

The Next Steps



Year 9

The
Next
Steps

2011 - 2014



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Introduction

Dear Year 8 Student

Now is a very important time for you as you make decisions about the subjects you wish to study at Key Stage 4. It is not a simple matter to make up your mind when you know that your decisions will have an effect on your whole future. You need to get a great deal of information. To help you, we have organised the following timetable:

Date	Event	✓
Tuesday 25 January	Assembly - Introduction to Key Stage 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday 26 January	Year 8 Choices Assembly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thurs 03 February	Year 9 Curriculum Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tues 15 February	Deadline for initial choices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mon 7 - Fri 18 March	Interview with a Senior Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tues 29 March	Deadline for final choices	<input type="checkbox"/>

Some of you may already have some idea of which career you eventually wish to follow. Don't worry, though, if you haven't yet made up your mind. Think of your decision in terms of a general course of study which over the next three years will lead to GCSEs or other qualifications and which is likely to lead to further study.

You will realise that there are some subjects that you must study in Years 9 - 11, but there is also an opportunity to choose a selection of subjects, some of which may be entirely new to you. The right choice for you is one which will bring you success in every subject at the end of Key Stage 4.

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Core Subjects

(these are the subjects that everyone will study)

GCSE English ✓

GCSE English Literature ✓

GCSE Maths ✓

GCSE / BTEC Science ✓

GCSE Languages ✓

OCR Nationals ICT ✓

GCSE Philosophy & Ethics ✓

GCSE / BTEC Sport and Health ✓

PSHE, Citizenship & Enterprise ✓

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Core details

GCSE English Language and English Literature

English Language and English Literature are taught in a unified course which leads to the award of two separate GCSE grades. The course helps you to experience a wide range of literature including contemporary texts and texts from our English literary and cultural heritage.

- Shakespeare and Literary Heritage (25% Literature)
- Extended Reading (15% Language)
- Creative Writing (15% Language)
- Spoken Language (10% Language)

You will also complete three speaking and listening assessments (20% Language).

In Year 11, after following a revision programme, you will complete 3 exams:

- Understanding and Producing Non-Fiction texts (40% Language)
- Exploring Modern Texts (40% Literature)
- Poetry Across Time (35% Literature)

GCSE Mathematics

You will all follow a course leading to one GCSE grade.

You will be grouped according to your ability in Maths. Your Year 7 & 8 results and the information that we have on your effort and achievement will place you in a group starting at an appropriate point.

You will follow the modular Edexcel 2MB01 course. You will sit two modules in Year 10. The first will be in March and the second in June. You will take your final module at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework in GCSE Maths.

GCSE / BTEC Science

There are now two main pathways being offered at Level 2 in Science:

1. A BTEC in Applied Science. This is a vocational science course leading to the equivalent of two GCSEs if you successfully complete all modules
2. A GCSE comprising of Core Science in followed by Additional Science in. This leads to two GCSEs and allows progression to post-16 courses.

However, if you do particularly well in Science during the rest of this year, you may be given the chance to study each strand of Science - Biology, Chemistry and Physics - separately, leading to three GCSEs.

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Your Science Teacher will be talking to you about which the most appropriate course for you is.

GCSE Languages

You will choose to study French, German or Spanish at GCSE level. If you enjoy languages and do well in it, you can pick up a second language as an Option.

The Languages GCSE course aims to develop your ability to understand and use French or Spanish for the purposes of practical communication. It enables you to understand the grammar of the language as well as developing an awareness of the nature of language and language learning. You will be asked to demonstrate skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

OCR Nationals in ICT

OCR Nationals in ICT are designed to offer students a practical, exam-free alternative to GCSE or other Level 2 qualifications.

- Unit 1 - ICT Skills for Business

This is the only mandatory unit, covering essential skills for the modern workplace, such as organisation and file management, downloading from the internet, sending and receiving emails, using spreadsheets, and database management.

- Unit 4 (optional) - Designing and producing multimedia products
- Unit 23 (optional) - Creating sound using ICT.

Assessment

All units are internally assessed by us, and then externally moderated by an OCR visiting moderator. There are no external tests or exams, and ongoing assessments and moderations can take place at any time to suit you.

