

KS4 Options 2026



KS4 Options 2026

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KS4 Options 2026

Dear Students and Parents

‘KS4 Options 2026’ is a practical guide to help you make informed choices about courses of study at Lancaster Academy in KS4. It gives information about compulsory and optional subjects we offer. These are combinations of subjects and courses from a traditional academic programme through to practical hands-on courses designed to give you a strong foundation of workplace skills. Also included in this booklet are details of compulsory programmes in English, Mathematics, Science and Religious Studies as well as information about the wider range of GCSE and other courses you may choose to follow.

Choosing the right range of programmes now is vitally important. These are building blocks for the future and what you choose now will open or close opportunities at sixteen and beyond. In making your selection, think about:

- Areas of learning you enjoy
- Subjects which will help you with the career you have in mind
- Ways in which you can become more fully involved in school life.

At Lancaster, we take pride in offering the best opportunities we can for each and every student to develop the skills for lifelong learning and the personal qualities to get the most from life. We believe that education is a partnership; our commitment is to provide learning which is enjoyable, disciplined and which challenges students to achieve beyond their expectations. In return, we expect hard work and commitment from our students and value the support and encouragement of parents.

Mrs C Walsh
Assistant Principal

KS4 Options 2026

Key dates

Wednesday 4 th March 2026	READY FOR THE FUTURE DAY including 'Options Assembly' along with issue of this 'KS4 Options 2025' booklet
Tuesday 17 th March 2026	Y8 Parents' Evening
Weeks beginning 9 th /16 th March 2026	Normal lessons during this time will include extra information on the various options subjects on offer in KS4.
Monday 23 rd March 2026	Deadline for completion of options choices on-line or return of paper option forms to the Academy.
July 2026	Students informed of option subjects they have been allocated for study in KS4.

Please note that demand for some courses is usually high and although we try very hard, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to study your first choice options. We also reserve the right to withdraw any course that attracts low numbers.

Introduction

Your choice of which subjects and qualifications to study in KS4 will affect how you spend your remaining time at the academy. It will also influence your career or the college course you do later on.

Which way now?

Choosing which subjects and qualifications to study in KS4 can seem a daunting prospect. Don't panic! There's lots of information and advice to help you choose what's right for you.

What sort of person are you?

To help you decide what to study in KS4, it's a good idea to start by asking yourself what sort of person you are, what you enjoy doing and what you're good at:

- Think about what you're like at home, as well as in the academy – what skills have you developed outside the academy?
- Ask yourself what types of activity you enjoy most – for example, working things out and thinking them through, practical activities or artistic options such as painting, drawing or performing music.
- Think about what you are most interested in – it could be other cultures and languages, writing projects, helping people, being outdoors or designing things.

What do you want to do?

If you've got a particular career in mind, or you're hoping to go to university, then it's worth finding out if there are specific subjects you need to study.

What's the best way for you to learn?

Studying at KS4 isn't always about GCSEs. You may also choose work related (vocational) qualifications such as BTECs, Cambridge Nationals or other technical awards.

Subjects are taught in different ways and it may be that one teaching method suits you more than others.

Where can you get help and advice?

Most people look for advice when making important decisions. When it comes to choosing subjects and careers, you'll find there are many people ready to help you – but it's important for you to do as much as you can to research all the options.

Careers Advisors

External careers advisors can be contacted by webchat, email, text or telephone. For details go to the National Careers Service website (<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>)

People at the Academy

There are many people at the academy who can help:

- Ms. Hurst is the lead teacher for careers in the Academy. She will happily chat to

you about your options.

- You can book an appointment to speak with our Connexions advisor through Ms. Hurst to seek extra advice and guidance.
- Subject teachers who know exactly what studying a subject in KS4 will involve and can advise whether it's right for you.
- The Learning Support Team can arrange support if you have a disability or learning difficulty which affects your studies.
- Your Head of Year, Student Support Worker or members of the Senior Team can offer additional guidance.

