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A message from The Headteacher

Welcome to a hugely significant moment in your education. The options process is a time of great possibility, of tough decisions, and of serious self-reflection. The latter is the most crucial – take the time to identify what you really want from your education – and treat these choices with care. Get them right, and they can go a long way to unlocking your academic potential and to ensuring you enjoy lessons and thrive at school.

Within your options, consider what you might need for your future. Many of you will be undecided about your future pathways at this stage – the best analogy is packing your bag before setting off on an adventure. What do you need to survive in any situation? The essentials: the torch, tent, sleeping bag, food, water. In many ways those essentials are taken care of. You will all study English, Maths, Science, PE, and PSHE. So the subjects you choose are your specialisms – your equipment that is specific to you and your future journey. Do you pack a rope, first aid kit, and camera? What kind of adventure are you going on? The truth is that none of us know – and you may not yet be able to predict the path you will follow.

The best advice is to pick as widely as possible, to be prepared for the widest range of possibilities. What is also crucial, is that you pick based on valid criteria that makes sense to you. These could be from the following: do you have a particular strength or talent you want to really excel at? Are you interested in learning more about a specific subject? Is that subject a good route to a future career you want to pursue? Do you know older students who have already studied the course and given you some experience of what it is all about? Have you looked at the subjects that continue into Sixth Form? Have you listened to the advice around university admissions and which subjects they are looking for?

In short – there is much to ponder. One piece of advice would be to embrace this and treat it as an opportunity – and I know it's easy to become overwhelmed by the possibilities. The most important thing is that you pick the courses that make you happy, that make you love to learn, and wake up on Monday morning smiling to come to school. We all do our best when we are happy.

Mr Harrold
Head Teacher

AN INTRODUCTION TO KEY STAGE 4.

Key Stage 4 covers Years 10 and 11 of a student's school life. At this point, to some extent at least, they can start deciding which subjects to continue and which to drop. Whilst some courses are compulsory others are optional and thus selecting the subjects to study is known as 'Options'.

Students should aim to make selections for Key Stage 4 which will support progression to Key Stage 5 AND for life beyond education.

Before making subject choices for Years 10 and 11, students it is important to understand the following:

- Which subjects are compulsory at Key Stage 4,
- Which subjects are available as optional courses,
- What each of the optional courses contains and reasons why you may enjoy it,
- Options restrictions and the E-Bacc (The English Baccalaureate).

The pages in this document should provide you with the answers to these questions.

The bulk of Options information is available on-line. Students, staff, parents and carers can access it on Firefly in the Year 9 area under 'Options'.

A separate Careers information booklet is available which has links to many websites offering information on a wide range of post 16, post 18 opportunities and careers for later life. This is available on Firefly in the Year 9 area.

QUALIFICATIONS AVAILABLE AT KS4

All qualifications are referred to by a level. These levels are from The National Qualifications Framework, which is outlined below:

- Level 1 - Qualifications equivalent to GCSE grades 1 to 4.
- Level 2 - Qualifications equivalent to GCSE grades 5 to 9.
- Level 3 - Qualifications equivalent to A Levels.
- Level 4 - Qualifications equivalent to degree level.
- Level 5 - Qualifications beyond degree level.

The KS4 courses offered at Blatchington Mill are at levels 1 and 2; these are mostly GCSEs but some BTECs and other accredited qualifications are available too. *It is possible that some students may take qualifications below level 1 but this will be discussed with students and parents/carers if we think this is appropriate for your child.*

GCSE Grading

A new GCSE grading system is currently being introduced at GCSE to replace the A* to U system with a new 9 to 1 scale. Under the new grading system a low C grade equates to a grade 4 and a high C grade equates to a grade 5. Although the government has stated that a 'good pass' will be considered a grade 5 or above, they have currently set the benchmark as a grade 4 and entry requirements for Post 16 colleges have also been set at grade 4. Students in Year 9 will be awarded GCSEs using the new grading scale in all of their subjects.

THE CURRICULUM

Courses Taken By All Students At Key Stage 4

All students will study the **CORE CURRICULUM** which is compulsory. The subjects which make-up the 'core' in Years 10 and 11 include:

- English (English & English Literature)
- Science
- Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE)
- Mathematics
- Religious Education / Citizenship
- Physical Education (PE)

In addition to the core-curriculum, students will be free to select four subjects from the following;

- Acting BTEC
- Art & Design GCSE
- Art & Design - Photography GCSE
- Art & Design - Textile GCSE
- Business Studies GCSE
- Child Development Cambridge National Certificate
- Computer Science GCSE
- Dance GCSE / BTEC
- Design and Technology GCSE
- Drama GCSE
- Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE
- French GCSE
- Geography GCSE
- History GCSE
- IT BTEC
- Latin GCSE
- Media Studies GCSE
- Music BTEC
- Music GCSE
- Product Design GCSE
- Physical Education GCSE
- Religious Studies GCSE
- Sociology GCSE
- Spanish GCSE
- Sport BTEC
- Stage Production BTEC

The optional courses are split into 4 blocks as shown below and students select 1 from each block. There are, however, restrictions which are explained in the following section.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE Latin GCSE Music GCSE Music BTEC Media Studies GCSE Spanish GCSE	Acting BTEC Art and Design - Photography GCSE Computer Science GCSE Child Development Cambridge National Certificate Drama GCSE History GCSE Sociology GCSE Spanish GCSE	Business Studies GCSE Design and Technology GCSE French GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE PE GCSE Religious Studies GCSE Sport BTEC	Art and Design GCSE Art and Design - Textiles GCSE Dance GCSE/BTEC French GCSE Geography GCSE IT BTEC Spanish GCSE Stage Production BTEC

RESTRICTIONS ON CHOICES AND COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS.

THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (the E-Bacc)

In 2011 the government introduced a qualification called The English Baccalaureate (or E-Bacc for short). This is not a stand-alone qualification, but an award given to students who achieve a grade 5 (C) or above in a minimum of 5 subjects, which must include all of the following:

- English
- Maths
- A Science (which can include Computer Science)
- A Humanity (either History or Geography only)
- A Foreign Language (any recognised modern language, classical Greek or Latin)

The government has confirmed that in future secondary school pupils will be expected to take all subjects in the E-Bacc at KS4 and has stated that for students in the current Year 7 and onwards, the Ebacc will be compulsory for all except those students with identified SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disabilities). Although we have not decided to make the Ebacc compulsory for our current Year 9 students who will be starting KS4 in September, we need to ensure they will not be disadvantaged by not having achieved it. Consequently;

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SELECT AT LEAST ONE E-BACC OPTIONAL COURSE AT KEY STAGE 4.

On the Options Form, E-Bacc courses are shown in **bold** type and in *italics*. The blocks are structured to allow students as wide a combination of courses as possible, but they must select at least one of the courses shown in bold italics. Students are welcome to take more than one E-Bacc courses if they wish, but this is an individual choice for each student and their parents / carers.

The introduction of the E-Bacc is designed to ensure young people receive a broad and balanced education. A guidance paper called 'Informed Choices' was written by some of the top UK universities a few years ago; it listed the E-Bacc subjects as the most useful in supporting progression to higher education courses.

FURTHER RESTRICTIONS

Students need to comply with the following restrictions:

1. Acting BTEC, Dance BTEC and Stage Production BTEC all count as the same qualification so only one of these courses may be selected.
2. Art & Design GCSE, Art & Design – Photography GCSE and Art & Design – Textiles GCSE all count as the same qualification so only one of these courses may be selected.
3. Students can only apply for **Latin** if they are currently working at **level 6** in English and a modern language.

ASSESSMENT MEASURES

From 2016 onwards the way students' and schools' performance is measured will change; from the long-established achievement-benchmark of 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths, this will become a 'Best 8' measure. This means the achievement-benchmark will be for students to achieve 'Eight good GCSE passes' which must include the following:

- English and Maths
- Three 'E-Bacc' courses *
- 3 other courses from a list of approved qualifications**

Please note.

