - this could be an apprenticeship or a job with training leading to further qualifications.

Links to GCSE Options Advice Websites

- **Unifrog** - <https://www.unifrog.org/sign-in?return=/teacher/home>
- **Launch your career** - https://launchyourcareer.com/en_UK
- **Plotr** - information on careers related to different GCSE subjects and lists 19 questions your son or daughter should ask about their options.
www.plotr.co.uk/advice/articles/choosing-gcse-options-19-questions-to-ask-yourself/
- **Which University** - excellent advice about what to consider when choosing GCSE 's if considering university in the future.
www.university.which.co.uk/advice/gcse-choices-university/how-important-are-gcse-choices-when-it-comes-to-university
- **icould.com** - video clips & general advice on choosing GCSE's. Choose by subject to find out about careers related to GCSE's & also videos on people's own experiences.
www.icould.com/article/choosing-your-gcse-options
- **Success at School** - general advice about choosing & changes to GCSE's.
www.successatschool.org/advisedetails/508/What-are-my-GCSE-options%3
- **Future Morph** - Visit Future Morph for information about taking science and maths at KS4 and beyond.
www.futuremorph.org/11-13/
- **Studential** - advice on a wide range of career related subjects including GCSE choice.
www.studential.com/GCSEs/choosing-your-GCSE-subject-options

Useful Future Pathways Websites

- **Dudley Connexions Service** – advice regarding career pathways and progression from our local Dudley Connexions service
<http://www.connexionsdudley.org>
- **Apprenticeships** – the official government website for all things apprenticeship related, including all apprenticeship vacancies in the U.K.
<http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>
- **UCAS (the University and College Admissions Service)** – find details of all degree courses offered at institutions in the United Kingdom. Find out about course choices, entry requirements and a whole lot more!
www.ucas.com
- **Which University Guide** – an excellent website collating information on universities and a wide range of useful statistics, such as graduate employment, presented in an easy to understand manner.
<http://university.which.co.uk>
- **Parental Guidance** - written by the Careers Writers Association to help parents advise their children.

GCSE Core Subject:



Religious Education

What does the course cover?

This course offers the opportunity to build knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of Christianity with particular emphasis on Roman Catholicism. (All new GCSE Religious Education courses now include a strand based on the study of another World Religion, the directive from the Diocesan centre is that this second religion should be Judaism).

Students will prepare for three papers at GCSE, which form 100% of the qualification:

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion (Catholic Christianity) – 50% of qualification

Students will look at four sub-topics based upon Catholic Christianity:

1. Beliefs and Teachings.
2. Practices.
3. Sources of Wisdom and Authority.
4. Forms of Expression and Ways of Life.

Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second Religion (Judaism) – 25% of qualification

Students will look at two sub-topics based upon Judaism with some comparison to Catholic Christianity:

1. Jewish Beliefs and Teachings.
2. Jewish Practices.

Paper 3: Area of Study 3 – Philosophy and Ethics (Catholic Christianity) – 25% of qualification

Students will look at two sub-topics based upon Catholic Christianity:

1. Arguments for the Existence of God.
2. Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century.

Qualification details

Students will gain a GCSE in Religious Studies, following the Edexcel Religious Studies specification, full course.

How is the course assessed?

There will be three exams at the end of Year 11: two that are 50 minutes (Papers 2 and 3) long and one that is 1 hour and 45 minutes long (Paper 1) This makes up 100% of the course.

Are there any special requirements?

This is a core subject. All students will study this course.

How will this course help students?

- Learn about topical and controversial issues needed for life in modern Britain, such as divorce, religious practices, sex and relationships, miracles and whether or not God exists.
- Learn about atheist and humanist arguments to form a rounded opinion.
- Learn about Catholic beliefs and teachings; practices; sources of wisdom and authority and forms of expression and ways of life.
- Learn critical evaluation and extended writing skills, which can be transferred across a range of subjects.
- Study Judaism in depth in addition to Catholicism.
- Learn how to take part in a debate and share your views with others and justify them with evidence.
- Look at original sources of wisdom and authority and be able to relate them to life today.
- Get to express your views in a safe and supportive environment.

GCSE Core Subject:

English Language



What does the course cover?

The GCSE English Language course enables students to:

- formulate and express their own ideas
- adapt their speech to a range of purposes and audiences as well as take part in drama activities
- read accurately and respond to a wide range of literature and non-fiction texts.
- organise and write engaging texts which employ a wide range of vocabulary and effective style choices

How is the course assessed?

There is no tiered entry and all students will sit the same examination.

There is no controlled assessment or coursework – everything is assessed through two final examinations at the end of year 11.

