

# Year 9 Options Booklet 2022



Ready to Learn Ready to Lead Ready to Teach

# Introduction

## **Students**

You will soon be ending your time at Key Stage 3 and moving onto Key Stage 4. In Year 10 and 11 you will have to choose which optional subjects you study. You need to think carefully about the choices that you make, as they can help you when you progress onto further education (college/university) and future employment.

This booklet is designed to give you as much information as possible about the choices you are about to make. When making your option choices it is vital to take a lot of things into consideration including what you are good at, what you enjoy and what you want to do when you finish Key Stage 4. Do not make your choices because your friends have chosen them or because you like a particular teacher. What may be right for your friend, may not be right for you. Remember that your teachers and tutors can always help if you have any worries or concerns about your options.

## **Parents**

Your son or daughter will soon be choosing the option subjects they will be taking in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). It is important they make informed decisions through consultation with the school and with you. This booklet is designed to contain as much information about the options process as possible. However, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

All Key Stage 4 students are required to study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Core PE. Students then have the opportunity to select 4 optional choices. One of these choices must be an English Baccalaureate (EBACC) subject (History, Geography, French, Spanish or Computer Science). The students have been given information about individual option subjects through Google Classroom where they have been able to watch subject videos about all option choices.

At the end of Term 4, Year 9 students will meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss their options over the next month to ensure they have considered the correct choices for them. Following these meetings, the option subjects will be allocated and individual students will be spoken to if there is an issue with their option choices. Final option decisions will be made by the end of April.

# Year 9 Options Timeline

<b>Year 9 Options Process</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
<b>Introduction Assembly</b>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January (Completed)
<b>Options Student Voice</b>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January (Completed)
<b>Options Fortnight</b>	W/C Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February (Completed)
<b>Year 9 CLF Raising Aspirations Day</b>	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Pathways Day (BTEC Experience)</b>	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>Complete Options Form Online in School</b>	W/C Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Begin 1 to 1 meetings with SLT</b>	End of Term 4 / Beginning of Term 5
<b>Option subjects allocated and alterations made if necessary</b>	End of April

## Different Types of Courses

There are a large range of optional subjects on offer at Hans Price Academy. Option subjects may be examined in different ways and awarded a different qualification.

### **GCSEs**

Most students will study for GCSEs in the core subjects and many of the option subjects are also examined by taking a GCSE. In some subjects, there are two different 'tiers' of examination offered; for example a higher or foundation tier in Mathematics, Science, French and Spanish.

Most GCSE subjects are examined by a mixture of timed exam papers, coursework and in-class controlled assessment.

### **BTECs / Vocational Subjects**

Heavily weighted towards practical work or coursework rather than examinations. We offer the following BTEC/Vocational subjects:

- Health and social care
- Sport
- Creative Media
- Travel and Tourism
- Dance

BTEC/Vocational subjects tend to be weighted 75% coursework and 25% exam. The benefits of students taking BTEC/Vocational subjects are students get a second chance to re-take an exam if they do not get their desired outcome.

## GCSE Grading System

Over the last four years new GCSE grades have been introduced for all subjects, with numbers replacing the old letter grades.

This table shows how the new GCSE grades relate to the old ones:

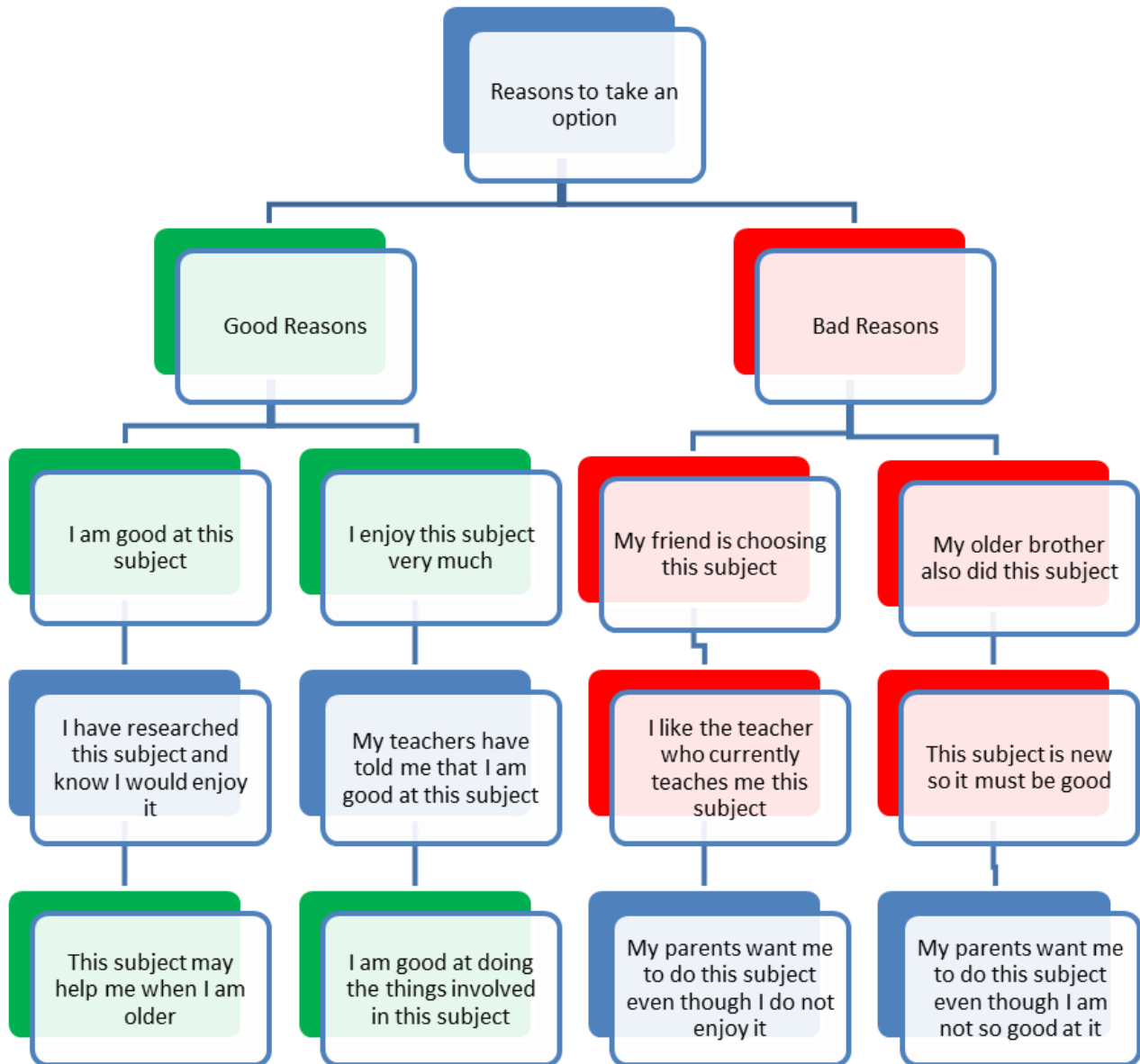
New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**  
5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

## Making your choices for the right reasons

There are many reasons why you may choose a certain option and it is important that you choose an option for the right reasons. You will have to study this subject for 2 years; you should not base your choice on things that may change.



## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### **What is meant by guided choices?**

While we want you to make your own choices as far as possible, we may feel that there are other pathways better suited to you. In cases such as this we will meet with you to discuss your choices to ensure that they are right for you. In this way we will try to maximise your chances of attaining your full potential across a good range of qualifications recognised by colleges, universities and employers.

### **Will my choices affect my career?**

No. Everyone in the country does a core curriculum which includes all the subjects you need to go on to higher education or employment. Universities, colleges and employers want to know what level you achieved in your GCSEs, rather than what GCSEs you did. English and Maths GCSEs are the exceptions to this. You need a minimum of a Grade 5 in both English and Maths in order to make progress in many careers and especially if you aim to go to university.

Apart from your core subjects (English, Maths, Science) you do not have to choose a subject in Year 10 in order to study it (or a related subject) at university. The exception might be Languages, where unless you are a native speaker of the language, it is advisable to continue studying the language otherwise you may forget what you have already learnt. If you intend studying Art in the future, it may also be advisable to choose that subject so that you can start to build your portfolio. Most other subjects you can start from scratch at A Level. To study music at A Level you would have to play two instruments at grade level; sometimes this can be as high as Grade 3 – 5.

### **Are any subjects more important than another?**

As mentioned, English and Maths are the two subjects that employers and universities want to see. Your choices all have equal importance.

### **What is the English Baccalaureate?**

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC) is a Government measure of achievement for a certain combination of GCSEs. The measure is made up of English, Maths, Science (including Computer Science), either History or Geography and one Language. Students have to at least study one Baccalaureate subject.

### **If I choose a vocational qualification, does this mean I will end up having to follow a career in this area?**

No, not if you don't want to. Remember it counts as the equivalent to a GCSE. Employers, universities and colleges want to know the grades you achieve before knowing what courses you did.

### **How will you know if a particular choice of subjects is not appropriate for me?**

All of your teachers have been asked to comment on how appropriate a particular subject would be for you based on your past performance in exams and on classwork. The Senior Team collect this information together and discuss each student individually, before agreeing whether the choices you have made are appropriate. This is based on your past performance and measured against what people with similar grades to you have achieved in the past, across the country.

**What if I don't like the alternative choices you may make for me?**

You do not have to follow the courses we have chosen, but it is our recommendation that you do so. The range of subjects we choose will maximise your chances in your GCSEs. If you wish to choose a different subject from one we recommend, we will have to warn your parents that, in our opinion, you may either not be pushing yourself enough, or that you may find the choices you have chosen too difficult. Don't forget in most cases this does not become an issue.