- * All students will take Combined Science which counts as two E-Bacc courses.
- ** The approved qualifications list includes all full GCSE courses and a range of technical awards.

FOR THOSE CONSIDERING STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY

Those considering the possibility of studying at university need to be aware of the entry requirements for the courses they may wish to study. These can be looked at using the UCAS information website, in conjunction with individual university websites. Clearly, a student hoping to study for a degree in Art needs to take Art at A Level and to do this, they need to select it as one of their GCSE options in Key Stage 4.

Many students may have the ambition to study at university, but may have little idea at present as to exactly what. Anybody in this position needs to select subjects now which offer breadth and balance in their curriculum. Some useful advice on A Level choices (many of which will be dependent upon having studied the subject at Key Stage 4) is available from The Russell Group in a document called “Informed Choices” <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices/>. The Russell Group is an association of the top 20 universities in the country and their advice is aimed at students hoping to study for a degree at one of the universities in the group. The document is important for both students who have a clear idea of the courses they might like to take **and** for those who aim to attend a good university but are unsure of their particular focus of study.

The Russell Group describes some subjects at A Level as **Facilitating Subjects**. This information is useful for those unsure of what they might like to study at university or even in Years 12 and 13. Facilitating subjects at A Level include:

- Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- English (Literature)
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geography
- History
- Languages (Classical and Modern)

This does not diminish the value and importance of other courses.

Students with an interest in a particular subject should still take it alongside others which provide breadth and balance to their curriculum. Students not wishing to attend university can decide for themselves how important “Informed Choices” is to them.

Some colleges are reluctant and others will not allow students onto an A Level course without them having studied the subject at GCSE previously. Please note, however, that the individual Science subjects listed can all be taken at A Level by students who have studied Combined Science in Years 10 and 11.

“Informed Choices” concludes with a section listing typical entry requirements for degree courses. It does this in terms of compulsory and recommended A Level qualifications. Students interested in applying for courses at university should take time now to look the entry requirements of different degree courses to satisfy themselves of the appropriateness of their Key Stage 4 choices.

Where, however, a student is unsure about or has many ideas of possible careers, they should select a broad range of courses to ‘keep their options open’. Combining a mix of subjects should not close any doors to later study and will provide a varied Key Stage 4 curriculum.

And of course taking a subject they really enjoy, even if they don’t see it as being a potential career route is always a good idea.

CHANGING COURSES LATER

Students must be aware that it is difficult and often impossible to change choices once the courses have started in September. If a particular course is full and a child requests moving onto it, this will not be possible. Every year a few students take courses for the wrong reasons and later ask to swap to an alternative; whilst we try to accommodate requests where students have genuinely misunderstood the nature of a subject, this is sometimes impossible and the student has to stick with the choice they made. Any requests made after the end of September will not be considered as it is difficult to start a new course after this point.

DROPPING SUBJECTS

All students are expected to complete every course they start. Students will not be allowed to drop courses simply because they no longer like the subject or they have changed their mind and no longer wish to study it. It is essential therefore when selecting courses that students read the subject information carefully, talk to teachers and opt for subjects which will support their career aspirations as well as interest them.

We will make every effort to ensure students get the courses they select. There are times, however, when another choice is offered in place of the selected first choice. Students and their parents / carers will always be consulted in these circumstances.

The following pages offer information on the courses offered at Key Stage 4. Details of 'Optional' courses follow 'Core' subject information.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

<u>ENGLISH LANGUAGE</u>	-	<u>GCSE</u>
<u>ENGLISH LITERATURE</u>	-	<u>GCSE</u>

Specification name and examination board

English Language GCSE - AQA
English literature GCSE - AQA

Specification number

8700
8702

Course description and content

The English Language GCSE will focus on building key skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students will learn to write with clarity and purpose and become confident speakers. Students will study a range of literary and non-fiction texts to develop their reading skills.

Assessment

Students completing the course will gain two GCSE grades: one in language and one in literature – students are assessed by exam only; there is no coursework.

In English Language GCSE there are two exam papers. Paper 1 looks at fiction, while paper two focuses on non-fiction. Both make up 50% of the English GCSE and assess students reading and writing skills. Both papers last 1 hour and 45 minutes.

In English Literature there are also two papers making up 50% of the overall grade. Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes) looks at Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century novel while Paper 2 (2 hours 15 minutes) assesses students on poetry and a modern text.

Spoken Language skills are assessed throughout the course by the teacher.

Homework

1 hour 30 minutes per week, set weekly or fortnightly

Books, equipment and resources

Students may wish to purchase their own copies of texts set for examination and study guides. Full details will be provided by staff. A wide range of resources are available on Firefly, as well as links to recommended online revision sites.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

These GCSEs prepare students for A level, and equips students to study English Language and/or English Literature at university level. The analytical skills developed during the course would also prove useful for courses that require critical, objective consideration such as Media Studies, Psychology and Law.

Career opportunities

Gaining GCSEs in English demonstrate that the student has acquired a range of communication skills that are essential in a wide variety of careers and post 16 courses. Students who move on to A level study may find the study of English Language or Literature at university especially appealing. This can lead to a range of varied careers in journalism, creative writing, lexicography and teaching. It can also contribute towards careers in advertising, public relations, law, marketing and librarianship.

MATHEMATICS - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Mathematics GCSE - Edexcel

Specification number

1MA0

Course description and content

This qualification encourages students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards Mathematics and to recognise the importance of Mathematics in their own lives and to society. The course requires students to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Number
- Measures
- Algebra
- Statistics
- Geometry
- Probability
- Use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts
- Apply the functional elements of Mathematics in everyday and real-life situations

Assessment

Assessment of the course comprises three written exams taken at the end of Year 11. Each exam is equally weighted and will last for 1 hour 30 minutes.

Two tiers of examination paper are offered

Foundation tier (Grades 1–5) and Higher tier (Grades 4-9)

Homework

Homework will be set regularly and will usually involve extra practice and reinforcement of work studied in class. It may also involve exam question practice. Students are expected to spend up to an hour per week on homework.

Books, equipment and resources

All students are expected to have their own scientific calculator for use at home and in class. Geometric instruments such as a pair of compasses and protractor are also needed.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

We offer Core Maths and A Level Mathematics at **Blatch 6**.

At **Blatch 6** we also offer students the opportunity to re-sit GCSE Mathematics in order to improve upon their Year 11 grade.

Career opportunities

There are a vast number of career opportunities requiring Mathematics qualifications. Career opportunities ranging from engineering to accountancy, from computing to financial or retail management, from statistical analysis to architecture are all supported by qualifications in Mathematics.

COMBINED SCIENCE - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Combined Science (Edexcel)

Specification number

1SC0

Course description and content

Most students will study Combined Science GCSE which enables people to understand and take an active role in the technological society in which we live. The Combined Science GCSE course counts as two Science GCSEs. Students will study equal amounts of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Combined Science will allow students to get the very top GCSE grade, i.e. grade 9 twice. Success in Combined Science will allow students to go on to study Science A levels and allow them to go to any university including Oxford and Cambridge.

Some students will be able to take Triple Science (also called Separate Sciences) instead of Combined Science. Triple Science comprises of 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics studied in the time normally given to 2 GCSEs. Students for whom the Triple Science course is considered appropriate will need to be able to manage this accelerated course. These students will be identified and sent a separate letter giving the option of Triple Science GCSE. There will be a limited number of places available.

Assessment

At the end of Y11 Combined Science students take 6 exams of 70 minutes each.
Triple Science students take 6 exams of 105 minutes each.