GCSE Philosophy and Ethics

All students will attend one Philosophy and Ethics lesson a week and will complete the full-course GCSE in this subject. We follow the OCR Philosophy and Ethics course.

There are four units and each unit will be assessed in a 1-hour paper. Units will be assessed over Years 10 and 11.

- Paper 1 - Deity, life after death
- Paper 2 - Religion and science, good and evil
- Paper 3 - Human relationships, wealth and poverty
- Paper 4 - Peace and justice, equality.

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You will explore the religious, moral and social responses to these issues.

PSHE, Citizenship & Enterprise

The aim of these lessons is to provide you with a 'toolkit' for life. By discussing and debating issues pertinent to your future, we will enable you to make informed decisions about your lives.

Topics covered:

- Healthy lifestyles including drugs and alcohol education
- Sex and relationships education which includes sexual health and contraception
- Careers education with a focus on the work experience placement which all students will undertake in year 10
- Citizenship education deals with topics which will provide you with opportunities to develop social qualities and to increase your awareness of what it means to be a good citizen both within the school and the community.
- Enterprise deals with topics related to money management and the world of work. It is designed to prepare you for the future, giving you the skills you may require in a context you can understand.

This course does not lead to a qualification.

GCSE / BTEC Sport and Health

All our students complete two lessons a week of PE throughout Years 9, 10 and 11.

This course can lead to one of three qualifications:

- BTEC Sport
- BTEC Health & Social Care
- GCSE Physical Education.

The sports department will work with you to ensure that you follow the most appropriate course.

BTEC Sport

Sport and leisure is a growing industry, with opportunities in practical areas such as coaching, instructing and leading outdoor and adventure activities, as well as in facility management and administration. Edexcel's BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Sport is designed to introduce you to working in the sector or prepare you for further study.

You will study the following units:

- Fitness testing and training
- Anatomy and physiology for sport
- Injury in sport

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- Psychology for sports performance
- Nutrition for sports performance
- Planning and leading sports activities
- Practical sport.

BTEC Health & Social Care

The eight-unit BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care offers a specialist qualification that focuses on particular aspects of employment within the health & social care sector.

Units of study:

- Communication
- Individual rights & needs
- Cultural diversity in health & social care
- Anatomy and physiology for health & social care
- Human lifespan development
- The impact of diet on health
- Individual needs.

You will be assessed through assignments which will be set and graded by the teacher.

Students who take a BTEC will complete this in years 9 and 10. These students will then complete a leadership award in year 11.

GCSE Physical Education

This is a two-year course with several different elements. 60% will take the form of practical with the remaining 40% taken from a final written exam.

For the practical element, students will be assessed in six sports with their 4 most successful contributing towards their exam. Students do have the opportunity to be assessed in sports not offered through the school as long as it is agreed with the teacher. You will also complete a Personal Exercise Program that will contribute to 10% of your practical grade.

Students who take the GCSE will complete this in years 10 and 11. These students will complete a BTEC Level 2 Certificate in year 9. This award consists of half the units from the Level 2 Diploma (below) and equates to one GCSE at level C or above.

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Option Subjects

(these are the subjects you may choose)

GCSE Art

GCSE Business Studies

GCSE Catering

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Media Studies

BTEC Performing Arts (Acting)

BTEC Performing Arts (Music & Dance)

GCSE Product Design

BTEC Public Services

GCSE Spanish

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How the Options System works

You must choose three subjects. The options subjects are taught in three different blocks (Option X, Option Y and Option Z) and you will need to choose one subject from each block.

Everyone must choose to study History or Geography. If you want to study both of them together, you will need to make sure you choose them from different blocks. You will see that there are still a huge number of subject pathways available.

Option X	Option Y	Option Z
Catering	History	Art
Geography	Media Studies	Business Studies
History	Performing Arts (Music & Dance)	Spanish
Public Services	Product Design	Performing Arts (Acting)

The following pages will give you an insight into what taking a subject will mean.