**How can I decide what subjects are best for me?**

'What do you enjoy most?' is your first question. 'What am I best at?' is your next.

**Who can help me decide what to choose?**

Listen to advice from your parents/guardians, teachers, friends, older brothers and sisters, but at the end of the day make sure you make the final decision.

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## **IMPORTANT**

**Am I guaranteed to get the subjects that I choose?**

Unfortunately, if there are not enough students choosing a course, we cannot run it; therefore, you may not get your first choice. This doesn't happen often.

We could limit the number of subjects we offer and make sure they all run, but then we would limit your choice.

It may be the case that two of the subjects you choose have to run on the timetable at the same time and this will mean you will have to choose between them. Again, this doesn't happen often.

# Art

**Qualification:** GCSE Art  
**Examination board:** AQA  
**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

Component 1 (Portfolio) work is worth 60% of the overall grade and you will work on this from the start of the course until January when you will be in Year 11.

We set one main project. This covers a wide range of artists, techniques and variety of materials, which all revolve around the theme of 'Identity'.

You will have the opportunity to work with Photography, Photoshop, printmaking and other materials available to the department, as well as developing the most fundamental skills of drawing and painting.

You will receive a brief and a list of tasks to guide you through the project. It allows us to ensure as the facilitator that you develop enough work for each Assessment Objective, on which you will be marked.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

Your final mark will come from your portfolio (Component 1), which you work on from September in Year 10 to December in Year 11. You will work on Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment) from January until April in Year 11. This is the Art exam period and ends with a 10-hour Art practical exam.

**Controlled assessment or Coursework:** 60 % Component 1

**Examination:** 40 % Component 2

## ***Am I suited to Art GCSE?***

The course is very self-directed, and you must be committed, as the volume of work required is high. Art clubs and Period 7 must be attended, and further work must be done at home, usually about two hours every week. It is not an easy option.

You must enjoy drawing and painting.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

*'Art is as time consuming as you make it. It is a good way to engage your mind and trigger the imagination'*

*'It's a subject that can help with any struggles you may have if you don't want to talk about it.'*

*'Choosing Art has been time consuming but it's been one of the best decisions I've made. If you love Art, you won't regret it!'*



# Travel and Tourism

**Qualification:** BTEC

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

***You must enjoy geography and want to study tourism.***

You will study the following topics:-  
UK tourist destinations.  
Worldwide tourist destinations.  
Customer service

These units allow you to look at the different ways that tourism operates. We will look at local businesses such as the rebuilding and the success of the local Grand Pier. How did they start the project and what were their main objectives during this time? We will investigate UK destinations and worldwide destinations. Where would you choose to go on holiday and why?

## **Learning through doing?**

Unlike other GCSEs, in BTECs you build a portfolio of work up over the 2 years, so everything you do in lessons goes towards your final grade!

## **Enterprise Project**

You will be involved in a small project which involves setting up a business. Students get a chance to work alongside mentors from a local business and have developed team building and communication skills. You will compete with other schools in "Enterprise 4 U" for cash prizes!

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

### **Coursework:**

For each unit you will be given assignments to complete. The content of the unit will be delivered in class and you will be expected to use the time in class to complete your assignment. You will also be expected to complete high quality I.S. Each assignment will be given a deadline for submission and it is expected that you meet these. (75%)

### Examination

A 1 hour 15 minute exam consisting of short answer and long answer questions. This accounts for 25% of the final grade.

## ***Am I suited to Travel and tourism?***

You should be interested in how businesses work and be ever ready to participate in group work. You must enjoy keeping up to date with what goes on in the world outside of school.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

*'It has been fun to work collaboratively with my friends as part of a presentation team.'*

*'We study companies like Thompson, Easy Jet and Trivago'.*

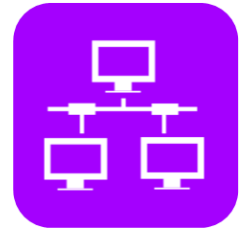
*'It really helped me decide what I wanted to do because W-S-M is a seaside town, and I would like to work in those jobs when I am older'*

# Computer Science

**Qualification:** GCSE Computer Science

**Examination board:** OCR

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

Do you enjoy programming and understanding how computer systems work? In this challenging and engaging qualification you will be expected to learn and apply your knowledge of computer systems and programming to solve problems. GCSE Computer Science also digs deep into the technical side of computing, including how different hardware and software devices work together to create a computer system.

### **Computer Systems**

This unit will introduce you to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. You will also become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science.

### **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming**

This unit encourages you to apply your knowledge and understanding of computer systems using computational thinking. You will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques and how to produce robust programs. You will also become familiar with the mathematics related to Computer Science.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

The Computer Science qualification currently consists of **2 written examinations (50% each)**

- Computer systems (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (1 hour 30 minutes)

## ***Am I suited to GCSE Computer Science?***

If you enjoy programming, Mathematics, problem solving and learning how computer technology works, then GCSE Computer Science is the choice for you! You should also show a willingness to practise your programming skills regularly, as this forms a large part of the course.