All examinations will be based on unseen texts

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – 1 hour 45 mins, 50% of GCSE

Section A: Reading of one literature fiction text

Section B: Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 hour 45 mins, 50% of GCSE

Section A: Reading of one non-fiction and one non-fiction literary text

Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint

Non-Examination Assessment: Speaking and Listening

A range of speaking and listening tasks throughout the course – 0% weighting

Are there any special requirements?

This is a core subject. All students will study this course. Students are, however, encouraged to read as widely and as often as possible from a range of sources, both modern and classic fiction as well as non-fiction and good quality newspapers. It is useful for students to have access to a good quality dictionary and thesaurus.

How will this course help students?

A good GCSE in English is essential to all aspects of further and higher education and is fundamental pre-requisite for many employers. A grade 4 in English is required before leaving education at the age of 18.

GCSE Core Subject:



English Literature

What does the course cover?

The GCSE English Literature course enables students to:

- develop their ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts and appreciate the ways in which authors achieve their effects.
- develop an awareness of social, historical and cultural contexts and influences of literature.
- develop analysis of varied forms of text

How is the course assessed?

There is no tiered entry and all students will sit the same examination.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel – 1 hour 45 mins exam, 40% of GCSE

Section A Students will answer one question on their set **Shakespeare** play. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Students are not permitted to have a copy of the text during the examination.

Section B Students will answer one question on their set **novel**. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Students are not permitted to have a copy of the text during the examination.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry – 2 hours 15 mins exam, 60% of GCSE

Section A Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their **modern prose or drama text**. Students are not permitted to have a copy of the text during the examination.

Section B Students will answer one comparative question on one named **poem** printed on the paper and one other **poem** from the examination anthology. Students are not permitted to have a copy of the text during the examination.

Section C Students will answer one question on one **unseen poem** and one question comparing the poem with a second **unseen poem**. Students are not permitted to have a copy of the text during the examination.

Are there any special requirements?

This is a core subject. All students will study Literature, and **most** will be entered for the qualification. Students are, however, encouraged to read as widely and as often as possible from a range of sources, both modern and classic fiction. It is useful for students to have access to a good quality dictionary and thesaurus.

Students are encouraged, as much as possible, to purchase their own exam texts to allow them to annotate and make notes.

How will this course help students?

A good GCSE in English Literature is essential to many aspects of further and higher education and is a fundamental pre-requisite for many employers.

GCSE Core Subject:



Mathematics

What does the course cover?

The course builds upon the knowledge and understanding gained at Key Stage 3 in the key areas of number, ratio proportion and rates of change, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics.

Students will:

- consolidate their understanding of mathematics;
- extend their use of mathematical vocabulary, definitions and formal reasoning;
- develop the confidence to use mathematics to tackle problems in the workplace and everyday life;
- take increasing responsibility for the planning and execution of their work;
- develop an ability to think and reason mathematically;
- make connections between different areas of mathematics;
- develop a firm foundation for appropriate further study.

Qualification details

Students will gain a single GCSE in mathematics. There are two tiers of paper, Higher and Foundation. Higher tier candidates are awarded grades 9-4 (3) and Foundation candidates are awarded grades 5-1. Further information can be found about the qualification on the Edexcel website under course code 1MA1.

How is the course assessed?

Students will be assessed by three written examinations taken in May/June of Year 11. Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long and equally weighted with 80 marks. Approximately 40% of each examination assesses skills and understanding, 30% reasoning and analysing and 30% problem solving.

Paper 1

A non-calculator examination.

Papers 2 and 3

A calculator is permitted.

Are there any special requirements?

This is a core subject. All students will study this course.

How will this course help students?

A GCSE in mathematics is an entry requirement for many further and higher education courses as well as many types of employment. It also provides a good grounding in numeracy and logical thinking skills, which are essential for life.



GCSE Core Subject:

Sciences

What does the course cover?

The **GCSE Combined Science Double Award (Trilogy)** course includes: seven Biology units, ten Chemistry units and seven Physics units. Combined within these is the Working Scientifically unit which are called Required Practicals.

Qualification details

- All students study Science during KS4.
- All assessment happens at the end of the course with content divided into topics across six papers-two 1 hour 15-minute papers per subject.
- Terminal exams are the method of assessment including 20% on math skills.

Exams are tiered, which means students take different level exams based on their ability (e.g., students who sit a higher tier exam have access to grades 9-4, while students who sit a lower tier exam can achieve grades 5-1.

Written exams would include questions that draw on students' Required Practical science experience. At least 15% of the marks will be allocated to these, so students will be expected to keep a record of their practical work which would be available to the exam board on request.

Double Award GCSE in Science

Most students will study the **GCSE Combined Science Double Award (Trilogy)** over the two years of Key Stage 4.

Three GCSEs in Science

Students whose quality of work is of a Grade 4- or higher in science may choose to study 3 GCSEs in Science and will gain separate GCSEs in **Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Please see Triple Science Page 9)**

How are the courses assessed?

