BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS 2024 - 2026

INTRODUCTION

The selection of option subjects at Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11, with some courses beginning in Year 9) is one of the most important moments in your secondary education and has an impact on the rest of your life. This booklet is designed to explain the background to the choices available and provide a guide and reference point for the next stage.

About this booklet

This booklet is designed to help you make the best choices for you for Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4). At the end of Year 9 you will have completed Key Stage 3. You now need to start thinking about what you hope to achieve in the future.

Please note that some of the opportunities we offer may change because we review what we teach and how we teach it, and because of very high or very low student numbers applying for certain subjects. Any changes will be discussed with you personally if they affect you. There will be close liaison between you, the School and your parents as required throughout this process.

Read this information carefully, then, in consideration with your current levels of progress, and your aspirations for the future decide which courses will be best for you to continue with into Years 10 and 11.

You should use the diagram on the back of this booklet to help you select your Option subjects. Parents/carers will be emailed a link to an online form that will enable you to submit your confirmed choices.
The deadline for completion of the online form is **6pm on Thursday 8 February 2024.**

Enjoy this exciting new chapter in your education – your future is in your hands!

How should I make my choices?

The **English Baccalaureate,** which signifies success in a range of GCSE subjects reflects our own curriculum policy for Key Stage 4, where students are encouraged to select a **broad** and **balanced** curriculum.

Our curriculum enables many students to study the **English Baccalaureate subjects** where they must gain a 9-4 grade in the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Two Sciences (Separate Sciences/Computer Science/Combined Science)
- Geography or History
- Modern Foreign Language (Spanish or French)

We expect the majority of students at Bristol Free School to study French or Spanish at KS4. This will be an advantage for many careers and is highly regarded by both universities and future employers. Learning a language will not only provide you with the tools to converse in a different language, it will also improve your understanding of English vocabulary and grammar.

However, the English Baccalaureate model will not suit all of our students. When making course choices you can request exemption from languages. This will be reviewed by Senior staff. Some students will benefit from taking a Vocational course which offers a different learning and assessment experience.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

What is a good reason to choose a course?

You should base your choices on:

- Subjects you are good at – this will lead to better motivation and your best final results.
- Subjects which interest you, which you enjoy and which you want to study for two years.
- Subjects which may help you with your future career (if you already have some idea of what this might be).

Do not choose a particular course just because you get on well with the teacher or because a friend chooses it. The chances are that you will have a different teacher next year and you may not be in the same class as your friend.

Will I get my first choices?

We will do our best to give you your first choices but that is not always possible, so you will be asked for a reserve choice. Most courses have maximum numbers that they can accept because of the limits of specialist rooms and staff (e.g Food and Nutrition).

Where courses typically have too many applicants you are asked to write a statement to explain why you have chosen this course and applicants will then be accepted on the basis of the letter.

Please note that some courses can be taken at Sixth Form even if not taken at GCSE, e.g. Business and ICT.

For a course to be taught it must have been chosen by a sufficient number of students.

Are there any course combinations to avoid?

In order to maintain a balanced curriculum the following option course combinations will **not** be accepted:

- Students are not able to choose Art **and** Photography
- Students are **not** able to choose Creative iMedia **and** Computer Science
- Students are **not** able to choose PE GCSE **and** Vocational Sport

What do I do next?

- Read all of the information in this booklet carefully
- Watch the course videos to find out more
- Ask questions about the KS4 courses in lessons and attend taster sessions for some subjects,
- Talk things over with your parent/carer, teachers, tutor and anyone else who can advise you.
- Decide on your chosen courses
- Record your choices in this booklet for your own records
- When you are sure that everything is right you must complete the online form that will be emailed to parents and carers to confirm your choices
- You should complete the online form by **6pm on Thursday 8 February 2023**

At the end of this booklet you will find an outline of the Options choices. You should use this to ensure you are confident you have chosen the right courses and can continue to work hard for the rest of Year 9 towards this new phase.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

Pre-16 Qualifications and University Entrance

The following information is taken from a leaflet issued by the Russell Group, which provides guidance to students about how their GCSE subjects can affect their course choices at some universities:

- When applying to university, and especially for a very competitive course, it is important that you consider all aspects of the entrance requirements, including the GCSE or other standard level requirements.
- Universities may ask for a specific number of GCSEs (or their equivalent). For example, a number of medical courses ask for five (sometimes more) 7 plus grades.
- GCSE English or another standard level equivalent is very often required at Grade 5 at least. At many universities this is a universal entry requirement for any course. Mathematics is only slightly less commonly asked for. Courses such as Business and Psychology, which may attract applicants who aren't necessarily strong mathematicians, commonly ask for at least a Grade 5 in Mathematics and, in some cases, Science GCSEs.
- The GCSE or other standard level entrance requirements for individual degree courses is quite varied. In some cases, a particular subject or grade is required at standard level if it isn't being offered at advanced level.

The summary below gives an idea of some of the GCSE requirements that you might come across for certain degree courses. Remember that these are only examples. It's important to check university websites for detailed requirements before applying.

- To study any degree at university you must have secured at least a Grade 4 in both English and Maths.
- Applicants to study Medicine are required to have very good GCSE results in Maths, Science and English, normally at Grade 7 or better.
- For a Business degree, students are often required to have taken higher tier Maths and gained a Grade 6 or above.
- A Grade 6 in Maths and Science is often required for a degree in Psychology.

Should you have any questions about this please contact:
options@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

ENGLISH

Why study GCSE English Language and Literature?

The English department at Bristol Free School are committed to ensuring that each student learns to communicate as effectively as possible through both the spoken and written word.

We celebrate language and encourage all students to develop the skills needed to respond critically to the array of information that they will encounter throughout their lives. As well as this, the department is dedicated to ensuring that students are encouraged to read widely for pleasure, draw together their knowledge, skills and understanding of a range of texts and are prepared for studying literature at a higher level.

All students study the English Language and Literature GCSE courses. We follow the **Edexcel/Pearson** specification for both literature and language and students will be taught both subjects by one teacher, **gaining 2 distinct GCSE grades**. All of the assessments will take place at the end of the course. This linear approach allows students to study texts and language in depth and make links between different areas of study.

What will you learn and how is it assessed?

GCSE English Language

Paper 1 – Fiction and imaginative writing

Section A: Reading – questions on an unseen 19th-century fiction extract

Section B: Writing – a choice of two writing tasks. The tasks are linked by theme to the reading extract.

Paper 2 – Non-fiction and transactional writing

Section A: Reading –questions on two thematically linked, unseen non-fiction extracts.

Section B: Writing – a choice of two writing tasks. The tasks are linked by theme to the reading extracts.

GCSE English Literature

Paper 1 – Shakespeare and Post-1914 British literature

Section A: Shakespeare – Macbeth- two-part question. First task is extract analysis and response, second task is a question exploring how theme is reflected in the play.

Section B: Post-1914 British novel- one essay question on *An Inspector Calls* by *J.B Preistley* or *Boys Don't Cry* by Malorie Blackman

Paper 2 – 19th-century novel and poetry since 1789

Section A: 19th-century novel – two-part question. First task is extract analysis and response, second task is a question exploring how theme is reflected in the novel Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by R L Stevenson or *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

Section B: Poetry – one question on the "Belonging" collection of poetry. One question comparing two unseen contemporary poems.

"There is no friend as loyal as a book."

-Ernest Hemingway

Where could GCSE English lead?

English is a facilitating subject which means it complements a range of other subjects and studying it at A-Level is very highly thought of by universities and employers. English at GCSE and beyond develops a range of skills including:

- A useful capacity to express how you feel, using the right words at the right time.
- The ability to articulate answers and opinions
- A lifelong love of literature and literary characters.

MATHS

Why study GCSE Maths?

Mathematics equips students with uniquely powerful ways to describe, analyse and change the world. It can stimulate moments of pleasure and wonder for when they solve a problem for the first time, discover a more elegant solution, or notice hidden connections. Students who are functional in mathematics and are numerically and financially capable, are able to think independently in applied and abstract ways, and can reason, solve problems and assess risk.

Mathematical thinking is important for all members of society for use in the workplace, business and finance, and for personal decision-making. Mathematics is fundamental for the economy in providing tools for understanding science, engineering, technology and business. It is essential in public decision-making and for participation in the knowledge economy.

