



BEDFORD
FREE SCHOOL

SERVING BEDFORD & KEMPSTON

GCSE Options

A guide for students & families

March 2016

Contents

Introduction

The Core Curriculum in Year 10 and 11

The Option Subjects

Things to consider when choosing Option Subjects

Frequently Asked Questions

Option Subject Course Descriptions

Introduction

This is an exciting and important time for our Year 9 students.

Now is the time when you get to **choose some of the subjects that you will study during Years 10 and 11**. These will have a **big influence on the options that are open to you when you leave Bedford Free School**, which in turn will play a major part in your career and university opportunities in the future.

When choosing your options, **it is important to consider what you want to do not just at 16, but beyond that too**. University might seem a long way off, but **many universities require you to have studied certain subjects** – like French/Spanish or History/Geography at GCSE for them to even consider an application.

Another important factor to consider is that **you are required by law to remain in education or training until you are 18**. This means that you will have to go to a sixth form, or a college, or find employment with appropriate training until you are 18.

It might seem like a lot to think about - but don't worry...

We know our students extremely well and we are confident that the staff here at Bedford Free School, in conjunction with you and your families, will be able **to guide you through the process of choosing your options**.

This booklet will give you all the information you and your families need to navigate the process over the next few weeks or so: what the core compulsory curriculum will be, what option subjects are available, and the key dates along the way.

Remember: *you are not alone in this, and it should be a fun & exciting process.* All your teachers are here to help you and your families, so if you have any questions at all, ask us and we will do our best to help.

The Core Curriculum in Year 10 and 11

The good news is that much of what you study in years 10 and 11 will not change. Here are the subjects in the Core Curriculum, and how many hours a fortnight you will have for each:

Course	Hrs per fortnight	Qualifications this will lead to (if any)
Mathematics	8	GCSE Mathematics
English	8	GCSE English and GCSE English Literature
Science	9	GCSEs in Combined Science
R.E.	3	GCSE R.E.
P.E.	2	-
Electives	4	-

You'll notice a few changes from your Year 9 timetable; more time for Science, a bit less for P.E. and no Global Communities. We've made these changes in order to allow plenty of time for your options (6 hours per fortnight per subject) AND still keep in the other strands we know you really value, like the Electives. The value of the Electives is that you can still do around 3 hours of sport/exercise per week depending on what you choose.

The key thing you need to know is this: **your core curriculum should lead to you coming away with 5 good GCSEs in key subjects.**

What you need to consider now is how you best fill the remaining on your timetable to **keep you on track in achieving your ambitions.**

The Option Subjects

In addition to the core curriculum you choose up to 4 option subjects to study. For some of you, it might make sense to not use up all four options – you might want to choose only 3 and to use the spare time to focus on your English and maths, to get the best grades possible there. We will advise you as to what we think is the best approach for you is.

We have always said that we are “a small school with a big curriculum”, and these are the following courses that are offering to run for you within Bedford Free School:

GCSE Triple Science (i.e. three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
GCSE History
GCSE Geography
GCSE Art
GCSE Music
GCSE Drama
GCSE PE
GCSE Computing
GCSE Graphics
GCSE Spanish
GCSE French
BTEC Health & Social Care

All of the above count for ONE of your option choices and has SIX hours of lessons a fortnight.

You can find all the details about each course in the back of this booklet – and if you have further questions about any of them, just ask teachers in school, and they will be able to help.

It is really important that you talk to teachers of the subjects that you are considering so that they can advise you on its suitability, so that you can make an informed choice.

Things to consider when choosing Option Subjects

Each of you is an individual and will have individual reasons for making the choices that you do.

Your Form Tutor and subject teachers will be able to guide you through the decision making process. Your families will also play a really important part in helping you.

Key things you should consider include:

- **How are you getting on in Science?** The majority of students will study Combined Science. Some however, who show exceptional aptitude for the Science and whose English and Maths grades are strong will be invited to study Triple Science. You don't have to, but if you are invited, you can choose to study for three separate GCSEs (one each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics). This is a great option for anyone considering studying Science at A Level or University and especially if you are considering a career in something like medicine.
- **What are you considering doing when you reach 16: A-levels? College courses? Apprenticeships?**
- **What kind of course do you want to do at university?** Different universities and courses like to see different choices at GCSE.
- **How do you keep your options as wide as possible for later on?** This is particularly important if you're not sure about the kind of career you want to follow.
- **What do you really enjoy doing?** If you enjoy something, you are much more likely to do well at it.