Homework

Students will get homework every week. This may be questions or other written tasks including planning for future lessons, reading, research, learning facts or spellings, or revision for tests and examinations. It will be useful if students can access the learning resources on the school's website from home.

Books, equipment and resources

Students need only normal writing equipment, which includes a calculator, all other materials are provided. The Science Department has written revision sheets which will be issued to students before every exam.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Taking Combined Science can lead to courses at Key Stage 5 which include A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics or BTEC courses in Applied Science all of which we do here at **Blatch 6**. Having a Science GCSE qualification indicates a student has a good memory, is capable of clear thinking and can understand a technical subject.

Career opportunities

Aeronautics, bio-engineer, cosmologist, doctor, electronics engineer, field studies ranger, geologist, horticulturist, industrial chemist, journalist, kindergarten teacher, lawyer, marine biologist and we are only halfway to..... zoo management.

TRIPLE SCIENCE - GCSE

Some students will be able to take Triple Science instead of Combined Science. Triple Science comprises of separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students for whom the Triple Science course is considered appropriate will need to be considered capable enough of coping with the demands of an additional Science GCSE. These students will be identified and sent a separate letter giving the option of Triple Science GCSE. There will be a limited number of places available.

CORE PE, RE, PSHE AND CITIZENSHIP

These areas of the curriculum remain compulsory. Students will participate in Core PE lessons every week throughout Key Stage 4 although this is not an examined subject. Similarly, RE, PSHE and Citizenship education are not examined formally but are delivered as a part of the curriculum through a combined course taught in timetabled lessons which remain compulsory. These lessons cover a range of topics and themes designed to prepare students for life at and beyond school.

OPTIONAL COURSES

ACTING - BTEC

Specification name and examination board

BTEC First Award in Performing Arts (Acting)
Edexcel

Specification number

600/4785/9

Course description and content

This course is ideal if you love the theatre and performing and will enable you, upon completion, to study performing arts at a higher level. We realize that some of you just need a chance to shine in a subject that you love. An ability to work hard, keep focused and have the confidence to stand up and perform are the main requirements of this course.

Our teachers will help you achieve your goals in a challenging and rewarding environment. There are no external examinations and you will be assessed through a series of assignment briefs and projects carried out throughout the year. It is important for you to manage your time effectively in order to submit your work by the deadlines set.

Assessment

Unit 1: Individual Showcase - Demonstrating skills learnt on the course through video assessment and written response.

Unit 2: Preparation, Performance, Production - An internally assessed unit demonstrating performance and rehearsal skills

Unit 3: Acting Skills for Performance - The whole process of creating a play is assessed.

All units are worth a third of the final grade.

Homework

This ranges from revision of skills and techniques, practical evaluations or working on shows outside of school hours.

Books, equipment and resources

We will provide all material for the course and all practical resources will be supplied by the school.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

A level Drama is a very popular and successful course at **Blatch 6**. We also run a Level 3 BTEC in Musical Theatre.

Career opportunities

Acting, Performing Arts and any career in which you deal with people or groups of people.

You will like this subject if

- you enjoy working practically
- you are interested in performing
- you like working as part of a team

ART AND DESIGN - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Art and Design GCSE – Edexcel

Specification number

1FAO

Course description

This course offers an exciting opportunity to study and explore Art & Design in greater depth. Building on your Key Stage 3 experiences you will investigate themes, analyse and experiment with a wide range of 2D & 3D media including painting / drawing / sculpture / printmaking / photography and textiles. The creative process and development of ideas is documented in sketchbooks, which become personal and unique to each student. The course is directed carefully by specialist staff allowing students to gain the confidence and skills to express their own ideas, make their own decisions about their project responses, thereby allowing personal development.

Assessment, weighting and timings of assessments

Personal portfolio (Unit 1) worth 60%. Externally set assignment (Unit 2) worth 40%. All work is assessed each term forming continuous and controlled assessment, with the final assessment conducted at the end of course exhibition in June.

Homework

One and a half hours per week (variable depending on task). Activities will include observational studies (drawing/photography), research on artists and the development of ideas.

Books, equipment, materials and resources provided

A4 sketchbooks and A1 folder, pencils, crayons, biro and fine liner pens, pastels, acrylic paints / watercolours / brushes.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Courses at Level 3 include: BTEC Nationals in Art and Design (available at Blatch 6) Photography (available at Blatch 6) Specialist Diploma in Creative and Media, GCE A/S and A level Art and Design.

Career opportunities supported by this subject

There are many opportunities available through training in Art and Design, including amongst others; fashion designer, graphic designer, textile designer, illustrator, theatre set designer, architect, fine artist, product designer, photographer, interior designer, animator, conservationist, jeweller, teacher, hairdresser, make-up artist, computer game designer and museum curator.

You will like this subject if

- you enjoy responding to and creating visual imagery in an imaginative way
- you like experimenting with a wide range of 2D and 3D materials and you are interested in documenting the world you see around you
- you like coursework based tasks and responding to project titles from your own perspective

ART AND DESIGN - Photography - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Art and Design - Photography GCSE AQA

Specification number

8206

Course description and content

This course offers an exciting opportunity to study and explore Photography and Lens media. The course explores contemporary photographic techniques and artists. You will experiment with a wide range of approaches to photography including creative 2D studio techniques, experimental digital techniques including the use of Photoshop, 3D set constructions and costume designs that are used to create imaginative photographic outcomes. The creative process and development of ideas is documented in sketchbooks, which become personal and unique to each student. On this course students gain the confidence and skills to express their own ideas, thereby allowing personal development.

Assessment, weighting and timings of assessments

Personal portfolio (Unit 1) worth 60%. Externally set assignment (Unit 2) worth 40%. All work is assessed each term forming continuous and controlled assessment, with the final assessment conducted at the end of course exhibition in June.

Homework

One and a half hours per week (variable depending on task). Activities will include observational studies using lens media, research on artists and the development of ideas. After school clubs are available for KS4 students.

Books, equipment, materials and resources

Needed – Digital Camera or a mobile phone with a good digital camera built in. Provided – A4 sketchbooks and A1 folders. Printing facility up to A3 size, but students will be expected to pay to enlarge their most successful work outside of school.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Courses at Level 3 include: Photography A Level (available at Blatch 6) BTEC Nationals in Art and Design (available at Blatch 6), Specialist Diploma in Creative and Media, GCE A/S and A level Art and Design.

Career opportunities supported by this subject

There are many opportunities available through training in Photography, including amongst others; photographer, fashion designer, graphic designer, textile designer, illustrator, theatre set designer, product designer, interior designer, animator, conservationist, jeweller, teacher, hairdresser, make-up artist, computer game designer and museum curator.

You will like this subject if

- you enjoy responding to and creating visual imagery in an imaginative way using lens media
- you like experimenting with a wide range of 2D and 3D materials and you are interested in documenting the world you see around you
- you like coursework based tasks and responding to project titles from your own perspective

ART AND DESIGN - Textiles - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Art and design - Textiles GCSE AQA

Specification number

4204

Course description and content

This exciting new course in textile design helps students develop their creativity and will equip students with the knowledge, understanding and practical skills to make beautiful textiles products and outcomes. Students explore a range of textile media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies.

Students will develop their skills in a variety of areas, including:

- Being creative, using drawing in sketchbooks for different purposes and needs.
- Investigating methods to colour, print, decorate and stitch textile products.
- Working with a variety of textile methods such as applique, stencilling, fabric printing, tie-dye, batik, fabric construction, felting and fabric manipulation.
- How to use sewing machines and embroidery machines correctly and safely

Assessment details

Component 1 (60%) A portfolio showing creative responses to subjects, themes or briefs including drawing, artist investigations, trials, experiments and making creative textile products.

Component 2 (40%) Externally set exam that consists of preparatory work and a 10 hour exam.