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Options Details

GCSE Art

This popular and successful course leads to a single GCSE award. It provides opportunities for personal, creative development and the development of practical art skills. You will be encouraged to:

- Use a variety of skills and materials in two or three dimensional art
- Study and respond to the work of artists from different times and cultures
- Build up a personal portfolio and sketchbook of artwork based on continuing themes
- Communicate imaginative and original skills through your artwork.

GCSE Business Studies

Business Studies aims to teach you about the theory behind running a business. The course covers subject areas such as:

- Starting a business (aims & objectives, legal structures, business planning)
- Marketing (pricing, advertising, location of business)
- Finance (flow of money, sources of finance, calculating budgets)
- Human Resources (motivation, recruitment, organisation structure)
- Operations (methods of production, stock control).

Unit 1 - Setting up a business

This unit introduces students to issues concerning the setting up and operation of a business. It explores the activities of business and the reasons for success or failure. It encourages students to appreciate that businesses must operate within society and that this involves businesses engaging with a wide range of stakeholders who will hold differing perspectives. Written Paper (1 hour) 40 marks/25%

Unit 2 - Growing a business

This unit builds upon the content of Unit 1, allowing students to study businesses as they grow and the issues that expansion raises. Written Paper (1 hour) 60 marks/40%

Unit 3 - Investigating businesses. Controlled assessment 60 marks/35%

GCSE Catering

For the attention of all future Jamie Olivers and Nigella Lawsons!

This single GCSE is a vocational qualification that is suitable for those students who have an interest in the Catering Industry and want a broad background in this area. It would also be a good foundation for those who wish to progress to further

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education. It will offer valuable preparation for students who may want to enter the many careers in the Food Industry.

Students who take the GCSE Catering course will learn about, and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of, the following areas of study:

- The industry - types of establishments that serve food and drink
- Job roles, employment opportunities and relevant training
- Health, safety and hygiene
- Food preparation, cooking and presentation
- Nutrition and menu planning
- Costing and portion control
- Specialist equipment, both small and large scale
- Communication and record keeping
- Environmental considerations.

Assessment

60% of the final grade will come from 2 practical tasks, where students must show catering skills related to food preparation and service. Each task must be accompanied by a folder of notes that covers the investigation, planning and evaluation of the task.

40% of the final grade will come from a written examination paper (1 ¼ hours) on catering, food and the customer. This will be taken at the end of year 11.

There will be some visits to local restaurants and a catering college.

GCSE Geography

At the start of this new century, the world is facing a number of serious issues ...

- 25,000 people die every day from a lack of clean water
- Mozambique spends 10 times as much on debt repayments as on health
- As many as 500 million children under the age of 14 are part of the global work force
- The money needed to give everyone in the world enough food, water, housing, education and healthcare is estimated at about £50 billion a year
- The world's armed forces spend the same amount on weapons each month
- Each minute 15 hectares (about 15 football pitches) of tropical rainforest are cleared in the Amazon Basin killing thousands of species of flora and fauna.

What are YOU going to do about them?

GCSE Geography explores important global issues allowing you to become an informed citizen capable of making important and informed decisions. It takes an investigative approach to learning, exploring issues affecting the world today and how each person in the world can influence its development.

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You will study three units:

1. Challenges of living in a built environment
2. People and the natural world interactions
3. People, work and development.

Exams and coursework:

2 Exams (75%)
Coursework (25%)

GCSE History

There are three areas to think about before you make your decision about GCSE History:

1 Do employers value History?

'Historians are regarded as having had an education that trains their minds to assemble, organise and present facts and opinions and this is a very useful quality in many walks of life and careers... History is an excellent preparation for very many other jobs.'

2 What can studying the past do for you as a person?

Studying the people of the past can give you real insight into people alive now. It will help you understand how and why humans behave as they do when confronted with the crises of today. You'll see how many of the problems and strengths of the world today have their roots in the past. Perhaps the keys to the solutions of many of those problems can also be found in clues from the past. Who knows?

3 Will you enjoy the content of the course?

History is a useful, vital subject ... but to do your best you must enjoy your study.

So what will you study?