Computer Science links well to careers such as becoming a programmer or an engineer, as well as a wide range of other technical roles in the digital and IT industry. It is also useful for students who wish to progress onto Computer Science/IT related courses in further education.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

*'If you like the logical side of computers and you can persevere, then you will enjoy Computer Science'*

*'A challenging but intriguing learning experience'*

# Creative iMedia

**Qualification:** Cambridge Nationals Level 2

**Examination board:** OCR

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

Digital Media is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives and vital to the UK economy. Production of digital media products is a requirement of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce. This qualification will help students develop specific and transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts. The qualification's hands-on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

## **Pre-production skills**

This first unit underpins the other learning in this qualification. Students will learn about how to plan pre-production effectively including understanding of client requirements and reviewing pre-production briefs. They will use this knowledge in the optional units when they develop their own media products. This unit also provides excellent transferable skills such as project planning which will be useful in a wide variety of contexts.

This unit is externally assessed through an OCR set and marked 1 hour 15 minute exam.

## **Creating digital graphics**

Digital graphics are a key part of most digital products and this mandatory unit will help support the other optional units in the suite. Students will learn the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector, considering client requirements that they learnt about in the pre-production skills unit.

## **Creating 2D and 3D characters**

From film and television to computer gaming, digital characters are key components of creative media projects. Students will learn about character modelling in this sector, creating their own 2D and 3D digital characters.

## **Designing a game concept**

Students will identify core features of digital games in order to create a games design concept proposal that can be presented to a client for critical review.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

The Creative iMedia qualification currently consists of **one written exam** and **three practical task-based assessments** with OCR-set tasks to support students in producing assessment evidence.

Each unit is worth **25%** of the final grade. The grade is calculated by giving each unit a mark out of 60.

## ***Am I suited to Creative iMedia?***

If you enjoy the creative aspects of the digital world, if you enjoy Art and working to a client brief, Creative iMedia is the choice for you! You need to show a desire to practise your creative skills and relate previous learning to new experiences.

**What job could I get?**

Below are a few examples of the many jobs available within the creative and digital sector which need young people with relevant skills:

**Marketing Executive**

As a marketing executive, you would promote your employer's or your client's products, services or ideas. If you love using your communication skills in a creative way, this could be the ideal job for you.

**Film Director**

Directors have overall responsibility for the way films and television programmes are made. As a director, you would use your creativity, organisational skills and technical knowledge to manage the whole production process.

**Graphic Designer**

In this role you will work alongside your clients, creating websites and other promotional materials for them. This could include graphics for packaging, magazines, catalogues and flyers, etc. More career ideas: Animator, Broadcast Engineer, Screenwriter, Photographer, Film Maker, Set Designer, Media Researcher, Audio-Visual Technician, Studio Sound, Engineering, Editor, Advertising Executive.

**Games Designer**

Game Designers devise what a game consists of and how it plays. They plan and define all the elements of a game: its setting; structure; rules; story flow; characters; the objects, props, vehicles, and devices available to the characters; interface design; and modes of play.

***What do current students say about this course?***

*'I am really interested in designing games so I chose this course'*

*'I have learnt a lot about adverts and want to make them one day so this is great for me'*

*'I like doing art on computers'*

# Dance

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award - Performing Arts Dance

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

You will study three units for this qualification. The first is a written unit called 'Exploring the Performing Arts' where you learn about the skills needed to be a dancer and study a variety of professional works. In the second unit 'Developing Skills and techniques in the Performing Arts' you recreate 3 pieces of professional repertoire, this is a practical unit. In your final unit 'Performing to a Brief' you have to prepare and perform a 15 minute group dance created from a stimulus.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

### **Coursework:**

You will complete a total of three units, out of these two are internally assessed and completed in Year 10. 'Exploring the Performing Arts' and 'Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts' are worth **30% each** of the final BTEC mark.

### **Examination:**

The last unit 'Performing to a Brief' is completed in Year 11 in a 12 week timeframe. You will be continually assessed internally by your teacher as the course progresses.

## ***Am I suited to Dance BTEC?***

You must love to dance and be energetic and enthusiastic about the subject. You should be confident enough to dance in groups in front of the class and remember you will wear cat suits and other appropriate dance wear.

You should have excellent attendance as the dances are all in groups and it is difficult if students are missing. You should enjoy performing as you will be in at least 3 shows a year. You should be able to meet deadlines and be happy to attend extra lunch and after school rehearsals as and when required.