Homework

This will be in the form of a variety of tasks such as research, making samples and artwork, looking at textiles artists and written evaluations.

Books, equipment, materials and resources

Ruler, drawing pencils, colouring pencils, fine liner, a good pair of cutting scissors and embroidery scissors are an advantage but not essential. It would be helpful to have some basic art materials at home too for independent homework.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Art & Design BTEC in Blatch 6. A level Art: Textiles. Many courses are available locally at university or FE College which support a variety of career opportunities in industry and commerce.

Career Opportunities

Textiles or Fashion designer, trend forecaster, fashion merchandiser, pattern maker or grader, fashion stylist, fashion editor, illustrator or photographer, costume designer, personal stylist and interior designer.

You will like this subject if

- you love making in textiles
- you are creative and like drawing and developing ideas
- you are well organised and able to keep to deadlines

BUSINESS STUDIES - **GCSE**

Specification name and examination board

Business Studies GCSE AQA

Specification number

8132

Course description and content

A new and improved Business qualification that looks at the dynamic and ever changing world of Business. The course combines contextualised content, case studies and relevant visits to support the course. The course covers areas such as business activities, macroeconomics, Marketing, Finance, HRM and operations management. The course is designed to enable learners to develop a range of analytical, evaluative and financial skills to support their understanding of the business world in the 21st century.

Assessment

The GCSE course will be assessed by the completion of 2 examinations in Year 11.

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity.

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity.

Both papers are assessed by 1hr 45min exam worth 90 marks covering; multiple choice questions, case study/data response and 1 question with data response stimuli and case study.

Homework

Homework is usually set each week and takes about an hour to complete. It varies and consists of case studies, research, revision, reading, working through tasks and answering questions.

Books, equipment and resources

All resources are provided although students are given the opportunity to purchase a revision guide in Year 11.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

The GCSE Business Studies course provides a progression route to the very successful BTEC Level 3 National Certificate & Extended Certificate in Business, both taught at **Blatch 6**.

Career opportunities

There are many career opportunities for students who study GCSE Business. Students would be able to enter many types of employment with the broad background knowledge provided by the five sections of the GCSE Business specification.

You will like this subject if

- you enjoy reading about and looking at how businesses operate and the impact they have
- Analysing and presenting information in written and numerical form
- Have a desire to be an entrepreneur/start up your own business

CHILD DEVELOPMENT - Cambridge National Certificate

Specification name and examination board

Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate
in Child Development OCR

Specification number

J818

Course description and content

This course provides knowledge, skills and understanding about the birth and development of children from conception to the age of 5 years. There will be single and double lessons. The first topic of study underpins all of the other learning in this qualification. You will develop the essential knowledge and understanding in child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, postnatal provision, and conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety. In the second topic of study, you will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all of these needs. In the third topic of study, you will gain an understanding of the development norms from birth to five years and the stages and benefits of play.

Assessment

The OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Child Development qualification has one written exam and controlled assessments.

Homework

One hour of homework will be set weekly in the form of research, worksheets, small projects and written investigations

Books, equipment and resources

Students are strongly recommended to purchase a GCSE Revision Guide from the department at the beginning of Year 10 (cost £4.00).

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

This Key Stage 4 is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications in Child Care or Health and Social Care, Psychology, Sociology and Biology. which are available at Blatch 6.

Career opportunities

This is an ideal course for any student wishing to have a career in nursing, care services or child-related care.

You will like this subject if

- you want to work with children in any capacity
- you are interested communicating with children and want to understand how to help them make progress as they grow up.
- you want to develop knowledge, understanding and skills related to all aspects of child development

COMPUTER SCIENCE - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Computer Science GCSE OCR

Specification number

J276

Course description and content

GCSE Computing will allow students to explore the basics of the computing world: What is a computer? How does it work? What is programming and data all about? How can a computer solve problems? This is where students learn about programming languages and learn to write code of their own.

Students taking this option will learn about computer systems, hardware, networks, Internet technology, and the design of websites. The great thing is, because the technology moves as fast as we can study it, there's always going to be new and interesting things to learn.

Assessment

There are 3 units of work over the 2 year course,

Computer Systems	1hr 30 min Exam Paper	40% of the GCSE course
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	1hr 30 min Exam Paper	40% of the GCSE course
Programming project	20hrs Programming project	20% of the GCSE course

Homework

This course will require some work to be carried out outside of the prescribed lesson times, in particular when students are studying the programming elements of the course. Homework will also involve further research into some aspects of the course materials.

The topics covered are based on things that are happening in the real world, and students will be expected to keep themselves up to date through their own interest in this area.

Books, equipment and resources

Many resources will be made available on the Computing section of Firefly, for access anytime, as will various applications from time to time during the course.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Students can continue following this course in Year 12 by studying the BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Computing, a two year course equivalent to a full A level. In the BTEC course students will study more advanced and complex aspects of computers, as well as learning Java programming.

Career opportunities

For anybody anticipating any kind of work in the computing industry - network engineer, computer programmer or software developer, systems analyst, graphics/games programmer/designer, forensic or medical scientist - then a Level 3 Computing course, such as the BTEC Subsidiary Diploma is highly appropriate. Students can also go on to university or college first to study a computer related course such as Computer Science, Computer Forensics or Digital Design.

You will like this subject if

- you have a keen interest in developing your understanding of programming
- you Enjoy problem solving and mathematical and logic puzzles
- you have the ability to be creative and devise solutions to real problems

DANCE - (GCSE/BTEC)

Specification name and examination board

BTEC First Award in Performing Arts (Dance) Edexcel
Dance GCSE - AQA

Specification number

600/4785/9
8236

Course description and content

This exciting and creative course channels the exhilaration and vitality of dance and aims to build on and develop the role it plays in the lives of many young people.

All students opting for Dance at Key Stage 4 will follow the same pathway, with the option to be entered for BTEC and/or GCSE depending on the strengths of the students once the course is underway. The final assessment is to create, perform and produce a full dance production in the Windmill Theatre.

Assessment

Year 10		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Dance Skills: Technique class and log book (30%)	Dance Performance: Group performance in school dance show (30%)	

Year 11		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Group choreography project Group performance project (20%)	Letter of application and solo audition (20%)	Written exam (GCSE route only)

Homework

Reflective journal and log book. Production research

Books, equipment and resources

Dance Kit: Black T-Shirt, jumper, shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms, trainers or jazz shoes and a ring binder folder.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

BTEC Level 3 Musical Theatre is available at **Blatch 6** and A-Level dance is also available within the city.

Career opportunities

Professional dancer, choreographer, teacher, arts administration, community dance leader, dance therapist, actor and singer.

You will like this subject if

- you enjoy performing
- you enjoy physically moving to music
- you enjoy being creative on your own or in a group

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Design and Technology AQA

Specification number

8552

Course description and content

This course is for students who enjoy design and making 3D products made from woods, metals and plastics. Students will be involved with market research and analysis of exciting products, the development of their own ideas for new products, manufacturing with a wide variety of materials using both hand and machine tools and testing and evaluating prototypes.

Along with practical making activities students will work with computers, write design proposals, evaluations and do theory work. Drawing skills are developed as a creative tool and method of communication. ICT including CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) form an integral part of this course. Commercial production techniques are studied along with ethical design and sustainability.

Assessment

Non exam assessment (Deadline February) - 50%. One exam (June) - 50%.

Homework

Theory and exemplar exam questions. Presentation of design process work.

Books, equipment and resources

Revision guide and workbook. All students must have an A4 folder to transport homework and an A4 flip folder for presenting their controlled assessment. Normal full school equipment e.g. pen, pencil, colouring pencils, sharpener, eraser, ruler.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Blatch 6 offers a Level 3 Extended Certificate in Art and Design which resistant materials students can apply to study. This is a broad art and design course

Career opportunities

Anything involving problem solving or related to designing/making. Career opportunities exist in product design, furniture or jewellery design, architecture, engineering, tool-making, boat and vehicle repair and maintenance to name but a few!