What will you learn?

GCSE Mathematics is divided into three assessment objectives:

AO1: Use and apply standard techniques (recall facts, carry out routine procedures).
AO2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically (draw mathematical inferences and conclusions, present arguments and proofs).
AO3: Solve problems within mathematics and other contexts.

The main areas of mathematical study are Number; Ratio Proportion and Rates of Change; Algebra; Statistics & Probability; and Geometry.

All students will study the GCSE Mathematics course at either Foundation (Grades 1-5) or Higher (Grades 4-9) Tier, with a final decision being made on the tier of entry when students are in Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

There are three written exams at either foundation or higher tier. Each exam is 1 hour 30 minutes with two calculator papers and one non-calculator paper. A total of 80 marks is available on each paper

"'In order to understand the universe you must know the language in which it is written and that language is mathematics."
- Galileo Galilei

Where could GCSE Maths lead?

Mathematics is a facilitating subject which means it complements a range of other subjects and studying it at A-Level is very highly thought of by universities and employers.

Below are some examples of the skills it helps you develop, although there are many more.

- The ability to present a logical argument.
- The ability to apply knowledge and skills to solve everyday problems.
- A numerical competence and financial capability.
- The capacity of creative and abstract thought.

SCIENCE

Why study GCSE Science?

Combined Science is the default route for students at Bristol Free School (and for the majority of students nationally). It prepares students for all further study routes at KS5. At the end of Year 10, students who are attaining high grades and working hard will be offered the chance to study Triple Science. Students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in greater depth achieving individual GCSE grades for each.

What will you learn?

Students start this course in Year 9. They will study the following topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics on both courses:

Biology:

1.Cell Biology, 2.Organisation, 3.Infection and Response 4.Bioenergetics, 5.Homeostasis and Response, 6.Inheritance, Variation and Evolution, 7.Ecology

Chemistry:

1. Atomic Structure, 2.Bonding, Structure and Properties, 3.Quantitative Chemistry, 4.Chemical Changes, 5.Energy Changes, 6. Rate of Chemical Reactions, 7. Organic Chemistry, 8. Chemical Analysis, 9. Chemistry of the Atmosphere, 10. Using Resources

Physics:

1. Energy, 2. Electricity, 3. Particle Model of Matter, 4. Atomic Structure, 5. Forces, 6. Waves, 7. Magnetism and Electromagnetism8. Space Physics (Triple Science Only)

"Nothing has such power to broaden the mind as the ability to investigate systematically and truly all that comes under the observation in life. "

- Marcus Aurelius

Assessment

Assessment is in the form of 6 written exam papers, two in each Science discipline. The papers are equally weighted and last 1h 15 min each. (1h 45min for triple science)

Where could GCSE Science lead?

Students achieving the necessary grades can carry on to study separate sciences at A level.
Science is a "facilitating subject", which means it complements a range of other subjects. Studying Science subjects at A-Level is very highly regarded by universities and employers.

BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL

PSHE

Why study PSHE?

Non-Examined PSHE gives students the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe and to prepare them for life and work in modern Britain.

What will I study?

Statutory relationships and sex education is taught through PSHE at Bristol Free School.
Through this subject students develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to manage their lives, now and in the future.

These skills and attributes help students to stay healthy, safe and prepare them for life and work in modern Britain.
PSHE helps students to achieve their academic potential by fostering the knowledge, skills and attributes that a student needs to thrive as an individual, as a family member and as a member of society.

From making responsible decisions about alcohol to succeeding in a job, PSHE helps students to manage many of the most critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face growing up.

What will it give me?

A growing body of research shows that students who are emotionally healthy do better at school.
PSHE helps children and young people to achieve their potential by supporting their wellbeing and tackling issues that can affect their ability to learn.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why study Physical Education?

Physical activity is at the heart of a healthy lifestyle. All students at Bristol Free School will aim to meet the Department for Education guidance of 90 minutes physical activity a week. Exercise is a vital part of ensuring positive physical and mental health.

What will I study?

As in previous years, students will cover 6 units over the academic year in both Years 10 and 11. Facilities permitting, we will be offering a range of games and physical activities to promote mental, social and physical well-being.