Choosing subjects to study

In KS4, you'll be studying a mixture of subjects which you must take (compulsory) and subjects you can choose between (optional).

What's compulsory?

Some subjects are so important that everybody has to do them. This is because they cover the essential knowledge and skills that everyone needs for the future.

The subjects you'll have to take exams in are:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Religious Studies

These are usually taken at GCSE level.

All students study English Literature alongside GCSE English. There are some other subjects that you have to study but are not examined:

- Physical Education (P.E.)
- Personal & Social Development (PSD)

What's optional?

The subjects that you can choose between are called **OPTIONAL SUBJECTS**. Lancaster is able to offer a variety of options in different areas. You will find detailed information on all optional subjects later in this booklet.

Qualifications

Qualifications at KS4 are of two main types – general academic qualifications such as GCSEs and vocational qualifications which are more hands-on and coursework-based qualifications that allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding in a work-related context. Both types of qualification can be aimed at Level 1 and Level 2 learners. Level 1 learners typically achieve the lower GCSE grades which prepares them for further study at level 2 at a FE College. Level 2 learners typically achieve the higher GCSE grades which prepare them for Level 3 courses such as A levels at College or schools with a sixth form.

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English Baccalaureate

If you are considering an A-level route after Lancaster, you should be aware of the EBacc. The EBacc is not a qualification itself but a particular group of GCSE subjects that can be looked on favourably by universities and 'keep doors open' if you're unsure about what you want to do in the future. To qualify for the EBacc you have to pick a Language (like French or Spanish) and either History or Geography within your options.

Computer Science

Success in Computer Science is linked to being an able mathematician. You need to be capable of attaining a minimum of a Grade 5 in Maths to opt for Computer Science. You will need to show a strong passion for computers and learning about how the machines we interact with every day, actually work.

Summary of subjects

Compulsory Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science or Triple Science (high maths/science ability needed)
- Religious Studies

GCSE Subjects

- Computer Science (high maths ability needed)
- Geography
- History
- Modern Foreign Languages:
 - French
 - Spanish
- Art (Fine Art)
- Business
- Design Technology

Vocational (work related) Subjects

- Cambridge National in Health & Social Care
- BTEC Travel & Tourism
- BTEC Music
- BTEC in Performing Arts
- Cambridge National in Sports Studies
- Vocational Award in Hospitality & Catering

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GCSE English Language

For more information see: Mrs Mason-Saunders

This qualification:	
IS COMPULSORY	✓
Counts in the EBacc	✓

Qualification: AQA GCSE English Language (9-1)

Assessment:

- 2 terminal exams in Y11
 - Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
 - Paper 2 Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
- Non-assessed Spoken Language assessment

Brief content:

In Paper 1, Section A, Students will read an extract from a literature fiction text and then answer questions to help them consider how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers. In Section B, Students will write their own creative text, inspired by the text they have read. The writing will demonstrate their narrative or descriptive skills in response to a written prompt.

In Paper 2 - Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

In Section A, Students will read two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to examine how each writer presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader.

In Section B, Students will produce a piece of writing for a specific audience, purpose and form in which they give their own perspective on the theme that they were introduced to in Section A.

Non-Examination Assessment: Spoken Language:

Students will complete a range of assessments which will be graded and reported on outside of their final English language and Literature grade. They will be assessed on formal speech and presentation styles and will need to be able to respond to questions and feedback. All students will need to be recorded as part of the examination board's requirements.

Everyone has to do this course. It will help you to:

- Work independently / be creative / think critically / communicate your ideas with confidence / think logically

This could lead to a career as a:

sports journalist – lawyer – film director – public relations executive – fashion journalist – author – newsreader – politician – actor – architect – creative director – scriptwriter

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GCSE English Literature

For more information see: Mrs Mason-Saunders

This qualification:	
IS COMPULSORY	✓
Counts in the EBacc	✓

Qualifications: AQA GCSE English Language (9-1)

Assessment:

- 2 terminal exams in Y11
 - Shakespeare and a 19th Century novel
 - Modern texts and poetry

Brief content:

Paper 1 has two sections:

In section A, you will answer one question on a Shakespeare play (**Macbeth**).