GCSE Combined Science Double Award (Trilogy) GCSEs will continue to be linear, which means all assessment is at the end of the course. There are six papers-two 1 hour 15-minute papers per subject.

The grading structure is 9 to 1 where grades 1-5 can be achieved on the Foundation tier and grades 4-9 on the higher. Science Required Practical will be assessed in the final written exam.

Are there any specific requirements?

This is a core subject. All students will study Science.

How will this course help students?

The **GCSE Combined Science** course covers:

Biology Paper 1:	Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and Response, Bioenergetics
Biology Paper 2:	Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation, and Evolution, Ecology.
Required Practicals:	Investigate the effect of osmosis on the mass of plant material, Investigate the effect of a factor on the rate of an enzyme-controlled reaction
Chemistry Paper 1:	Atomic Structure, Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical and Energy Changes,
Chemistry Paper 2:	Rate of Change, Organic, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Using Resources.
Required Practicals:	Investigation of electrolysis of aqueous solutions using inert electrodes; Preparation of a pure, dry sample of a soluble salt from an insoluble oxide or carbonate.
Physics Paper 1:	Energy, Electricity, Particle Model of Matter and Atomic Structure
Physics Paper 2:	Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism
Required Practicals:	Investigate the relationship between force and extension for a spring; Determine the densities of regular and irregular solid objects and liquids.



GCSE Course Choice:

Triple Science

What does the course cover?

We offer students the opportunity to have extra Science lessons as one of their four course choices.

Students taking this option will gain **three separate GCSE Science qualifications**, and will cover latest content, including the human genome, life cycle analysis and space physics, and they will be more mathematically challenging.

The topics are:

Biology: Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and Response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution, and Ecology.

Required Practicals: Investigate the effect of antiseptics or antibiotics on bacterial growth; Investigate the effect of a factor on the rate of an enzyme-controlled reaction

Chemistry: Atomic Structure, Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical and Energy Changes, Rate of Change, Organic, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Using Resources.

Required Practicals: Investigation of electrolysis of aqueous solutions using inert electrodes; Preparation of a pure, dry sample of a soluble salt from an insoluble oxide or carbonate.

Physics: Energy, Electricity, Particle Model of Matter and Atomic Structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism

Required Practicals: Investigate the relationship between force and extension for a spring; Determine the densities of regular and irregular solid objects and liquids.

Qualification details

Students will gain three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

All assessment happens at the end of the course with content divided into topics across six papers with each having a two 1 hour 45-minute paper per subject.

Terminal exams are the method of assessment including 20% on math skills.

Exams are tiered, which means students take different level exams based on their ability (e.g., students who sit a higher tier exam have access to grades 9-4 while students who sit a lower tier exam can achieve grades 5-1).

Written exams would include questions that draw on students' Required Practical science experience. At least 15% of the marks will be allocated to these, so students will be expected to keep a record of their practical work which would be available to the exam board on request.

How is the course assessed?

GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics will continue to be linear, which means all assessment is at the end of the course. There are six papers- two 1 hour and 45-minute papers per subject.

The grading structure is 9 to 1 across two tiers Foundation 1-5 and Higher 4-9.

Required practicals will be assessed in the final written exam.

Are there any specific requirements?

Students must be working at no less than grade 4 at KS3. If the course is oversubscribed, preference will be given to those students with the highest levels of achievement in their classwork and Science assessments. The requirement for this course of study is an elevated level of scientific ability.

How will this course help students?

This triple-award Science will prepare students more thoroughly for the demands of the A-level Science courses.

GCSE Course Choice:

Art & Design



What does the course cover?

The emphasis throughout the course is the development of creative skills, learning to use imagination and intuition when exploring and creating images and artefacts. Students should become confident in taking risks and learning from their own experience/mistakes when exploring and experimenting with ideas, materials and techniques in both 2D and 3D, including paint, print, batik/textiles, ceramics and 3D work.

Students are shown techniques that can enhance their work and are expected to experiment with these. They will also look at the work of various artists and craftspeople, before using their ideas and work to enhance the development of their own projects. Students will be expected to complete sketchpads of research, observational studies and critical analysis.

Qualification details

Students will gain a single-award GCSE in Art and Design. We study the OCR exam board's specification **J170-176**.

More details can be found at: <http://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016/>

How is the course assessed?

The 'Portfolio' task is the 'coursework' element. Students are given a theme determined by the school and have to complete a portfolio of work including observational studies, research developmental work and a final piece. This portfolio is worth a total of 60% of the final GCSE grade.