What will it give me?

Physical activity enables you to build muscle and strong bones. Engaging in regular physical activity can increase your energy levels improve your mood and reduce feelings of anxiety and depression.

HISTORY

Why choose GCSE History?

Despite its roots in the past, history is constantly happening around us; whether it be the attacks on the twin towers, the decision to exit the European Union or the riots on Capitol Hill in Washington following Donald Trump's election defeat. The recent Russian invasion and subsequent war in Ukraine, is just one of many pertinent reminders of the resonance and relevance of history on our lives and our society.

What will you learn?

Medicine in Britain, c1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front: This period focuses on the development of medicine over a long period of time. Students will examine events from the Black Death of 1348 right up to the discovery of DNA. Students will be required to examine themes through an extended time period and identify and evaluate key developments. Students will also study the treatment of injuries in the trenches including; improvements in surgery, the development of x-ray, the development of blood transfusions and the use of sources in examining these.

Early Elizabethan England, 1558 – 1588: The British depth study will focus on Elizabethan England in the period 1558 to 1588. Students will explore the issues of the time, such as the challenges facing Elizabeth domestically, the religious turbulence of the period, relations with foreign powers and the Age of Exploration and its discoveries, voyages and failures. Students will immerse themselves in debates such as the decision to execute Mary Queen of Scots, the reasons for victory over the Spanish Armada and the significance of the plots and conspiracies against Elizabeth.

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939: The modern depth study focuses on the relationship between the German people and the Nazi regime that ruled Germany from 1933-1945. The depth study ranges from 1918-1939 in order to provide the context for the Nazi period in Germany. Students will look at how developments in Weimar Germany led to the rise of the Nazi Party and the emergence of a totalitarian regime and the political, social, economic, cultural and religious impact of this regime on the German people.

Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991: This period study focuses on superpower relations during the Cold War, in particular the growing tensions between America and the USSR. The period study ranges from 1941-1991 in order to allow students to examine the context of the Cold War through to the fall of the Berlin Wall. In this units students will learn about key events such as the creation of NATO, the division of Germany, the arms race, the construction and fall of the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"We are not makers of history. We are made by history." -Martin Luther King Jr.

Assessment

- 30%: Medicine in Britain, c1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front. 1hr 15minute written exam.
- 40%: Early Elizabethan England, 1558 – 1588 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991 1hr 45minute written exam.
- 30%: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939 1hr 20minute written exam.

Where could GCSE History lead?

Studying History opens many doors and whilst an academic and 'stand-alone' subject, history also complements a wide range of other subjects. Consequently, studying history at GCSE and A-level, is highly thought of by universities and employers alike, when considering candidates for a wide range of degree courses and employment opportunities

GEOGRAPHY

Why choose GCSE Geography?

Studying geography enables you to understand the environment at local and global scales. Students learn about where places are in the world, and how these locations influence residents' daily lives. They will develop an understanding of other cultures within the UK and the wider world. Fieldwork provides an opportunity to effectively analyse and present data alongside nurturing a wide range of transferrable skills such as presenting arguments and problem solving.

What will you learn?

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world; examining rainforests and cold environments
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenges of resource management

Fieldwork: You will have opportunities to complete fieldwork at the coast and central Bristol.

"Geography is a living, breathing subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic and relevant. For me, geography is a great adventure with a purpose."
- Michael Palin

Assessment

Paper 1 - 35% - Living with the Physical Environment (1hr 30 mins)
Paper 2 - 35% - Challenges of the Human Environment (1hr 30 mins)
Paper 3 - 30% - Geographical Applications including Fieldwork (1hr)

Where could GCSE Geography lead you?

Geography is highly valued by employers worldwide and will help you to be more aware of the everyday life and problems of the people who live around you, in other parts of the UK, and across the world. Geography is a highly topical subject, ever changing as contemporary world events unfold. When you see newspaper items or television reports about a conflict in a foreign country, or a super volcano in the USA, for example, your geography course will enable you make sense of what is going on.

Geography will make you a better, more aware global citizen. Choosing Geography with other subjects that interest you could lead to many different future career choices.

SPANISH

Why choose GCSE Spanish?