You will like this subject if

- you have a keen interest in making 3D objects.
- you enjoy handling and making artefacts in woods, metals and plastics with hand, machine and CAD/CAM tools.
- you enjoy designing problems using drawing and modelling

DRAMA - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Drama GCSE AQA

Specification number

8261

Course description and content

The **AQA** GCSE Drama course is a very popular option with students. The course is split 60% coursework which includes practical work and a written log and a 40% written exam taken at the end of the course. As part of the course students will be involved in at least two public performances as well as being given the opportunity to take part in our many extra-curricular productions. The written paper will ask students to reflect on their own work, demonstrate understanding of a studied text and write about a live production they have been to see. All lessons take place in our fully equipped Drama Studio.

Assessment

60% coursework – a group devised performance and rehearsal log is worth 40% and a performance of a published play is worth 20%

40% is a written response to work performed, live theatre seen and a play that has been studied.

Homework

This will be a mixture of learning lines and rehearsing for performances. As well as this there will be two pieces of coursework set and students will be expected to keep a diary of practical work covered.

Books, equipment and resources

We will provide all material for the course and all practical resources will be supplied by the school.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

A level Drama are both very popular and successful courses at **Blatch 6**. We also run a Level 3 BTEC in Musical Theatre.

Career opportunities

Acting, Performing Arts and any career in which you deal with people or groups of people.

You will like this subject if

- You like working practically
- You like performing
- You like to communicate in an artistic and imaginative way

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION**- GCSE****Specification name and examination board**

Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE EDUQAS

Specification number

601/8093/6

Course description and content

This exciting new GCSE course is perfect for students who enjoy cooking.

Students will make food products on a regular basis and develop good practical skills.

The course is designed to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook savoury and sweet food products. All food products will be made to a high quality and finish.

Other areas of study include nutrition, healthy eating, special diets, equipment, food legislation and environmental concerns. Students will carry out food science experiments as well as study the importance of Food Hygiene and Safety.

Assessment**Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition (50% of qualification)**

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action (50% of qualification)

Non-examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.

Assessment 1: 8 hours

A scientific food investigation

Assessment 2: 12 hours

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the student's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

Homework

These include research on key topics, fact sheets, posters & cooking at home

Books, equipment and resources

Students will need to provide their own ingredients regularly.

They will need kitchen scales, measuring jugs and measuring spoons at home to weigh out ingredients.

Students are given the opportunity to purchase a Revision Guide

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Students can continue their studies at **Blatch 6** by studying L3 Food Science & Nutrition. Alternatively they could study the Jamie Oliver Home Cooking Skills L2 BTEC award.

They could also choose Catering courses locally e.g. City & Guilds, BTEC etc.

Career opportunities

Catering, Food Designer, Food Demonstrator, Dietician, Health and Fitness careers, Environmental Health Inspector, Nursing and other Health related careers.

You will like this subject if

- You LOVE cooking
- You are an organised person who will manage time well
- You are creative and present things well

FRENCH - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

GCSE French – AQA

Specification number

8658

Course description and content

The GCSE course in French builds upon the knowledge and skills acquired in Key Stage 3. The sub topics within each theme will enable students to understand and communicate information in French on subjects relevant to young people today as well as to equip them to deal with practical situations in French speaking countries.

Assessment

There are 2 tiers of entry for all exams – Foundation (Grades 1-5) and Higher (Grades 4-9)

Skill	% of GCSE	Content	Timing
Listening	25%	Understanding and responding to spoken French	May/June year 11 External exam
Speaking	25%	Communicating in spoken French for different purposes – role play, photo card , conversation	April/May year 11 Exam conducted by your teacher
Reading	25%	Understanding and responding to written French Translation into English	May/June year 11 External exam
Writing	25%	Communicating in written French for different purposes – structured written tasks and translation into French	May/June year 11 External exam

Homework

Homework will be set weekly. A variety of tasks are set for homework & examples include:

- Learning vocabulary and grammar
- Reading texts in the target language and answering questions on the text
- Preparation for assessments
- Written tasks including translations into English and French
- Listening tasks using the student portal or websites

Books, equipment and resources

AQA French text books provided through school on line subscription. Bi-lingual dictionary.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Following successful completion of the GCSE course A2 (or AS) French can be studied in KS5.

Career opportunities

The ability to speak and understand one or more foreign languages is very useful in many careers, such as: sales and marketing, tourism, international banking, secretarial work, administration, law, management consultancy, accountancy and the diplomatic service.

You will like this subject if

- you are open minded, enjoy travel, and learning about and communicating with people from other cultures
- you like discussing topics that affect you and voicing your opinions
- you're interested in finding out about how languages work, and want to learn to learn another in future

For more information concerning MFL courses, please see the later section – 'MFL Frequently Asked Questions'.

GEOGRAPHY - GCSE

Qualification name and examination board

Geography GCSE - OCR B

Specification number

J384

Course description and content

In Geography the course we follow will inspire young people to investigate and explore the varied and fascinating world they live in. Geography is a dynamic, diverse and exciting subject. It exists in a unique position to teach core skills such as literacy, numeracy, the sciences and ICT as a means to study and investigate the world, giving them purpose and life through Geography.

Assessment

Fieldwork is a mandatory part of the course with one day focussed on 'Our Natural World' and one day focussed on 'People and Society'. The learning outcomes from this research are assessed and contribute to two written exams which each account for 35% of the final grade. The third written exam 'Geographical Exploration' accounts for the other 30% of the final grade. In addition to the two local fieldwork days, there is also an optional residential course which allows students the opportunity to develop research skills linked closely to the exam syllabus.

Homework

Homework is set weekly and involves a minimum of one hour of study per week, although this may vary from time to time. Homework may involve research, written short or extended questions, preparation for a presentation or extended tasks. Work will often involve ICT either for research or for writing up.

Books, equipment and resources

The School has a basic range of standard fieldwork equipment. More advanced equipment is available on field trips from field centres. Specialist clothing and footwear can also be hired for such visits. Textbooks are provided and details of good revision guides and web sites are supplied.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Geography A level makes a great choice post -16. **Blatch 6 offers** a highly successful course in Geography. This involves some exciting visits and investigates a wide variety of highly relevant and interesting topics.

Career opportunities

Geography has links to many careers. These include direct links to jobs in meteorology, environmental conservation and planning, surveying, construction, teaching as well as international aid and development charitable organisations. In an increasingly globalised world there is increasing demand for "geographically aware" employees in international companies and organisations.

You will like this subject if

- you enjoy investigating the environment and the way in which people interact with it
- you enjoy discussing the issues and challenges involved in life in the 21st century
- You enjoy writing researched and structured answers to questions

HISTORY**GCSE****Specification name and examination board**

History GCSE – Edexcel

Specification number

1Hi01

Course description and content

Students study four topics that will be assessed in three external exams.

Paper 1 – British Thematic study with Historic environment (30%)

Students will study the history of medicine in Britain between 1000AD to the present.

Paper2 – British Depth Study and Period Study (40%)

Section A gives an overview of the origins, development and end of the Cold War between 1941-91.

Section B offers the opportunity to analyse Anglo-Saxon England and the short-term impact of the Norman conquest of 1066.

Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study (30%)

This offers the opportunity to analyse the Communist takeover in Russia. The unit places particular emphasis on the nature of dictatorship in the Soviet Union under Stalin and the political, social and economic consequences of his rule.

Assessment

Assessment for Papers 1, 2 and 3 consist of a written exam at the end of year 11.

Homework

There will typically be around 1 to 1½ hours homework per week involving written tasks, preparation for discussion work, individual research and the use of ICT for presentation work.