International History 1900-1939

- How did tension grow in Europe between 1900 and 1914?
- How did the Treaty of Versailles establish peace?
- Why did the League of Nations frequently fail in its aims to keep peace?
- How did Hitler challenge and exploit the Treaty of Versailles 1933 - March 1938?
- Why did appeasement fail to prevent the outbreak of war?

Germany 1918-1939

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- How far did the early problems of the Weimar Republic suggest that it was doomed from the start?
- How did the Nazi Party develop its ideas and organisation up to 1929?
- How was Hitler able to become Chancellor in 1933?
- How did Hitler change Germany from a democracy to a Nazi dictatorship 1933-1934?
- How did the Nazis keep control?
- How were different groups in society treated by the Nazis?

War and the Transformation of British Society 1931-51

- What was the impact on British Society of the Great Depression?
- How did the government defend Britain against German attacks in World War Two?
- How did Britain and its people contribute to the defeat of Germany?
- How was the Welfare State created in post-war Britain?

The Vietnam War

- The reasons for US involvement in Vietnam
- The nature of the conflict and reasons for US defeat
- The impact of the war on civilians and the military in the USA and in Vietnam

Remember, studying the past may just brighten your future!

GCSE Media Studies

You will study a range of texts from different media:

- Moving image (television)
- Audio (radio)
- Print (newspapers and magazines)
- Interactive (the internet)
- Live (a pop concert)
- We media (media we make ourselves)
- Guerrilla media (not paid for or illegal media)
- Convergence (when they all come together!).

You will also learn the key concepts that always need to be considered when studying the media:

- Codes and Conventions (the ingredients of a media text and their special names)
- Genre (what type of text it is)
- Representation (how the media presents and portrays things)
- Institutions (the people and organisations involved in producing and distributing the media)
- Audience (the people like you and me who consume the media).

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Coursework

You will be required to submit a folder of 6 pieces of coursework - two per assignment. These will be worth 60% of the overall marks.

- Assignment 1 - Advertising
- Assignment 2 - Cross media
- Assignment 3 - Practical production and evaluation

Examination

There will be an examination at the end of the course, which will account for the remaining 40%.

To help Media students with their studies there are a number of trips and visits arranged to coincide with the relevant topics at the time. These include trips to the BBC, Bradford Moving Image museum, cinema trips and workshop days practising filming and editing skills.

BTEC Performing Arts (Acting) / BTEC Performing Arts (Music & Dance)

There are many varied roles for individuals within the performing arts, from acting and dancing to the backstage support functions that are vital in bringing any production to realisation. Rewards for those who reach the top of their profession can be great, but competition is fierce, and dedication, determination and talent are paramount.

This qualification will provide you with a broad foundation in three main aspects of performance: acting or dance and music. The understanding and skills you acquire will help enable you to proceed into further training or education, or to consider employment in the performing arts world. The qualification aims to give you an understanding of what a career in the performing arts world can entail, from business to performance, and it enables both a practical and theoretical exploration of the various elements of performance.

Edexcel's BTEC Level 2 First Certificates and Diplomas in Performing Arts are designed to provide a broad introduction to working in the sector and offer opportunities for accessing further study, such as a BTEC National qualification or an appropriate NVQ.

GCSE Product Design

GCSE Product Design is a demanding course which encourages students to design and make original products creatively using thinking, drawing, modelling and practical workshop skills and a range of materials in response to design and problem solving challenges. The end result of this design and make process will be a prototype of a product as an example of what could be suitable for manufacturing.

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The units of work/study are:

1. A 2 hour written exam which gives 120 marks, 40% of the GCSE total marks.

Section A: Design question which requires a design response (30 marks)

Section B: Questions testing knowledge and understanding of materials and processes used including wood, metal, plastics, card, and paper (90 marks)

2. Controlled Assessment which gives 90 marks, 60% of the GCSE total marks.

A single design and make project (45 hours total time spent in a school workshop designing and making). The project consists of developing ideas into a made object (prototype) with a concise design folder to explain and show how the design works. The design folder should consist of:

- 20 pages of A3 paper or 40 pages of A4 paper work and consists of design work which can be hand-drawn or computer generated, written work of research done and explanation of your design activities and photographs of your work.