Students also complete an 'Externally Set Task'. This project starts at the beginning of January in Year 11 and culminates in 10 hours under examination conditions. Students choose one theme from a selection of five provided by the Examination Board. The preparation for the Set Task takes the same form as the coursework and is completed in lesson time and for homework, the only difference being that the final piece is completed under examination conditions. Students are able to take preparatory work into the examination to guide them. The Set Task is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade.

Are there any special requirements?

- Well organised, committed and self motivated approach
- Good drawing, observational and creative skills. Good analytical and evaluative skills
- Willingness to experiment with materials and a hands-on approach

How will this course help students?

- Helps you develop as an effective and independent learner, as a critical reflective thinker with an enquiring mind.
- Encourages personal creativity and allows freedom to explore your own ideas.
- Teaches lateral thinking, risk taking, problem solving, presentational and observational skills.
- Helps you to communicate better and express your ideas more easily.
- Widens cultural horizons and opens up a variety of career opportunities.

BTEC Course Choice:

Business & Enterprise



What does the course cover?

Students will examine different enterprises to develop their knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs to be successful.

Students will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the different types of enterprise and their ownership looking at the characteristics of small and medium Enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs with reasons for levels of success. You will understand the importance of a clear focus on the customer and the importance of meeting their needs. Enterprises can struggle if they do not find out about the market. It is important for you to develop relevant skills in market research and analyze and be able to interpret your findings to support your understanding of customers and competitors.

Students will explore why enterprises are successful, looking at the impact of factors both inside and outside the control of a business.

How is the course assessed?

Students will be assessed by producing 2 coursework assignments, one in Year 10 and one in Year 11:

Component 1: Exploring Enterprises

In this component students will examine the reasons why entrepreneurs and businesses are successful by looking at two businesses based in the West Midlands.

Component 2: Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity

In this component students are required to think of an idea for a business they could start. Students will pitch the business plan for their idea to an audience and then use the feedback to review their plan and pitch.

Students will have to sit **one** external exam called **Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise**. Students will study and will be examined on how firms market and promote their business as well as record and monitor their financial position. It will involve looking at costs and revenue, sources of finance, profit and loss. Students will take the external examination in **Year 11**.

GCSE Course Choice:



Design & Technology

What does the course cover?

The D&T course builds on the skills used in KS3. The specification provides opportunities for students to develop design and technology capabilities through the course. It requires students to combine skills with knowledge and understanding in order to design and make high quality products.

The course provides opportunities for students to acquire and apply knowledge, skills and understanding through: Course notes and studies, Mini practical tasks and physical exercises, Detailed practice projects and tests and examination practice.

The practice projects are used to deliver most of the course content. Current practice projects are based around a timber construction project, mini steel manufacture and mechanical pull along toy. All the project work is marked against the exam board criteria and the portfolio work will be digital.

Qualification details

Students will gain a single-award GCSE in Design and Technology, studying the AQA exam board's 8552 specification. The subject content has been split into three sections as follows:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Core Technical Principles covers	Specialist Technical principles covers	Designing and making principles covers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• new and emerging technologies• energy generation and storage• developments in new materials• systems approach to designing• mechanical devices• materials and their working properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• selection of materials or components• forces and stresses• ecological and social footprint• sources and origins• using and working with materials• stock forms, types and sizes• scales of production• specialist techniques and processes• surface treatments and finishes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• investigation, primary and secondary data• environmental, social and economic challenge• the work of others• design strategies• communication of design ideas• prototype development• selection of materials and components• tolerances• material management• specialist tools and equipment• specialist techniques and processes

How is the course assessed?

- The course is assessed with a portfolio NEA (non-examinable assessment) and an examination.
- The portfolio is a 30 to 35 hour NEA project that will be 50% of the certification and will be worth 100 marks.
- The examination is a 2 hour test that will be worth 50% of the certification and will be worth 100 marks.
- Both pieces of assessment will test all three of the principles listed above.

Are there any special requirements?

Students will need a good imagination, some basic Maths and ICT skills as well as a good work ethic.

How will this course help students?

Students will get a good qualification through a combination of practical skills and technology knowledge and a clearer understanding of the need for good design. Critical thinking, planning and modification skills are all key when working through the NEA. They will also have a physical portfolio and product that can be used for interviews and scholarship applications.

Computer Science GCSE

What does the course cover?

The Course helps you think about how technology is created. It allows you to understand how people work together with computers to develop world changing programmes like Facebook, Spotify and eBay. You'll also develop the skills that colleges, universities and employers are looking for – they'll prove valuable for the rest of your life. GCSE Computer Science goes really well in lots of subjects especially the sciences.

- **Computational thinking:** this is the process of thinking through a complex problem, taking the time to understand what the problem is and then develop potential solutions for evaluation. These are then presented in a way that a computer, a human, or both, can understand.
- **Theoretical content:** here you will understand the fundamentals of data representation and computer networks. You will learn about the computer systems that you will create and use and also delve into the world of cyber security and ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology.
- **Aspects of software development:** understand how to implement and test a design to make sure it works effectively. Learn how to complete an overall evaluation to help refine the end product.
- **Qualification details:** A full GCSE

How is the course assessed?