## ***What do current students say about the course?***

*'It's the best lesson of the week, hard work but fun'.*

*I've learnt loads - jazz, street dance and contemporary. It's great to have such variety'.*

*'The first show was scary but as soon as I started dancing I loved it; I didn't want it to finish'.*

*'I love being with our group on show day. We all get ready and put our costumes on, it's so exciting and I love the fact that our friends and family can see what we do'.*

# Drama

**Qualification:** GCSE Drama

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

### Component 1: Understanding Drama

This is a **written** exam for 1 hour 45 minutes **(40%)**.

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

### Component 2: Devising Drama

This exam is both **written (30%)** and **practical (10%)**.

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

### Component 3: Texts in practice

This exam is **practical (20%)**.

- Performance of two extracts from one play

## ***Am I suited to Drama GCSE?***

You must enjoy Drama and be prepared to work with a variety of people. You should have good attendance as all practical's are in groups and non-attendance means letting others down. You should be enthusiastic about the subject, have an open mind to new ideas and be able to stay in character.

## **What do current students say about the subject?**

*'It's really good fun but also hard work in a good way'*

*'I love performing in the shows; it's great to get on the stage with the group'.*

*'The written coursework is difficult at first but I'm getting used to it and Miss helped me to improve'.*

*'I enjoyed KS3 drama but having 3 lessons a week with others who love drama is brilliant'.*

# French / Spanish

**Qualification:** GCSE French/ GCSE Spanish

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment.

Students learn the language in the following four skill areas, and the topics above are covered in each of these areas.

**Listening:** understand and respond to spoken language

**Speaking:** communicate and interact in speech

**Reading:** understand and respond to written language

**Writing:** communicate in writing

We are lucky to have Year 9 as a year that we build in the skills necessary to start working towards GCSE. We develop our knowledge of how the languages are structured and put together and are able to build our skills through looking at interesting cultural topics.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Languages are assessed entirely by end of course examinations.** There is equal weighting for Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing with 25% each.

Up to 40% of the questions are asked in the language and in the written papers all of the questions are asked in the language being learned.

There will be continual assessment over the years to prepare students for the exams and nothing should be too stressful by the end of the course.

## ***Am I suited to GCSE French/ Spanish?***

Scientific research shows that learning languages opens pathways in the brain that help with learning other subjects too; it makes you more intelligent.

Languages make up four out of the five hardest GCSEs, which means that taking a language is seen by employers and universities as a sign that you are a person who can take up a challenge and are willing to work hard. However, languages are fun because they allow us to explore other cultures and in learning languages, we learn so much more about our own culture.

Most universities now require a language to GCSE level so it's really a 'no-brainer'.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

*'J'adore le français parce-que c'est facile et très intéressant', 'C'est formidable' On s'amuse bien.*

*'Les croissants sont très bons' 'Je suis très intelligent'.*

*'Me gusta estudiar el español porque es útil'*

*'Me encanta el español porque es divertido.'*

*'It's a really great challenge to learn another language, it says that I'm curious, brave and clever'*

# Geography

**Qualification:** GCSE Geography

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

### **Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35%)**

- Natural hazards – tectonics, weather and climate change.
- The living world – ecosystems, tropical rainforests, hot deserts.
- Physical landscapes in the UK – rivers, coasts, flooding.

### **Paper 2: Challenges in the urban environment (35%)**

- Urban issues and challenges – urbanisation, city studies, shanty towns, regeneration projects.
- The changing economic world – world development gap, north south divide in the UK.
- The challenge of resources management – renewable resources, food supplies, water supplies, energy.

### **Paper 3: Geographical applications (30%)**

- Physical fieldwork – Rivers (The Quantocks)
- Human fieldwork – Impacts of redevelopment on the environment (Bristol/WSM)
- A pre-release issue
- Map skills
- Geographical skills

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Examination:** 100%

**Paper 1:** You will answer questions on the PHYSICAL Geography topics. The paper is in three sections. You must answer questions on all three of the paper 1 topics. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short 1-4 mark questions, and longer 6 or 9 mark questions which require an extended written response. You will also answer questions on the case studies you have learnt. These are real-life examples from the subjects you have studied, for example you will study and answer questions on Typhoon Haiyan, a hurricane which devastated the Philippines in 2013.

**Paper 2:** You will answer questions on the HUMAN Geography topics. The paper is in three sections. You must answer questions on all three of the paper 2 topics. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short 1-4 mark questions, and longer 6 or 9 mark questions which require an extended written response. You will also answer questions on the case studies you have learnt. These are real-life examples from the subjects you have studied, for example you will study and answer questions on the changing economy in Nigeria, which is a NEE (newly emerging economy).

**Paper 3:** This is primarily a skills paper. Section A sets questions on a pre-released booklet of information on an issue which we have studied in class. You receive this booklet approx. 8 weeks before the exam and answer a mixture of short 1-2 mark as well as longer 6-9 mark questions about the information presented. The second section of paper 3 is a set of questions related to your fieldwork investigations. The third section sets questions on an 'unseen fieldwork' investigation, where you are given data from an enquiry and must analyse, present and evaluate that data.