In section B, the 19th century novel, you will answer one question on a specific novel (**A Christmas Carol**)

Paper 2 has three sections

In section A, you will answer one essay question on a modern text – **An Inspector Calls** (J.B. Priestley)

In section B, Poetry, you will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from your chosen anthology cluster.

In section C, you will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem

This is an ideal course for you as it will help you to:

- Work independently
- Make links about information in a wider context.
- Become a problem solver
- Think critically
- Communicate your ideas with confidence
- Think logically

This could lead to a career as a:

Freelance writer- public relations executive- journalism- legal profession - performing arts - fashion journalist – author – actor – creative director – scriptwriter

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GCSE Mathematics

For more information see: Mrs B Patel

This qualification:	
IS COMPULSORY	✓
Counts in the EBacc	✓

Qualifications: AQA GCSE Mathematics (9-1)

The aims of the mathematics GCSE course are to enable students to:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

Assessment:

The course is examined at the end of KS4 through three examination papers, each worth one third of the final grade, and one and a half hours long. Paper 1 is non-calculator, and both papers 2 and 3 allow the use of a calculator. All three papers have a variety of question styles throughout the paper. There will be a period of revision, including working through sample assessment materials, prior to the examinations.

GCSE Mathematics can be taken at either Foundation or Higher tier, with the following grades available:

Foundation: grades 1 – 5 Higher: grades 4 – 9

Brief content:

Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. Numeracy skills are needed in most jobs such as being able to do basic calculations, to make sense of data in graphs and charts, to have a basic understanding of probability

Through the three years of the GCSE, there are six main areas of study:

Number; algebra; ratio, proportion and rates of change; geometry and measure; probability; and statistics.

This could lead to a career as an:

animator, special effects director, computer scientist, computer games designer, forensic scientist, astronaut, cryptanalyst, statistician, architect, doctor, fashion designer, astronomer, science journalist, meteorologist, environmental consultant, stockbroker, interior designer, car designer, political scientist, petroleum engineer, aeronautical engineer

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GCSE Combined/Triple Science

For more information see: Mrs Riley

This qualification:	
IS COMPULSORY	✓
Counts in the EBacc	✓

Qualifications: AQA GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy - Two GCSEs, 9-9 to 1-1)
Triple: AQA GCSE Biology, (9-1); AQA GCSE Chemistry, (9-1);
AQA GCSE Physics, (9-1)

Assessment: 6 terminal exams in Y11 (2 papers in Biology, 2 in Chemistry
and 2 in Physics)

Brief content:

The topics studied are as follows:

Biology: Cell biology / Organisation / Infection and response / Bioenergetics / Homeostasis
and response / Inheritance, variation and evolution / Ecology

Chemistry: Atomic structure and the periodic table / Bonding, structure, and the properties
of matter / Quantitative chemistry / Chemical changes / Energy changes / The rate and
extent of chemical change / Organic chemistry / Chemical analysis / Chemistry of the
atmosphere / Using resources

Physics: Energy / Electricity / Particle model of matter / Atomic structure / Forces / Waves /
Magnetism and electromagnetism

This is an ideal course for you as you:

- will study real-life issues
- will discover why the world is as it is
- will be gaining skills for studying Science related courses at college e.g. BTECs
- may want to pursue vocational qualifications/training at college and want to be familiar with basic scientific principles underpinning certain fields
- may want to study Science related courses at university

This could lead to a career in:

- Medicine / Pharmacology / Dentistry / Optometry / Veterinary science / Marine Biology / Engineering / Forensics / Aeronautics / Teaching / Sports Science/ Physiotherapy / Nursing / Physiology / Electronics / Plumbing / Design / Architecture / Any science related field