You will have two written exams which are 1 hour 30 minutes each. Together they contribute 100% of your overall grade. Your programming project assess your ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve a practical programming problem. You will follow a systematic approach to problem-solving and will be assessed over 20 hours of work. The programming project does not count towards your final grade.

How will this course help students?

Alongside the practical expertise you'll develop in your studies, you'll also gain transferable skills which are valued at both higher education and the world of work. These include:

- Problem solving and analysis.
- How to develop your skills to understand the ever-changing world of technology.
- Working independently and within a team to identify and solve problems
- Writing code
- Logical thought
- Research methods

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning either generally or in this sector including

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- A career in a range of jobs including:
 - CAD designer
 - Games developer
 - Clothes designer
 - Geographical information systems officer
 - Secondary school teacher
 - Music data analyst

GCSE Course Choice:

Drama



Why take Drama?

Drama is a wonderful subject which complements the academic nature of KS4 study. The AQA GCSE qualification allows for students to build **industry specific skills** which are crucial in the popular and ever-expanding creative arts and media industries. Students learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. Respond to set text and live theatre. Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.

The course 'at a glance':

<p><u>Component 1: 'Understanding Drama'</u></p> <p>This component is a written exam in which students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed, including in connection to a set play and on their ability to analyse and evaluate the live theatre work of others. Students have 1 hour and 45 minutes to answer the paper. The paper is divided into three compulsory sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: Theatre roles and terminology• Section B: Study of set text• Section C: Live theatre production <p>The paper constitutes 40% of the GCSE.</p>	<p><u>Component 2: 'Devising Drama'</u></p> <p>This is a practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance, apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance and analyse and evaluate their own work.</p> <p>For this component students are required to complete the following two assessment tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• produce an individual Devising log documenting the devising process• contribute to a final devised duologue or group performance. <p>Component 2 constitutes 40% of the GCSE.</p>	<p><u>Component 3: 'Texts in Practice'</u></p> <p>This component is a practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance. For this component students must complete two assessment tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• study and present a key extract (monologue, duologue or group performance)• study and present a second key extract (monologue, duologue or group performance) from the same play. <p>Component 3 constitutes 20% of the GCSE.</p>
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Where next?

The GCSE prepares students for any type of Post -16 Performing Arts or Drama Course. It can also be of assistance with the following careers: professional actor, drama teacher, Arts manager, youth worker, community arts practitioner, drama therapist – the list is endless!

Course Choice:

Hospitality and Catering



What does the course cover?

Hospitality and Catering is an exciting and creative course which develop students' knowledge and understanding of the Hospitality and Catering sector and provide them with opportunities to develop associated practical skills. It covers the hospitality and catering industry and hospitality and catering in action.

Qualification details

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is made up of two mandatory units:

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry: - This unit enables students to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action: - This unit enables students to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.

Further detail can be found using the following link: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/?sub_nav_level=course-materials#tab_resources

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed through a written examination and an assignment.

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry	Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes• 40% of qualification• 80 marks <p>Questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Students will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours• 60% of qualification• 120 marks <p>An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks.</p>

Are there any specific requirements?

Students will need to bring in ingredients on a weekly to fortnightly basis when making products as Hospitality and Catering is a practical subject however practical work will need to be supported by written work.

How will this course help students?

<p>Working with food is a life skill. Hospitality and catering provide students with the opportunity to use their practical skills and acquired knowledge to become more confident in producing healthy meals. The course also enables students to access Level 3 qualifications relevant to the hospitality and catering sector, such as: WJEC Applied Certificate / Diploma in Food, Science and Nutrition; Level 3 Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management. Students will be able to access a wide range of exciting career opportunities including, Chef de partie, Commis chef, Concierge, Executive chef, Front of house manager Receptionist, Head waiter, Food technologist.</p>	<p>Students will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges, and universities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication• Confidence• Learning independently• Organisation• Problem solving• Research• Taking on responsibility• Time management.
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GCSE Course Choice:

French



Learning a language provides students with a life skill. Knowledge of a foreign language is a concrete, demonstrable and valuable qualification to have. Having a language GCSE is highly valued by colleges, universities, training centres and employers. Gaining a grade 5 or above in French GCSE (along with Maths, English, Science and History or Geography) will award you the **English Baccalaureate**.

Course content

During the French GCSE course, students will cover topics closely linked to those studied at KS3 while expanding their use and application of grammar points. The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to their current and future needs. There are six meaningful and interesting thematic contexts:

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

Students are assessed across 4 skill areas. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, all of which make up 25% of the final grade.