Books, equipment and resources

All text books and materials will be provided. However, independent research is strongly recommended as a way of getting to grips with the subject.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

A level History courses are offered at a variety of institutions around the city. GCSE History also provides a good foundation for the further study of subjects such as Law and Government & Politics.

Career opportunities

GCSE History will support students in all aspects of future life and most jobs including: law, journalism, teaching, police work, the civil service, many aspects of business, social work and careers involving the arts, to name but a few.

You will like this subject if

- you like finding out about the past and the people and events that shaped the world we live in today
- you are able to cope with significant amounts of reading and extended writing tasks

Information Technology (IT) - BTEC

Specification name and examination board

Edexcel BTEC TECH Award in IT (L1/L2)

Specification number

603/0848/5

Course description and content

The BTEC Tech Award in Information Technology is a **practical** introduction to life and work in the IT industry, you will be able to explore the IT sector while:

- exploring the role IT plays in business and the world around us
- **developing key technical/practical skills** to meet specific user needs
- putting what you have learned into practice.

Assessment

There are 3 units of work over 2 years covering;

Unit	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1 – Exploring uses of Information Technology	Externally assessed short answer test	40%
Unit 2 – Developing a spread sheet solution to model data	Internally assessed assignments	30%
Unit 3 – Creating an interactive product	Internally assessed assignments	30%

Homework

Homework is usually set, however when working on assignment briefs all work will be completed in class so that it can be verified as being completed by the student.

Books, equipment and resources

All resources are provided although students are given the opportunity to purchase a revision guide in Year 11 for the external assessment.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

The BTEC Tech Award in Information Technology BTEC Level 3 National Certificate & Extended Certificate in IT taught at **Blatch 6**.

Career opportunities

With a BTEC Tech Award in Information Technology, you will be able to explore, challenge and realise your own potential. During the course, you can see whether the industry is one you would like to be in, where you could go, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in your next steps. After completing the course, your students can continue on to further vocational and academic study at level 2 and the very successful BTEC level 3 IT course at Blatch 6, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.

You will like this subject if

- you would like to explore current and emerging technologies in the IT sector
- you enjoy being creative and developing practical systems and interactive products
- you would like to develop independent research and analysis skills linked to designing IT systems

LATIN - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Latin GCSE WJEC

Specification number

601/7811/5

Course description and content

Modern warfare, concrete, straight roads, rabbits, plumbing, apples, glass and our calendar: the world we live in and the language that we use today owes a huge amount to Roman civilization. Latin GCSE offers you the opportunity to study a fascinating new language and literature, whilst also learning more about how Roman people lived, what they believed and how this connects with our lives in the modern world.

Latin GCSE helps you to develop important thinking, analytical and communication skills, lets you understand your own language better, opens your eyes to a fascinating and important part of world history and is recognised as a challenging and rewarding GCSE choice.

Assessment

- Latin Language (50%): exam.
- Latin Literature (30%): exam
- Latin Literature OR Roman Civilization (20%): exam
- We also have regular tests (every four weeks) to see how you are doing and keep track of your progress.

Homework

Weekly homework: consolidating new language that you have learnt, practising translation and researching aspects of Roman civilization.

Books, equipment and resources

Cambridge Latin Course: four textbooks. There are also lots of really useful online resources (www.cambridgescp.co.uk) to help you.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

You can choose to study Latin at A level, as well as Classical Civilization. All of these subjects, including Ancient History, Archaeology and combinations of Classics and Modern Foreign Languages/ English/ History are also fascinating degree subjects at university.

Career opportunities

As Latin combines so many different skills from across different subjects, people may develop their interests in subjects such as Literature, Philosophy, Ancient History, Ethics, and Languages which can be studied at university. Industry, journalism, the Services, television, law, publishing, translation, social services, computing, medicine, horticulture, veterinary science, teaching: these are just some of the careers that Latin can lead on to. People who do go on to careers in medicine, gardening and law may find their GCSE Latin particularly useful!

You will like this subject if

- You'd like to study a combination of a language, literature & history at GCSE.
- You like independent learning & logically working things out.
- You're interested in how words work and where they come from.

MEDIA STUDIES - **GCSE**

Specification name and examination board

GCSE Media Studies WJEC

Specification number

TBC

Course description and content

Media Studies is the study of the mass media: film, TV, radio, the internet, magazines, newspapers, advertising, the music industry, video games, social media, etc. These forms of entertainment and information play a hugely important role in our society. We all use them, but how are they put together? And how do they affect our lives?

The GCSE Media Studies syllabus is designed to enable students to develop a critical understanding of the mass media. Theoretical understanding is closely related to the development of practical skills in desk-top publishing, digital and video photography and digital video editing.

Topics include: film industry/marketing (Spectre); TV crime drama (Luther, The Sweeney); music videos; music artists' use of social media; magazine/newspaper/advertisement/film poster design; video games industry/marketing.

Assessment

Two exams: Exploring the Media (40%) and Understanding Media Forms and Products (30%)

Non exam Assessment: Creating Media Products: students choose one task such as creating pages for a new magazine or filming and editing a sequence for a new TV show (30%).

Homework

Researching media products; audience surveys; developing practical work such as creating magazine pages and TV sequences.

Books, equipment and resources

The school also has its own green screen studio and digital editing suite for practical work. The school can loan out video cameras, although some students choose to use their own cameras/edit at home.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Both A Level Media Studies and A Level Film Studies are available at KS5. Media Studies and Film Studies are offered at degree level at many universities.

Career opportunities

Lots! Possible careers in film, television, radio, advertising, desk-top publishing, multi-media companies, education, etc.

You will like this subject if

- You have an active interest in media such as film, TV, video games, magazines, newspapers, radio, music, etc.
- You are curious about how these media products are constructed and the role they play in our lives
- You like the idea of combining study with practical tasks like creating magazine pages and making short videos

MUSIC - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

Music GCSE (OCR)

Specification number

J536

Course description and content

Lessons focus on composition, performance, theory and listening.

Each student will use a mac for at least 1 of their compositions; they can choose to compose on their own instrument as long as they compose all the parts played.

Students have to submit a performance portfolio which lasts for a minimum of 4 minutes, at least 1 minute of this has to be an ensemble performance, however students can perform several short pieces for either their solo or ensemble performances.

Assessment

- **Integrated Portfolio:** Solo Performance and Free Composition (30%)
- **Practical Component:** Ensemble Performance and composition to a set brief (30%)
- **Listening and Appraising:** written paper with CD 1hr 30 mins (40%)

Homework

Homework will be set to support students understanding of the musical genres studied this will include research, revision, essay writing and listening. Students are also expected to practise their chosen first instrument.

Books, equipment and resources

You will have access to the macs to work on your compositions, resources will be provided in lessons and revision books are available from CGP or OCR. Further listening is also recommended.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

BTEC Level 3 qualifications in Musical Performance, Music Production and Musical Theatre and A Level Music are all available.

Career opportunities

There are many career opportunities linked to the study of music. Employers value skills achieved through music; team work, problem solving, confidence development, self-presentation, analytical skills etc. Actual jobs can include music therapist, performer, composer, teacher, film and television work and production/recording.

You will like this subject if

- you would like to develop your knowledge of music, looking at a range of cultures, backgrounds and compositional opportunities.
- you would like the opportunity to be more musically creative, composing in your own style or from a starting point.
- you want to develop your performance skills by preparing a range of solo and ensemble pieces.

MUSIC - BTEC

Specification name and examination board

BTEC First Award in Music Edexcel

Specification number

600/6818/8

Course description and content

The course consists of four Units:

1. Managing a Music Product (you will manage, or perform in a Live Music Event)
2. Introduction to Sequencing (you will use Logic software to arrange backing tracks and remix music.)
3. Option A:
Introduction to Performance (you will develop your skills as a performer, and perform at the Live Music Event and at other events)
Option B:
Introduction to Composition (you will create your own music using Logic or Garage Band software)
4. External assessment: The Music Industry (1 Hour exam)
(you will understand how the industry works and how to make a living in it.)