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GCSE Religious Studies

This qualification:	
IS COMPULSORY	✓
Counts in the EBacc	

For more information see: Mr Boyd

Qualification: WJEC Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies (9-1) Route A

Assessment:

The course is assessed by terminal examinations as follows:

- Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World.
Written examination: 2 hours 50% of qualification
- Component 2: Study of Christianity. Written examination: 1 hour 25% of qualification
- Component 3: Study of a World Faith. Written examination: 1 hour 25% of qualification

Brief content:

Component 1 covers the theme of Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World. You will study 4 themes:

- Theme 1: Relationships
- Theme 2: Life and Death
- Theme 3: Good and Evil
- Theme 4: Human Rights

In component 2 you will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and in component 3 you will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam

This is an ideal course for you as:

- It is a subject that will help you in many areas of life as it promotes your understanding of other cultures whilst developing you to be **READY** for your future.
- Religious Studies will
 - Give you an understanding of other people allowing you to develop **RESPECT** for others.
 - Allow you to display an appreciation for different beliefs making you **EMPLOYABLE** and desirable to organisations.
 - Develop your own opinions and show your **ACCOUNTABILITY** for your own ideas and thoughts.
 - Allow you to develop your understanding of the **DIVERSITY** of the world you live in.
 - Develop your ability to interact with others fully in the world and show **YOUNG AMBASSADORSHIP**.
 - Discuss Modern day issues relevant to society
 - Increase your tolerance & understanding of different beliefs

This could lead to a career as a: Secondary school teacher / Charity Officer / Advice Worker / Counsellor / Civil Servant / Clergyman / Mediator / International aid/development worker

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GCSE Computer Science

For more information see: Ms Ali

Qualification : OCR GCSE Computer Science (9-1)

Assessment: 2 exams at end of Year 11 (100%).

There are two exam papers at the end of the syllabus, one focusing on Computer Systems and one with a focus on Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming. Each paper lasts 1hour and 30mins and is worth 50% of the total GCSE.

Brief content:

Computers are everywhere. Technology has evolved so much in the past 15 years, with jobs available now that didn't even exist in early 2000s. Learning the science of computers, how they work, how to get them to work will be a hugely valuable skill to future proof your career. This is what we will study in Computer Science:

COMPUTER SYSTEMS (1): This component will introduce learners to the Central Processing Unit (CPU); computer memory and storage; data representation; wired and wireless networks; network topologies; system security; system software; moral, ethical and legal considerations of computing

COMPUTATIONAL THINKING, ALGORITHMS AND PROGRAMMING (2): Learners will be introduced to decomposition; abstraction; algorithms; pattern recognition; programming techniques; how to produce robust programs; testing; computational logic; translators and facilities of computing languages

This is an ideal course if you want to gain:

- Be future proof in choosing a career
- Skills in problem-solving, logical thinking and teamwork
- Understanding of how computing and technology are in every part of our lives

This could lead to a career as a:

- Cyber Security Specialist / Forensic Computer Analyst
- Software / Hardware / Computer Engineer
- Computer Programmer / Ethical Hacker
- Games Programmer / App Developer / Games Designer
- Artificial Intelligence / Robotics
- Website Designer
- Content Creator on Youtube/ Patreon or Discord .

You must be capable of attaining a 'Grade 5' in mathematics to study this subject

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	
Is a general qualification	✓
Is a vocational qualification	
Counts in the EBacc	✓

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GCSE Geography

For more information see: Mrs Johnson

Qualification: AQA GCSE Geography

Assessment: 3 terminal examination papers in Year 11

Brief content:

The aim of the course is to promote a greater understanding of the world and the interaction between people and their environments.

The study of geography stimulates an interest in and a sense of wonder about places which inspire you to become global citizens. Geography helps you make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world. It explains where places are, how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected.