Examinations are taken at Foundation or Higher tiers, with all four skill areas being assessed at the same tier. The Speaking assessment is taken with your child's class teacher and examined externally. All examinations are taken at the end of the course.

Qualification details

Students will gain a single-award GCSE in French by following the EDEXCEL French GCSE which will expand your child's cultural knowledge whilst developing their language skills in an exciting, relevant and engaging fashion. More details can be found at www.pearson.com

Are there any special requirements?

This is an optional subject, and students of all abilities can access this course. Students who are committed and enjoy the challenges of learning a language, and who are willing to experiment with language usage and application will be able to achieve good results.

How will this course help students?

Students who have language qualifications will be increasingly in demand in the workplace. Studying French will help students to develop their own understanding of English, foster a wider awareness of a different culture, improve their communication skills and build their confidence.

Learning French offers numerous benefits, from improving cognitive functions to opening new opportunities in business and travel.

Being able to speak, explain, and negotiate in **another language** makes you more employable, increases your confidence, and **can** lead to a 10-15% higher salary. Advancing technologies have afforded us the ability to communicate no matter where we are in the world, amplifying the **importance** of **foreign language** study.

Language learning enhances many transferable skills – **communication, analysis, teamwork, evaluation, presentation, research, independent learning**. French and Spanish are a **gateway to learning other languages**. Language qualifications are crucial in a global market.

Typical language related careers are marketing, transportation, administration, sales, retail, banking, education, law, communication, public relations, tourism and government – to name just a few.

GCSE Course Choice:

Geography



What does the course cover?

The GCSE Geography course is designed to promote and raise awareness and understanding of issues involving people, places and environments. The course contains elements of 'traditional' Geography, such as river and coastal landscapes but also incorporates more recent theories such as global development and resource management.

Within the specification there are two sections concentrating on the interaction between Human and Physical Geography.

1. The Physical Environment (Rivers, Coasts, Weather Hazards and Ecosystems)
2. Human Environment (Changing cities, Global Development and Resource Management)

Students will complete various fieldwork investigations to enhance and develop their knowledge and understanding in the necessary skills required for their GCSE.

Qualification details

Students will gain a single-award GCSE in Geography, studying the Edexcel exam board's GCSE (9-1) Geography A (1GA0).

More details can be found at <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/geography-a-2016.html>

How is the course assessed?

1. The Physical Environment - written examination 37.5% of qualification
2. The Human Environment - written examination 37.5% of qualification
3. Geographical Investigations externally assessed written exam 25 % of qualification

Are there any special requirements?

Students must have an interest and enjoyment of the subject and be prepared to take an active part in their own learning, both in school and as part of their practical fieldwork.

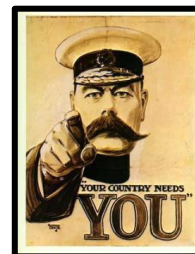
Geography is both a science and an art subject and therefore will support and enhance other curriculum areas. It will give greater flexibility to students in the future when applying for college or work placements.

How will this course help students?

- Are you interested in the world all around you?
- Are you interested in developing a range of transferable skills which can lead to a wide variety of different employment opportunities?
- There has never been a better time to study Geography in a world that is constantly changing.
- Geography bridges the gap between arts and sciences, giving students flexibility in future academic studies and a broad understanding of many aspects of the curriculum.

GCSE Course Choice:

History



What does the course cover?

The Edexcel GCSE History 9-1 offers the opportunity to use the skills developed at Key Stage 3 to investigate the people and events which shaped and changed the world from 800 AD through to modern times.

SYLLABUS:

PAPER 1 – BRITISH THEMATIC STUDY WITH HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT		
WEIGHTING : 30%	EXAM: 1 hour 15 minutes	52 Marks
Thematic Study (20%)		Historic Environment (10%)
Crime and Punishment Throughout Time c800-present		Jack the Ripper murders and the Whitechapel area
Topics in Paper 1 link together, so students can apply their contextual understanding from the thematic study to the Historic Environment study.		
PAPER 2 – PERIOD STUDY & BRITISH DEPTH STUDY		
WEIGHTING : 40%	EXAM: 1 hour 45 minutes	64 Marks
Period Study (20%)		British Depth Study (20%)
Superpower relations & the Cold War, 1941-1991		Early Elizabethan England
Paper 2 covers both British depth studies and period studies to act as a chronological and geographical 'bridge' between Paper 1 and Paper 3.		
PAPER 3 – MODERN DEPTH STUDY		
WEIGHTING : 30%	EXAM: 1 hour 20 minutes	52 Marks
Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39		
Having paper 3 solely on the non-British modern depth study enables students to focus on one era and explore how and why the historical interpretations of it differ.		