There are some REALLY important factors we want every student to bear in mind.

- 1) Every student must choose at least one from History or Geography. If you wish to do both, this is also possible.
- 2) Every student in sets 1-3 for languages must choose at least one from French or Spanish. If you wish to do both, this is also possible.

By choosing some of your options from these subjects, students will qualify for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), which is the government's gold standard for GCSE results. Most top universities expect students to have this, and we know it provides a rigorous, academic education to all at BFS. With the remaining choices we advise that you try to choose subjects that keep your later career and exam options open – don't dismiss anything yet that you might regret later.

Once you have read this booklet, discussed your potential subjects with your family and spoken to your teachers at Progress Evening you will be in a position to complete your Options Request Form. **This form is only available at the Progress Evening** so make sure you pick yours up when you attend. You then need to return this form, completed and signed by you and your parents/carers by 23rd March. During the Easter holiday Mr Donald and Mr Lehain will begin work on putting together the option blocks for next year. These help us to build the timetable for 2016/17, so you won't hear anything further from us straightaway, but don't worry, we'll be working hard behind the scenes.

Please ensure you hand your request form in on time as late forms can lead to disappointment if we design the timetable without knowing your preferred subject combinations.

Frequently Asked Questions

When do I need to make my choices by?

You will make your initial option requests and hand your completed request form to your tutor by **Wednesday, 23rd March.**

I don't know what I want to do when I'm older – what should I do?

Talk to your family and form tutor first, and then talk to your subject teachers on Progress Evening to get a better idea as to what courses involve. Most importantly – don't panic! Many people are in this situation, and often the best thing is to keep options open by going for a broad range of subjects.

What is the "EBacc"?

The Government is keen that as many students as possible study a broad range of core subjects at GCSE. To achieve the "EBacc" standard, you would need to get a C or better in all of the following:

- Maths
- English
- double or triple science
- History or Geography
- a Language (Spanish or French)

Do I have to choose four options?

Yes – unless you have agreed with Mr Lehain or Mr Donald that it would be advisable for you to choose fewer.

How will my exams be graded?

Most subjects will now be graded in the new 9-1 format (9 is the highest grade available). This change was made last year for English and Maths, and most subjects will follow suit in September. A few subjects (DT subjects) will still be A*-C when you take your exams in the summer of 2018.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Exam Board: AQA

Who should study this course?

Everybody completes English Language. You will learn how to communicate effectively in both reading and writing. This course will teach you the skills and abilities to take an active and responsible role in your community, in your everyday life, workplace or educational setting.

What will I study?

You will investigate and analyse language, experiment and use language creatively and learn functional English to communicate effectively. You will study the following:

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creating Reading and Writing.

Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives.

How will I be assessed?

Exams are 1hr 45m long. There is no Controlled Assessment. In addition, you will be assessed on the quality of your speaking and listening, now referred to as 'Spoken Language'. This will not contribute to your final grade, but will appear on your certificates.

What will I learn?

You will be able to; communicate effectively and confidently, read and write non-fiction, read and explore some modern and heritage texts and learn about the way you speak. The skills gained during the course such as analysing and writing, speaking and listening techniques, organisation skills, developing ideas, evaluation, self-expression and critical awareness, are relevant to all subject areas and future employment.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

This course offers excellent preparation for A Level English Language and Literature and can lead to a range of careers and college or university courses. The course is also mandatory for all post-16 courses.

Will there be any extra-curricular opportunities?

There may be opportunities for visits to poetry readings, the theatre (modern and Shakespeare) and for external speakers to come in and talk about the texts studied.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to your English teacher or Mr Scanlan, Subject Leader for English.

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: AQA

Who should study this course?

Everybody at BFS will complete English Literature. Literature is part of our cultural heritage which is freely available to everyone, and which can enrich our lives in all kinds of ways. Once we have broken the barriers that make studying literature seem daunting, we find that literature can be entertaining, beautiful, funny, or tragic. It can convey profundity of thought, richness of emotion, and insight into character. It takes us beyond our limited experience of life to show us the lives of other people at other times. It stirs us intellectually and emotionally, and deepens our understanding of our history, our society, and our own individual lives.

What will I study?

You will read and explore a range of literature with a wide variety of appeal drawn from contemporary and modern texts, texts from across the globe and texts which have had a significant influence on English literary and cultural heritage. You will study the following:

Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel (40% of the final grade).