The course covers:

Living with the physical environment: The challenge of natural hazards / The living world / Physical landscapes in the UK

Challenges in the human environment: Urban issues and challenges / The changing economic world / The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications: Issue evaluation / Fieldwork

This is an ideal course for you if you:

- Enjoy Geography and like studying real-life issues
- Want to follow either a science or arts related career
- Want to study Geography at A level and university
- Want to develop a greater understanding of the world and the interaction between people and their environment

This could lead to a career in:

Teaching / Architecture / Surveying / Retail / Tourism / Leisure industries eg sport and recreation / the Military / the Civil service and Local Government / Logistics and distribution / International Aid – as, for example, a Development worker / Nature Conservation / Cartography (maps) / Environmental consultancy / Planning and development surveying / Town planning.

Geographers have one of the highest rates of graduate employment, pursuing a wide range of career paths. Put simply, there is no such thing as a 'geography job'; rather there are multiple jobs that geographers do.

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	✓
Is a vocational qualification	
Counts in the EBacc	✓

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GCSE History

For more information see: Mr Afzal

Qualification:

Edexcel GCSE History (9-1)

Assessment:

The qualification is assessed by three externally examined papers at the end of Year 11.

Brief content:

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment (*Medicine Through Time & British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: Injuries, treatments & trenches*).

- Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes,
- 30% of the qualification

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study (*Cold War & Anglo-Saxons & Normans*).

- Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes,
- 40% of the qualification

Paper 3: Modern depth study (*Weimar & Nazi Germany*).

- Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes,
- 30% of the qualification.

This is an ideal course for you if you want to:

- Understand reasons why change took place & how the society we live in came to be
- Develop your independent & critical thinking skills
- Enhance your debating, reasoning and use of evidence skills
- A greater understanding and awareness of our identity
- Develop the ability to critically judge different interpretations
- Understand modern day conflicts and their links to History
- Develop skills that are valuable to employers
- Challenge incorrect misconceptions
- Develop Skills for life

This could lead to a career in: Teaching, Research, Politics, Journalism, Lawyers, Police Force, Research Analyst, Editorial Assistant, Heritage Manager, Policy adviser, Archaeologist

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	✓
Is a vocational qualification	
Counts in the EBacc	✓

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GCSE Modern Foreign Languages: French and Spanish

For more information see: Mrs Sinnott (Spanish) and Miss Aimeur (French)

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	✓
Is a vocational qualification	
Counts in the EBacc	✓

Qualifications: Edexcel GCSE French, grades 9 – 1

Edexcel GCSE Spanish, grades 9 – 1

Assessment: Four papers in year 11 in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. All skills have an assessed weighting of 25%.

Brief content: The content themes of the course are:

1. Identity and Culture;
2. Local Area, Holiday and Travel;
3. School;
4. Future Aspirations, Study and Work;
5. International and Global Dimension;

This is an ideal course for you if you:

- Have an interest in communication
- Enjoy learning other languages
- Wish to complete an EBACC qualification
- Wish to study further at university – as a pure degree or in combination with another subject.
- Wish to add a quantifiable skill to your *curriculum vitae* in order to better promote yourself to future employers
- Wish to have a career working with other people from other cultures
- Enjoy making links between languages and culture
- Have an interest in travel and the wider world

This could lead to a career in:

- Law – Engineering – Marketing and Advertising – Retail & Manufacturing – import and exports – The Armed Forces - Communication intelligence – Teaching – Translation & Interpreting – The Diplomatic Service – The Civil Service – Customs & Excise, Journalism & Media – Charity work – Education – Air traffic control – Genealogist – Catering & Hospitality – Human resources – Public relations

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GCSE Art (Fine Art)

For more information see: Ms Sculley

Qualification: AQA GCSE Fine Art (9-1)

Assessment:

There are four assessment objectives:

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	✓
Is a vocational qualification	
Counts in the EBacc	

3 Coursework projects equal 60% of your overall grade and a 10 hour final exam in which you will produce a personal response, 40% of the overall grade

Brief content:

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of fine art media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies

You will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of Fine Art, from the past and from recent times, which should be integral to the investigating and making process. Students will produce final pieces (responses) to these examples through practical and critical activities which demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions

You may want to work in one or more area(s) of Fine Art, such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:

- Painting and drawing
- Mixed media, including collage and assemblage
- Sculpture
- Land art
- Installation
- Printmaking: relief, intaglio, screen processes and lithography
- Lens-based and/or light-based media and new media: film, television, animation, video and photography

This is an ideal course for you if you:

Enjoy painting and drawing for pleasure, have a good standard of skill and a creative imagination

This could lead to a career in:

Art based careers, teaching, design related jobs such as graphic design, illustration, gaming art, media and marketing art working, artwork or photography for industries such as music and film.

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GCSE Business

For more information see: Mr Mulla

Qualification : EDEXCEL GCSE Business (9-1)

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	✓
Is a vocational qualification	
Counts in the EBacc	

Assessment: 2 exams at end of Year 11 (100%).

There are two exam papers at the end of the syllabus, focusing on Investigating Small Businesses and Building a Business. Each paper lasts 1 hour and 45mins and is worth 50% of the total GCSE.

Brief content:

Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business. Students will be introduced to local and national business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions. Local contexts refer specifically to small businesses or those operating in a single UK location and national contexts relate to businesses operating in more than one location or across the UK.

Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows. Students will be introduced to national and global business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions. National contexts build on those in Theme 1 and relate to businesses operating in more than one location or across the UK. Global contexts relate to non-UK or transnational businesses.

This is an ideal course if you want to gain:

- Be future proof in choosing a career
- Skills in problem-solving, logical thinking and teamwork
- Understanding of how businesses can range from small to big and the different elements to running a business.

This could lead to a career as a:

- Business Analyst
- Business Development Manager
- Business Owner
- Accountant
- Public Relations officer
- Human Resource Manager

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GCSE Design and Technology

For more information see: Miss Boota

Qualification: WJEC Eduqas GCSE Design and Technology (9-1)

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	✓
Is a vocational qualification	
Counts in the EBacc	

Assessment:

- Paper 1: 2 hours 50% of GCSE
- Non-examination assessment (NEA) 50% of GCSE

The NEA comprises of a project to create working prototype which will be evaluated and tested.

Brief content:

GCSE Design and Technology is a practical and academic course which will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. This course encourages students to be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques.

Throughout Year 9 and Year 10 you will explore a wide variety of technical skills as well as key theory work related to properties of materials, manufacturing techniques used in industry as well as some physics and maths content.

In Year 11 you will complete a large design project for the NEA (non-examined assessment) that is set in June of Year 10 by the exam board. You will work to develop a design solution to the set design context. Research, sketching and modelling are used to develop a design idea, and a range of manufacturing methods used to create a working prototype of your own design.

This is an ideal course for you if you:

- Are a creative person and want to learn a wide variety of materials and techniques
- Have an interest in textiles, electronics and product design
- Want to learn a variety of transferable skills

This could lead to a career in:

Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Fashion and Textiles, Product Design, Graphic Design and Interior Design

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Cambridge National in Health & Social Care

For more information see: Ms Levison

Qualification: Cambridge National L1/L2 Health and Social Care

Assessment:

You will complete two coursework units which are outlined below.
You will also sit an externally assessed exam at the end of year 11

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	
Is a vocational qualification	✓
Counts in the EBacc	

Brief content:

Internally assessed Units (Year 10 and 11)

Supporting individuals through life events: This unit is assessed by a Set Assignment. In this unit you will learn about growth and development through the life stages. You will also learn how to understand the needs of individuals who have been affected by life events and how to recommend support to meet their needs. Topics include: Topic Area 1 Life stages, Topic Area 2 Impacts of life events and Topic Area 3 Sources of support

Creative and therapeutic activities: This unit is assessed by a Set Assignment. In this unit you will research therapies and learn about how they can benefit people. You will also learn about the benefits of creative activities and you will plan and deliver a creative activity to a group or individual. Topics include: Topic Area 1 Therapies and their benefits. Topic Area 2 Creative activities and their benefits. Topic Area 3 Plan a creative activity for individuals or groups in a health or social care setting o Topic Area 4 Deliver a creative activity and evaluate your own performance

Externally assessed Unit (Year 11) Principles of care in health and social care settings.