## ***Am I suited to Geography?***

You should have a good level of literacy and numeracy. You should also have an interest in the environment, both physical and human, around you.



# History

**Qualification:** GCSE History

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991
- USA and Civil Rights 1945 - 1974

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Examination:** 100%. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

- 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: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 & Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991. 40% of the qualification
- Paper 3: USA and Civil Rights. 30% of the qualification

## ***Am I suited to History?***

The skills you'll learn will be invaluable should you wish to take on History in the long-term. History is quite a challenging subject that requires a good memory for dates and issues, and an analytical mind. You will also need a high level of literacy and be prepared to write. You will learn to question the reliability of sources, which makes it good for developing critical thinking skills that will be essential at university and in the workplace.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

*'You learn loads of exciting things'*

*'It's challenging and fun'*

*'As challenging as it is, it's very interesting and life benefitting'*

# Religious Studies

**Qualification:** GCSE Religious Studies

**Examination board:** Eduqas

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

You will study the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam. You will also study the four philosophical themes (below) from the perspective of Christianity and Islam

- Life and Death – environmental responsibility, euthanasia, evolution, abortion, quality of life, sanctity of life, soul
- Good and Evil - good/evil, forgiveness, free will, justice, morality, pacifism, conscience, suffering
- Relationships – adultery, divorce, cohabitation, commitment, contraception, gender equality, responsibilities, roles
- Issues of Human Rights – censorship, discrimination, extremism, human rights, personal conviction, prejudice, relative and absolute poverty, social justice

GCSE Religious Studies offers students the opportunity for the study of religious responses to fundamental questions of life. This specification is suitable for candidates of any religious persuasion or none. There is no necessity for prior learning to undertake study of this specification.

Students learn the key beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam. They then apply their knowledge to understand and explain the actions of believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Philosophy of Religion provides the opportunity for study of fundamental philosophical themes, including human experiences of evil and suffering and life after death. It will help you to acquire the ability to think logically, to analyse issues and to express ideas clearly. Applied Ethics allows the exploration of the significance and impact of religious teachings and attitudes when approaching issues such as medical ethics, human relationships and social injustice. Students will apply their understanding of key religious beliefs to explain a wide range of views.

You will have had your first experience of this subject in lessons this year so if you enjoy your lessons, you will enjoy the GCSE.

## **How will I be assessed in this subject?**

**Examination: 100%.** All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

- Component 1 Religious, Philosophical, and Ethical Studies (2 hours) 50%
- Component 2: Study of Christianity (1 hour) 25%
- Component 2: Study of Islam (1 hour) 25%

## ***Am I suited to Religious Studies?***

This subject will suit you if:

- You are willing to explore the views of others as well as examining your own opinions.
- You enjoy expressing your opinions verbally and in essays.
- You enjoy working and interacting with others.
- The course is suitable for both religious and non-religious students.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

“The lessons are fun and interesting.”

“You get to find out about religious and non-religious points of views about topics”.

“You need to be good at arguing, open minded and be able to take in other people's opinions as they can benefit your own.”

# Music

**Qualification:** BTEC First Award in Music

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

You will study four units for this qualification:

- (Unit 1) Exploring the Music Business - Industry practice and role awareness.
- (Unit 5) Music Skills Development and Performance - Improving in your chosen instrument and performing.
- (Unit 4/7) Music Composition/Sequencing - You will create a few initial ideas and develop one into a full piece using the Mac Suite
- (Unit 2) Music Showcase – You will organise a Music Show.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

### **Coursework:**

All units with the exception of 'Exploring the Music Business' are coursework-based units. Your teacher will set you assignments for each unit, which you will need to complete. There will be practical performance assessments, and some written coursework. You will then get graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction for each assignment and you have to gain at least a pass in each assignment to pass overall.

### **Examination:**

'Exploring the Music Business' will be an external exam where students are tested on their knowledge of the music industry and how each role is integral for it to run.

## ***Am I suited to Music BTEC?***

You must love music and be energetic and enthusiastic about the subject. You should be confident enough to perform in front of the class. You should have excellent attendance as the BTEC is continually assessed and some of the work is in groups and it is difficult if students are missing. You should enjoy performing as you will be in at least 2 shows a year and you could represent the school in Battle of the Bands in Bristol. You should be able to meet deadlines and be happy to attend extra lunch and after school rehearsals as and when required.

## **What do current students say about the course?**

*'I love the fact it is so practical. We do loads of performing'*

*'I wasn't very confident at the start but now I really enjoy the shows and I love performing'.*

*'It's great to work in groups and I have learnt loads from the others in the class'.*

*'If you love Music it's a great course'.*

# Physical Education

**Qualification:** BTEC Sport

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Practical Sports Performance
- Training for Personal Fitness
- Leading Sports Activities

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Examination:** The fitness for sport and exercise unit is assessed externally; you will have to complete an online assessment.