Paper 2 – Modern texts and poetry (60% of the final grade).

How will I be assessed?

Two examinations. There is no Controlled Assessment.

What will I learn?

You will be able to appreciate literature in a sensitive and confident manner. More specifically, you will be able to identify language devices and explore their emotional power, expand your vocabulary, and challenge yourself and your thinking.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

English Literature is highly respected and offers excellent preparation for A Level English Literature and can lead to a range of careers and college or university courses.

Will there be any extra-curricular opportunities?

There will be opportunities for visits to the theatre and for external speakers to come in and talk about the texts studied.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to your English teacher or Mr Scanlan, Subject Leader for English.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Who should study this course?

All students will be prepared for and take the GCSE in Mathematics.

What will I study?

You will study the following areas:

1. Algebra
2. Number
3. Geometry and Measure
4. Ratio and Proportion and Rate of change
5. Statics and Probability

How will I be assessed?

All students will follow the linear GCSE with the final examination at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework. The assessment is made up of three examinations, two calculator papers and a non-calculator paper, covering all areas and each contributing equally to the final mark.

What will I learn?

Lateral thinking, reasoning, estimating, analytical skills are but a few valuable skills Mathematics helps develop, coupled with this students will also learn the importance of accuracy and the capacity to form and make logical arguments. All of these skills will help in all subjects and beyond school.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

A GCSE in Mathematics is essential for all paths after BFS. To move onto study A Levels and to go to university, you will need a grade 5 or higher.

It is becoming increasingly popular for students to take Mathematics at A Level. This is well respected by employers, in fact recent statistics worldwide show that, on average, students with a Mathematics A Level earn, on average, 10% more than those without.

Additional information:

You will need to be fully equipped with mathematical equipment, including a scientific calculator.

Where can I find out more?

Speak to your teacher or Mr Bechoo Subject Leader for Maths.

GCSE RE

Exam Board: OCR

Who should study this course?

At BFS all students will study short course RE, whilst some students will have the opportunity to study full course RE.

What will I study?

All students study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam. Students will study the following topics from a philosophical and ethical perspective, with a focus on Christianity:

- Relationships and Families
- Existence of God
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes

How will I be assessed?

Students will take four examinations at the end of Year 11, which will cover everything studied:

- Belief and Teachings & Practices: Christianity 1 hour exam (25%)
- Belief and Teachings & Practices: Islam 1 hour exam (25%)
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics in the Modern World: Christianity 2hour exam (50%)

What skills will I learn?

Religious Studies enables students to develop their understanding of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues in considerable depth. All modules address at least one of these areas directly. Students learn about the nature of the spiritual issues and have the opportunity to consider some responses to spiritual questions. Students studying any of these units will gain an understanding of the beliefs of the Christianity and of the way these have an impact on cultural and social issues in the community and in the family. Students will also learn how to be reflective, emphatic, articulate, evaluative, eloquent, decisive, philosophical and creative.

How will this course help me when I finish my GCSEs?

The study of RE broadens horizons and challenges students morally and intellectually. It is a well-respected, academic subject.

Where can I find out more?

Speak to Mrs Perry, Subject Leader for RE.

GCSE COMBINED & TRIPLE SCIENCE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Who should study this course?

Although all students at BFS will study science at Key Stage 4 we are offering two options in terms of how much students study. The majority of students will take combined science (double award) made up of a combination of Biology, Physics and Chemistry modules. Selected students who show a particular aptitude for Science and have achieved high scores in English, Maths and Science by the end of Year 9 will study all three sciences individually and get a GCSE grade in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What will I study?

For each branch of Science there are at least 9 topics covering a range of fascinating and challenging topics.

How will I be assessed? (Combined Science)

The programme of study for this option means, that students will study all three sciences but not to the same depth as the triple students. Students will be awarded two GCSEs at the end of the course. This is a linear course following the new GCSE structure and grading. Students will achieve a grade from 9-1 rather than A*-G. All exams will be sat at the end of the course and students will sit a total of 6, 1hr 15min exams. As part of the new structure of GCSE science there will no longer be any controlled assessments rather a percentage of the questions in the exams will be based on core practical experiments that will be carried out in lessons throughout the two years of study.