BTEC Public Services

The UK's Public Services industry is one of the largest employers in the country. It works to develop and implement government policies and helps deliver a huge range of services to the public. Edexcel's BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Public Services is designed to introduce and develop the interpersonal skills, knowledge and understanding required to work or train in the public sector. You will study the following units:

- Public Service Skills
- Employment in the Uniformed Public Services
- Career Planning for the Public Services
- Volunteering in Public Services

You will be assessed through a variety of assignments set and graded by your teacher.

GCSE Spanish - see entry in core subjects

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Frequently Asked Questions

I keep seeing the words ‘Level 2’. What does this mean?

Level 2 is the equivalent of a GCSE grade C and above. It is the level you need to get to if you want to go on to higher education (Level 3) at the end of Key Stage 4. If you get five subjects at Level 2, you can apply to schools and colleges for 6th Form places, although most of them will want that to include English and Maths.

What is the difference between GCSEs, BTECs and OCR Nationals?

In terms of level, there is no difference. All three offer Level 2 qualifications. BTECs and OCR do not have final exams, but are based on internal controlled assessment and coursework. It is worth bearing in mind that the BTEC was designed to be more vocational; if you take BTEC Science, you are unlikely to be able to go on to study Science at A Level. However, many BTECs are now offered at Level 3, and a mix of GCSEs and BTECs is appropriate for the majority of students. A bonus with BTECs and OCR Nationals is that they can lead to the equivalent of two or even four GCSEs. This is worth bearing in mind if you are not sure you will get high grades in all your subjects.

I don’t think I am that academic. I want the chance to do well in more vocational subjects. How flexible is the curriculum?

Your curriculum has been designed to offer as wide a choice as possible to as many students as possible. However, if you still have concerns, you should choose your Option subjects as you have been asked to. When you have your interview in March, tell the teacher that you are worried. It may be that you do not take a humanities subject but are given another, more vocational subject.

I am pretty sure I want to go on to higher education and university. What should I do now?

If you are likely to do well academically, you should keep your future as open as possible. GCSE Science will mean that you can go on to study Medicine, Engineering and Veterinary Science. Studying two languages is popular with good universities and will be highly regarded by any employer.

What happens if I choose a subject but find out it’s not for me?

This may well happen, particularly if you have chosen a new subject. We will give you a few weeks in September to settle in. During this time it is often possible to switch to another subject. However, this can be disrupting, so we hope you will think carefully about your choices now!

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Key People and Sources of Information

You have already taken in a lot of information. Now is the time to start talking! The following people have a lot of experience and many of them know you well:

At school

- Form Tutor / Head of Key Stage
- Subject Teachers / Heads of Department
- Sixth-Form students
- Senior Leadership Team

At home

- Parents/Carers
- Friends / Relatives

However, it is really important to remember that this is your future. You shouldn't pick subjects just because your friend is taking it, or because you think you are expected to. It is always a good idea to do a bit of research yourself. Exam boards are a good place to start:

- www.aqa.org.uk
- www.edexcel.org.uk
- www.ocr.org.uk

The following website is also full of information and has an online quiz you can take to find out about yourself:

- www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/Years10And11

Surrey runs a careers advice service called Connexions. This area on the site is specifically for Year 8s and 9s looking at choosing the KS4 options. It provides a breakdown of things to consider:

- www.connexions-direct.com/whichwaynow

The questions I still need to ask are:

.....

.....

The people I need to ask are:

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My Curriculum for Year 9

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

Core subjects:

English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Languages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maths	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Philosophy and Ethics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PSHE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sports & Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Options subjects: You must put one tick in each column (X, Y and Z).
Either History or Geography must be marked somewhere in the grid:

Option X		Option Y		Option Z	
Catering	<input type="checkbox"/>	History	<input type="checkbox"/>	Art	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	Media Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>
History	<input type="checkbox"/>	Performing Arts (Music & Dance)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Product Design	<input type="checkbox"/>	Performing Arts (Acting)	<input type="checkbox"/>

My reserve subject is:

Please hand this form in to your Form Tutor by Tuesday 15 February