This unit is assessed by an exam. In this unit you will learn about the key topics that are important when caring for and protecting people in health and social care. Topics include: o Topic Area 1 The rights of service users in health and social care settings. Topic Area 2 Person-centred values. Topic Area 3 Effective communication in health and social care settings. Topic Area 4 Protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings

This is an ideal course for you if you:

- want to develop practical, transferable skills
- want a practical introduction to life and work in Health and Social Care
- want a well-rounded foundation for further study

This could lead to a career in:

- Any of the Health and Social care sectors such as a healthcare assistant, nurse, midwife, social services officer, outreach development worker, homecare support worker

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BTEC Travel and Tourism

For more information see: Mr Afzal

Qualification:

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	
Is a vocational qualification	✓
Counts in the EBacc	

Assessment:

This qualification is equivalent to one GCSE. It is designed for students who want to include a study of key areas within the travel and tourism sector as part of their broader Key Stage 4 curriculum, and who want to develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context. The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 TECH Award includes an externally assessed unit in the core and two internally assessed assessments (Component 1 & Component 2). Internal assessment enables learners to further develop their research & independent working skills in order to effectively prepare them for their exams and the next stage of their journey. This is a really enjoyable course that provides lots of life skills and enriching experiences throughout the period of study.

Brief content:

Three mandatory units underpinning knowledge and practical skills:

Component 1: Travel & Tourism Organisations and destinations. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the UK Travel & Tourism industry whilst exploring popular visitor destinations.

Component 2: Customer needs in Travel & Tourism. – Students will demonstrate an understanding of how organisations identify customer needs and Travel & Tourism trends whilst recognising how the needs and preferences of differing Travel & Tourism customers are met

Component 3: Influences on Global Travel & Tourism. – Students will demonstrate an understanding of the different factors that influence global Travel & Tourism, how organisations & destinations respond to these whilst assessing the impacts of tourism on global destinations and organisations. Students will study Tourism control, development and sustainable tourism.

This is an ideal course for you if you:

- Enjoy doing course work and learning about different places.
- Learn about different places & people and the connections they have with them
- Would like to develop a range of skills and personal attributes essential in working life such as planning, group work, presentations, creating documents, research

This could lead to a career in:

Any aspect of work in Travel and Tourism settings such as a Holiday Representative | Tour Manager | Tourism Officer | Tourist Information Centre Manager | Travel Agency Manager
Running your own travel agency business | Air Cabin Crew | Pilot | Hotel & Catering

BTEC Music

For more information see: Miss Mapletoft

Qualification: Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Brief content and assessment: Coursework in 3 components.

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	
Is a vocational qualification	✓
Counts in the EBacc	

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles - Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles - Internal assessment

Component 2: Music Skills Development - Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement - Internal assessment

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief - Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief - External assessment

All students that pick music will have the opportunity to have a private music lesson in groups of 3 or less so that they can master their instrument. 10-20 minutes practice a day is needed to accompany this.

This is an ideal course for you if you:

- Have a flair for playing instruments, singing or rapping.
- Read music and understand basic music theory.
- Would like to perform and create music
- Can write about the work you are doing.
- Can research and work independently.
- Hardworking and dedicated to working on your musical instrument in your own time.

This could lead to a career in:

- performing
- songwriting
- composing
- live music entertainment
- music education
- music production
- artist management
- marketing and PR
- music journalism.