How will I be assessed? (Triple Science)

This is a linear course that will follow the new GCSE structure and grading, meaning that students will achieve a grade from 1-9 rather than G-A*. Being a linear course means that all exams will be sat at the end of the course of study; so for each science subject, students will sit 2, 1hr 45min exams. As part of the new structure for GCSE science there will no longer be any controlled assessments rather a percentage of the questions in the exams will be based on core practical experiments that will be carried out in lessons throughout the two years of study.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

Triple Science offers students an advantage when studying any separate science at A-level. It will also cultivate any general scientific interest any student may presently have. The course is suitable for any student wishing to follow a career in science, medicine, or engineering. It is an ideal stepping stone to A-level and is looked favourably upon by top universities.

Where can I find out more?

Speak to Miss Dave, Subject Leader for Science

GCSE History

Exam Board: Edexcel

Who should study this course?

If you enjoy learning about how the events of the last 1000 years help explain the problems and opportunities of the world today then History is the ideal subject for you. If you want to gain an insight on why important figures in history did what they did and develop valuable qualities such as reasoning and debating, then GCSE History is definitely for you. You will develop an awareness of how the past has been represented, interpreted and accorded significance for different reasons and purposes. You will be able to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them critically using a range of sources and interpretations in their historical context.

History is a challenging but incredibly rewarding subject. The knowledge and skills acquired studying History are in great demand from employers who want to see that you have a broad intellectual capacity.

What will I study?

- **Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment:** Medicine in Britain from 1250-present and Medicine on the Western Front
- **Paper 2: Period study and British depth study:** Anglo-Saxon and Norman England (1060-88) and Cold War superpower relations
- **Paper 3: Modern World Depth Study:** Weimar and Nazi Germany (Historical interpretations)

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment: 30% (Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes)

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study: 40% (Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes)

Paper 3: Modern depth study: 30% (Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes)

What will I learn?

You will develop an awareness of how the past has been represented, interpreted and accorded significance for different reasons and purposes. You will be able to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them critically using a range of sources in their historical context.

The knowledge acquired studying History is in great demand from businesses, especially for students interested in careers in management and for students interested in studying History or Law at University.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

The History course is excellent preparation for a specific AS Level in History, but also for other subjects within the wider Humanities and Social Sciences.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to your History teacher or Mr Blake, Head of Humanities

GCSE Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Who should study this course?

If you enjoy exploring nature, the world around us, and have a thirst for travel and getting to know the people that live in different places, then GCSE Geography is the ideal subject for you.

What will I study?

The course focuses on the physical and human processes and factors that have shaped the environment in which you live. You will learn about the interdependence of the physical environments and how human activity influences our environment. The course will also give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

- **Paper 1: Living with the physical environment:** 3.1.1 The challenge of natural hazards, 3.1.2 The living world, 3.1.3 Physical landscapes in the UK, 3.4 Geographical skills
- **Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment:** 3.2.1 Urban issues and challenges, 3.2.2 The changing economic world, 3.2.3 The challenge of resource management
- **Paper 3: Geographical applications:** 3.3.1 Issue evaluation, 3.3.2 Fieldwork, 3.4 Geographical skills

How will I be assessed?

There are three externally examined papers. Students must complete all assessment in May/June at the end of Y11.

What will I learn?

Geography fosters skills that are an asset in any job situation and are highly sought after by employers.

Geographers are taught a wide-ranging combination of skills. This ability to view issues from a wider perspective is appropriate for working in many different areas. If your career path is to be varied, or if you are not yet sure what you want to do, Geography will help you develop vital transferable skills.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

GCSE Geography lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Geography or related subjects at A Level and beyond.

Where can I find out more?

Mr Haddow.

GCSE FRENCH

Exam Board: AQA

Who should study this course?

Students who are hoping to go on to higher education are advised to study a Modern Foreign Language.

At BFS, we expect all students in sets 1 to 3 to study either French or Spanish at GCSE. A few of our most enthusiastic students choose to learn both languages.

What will I study?

- Theme 1: Identity and Culture
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3: current and future study and employment

The course builds on work completed in Year 9. You will continue to develop the four key skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking.

How will I be assessed?

Listening examination – 25% (final exam)

Reading examination – 25% (final exam)

Writing examination – 25% (final exam)

Speaking examination – 25% (final exam)

What will I learn?

As well as the educational benefit of studying a language and the academic rigour this involves, the course also has many practical uses for travel and leisure activities abroad. The study of a language in Sixth Form combines well with most subjects.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

Students wishing to continue with AS and A2 GCE Level French or those wishing to take a language as part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma will need to achieve a grade B in GCSE French.