Qualification details:

Students will gain a single-award **EDEXCEL GCSE (9-1) History 1HI10BR**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

How is the course assessed?

Examination – 100% which assesses knowledge and understanding of the topics and the full range of Historical skills.

Are there any special requirements?

You need to have an interest in and enthusiasm for History and be prepared to investigate and use a wide range of sources of evidence both within and outside lessons.

How will this course help students?

This course encourages you to make your **own judgements** about the events which have changed the course of history and helped to shape the world in which you live. Historians like you, **learn to think for themselves**, to seek out and use relevant information and **recognise opinions within sources**. They are able to research; asking and answering the questions which will help them to arrive at a useful and logical conclusion.

These **transferable skills** are useful for studies in the sixth form and highly valued on many university courses and in a wide range of careers including Archaeology, Architecture, Art, Conservation, Diplomatic Service, Forensic Science, History, Journalism, Law, Media and Medicine.

GCSE Course Choice:

Media Studies



What does the course cover?

The GCSE Media Studies course enables students to:

- develop their ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of common media text types
- appreciate the ways in which these texts impact us as consumers.
- develop an awareness of how influential the media can be in our everyday lives.
- develop analysis of varied forms of media text

How is the course assessed?

There is no tiered entry and all students will sit the same examination.

Paper 1: Media 1 – 1 hour 30 mins exam, 35% of the GCSE

Section A **Media Language and Media Representations:** Questions will test any two of the following forms; magazines, advertising and marketing, newspapers, online, social and participatory media and video games

Section B **Section B: Media Industries and Media Audiences:** Questions will test any two of the following forms: radio, music video, newspapers, online, social and participatory media and video games, film (industries only)

Paper 2: Media 2 – 1 hour 30 mins exam, 35% of the GCSE

Section A Assessment will be based on a screening from an extract of one of the television Close Study Products and other Close Study Products. These Close Study Products are a range of television texts students have studied during the course.

Section B Assessment will be based on either newspapers or online, social and participatory media and video games. Close studies of texts in these areas will have been completed during the two year course of study.

Non-Exam Assessment (coursework) 30% of the GCSE

For this controlled assessment unit, students will create a proposal for and a fully realised media product from a selection of prescribed media areas which change every year. Examples of these include a radio advert for a film festival, a magazine front cover and article, a tabloid newspaper front cover and article, a working homepage for a radio station, a sequence from a television show in a specific genre.

Are there any special requirements?

- A good standard of written English is essential for the successful study of Media; several questions on both exams require essay style written responses.
- Analytical skills, similar to those in English Literature, are a big part of the Media GCSE. Any successful Literature student would thrive in Media Studies.
- A student suited to Media Studies will already have an awareness of and interest in a range of media areas. These could be print or audio-visual media, radio, podcasts, social media, film or television.
- A good standard of computer skills will certainly help a prospective media student.

How will this course help students?

A good GCSE in Media can open up a pathway to further study of Media or Film Studies at A Level and to many aspects of further and higher education. The media is a huge industry, one of the most vibrant and successful in the country. It encompasses an enormous range of potential careers, both technical and creative, that the study of this subject could certainly inspire an interest and passion for.

MUSIC

Why Music?



Music is a fantastic subject which complements the academic side of GCSE studies. This GCSE qualification allows for students to build **industry specific skills** which are crucial in the popular and ever-expanding music industry. Students learn to collaborate with others, build resilience skills and expand their creativity. Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Music emerge with a plethora of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace. Through specialist lessons and rehearsals, you will develop your skills on your chosen instrument, and you will also have the opportunity to compose music using a DAW. You will have to work well both individually and as a member of a team and the course will help to develop self-confidence, discipline, motivation and organisational skills.

What does the course cover? OCR GCSE Music (9-1) J536

With an emphasis on musicality and practical music making, the course offers a contemporary, accessible and creative education in music with an integrated approach to the three main elements – performing, composing and appraising. Students are encouraged to be creative and to broaden their musical horizons and understanding with five areas of study as they explore musical context, language, performance and composition. The specification offers a range of opportunities to study diverse and traditional fields, with an integrated approach. This course encourages students to experiment in their own performing, composing and listening as well as develop interest in and enthusiasm for all aspects of their musical heritage.

Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting	
Integrated portfolio (01 or 02)	60	-	30%	Coursework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solo Performance. - Free Composition: Demonstrate knowledge of composition techniques, use of musical elements and resources, including specific instrumental and technology techniques.
Practical component (03 or 04)	60	-	30%	Coursework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensemble performance. - Set Brief Composition: Compose a piece of music appropriate for one of the areas of study in response to a set brief.
Listening and appraising (05)	80	1 hour 30 mins	40%	This component focuses on analysis of music – Concerto through time, rhythms of the world, film music and popular music. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language.