Assessment

1-3: Internally assessed comprising 75% of marks.

4: Externally assessed comprising 25% of marks.

Homework

Coursework research; Practice for performances; Completion of the practice diary; Ideas development and research in composition tasks; researching resources for sequencing tasks; Subject preparation, research and revision.

Books, equipment and resources

Resources for Performance option such as music, internet resources, instrument (e.g. guitar etc.)

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

A variety of L3 Performing Arts BTEC courses are available at Blatch 6

Career opportunities

Previous students on this course have gone on to professional careers in musical theatre, stage management, recording (e.g. *Rizzle Kicks* etc) as well as further academic study leading to various careers.

You will like this subject if

- you enjoy developing your skills in music
- you take an active interest in music
- you have taken an interest in using music technology during KS3
- you have spent time and effort developing music performance skills such as singing or playing in a band
- you enjoy working independently, developing and focussing on your own goals in music

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) - GCSE

Specification name and examination board

GCSE in Physical Education Edexcel

Specification number

1PE0

Course description and content

Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sport science by developing an understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical activity. Each student has 6 lessons a fortnight; which vary between theory and practical. We expect all students to be participating regularly in sport whether in the school teams or outside of school.

Assessment

Component 1 – Fitness and Body Systems Exam – Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training, and Use of Data (1hour 45 minutes – 36%)

Component 2 – Health and Performance Exam – Sports Psychology, Socio-Cultural Influences, Health Fitness and Well-Being and Use of Data (1 hour 15 minutes – 24%)

Component 3 – Practical Performance – 3 practical sports selected from a specified list (30%)

Component 4 – Personal Exercise Programme (10%)

Homework

Homework is set regularly for approximately 60 minutes per week, in the form of answering set questions (some research required), tests, ILT projects and related worksheets. We expect all homework to be well presented and completed to a high standard.

Books, equipment and resources

The P.E. department provide a textbook. A Revision Guide is available from the P.E. department (purchased from staff). Correct and appropriate P.E. kit is required and students will be given an option to purchase an exam PE t-shirt.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

The course provides a suitable qualification for students to progress onto a range of higher level qualifications. The skills developed are valued both by employers and education to enable students to manage time effectively, take responsibility for their own learning and meet deadlines. They make excellent preparation for entry to colleges where students can study A Level PE or BTEC Sport Level 3.

Career opportunities

This course is designed to provide a broad base for further training, education or into employment within the sport & leisure industry. This course is the first 'rung of the ladder' into careers such as P.E. teaching, physiotherapy, sports psychology, sports journalism and sports coaching.

You will like this subject if

- you are a keen sportsperson
- have an interest in a career in sport such as physiotherapy, sports psychology, PE teaching or sports journalism
- you prefer examination subjects to coursework based subjects

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

-

GCSE**Specification name and examination board**

Religious Studies A GCSE AQA

Specification number

8062

Course description and content

Section A - Beliefs, teachings and practices (2 from list below):

- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Catholic Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism

Section B - Thematic Studies (4 from list below):

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme B: Religion and life.
- Theme C: The existence of God and revelation.
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

Assessment

Section A and Section B will both have a written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (each section worth 50% of final grade).

Homework

There will be weekly homework issued including written work and research tasks.

Books, equipment and resources

All materials will be provided. Additional study guides will be available to purchase.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

The course feeds well into A level Religious Studies and /or Philosophy, and then on to a range of Higher Education opportunities.

Career opportunities

There are a range of careers that value qualifications in Religious Studies, including journalism, politics, business, law, medicine, public services and teaching.

You will like this subject if you are....

- Curious
- Critical
- Open-minded

SOCIOLOGY

-

GCSE**Specification name and examination board**

Sociology GCSE AQA

Specification number

8192

Course description and content

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

1. The sociological approach
2. Social structures, social processes and social issues
3. Families
4. Education
5. Crime and deviance
6. Social stratification
7. Sociological research methods

Assessment

The course is assessed with two exams, each lasting for 1 hour and 45 minutes and each counting for 50% of the final grade

Homework

Homework is set every week, usually a piece of work which should take approximately 45 minutes. The homework can cover a range of approaches; sometimes answering questions, doing individual research, revision, reading or other appropriate tasks.

Books, equipment and resources

The school provides all essential resources for the study of GCSE Sociology, but it is useful for students to read a quality newspaper regularly and to boost their general knowledge of current affairs when possible. Many TV documentaries are useful in building sociological awareness.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Study of Sociology at GCSE can obviously lead to the study of Sociology at A level at **Blatch 6** but can also provide a basis for study in other social sciences, e.g. Psychology, Politics.

Career opportunities

Careers which will be aided by studying Sociology could be any career which involves working with people. Previous students have gone on to work in: teaching, social work, law, media, personnel, journalism, nursing and many others.

You will like this subject if

- you are interested in people
- you are curious about the world around us and the way it influences us
- you are someone who understands that there may be different views about an area of study and can develop reasoned arguments to back up your point of view

SPANISH - GCSE**Specification name and examination board**

GCSE Spanish AQA

Specification number

8698

Course description and content

The GCSE course in Spanish builds upon the knowledge and skills acquired in Key Stage 3.

Three broad themes will be studied: Identity and culture, Local, national and international areas of interest, and Current and future study and employment.

The sub topics within each theme will enable students to understand and communicate information in French on subjects relevant to young people today as well as to equip them to deal with practical situations in Spanish speaking countries.

Assessment

There are 2 tiers of entry for all exams – Foundation (Grades 1-5) and Higher (Grades 4-9)

Skill	% of GCSE	Content	Timing
Listening	25%	Understanding and responding to spoken French	May/June year 11 External exam
Speaking	25%	Communicating in spoken French for different purposes – role play, photo card, conversation	April/May year 11 Exam conducted by your teacher
Reading	25%	Understanding and responding to written French Translation into English	May/June year 11 External exam
Writing	25%	Communicating in written French for different purposes – structured written tasks, translation into French	May/June year 11 External exam

Homework

Homework will be set weekly. A variety of tasks are set for homework & examples include:

- Learning vocabulary and grammar
- Reading texts in the target language and answering questions on the text
- Preparation for assessments
- Written tasks including translations into English and French
- Listening tasks using the student portal or websites

Books, equipment and resources

Access to AQA Spanish text books provided through school on line subscription. Bi-lingual dictionary.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

Following successful completion of the GCSE course A2 (or AS) Spanish can be studied in KS5.

Career opportunities

The ability to speak and understand one or more foreign languages is very useful in many careers, such as: sales and marketing, tourism, international banking, secretarial work, administration, law, management consultancy, accountancy and the diplomatic service.

You will like this subject if

- you are open minded, enjoy travel, and learning about and communicating with people from other cultures
- you like discussing topics that affect you and voicing your opinions
- you're interested in finding out about how languages work, and want to learn another in future

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ALL MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. ***Can I take both languages?***

YES. If you currently do two languages you can continue to study both to GCSE level.

2. ***I do two languages at present and am not sure which one to continue.***

Firstly, talk to your teacher(s). He/she can advise you. Secondly, if you are good at both your languages, you should seriously think about doing both next year. It is much easier to learn languages while you are young!

3. **Can I start French or Spanish if I have not studied it at KS3?**

No. The GCSE course builds on the KS3 programme. We do not offer GCSE languages to beginners.

4. **Will it be hard?!**

Studying languages can be challenging, however it is also very rewarding and provides you with practical skills which can enhance your learning capacity and memory. Language learning also develops your resilience, a quality that employers and higher education establishments value highly. In order to be successful you will need to build on the knowledge you have gained at KS3 and put time into regular independent learning , before you know it you will be making great progress !