Where can I find out more?

Mrs Kigang, Subject Leader for Languages.

GCSE SPANISH

Exam Board: AQA

Who should study this course?

Students who are hoping to go on to higher education are advised to study a Modern Foreign Language.

At BFS, we expect all students in sets 1 to 3 to study either French or Spanish at GCSE. A few of our most enthusiastic students choose to learn both languages.

What will I study?

- Theme 1: Identity and Culture
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3: current and future study and employment

The course builds on work completed in Year 9. You will continue to develop the four key skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking.

How will I be assessed?

Listening examination – 25% (final exam)

Reading examination – 25% (final exam)

Writing examination – 25% (final exam)

Speaking examination – 25% (final exam)

What will I learn?

As well as the educational benefit of studying a language and the academic rigour this involves, the course also has many practical uses for travel and leisure activities abroad. The study of a language in Sixth Form combines well with most subjects.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

Students wishing to continue with AS and A2 GCE Level French or those wishing to take a language as part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma will need to achieve a grade B in GCSE French.

Where can I find out more?

Mrs Kigang, Subject Leader for Languages.

GCSE Art

Exam Board: AQA

Who should study this course?

Students who enjoy drawing and taking photographs; researching artists, photographers and other cultures; exploring ideas and experimenting with different media (pencil, biro, pen and ink, ink and bleach, charcoal and chalk, oil pastels, painting with acrylics and watercolours, print-making with lino and screens, 3D sculpture with wire, mod roc and found materials); and creating final outcomes in the media of their choice. Knowledge and practical skills are developed and refined with an emphasis on producing creative and original art work.

What will I study?

- Drawing
- Research into artists, photographers and other cultures
- Exploration and development of ideas
- Experimentation with different media
- Sketchbook presentation
- Creation of original art work
- Gallery visits

How will I be assessed?

The course comprises of two units, currently assessed with marks out of 80. These are internally marked and moderated, then externally moderated by the examination board AQA.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

This course is essential for students who wish to pursue studies in Art, Photography, Graphic Design and Textiles at A Level or BTEC Level 3.

Additional Information

Students may be asked to contribute to the cost of materials for their final GCSE coursework project.

Where can I find out more?

Ms Hutton, Subject Leader for Art.

GCSE Computing

Exam Board: OCR

Who should study this course?

There is a desperate shortage of capable computer scientists, so you might study computing to benefit from the future potential for well-paid employment. Alternatively, you could study computing to better understand the work we live in, which is increasingly reliant on computers.

What will I study?

GCSE Computing enables students to:

- develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies, how they work and their role in society
- acquire and apply technical knowledge
- develop computational thinking, and how to solve problems

How will I be assessed?

- Computer systems (exam) 40%
- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (exam) 40%
- Programming project (controlled assessment) 20%

What will I learn?

- Learn more about how computers work, including hardware and how instructions are coded
- Write more useful computer programs to solve problems (and for fun!)
- Further develop IT skills, to become a discerning user of computer systems
- Understand how data is represented on computers, including text, image, video and sound files
- Design and use relational databases
- Understand computer networks, including the internet

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

- Computing is particularly relevant to STEM industries including Engineering, Science, Medicine and IT

Where can I find out more?

Mr Moore, Subject Leader for DT.

GCSE DRAMA

Exam Board: WJEC

Who should study this course?

This course would suit anyone who is interested in developing their performance skills, creativity and imaginative potential. Only consider Drama GCSE if you enjoy:

- expressing yourself in an active and exciting way
- working in a group
- contributing your ideas and taking on board those of others
- playing many parts in different imaginary situations
- creating your own drama work

What will I study?

Students will learn to:

- develop a personal interest in why Drama matters and be inspired, moved and changed by studying a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study
- study a range of theatre practitioners and use their techniques to create a piece of original theatre

How will I be assessed?

UNIT ONE:

Devised Practical Performance **(40%)**

UNIT TWO:

Performance from a Text **(20%)**

UNIT THREE:

Written Examination **(40%)**

What will I learn?

The skills gained during the course such as presentation techniques, organisation skills, developing ideas, evaluation, self-expression, and critical awareness, are relevant to all subject areas and future employment.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

The course is good preparation for AS and A2 Level Drama as well as English Literature.

Where can I find out more?

Miss Damon, Subject Leader for Drama.

GCSE GRAPHICS

Exam Board: AQA

Who should study this course?