KS4 Options 2026

BTEC Performing Arts (Drama)

For more information see: Mr I Anderson

Qualification: BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	
Is a vocational qualification	✓
Counts in the EBacc	

Brief content and assessment:

In year nine we will simulate the coursework that our learners attempt in year ten and eleven. We will learn how to approach scripts from a diverse range of theatre styles as professional actors do. We will also explore how plays are devised from stimuli to produce theatre that highlights social and political issues. Our approach in year nine has been developed to incite confidence with acting skills and form good knowledge of the KS4 course content and assessment strategies. Work in year ten and eleven will be based on practical acting lessons.

In year ten and eleven, learners will be assessed in the following components:

Component 1: Learners will study a number of professional performances, before selecting one to complete an investigative report on how the play has been created, then developed for the stage. Learners will then follow a rehearsal process and perform an extract from the chosen play. **(30% of final mark)**

Component 2: Learners will develop their acting skills by choosing a script to perform. They will be assessed through rehearsal, performance and evaluation. **(30% of final mark)**

Component 3: Learners will be asked to work in groups and devise a piece of theatre from a stimulus provided by the exam board. **(40% of final mark)**

This is an ideal course if you can:

- Work well in groups
- Use your imagination to develop work
- Work independently from your teacher
- Use home learning time effectively
- Be resilient towards performance preparation
- Prepared to develop extended writing skills

This could lead to a career as a:

Actor/Teacher/Creative Arts Worker/Public Relations/Coach/Team Leader/Sales Advisor/Marketing/Television and Media worker/Film

KS4 Options 2026

Cambridge National in Sports Studies

For more information see: Mr Hajat

Qualification: Cambridge National L1/L2 Sports Studies

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	
Is a vocational qualification	✓
Counts in the EBacc	

Assessment:

Three units are studied and assessed through a mixture of internally assessed and externally moderated portfolios of evidence and an externally set and assessed question paper.

The qualification as a whole is out of 200 Marks

X2 Mandatory units = 80 marks each (160)

X1 One optional unit = 40 Marks

Brief content:

- R184 (Mandatory) Contemporary Issues in Sport (40%) – (Externally assessed Exam)
- R185 (Mandatory) Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities (40%) – Practical Leadership and sport + Coursework
- R187 (Optional Unit) Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities (20%) – Practical + Coursework

This is an ideal course for you if you:

- Enjoy Physical Education
- Want to know about how to produce and carry out a fitness training programme
- Want to study a BTEC or equivalent at college
- Want to study Sport at university

This could lead to a career in:

- The Sport and Leisure Industry
- Teaching PE
- Fitness instructing

KS4 Options 2026

Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

For more information see: Miss S Patel

Qualification: WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering (Technical Award)

This qualification:	
Is suitable for Level 2 learners	✓
Is suitable for Level 1 learners	✓
Is a general qualification	
Is a vocational qualification	✓
Counts in the EBacc	

Assessment:

Assessment is completed through an exam which is worth 40% and a controlled assessment piece of coursework which includes a practical assessment of cooking skills worth 60%. By the end of the course, you will receive one of eight outcomes – Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*.

Brief content:

Unit 1 (40% Exam paper) enables you to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety.

Unit 2 (60% NEA Coursework) enables you to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. You will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. You will also learn how to review your work effectively.

Overall in this qualification you will develop a range of transferable skills attractive to employers, colleges and universities including, communication, confidence, learning independently, organisation, problem solving, research, self-discipline, stamina, taking on responsibility and time management. please note that not all lessons will be practical based, **theory is a crucial part of the course to prepare you for the NEA coursework and written exam.**

This is an ideal course for you if you: want to develop the essential skills to move into employment, training and further education. You could move onto NVQ's, BTEC Hospitality and Catering courses, Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition as well as a vast range of jobs.

This could lead to a career as a:

- Dietician / Food technologist
- Chef de partie / Commis chef
- Concierge / Executive chef
- Front of house manager /Head waiter
- Pastry chef / Sous chef