SPORT - BTEC

Specification name and examination board

BTEC First Award in Sport Edexcel

Specification number

600/4779/3

Course description and content

Each student has 6 lessons a fortnight; which vary between theory and practical. The course contains a lot of theory work, therefore sometimes all the lessons in a particular week could be theory based. We expect all students to be participating regularly in sport either within a school team or as part of a team out of school.

BTEC Units of work:

- Health and Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Training for Personal Fitness
- Practical Sports Performance
- The Sports Performer in Action

Assessment

Health and Fitness for Sport and Exercise – Online Exam – 25% of final grade

Practical Sport – Assignment Based – 25% of final grade

The Sports Performer in Action – Assignment based - 25% of final grade

Training for Personal Fitness – Assignment based - 25% of final grade

Homework

Homework is set regularly for approximately 60 minutes per week in the form of answering set questions (some research required), tests, assignment tasks and related worksheets. We expect all homework to be well presented and completed to a high standard.

Books, equipment and resources

The P.E. department provide a textbook. A Revision Guide is available from the P.E. department (purchased from staff) for the exam unit. Correct and appropriate P.E. kit is required and students will be given an option to purchase an exam PE t-shirt.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

The course provides a suitable qualification for students to progress onto a range of higher level qualifications. The skills developed are valued both by employers and education to enable students to manage time effectively, take responsibility for their own learning and meet deadlines. They make excellent preparation for entry to colleges where students can study A Level PE or BTEC Sport Level 3.

Career opportunities

This course is designed to provide a broad base for further training, education or into employment within the sport and leisure industry. This course is the first 'rung of the ladder' into careers in P.E. teaching, coaching, sports leisure and recreation management, fitness instructor or personal training.

You will like this subject if

- you are a keen sportsperson,
- you have an interest in sport or careers in sport such as PE teaching, coaching or in the sport and the leisure industry
- you prefer coursework based subjects to examination subjects

STAGE PRODUCTION - BTEC

Specification name and examination board

BTEC First Award in Performing Arts (Production) Edexcel

Specification number

600/4785/9

Course description and content

This course is a practical and exciting education in the backstage arts. With the Windmill Theatre as our base students will learn the ins and outs of working on live performances. Using state of the art professional equipment students will work on all areas of lighting, crewing, set, sound and stage management in the theatre. Students will have the opportunity to work on some of the many shows performed here as a chance to hone their practical skills in a professional environment.

Assessment

The course has no written exam and is assessed through non exam assessment and evidence gathered during the course.

Unit 1: Individual Showcase - Demonstrating skills learnt on the course through video assessment and written response.

Unit 2: Preparation, Performance, Production - An internally assessed unit demonstrating set design and building, stage management and crewing alongside a show for the Windmill Theatre

Unit 3: Production Skills For Performance - The whole lighting process is assessed alongside a show.

All units are worth a third of the final grade.

Homework

This ranges from revision of skills and techniques, practical evaluations and working on shows outside of school hours.

Books, equipment and resources

We will provide all material for the course and all practical resources will be supplied by the school.

Opportunities for study beyond Key Stage 4

This course is perfect for anyone wanting to study Stage Management at Level 3 here at **Blatch 6** or elsewhere. Many of our students go onto study areas of stage management at degree level in universities or drama schools.

Career opportunities

There are many different career opportunities that our students go onto such as lighting designers, stage managers, film and television sound recordists, music technicians for live performances and film electricians.

You will like this subject if

- you enjoy working practically
- you are interested in live events
- you like working as part of a team

MAKING YOUR CHOICES - ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

THINGS TO DO

- **Take your time.**
If you rush you could end up making choices you'll regret.
- **Listen to advice.**
There are many people who are able to talk the decision over with you, including your parents or carers, subject teachers, sixth form tutors, form tutors, senior leaders and the careers advisor.
- **Think about the following.**
What you might want to do in the future as a career.
What skills and qualities you'll need to have for your career when you're older.
*What you might want to do at sixth form college e.g. **Blatch 6**.*
What you won't be able to do in the future if you don't choose certain subjects now.
What your preferred way of learning is; are you better with practical courses or very academic ones?
What you like studying now, what you enjoy and what you're good at.

THINGS NOT TO DO

- **Don't get worried.**
If something is unclear, ask for help and advice.
- **Don't choose subjects because your friends do.**
You will probably not end up in the same class.
Your friends may be much better / worse at the subject than you are.
You may not stay friends!
- **Don't choose a subject because of the teacher.**
You may like or dislike certain teachers but you might not be taught by them next year.
Every year some teachers leave the school and new ones arrive.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

OPTIONS EVENING FOR PARENTS; Tuesday 17th January 2017.

This Options Evening provides an opportunity for parents, carers and students to ask questions about any aspect of the Key Stage 4 curriculum. Senior Staff, the Year Team Leader, Curriculum Team Leaders and Subject Heads will be in attendance. It will be from 6.30 p.m. at the school.

RETURN OF OPTION FORM;

It is very important to return the form on time. Students submitting it late may find the courses they choose are full.

Please submit all options forms to Form Tutors by **FRIDAY 10th February 2017.**

COMPLETING THE OPTIONS FORM

Please ensure the student's name and tutor group are written clearly on the form.

Please complete the section on the Options Form asking about career interests and priority subjects; this is useful in the event of timetable clashes and over-subscribed courses.

Select 4 subject choices on page one, but referring to the 'Restrictions' section on page 2.

Please ensure the form is returned to the student's Form Tutor on time.

THE OPTIONS FORM.

Please ensure you complete all basic details.

Please select only ONE course from each block.

Students need to ensure they have selected at least 1 E-Bacc course; these are shown in bold type and italics.

BLATCHINGTON MILLS SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS FORM 2017

Student Name: _____ Please print clearly. Tutor Grp.: _____ Tutor Room: _____

Key Stage 4 Options Blocks 2017 Students select 1 course from each block. Please see over for other restrictions.

At least one course highlighted in bold *italics* must be selected (from any block).

BLOCK A	Qual.	Choice	BLOCK B	Qual.	Choice	BLOCK C	Qual.	Choice	BLOCK D	Qual.	Choice
Food Preparation and Nutrition	GCSE		Acting	BTEC		Business Studies	GCSE		Art and Design	GCSE	
<i>Geography</i>	GCSE		Art and Design - Photography	GCSE		Design and Technology	GCSE		Art and Design - Textiles	GCSE	
<i>History</i>	GCSE		<i>Computer Science</i>	GCSE		<i>French</i>	GCSE		Dance GCSE/BTEC		
<i>Latin</i>	GCSE		Child Development	OTHER		<i>Geography</i>	GCSE		<i>French</i>	GCSE	
Music	GCSE		Drama	GCSE		<i>History</i>	GCSE		<i>Geography</i>	GCSE	
Music	BTEC		<i>History</i>	GCSE		PE	GCSE		IT	BTEC	
Media Studies	GCSE		Sociology	GCSE		Religious Studies	GCSE		<i>Spanish</i>	GCSE	
<i>Spanish</i>	GCSE		<i>Spanish</i>	GCSE		Sport	BTEC		Stage Production	BTEC	

Please list your top 3 subject preferences in order - which subjects do you want as a priority? (These cannot be guaranteed)

Subject 1: _____

Subject 2: _____

Subject 3: _____

Please list 3 possible careers choices you have thought of doing or would like to do when you're older.

Career 1: _____

Career 2: _____

Career 3: _____

When complete, please return this form to the student's Form Tutor. The submission deadline is 10th February 2017. Please complete side 2.

Page 1 of 2 pages.

Please list the subjects which you are most keen to take; this helps in the event of timetable clashes.

Listing career ideas helps in the event of courses being oversubscribed or where clashes occur.