Are there any special requirements?

You should be able to play an instrument or sing and want to develop your skills further. If you do not play an instrument yet and would still like to take GCSE music, we would decide on an instrument for you to learn in the first term.

Post 16 options?

The GCSE Music qualification shows a wide range of skills that will be welcomed on a range of music A level or BTEC courses such as Level 3 Music Performance or A Level Music.

Typical employment progression is to such areas as performing/recording artist, music producer, sound engineer or composer. Post 18 learners can also progress to higher education courses such as degrees in Popular Music, Music Technology, Music Composition, Music Education, Music Therapy and Music Business.

GCSE Course Choice:

Physical Education



What does the course cover?

GCSE PE will offer students the opportunity to develop their skills in a wide range of sports and activities and help them to improve their own performance. They will learn about exercise, how the body works during exercise and then through training how performance can be improved. The course is practically based and involves participating in a range of practical activities as well as developing the knowledge to improve their own ability in these activities. For students who enjoy sport this will be a very enjoyable course.

Students have already been taught skills in a variety of different activities in their PE lessons. This course will help them to build upon these basic skills. They will develop the analytical skills to look at and improve their own performance and also develop a wide range of personal skills through involvement in physical activity and leadership.

This course is not the same as the core PE which all students take part in. The GCSE course includes a greater element of theory, and about half of a student's GCSE lessons will be classroom-based.

Qualification details

Students will gain a single-award in GCSE in Physical Education. Students will study the new AQA exam board Physical Education (Full course 4892) specification. More details can be found at www.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/science/new/phy_edu_overview.php

How is the course assessed?

During the course students will cover and be assessed in several different activities. For the final practical mark, which now makes up only 30% of the total mark, the best 3 activities will be submitted for assessment.

At the end of the course there are 2 written exams that are now worth 70% of the total mark. It will test your knowledge and understanding of the theory element of the course.

Are there any special requirements?

Students must be willing to participate actively in a wide range of physical activities, develop leadership skills and have the maturity to reflect on their own performance.

How will this course help students?

A good grade at GCSE will help students to move on to study AS/A2 Sports Studies or other sport-related courses. Future employment opportunities may then include physiotherapy, sports journalism, fitness instruction, dietician, sport psychology, sports nutritionist and PE teaching.

GCSE Course Choice:

OCR Cambridge National in Sport Studies



What does the course cover?

The course provides an engaging and relevant introduction to the world of sport. It incorporates important aspects of the industry, such as contemporary issues in sport, the relationship between sport and the media, practical sports performance and sports leadership. It enables you to develop and apply your knowledge, whilst also developing a range of relevant practical, communication and technical skills to participate in an outdoor and adventurous activity.

Equivalent to one GCSE

How is the course assessed?

Two mandatory units plus one additional unit (units **must** be done in total):

Unit	Unit title	GLH	Assessment
R184	Contemporary Issues in Sport	48	External – Written Examination
R185	Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities	48	Internal (coursework/practical performance)
R186	Sport and The Media	24	Internal (coursework)
R187	Increasing Awareness of Outdoor	24	Internal (coursework/taking part in outdoor activity)

- The exam must be taken in the final assessment series before qualification certification.
- Internally assessed units: set by the PE teaching team and externally moderated by OCR. Assessments may include: presentations, written work, video footage and interviews.
- Clear assessment procedure: peer assessment, self-assessment, teacher assessment then final hand in.

Are there any special requirements?

You need to have a keen interest in current sporting issues, both social and scientific aspects. It would be of benefit to participate in a sporting activity outside of school.

How will the course help our students? i.e. progression/careers?

- Encourage personal development through practical participation and performance in a range of sport and exercise activities
- Give students the opportunity to enter employment in the sport and active leisure sector or to progress to other vocational qualifications such as the BTEC Level 3 in sport at sixth form.

Bishop Milner Catholic College

OPTION BLOCKS APRIL 2024

Block	Option
Block A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History (GCSE)• Geography (GCSE)• Computer Science (GCSE)• French (GCSE)• D&T (GCSE)• Hospitality and Catering (WJEC Level1/2)
Block B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Triple Science (GCSE)• French (GCSE)• Art and Design (GCSE)• Media Studies (GCSE)• Drama (GCSE)
Block C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History (GCSE)• Geography (GCSE)• Music (GCSE)• Physical Education (GCSE/BTEC) * PE staff will make a decision on the most suitable qualification for your child if they offered PE as a course.• Business & Enterprise (BTEC)

With 150 students across each option block, there is **no guarantee** that students will be allocated their first choice; therefore, careful consideration must be given to their second choice.

Option courses will only run if there are viable numbers to support the facilitation of a group.

Please complete the online form on the options page of the college website
by no later than Tuesday 7th May