Students who are interesting in being creative and original in designing and making products.

What will I study?

- Use of drawing boards, instruments and drafting aids
- Nets and Packaging developments
- Development of Media techniques
- Printing techniques
- Understanding of CAD/CAM

Project work will form the basis of most of the skills shown above and students in the past have produced work in areas such as:

- CD/DVD design
- Architectural/Interior Design modelling
- Packaging Designs

How will I be assessed?

There is one tier of assessment covering grades A* to G. This is made up of a written exam paper worth **40%** and consisting of one individual focused Design task with the theme given before the exam takes place. There is also some theory involved.

There is also coursework worth **60%** and consisting of one individual 'Design and Make' task which requires an A3 design portfolio, and a range of 3D outcomes.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

This course would be suitable for students considering a career in architecture, product design, graphic design, illustration/book design, computer graphics, or interior design.

Additional Information

Students may be asked to contribute to the cost of materials for their final GCSE coursework project.

Where can I find out more?

Mr Moore, Subject Leader for DT.

BTEC Health and Social Care

Exam Board: Edexcel

Who should study this course?

Students who wish to pursue a career in health and social care sectors such as childcare, nursing, social work or care for older people.

What will I study?

You will cover a range of subjects across the area of Health and social care such as Nutrition, Communication, Empowerment and values.

How will I be assessed?

The Assessment for BTEC Firsts is primarily course work, with one unit assessed through an exam. The coursework builds up over the 2 year course. Assignments are based on real life using vocational settings in which students will be asked to apply to their theory learnt in lessons.

What will I learn?

Students will be prepared for the world of work with transferable vocational skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork and grit. This course allows the students to take many different routes such as childcare which can lead on to Level 2 and 3 in further education.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

This is a good foundation course for those wanting to pursue BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care.

Will there be any extra-curricular opportunities?

Students are encouraged to find work placements within the field of Health and Social care.

Where can I find out more?

Mrs Monk to find out more information about Health and Social Care. If you are considering studying BTEC, please also speak to Mr Donald prior to completing your final options request.

GCSE MUSIC

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Who should study this course?

This course is aimed at anyone who enjoys performing, composing and listening to music of any genre.

What will I study?

The Music GCSE course enables students engage in performing, composing, arranging, listening and appraising. The four areas of study that students will be examined on are:

- Instrumental Music (1700-1820)
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

How will I be assessed?

- Performing music – two performances are submitted to the exam board (solo **and/or** ensemble) – **30%**
- Composing music – two compositions are submitted to the exam board – **30%**
- Appraising music – there will be one 1hour 45mins written examination, answering questions about the 8 set works that we study (plus some appraising of unfamiliar pieces) – **40%**

What will I learn?

You will learn how to:

- Develop your performance skills and learn to communicate musically with fluency and control.
- Develop an awareness of a variety of instruments, styles and approaches to performing and composing.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

Music develops so many life skills and transferable skills that many employers view as valuable. These include things like: critical and creative thinking, self-discipline, self-confidence, self-motivation and emotional awareness.

Additional Information

Please note that students who choose GCSE Music **must take instrumental or singing lessons at school or privately.**

Where can I find out more?

Miss Goodship, Subject Leader for Music.

GCSE PE

Exam Board: Edexcel

Who should study this course?

Students with a passion for sport both practically and the theory of P.E. Students should have a good all round sporting pedigree and should represent the school in a range of sports. Taking part in sports clubs outside of school is a major advantage to accessing the higher grades.

What will I study?

- Fitness and body systems
- Health and performance
- Practical performance
- Personal Exercise Plan

How will I be assessed?

60% Theory made up of two exams. Component 1 is a 1hr 45 minute exam. Component 2 is 1hr 15 minute exam.

30% Practical internally marked and externally moderated. One team activity, one individual activity and a free choice from the DfE approved list.

10% Personal Exercise Plan. Plan and analyse a personal fitness plan over a six week period.

What will I learn?

Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, health, fitness and well-being, sport psychology, socio-cultural influences and the use of data in sport.

How will this course help me after my GCSEs?

The blend of scientific and social knowledge positions candidates to access a range of qualifications. Students who enjoy GCSE PE can progress to BTEC Nationals in Sport and Exercise science or AS/A level Physical Education.

Will there be any extra-curricular opportunities?

Opportunity to join the Leadership Academy managed by Bedford School Sports Partnership.

Where can I find out more?

Mr. Cox, Subject Leader for PE.