### **Coursework:**

The other units are all assessed by your teacher where you will be set assignments. Each assignment will have an assessment criterion which you must fulfil to pass. The assignments will vary in what they ask you to do. They may include practical tasks, PowerPoint presentations, making videos, or simply written tasks. We try and make the course and the assessments as practical as possible however the criteria does require some written assignments.

Assignments are graded Pass, Merit or Distinction, distinction being the highest grade. You have to pass every assignment to achieve a pass over all.

## ***Am I suited to BTEC Sport?***

If you enjoy PE and/or perform well in English you will do well in BTEC Sport. If you do not like exams then this course may be a good option for you! You are not assessed on your practical ability so anyone can do really well with a strong work ethic. You get to study one individual and one team sport in real depth. If you like the idea of working studying about sports such as football, netball or rugby for an extended period of time you will love BTEC Sport. If you enjoy the fitness suite you will also love the course. The health benefits you gain by choosing this option are a further reason why it's suited to you.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

*'It gives me a good knowledge of sports and how to look after myself. Very enjoyable course'.*

*'I think it's really good fun because you learn lots. It will help me get a job in sport when I leave school'.*

# Physical Education

**Qualification:** Sport Science

**Examination board:** OCR

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- Nutrition
- Sports Injury
- Principles of training
- The body's response to exercise.

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Examination:** The fitness for sport and exercise unit is assessed externally; you will have to complete a 1 hour exam of which you can have 2 attempts at set times.

**Coursework:** The other units are all assessed by your teacher where you will be set assignments. Each assignment will have an assessment criterion which you must fulfil to pass. The assignments will vary in what they ask you to do. They may include practical tasks, PowerPoint presentations, making videos, or simply written tasks. We try and make the course and the assessments as practical as possible however the criteria does require some written assignments.

## ***Am I suited to Sport Science?***

This qualification is for students who would like the opportunity to study a 5<sup>th</sup> option.

It is for students already studying BTEC sport who have good writing skills and a passion for sport.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

“Sport science helps me understand my body and how to look after it to allow me to perform at a high level in my chosen sport”.

“Sport science further develops my knowledge from BTEC sport. Helping me understand about wider topics such as nutrition”

# Health and Social Care

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- The course is split into 3 compulsory components which are designed to help students explore the Health and Social care setting and develop knowledge and understanding about how people grow and develop across their life. In all 3 components students will study real life case studies to help them understand and put into practice the knowledge they have learnt.
- Component 1 is all about people and how different factors such as lifestyle choices, relationships and income/wealth can impact on how they develop over the course of their life. We will also look at a variety of expected and unexpected life events and how they affect growth and development.
- Component 2 is all about the Health and Social Care profession. What services people may need to access in order to get medical or social help and how those services meet individual needs. The care values that underpin the Health and Social care setting such as confidentiality, respect, safeguarding and duty of care.
- Component 3 is the exam and combines knowledge learnt in Component 1 and 2 in a Health and Wellbeing 2 hour written exam. You will study a case study and answer questions about what factors have had an impact on their development, what their health indicators tell you about their current health and risks to future health and what targets you can put in place to help them improve their health.

## **How will I be assessed in this subject?**

**Controlled assessment or Coursework:** 60% of your grade will be from 4 written assignments that you will complete in lessons in component 1 and 2.

**Examination:** 40% of your grade will be a written exam paper (2 hours). You will have 2 attempts to achieve your best grade.

## ***Am I suited to Health and Social Care GCSE?***

You will need to have good levels of literacy and a level of maturity to grasp the concepts which will be introduced. You need to be a caring and empathetic type of person. You will need to have a good work ethic and able to complete individual research and type up your findings.

## ***What do current students say about this course?***

*'It has been hard to understand some of the new concepts but the human growth and development unit is really interesting.'*

*'I use my little sister for my case study so it's helping me understand her disabilities as well.'*

*'It has changed the way I think about other people and consider others less fortunate.'*

*'It's my favourite option'*

# Design Technology

**Qualification:** GCSE Design Technology

**Examination board:** WJEC EDUQAS

**Duration:** 2 years



## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

### **Technical Principles**

- 1) The impact of new and emerging technologies
- 2) How the critical evaluation of new and emerging technologies informs design decisions
- 3) How energy is generated and stored in order to choose and use appropriate sources to make products and to power systems
- 4) Developments in modern and smart materials, composite materials and technical textiles
- 5) How electronic systems provide functionality to products and processes
- 6) The use of programmable components to embed functionality into products
- 7) The functions of mechanical devices to produce different sorts of movement

### **Materials:**

- 8) Paper and Board
- 9) Natural and manufactured timber
- 10) Ferrous and non-ferrous metals
- 11) Thermoforming and thermosetting polymers
- 12) Natural, synthetic, blended and mixed fibres, and woven, non-woven and knitted textiles.

### **In depth knowledge and understanding** of one of the above material groups

- 1) The sources, origins, physical and working properties of the material categories or the components and systems, and their ecological and social footprint
- 2) The way in which the selection of materials or components is influenced by a range of factors, such as functional, aesthetic, environmental, availability, cost, social, cultural and ethical
- 3) The impact of forces and stresses on materials and objects and the ways in which material can be reinforced and stiffened
- 4) Stock forms, types and sizes in order to calculate and determine the quantity of materials of components required
- 5) Alternative processes which can be used to manufacture products to different scales of production
- 6) Specialist techniques and processes which can be used to shape, fabricate, construct and assemble a high quality prototype, including techniques such as wastage, addition, deforming and reforming, as appropriate to the materials and/or components being used
- 7) Appropriate surface treatments and finishes that can be applied for functional and aesthetic purposes

### **Designing and Making Principles**

- 1) Selecting and working with appropriate materials and components in order to produce a prototype.
- 2) Using appropriate and accurate marking out methods including: measuring and use of reference points, lines and surfaces; use templates, jigs and/or patterns; work within tolerances; understand efficient cutting and how to minimise waste.
- 3) Using specialist tools and equipment, appropriate to the materials or components used (including hand tools, machinery, digital design and manufacture), to create a specific outcome.
- 4) Using specialist techniques and processes to shape, fabricate, construct and assemble a high quality prototype, including techniques such as wastage, addition, deforming and reforming, as appropriate to the materials and/or components being used.
- 5) Using appropriate surface treatments and finishes for functional and aesthetic purposes.

***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Coursework: 50%**

One piece of controlled assessment, roughly 35 hours work, to design and develop a prototype of a product using a material or mixture of materials of your choosing. Designing and making is worth 60% of the coursework marks

**Examination: 50%**

You will be questioned on your ability to analyse and evaluate design outcomes and wider issues and technical knowledge. The exam will be taken in Year 11.

***Am I suited to Design Technology?***

You should be creative, enjoy exploring design, innovative and willing to produce high quality practical work.

**What do current students say about the course?**

*'I really enjoy the practical work and the designing'.*

*'It has given me a large range of skills'*

*"I like the fact I have the freedom to be creative, in an environment where support is always available"*

*"Design and Technology is a great place to learn skills I could use in the future"*



# Food Preparation and Nutrition



**Qualification:** GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

**Examination board:** WJEC EDUQAS

**Duration:** 2 years

## ***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

- Food commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

**Coursework: Assessment 1: 8 hours    Assessment 2: 12 hours    50%**

**Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment.** This is a scientific food investigation assessing the principles behind preparation and cooking of food.

**Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment.** Prepare, cook and present 3 dishes which show off your cooking knowledge and skills.

**Examination: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition** written exam: 1 hour 45 mins **50%**

Compulsory questions assessing the 6 areas listed above.

**Section A:** Questions based on stimulus material

**Section B:** Short and long (essay) response questions assessing food preparation and nutrition

## ***Am I suited to Food Preparation and Nutrition?***

You should be interested in learning about food, where it comes from and the science behind cooking. You should be prepared for lots of writing as well as practical work. You should be enthusiastic about cooking and wanting to produce food of a high standard with creative, high quality presentation. You should be prepared to be organised with bringing in your own ingredients from home for recipes. You should be willing to learn a variety of practical skills and cooking techniques. You should be willing to try making new things.

## ***What do current students say about the course?***

*"It's interesting, helpful and good if you want to work in the food or catering industry"*

*"It's hard and not just about the cooking!"*

*"There's a lot to remember and there is writing in the coursework and exam preparation"*

*"When you do cook its good fun and you learn lots of new skills"*

# Statistics

**Qualification:** G.C.S.E Statistics

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 Years



## ***What are the main topics that I will study for this qualification?***

- Collecting Data
- Displaying Data
- Analysing Data
- Probability
- Probability Distribution

## ***How will I be assessed in this subject?***

- 100% Assessment

You will sit 2 Exam Papers. Both exam papers last for 90 minutes and are marked out of 80. Both You are permitted to use a Calculator for both Exam Papers.

The marks will be awarded based on 3 criteria:

- Knowledge and understanding of Statistical techniques (55%)
- Interpret Statistical information in context (25%)
- Assess the appropriateness of statistical methodologies and the conclusions drawn through the application of the statistical enquiry cycle (20%)

## ***Am I suited to Statistics GCSE?***

Whilst this is a separate qualification to your GCSE Maths, there is some shared content. You will need to show a resilience in Maths, and accept that you will get answers wrong - but there is something that you can do to fix it for next time.

Whilst this course is open to all students, our experience tells us that those students targeting Grades 3/4/5 are best suited to this course.

If you are interested in a career in: Accountancy; Marketing; Business Management; Software Engineering or Finance amongst others, then Statistics is a great qualification to study.

## ***What students say?***

This is a new option at Hans Price, and you will be the first students to sit this particular GCSE