When you think of Spanish, you might instantly picture golden sandy beaches and the warm Mediterranean sun. However, do you picture the number of Spanish speakers in the world and the strength this language is gaining within the business world?

Spanish is the native language for over 350 million people. This means there are more people in the world who speak Spanish as their first language than English. The number of Spanish speakers in the USA is increasing and this is, in turn, increasing the demand for the language within the business and economic sector. This aside, learning Spanish will not only provide you with the tools to converse in a different language, it will also heighten your understanding of English vocabulary and grammar.

What will you learn?

Every Spanish lesson will be completely different. One lesson you may be conversing with a partner about your ideal teacher and the next you could be imagining yourself walking down La Rambla in Barcelona, describing the scenery and the people you see. You will not only be learning how to learn language for today's world, but you will also gain an insight into Hispanic culture.

A wide range of vocabulary and grammar will be studied and will come under five main thematic contexts:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and Tourism

Assessment

•Paper 1: Speaking in Spanish (25%)
•Paper 2: Listening and understanding in Spanish (25%)
•Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Spanish (25%)
•Paper 4: Writing in Spanish (25%)

Where could GCSE Spanish lead?

Learning Spanish could take you anywhere!
You can choose to study A level Spanish.
GCSE Spanish will most certainly support any application to further or higher education as it will prove your ability to communicate effectively. The new 2024 specification is focused on the important ways that languages foster communication, broaden perspectives, introduce new cultures and develop students into global citizens.

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."
-Frank Smith, Psycholinguist

FRENCH

Why choose GCSE French?

As the famous French singer Édith Piaf told us, "Non, je ne regrette rien" and one thing you will certainly not regret is choosing to study this beautiful language at GCSE. French is spoken by over 200 million people worldwide and is the principal language of 68 states within the Francophonie. Furthermore, French is an important language within the international job market and will open doors for you to be able to communicate with people from as far as Canada to parts of Africa.

What will you learn?

Throughout the GCSE course you will study a range of topics which will allow you to start to deal with real life situations and develop your independent use of the language. So, one lesson you may be sitting in a Parisian Café ordering un café au lait and chatting with locals about the smoking ban, and the next you might be in a hotel reception in Switzerland, complaining that you have no toilet paper in your room!

The GCSE course will rapidly build upon the knowledge and skills gained throughout Key Stage 3. A wide range of topics, vocabulary and grammar will be studied in the following thematic contexts:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and Tourism

Assessment

- Paper 1: Speaking in French (25%)
- Paper 2: Listening and understanding in French (25%)
- Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French (25%)
- Paper 4: Writing in French (25%)

Where could GCSE French lead?

This answer is endless, and the sky really is the limit! You can choose to study A level French.
Not only will studying GCSE French allow you to converse with people from all over the world, it will also keep many doors open to you when you come to making your post-16 choices. For example, many of the top universities will only take applications from students who have a language to at least GCSE level, because they see the important skills learners of languages gain.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Why choose GCSE Computer Science?

Computer Science is so much more than most people think! Students will learn about how computers function, how they store and process data, how they connect and communicate with other computers, and how they can be used to solve problems. Students will investigate how technology is evolving and how systems are developed to meet the needs of users and society. Students will learn about cyber security including different methods of attacks and how to prevent them as well as the important of computational thinking when designing computer systems.

What will you learn?

Students will become problem solvers and independent learners as they learn to program computer applications and complete independent research tasks based on real world computing topics. The theory is interlinked in practical tasks and investigations to support preparation for the Non-Examined Assessment which is completed in Year 10. Students will also take part in a number of national and international competitions and challenges to further develop their computational thinking skills and supporting their understanding of computer science as well as other studies.

Assessment

Component 1: Computer Systems (Examination 50%)

• Systems Architecture • Memory • Storage • Wired and wireless networks • Network topologies, protocols and layers • System security • System software • Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (Examination 50%)

• Algorithms • Programming techniques • Producing robust programs • Computational logic • Translators and facilities of languages • Data representation

"I believe that at the end of the century the use of words and general educated opinion will have altered so much that one will be able to speak of machines thinking without expecting to be contradicted." - Alan Turing

Where could GCSE Computer Science lead?

Students will be prepared for learning, working and living in an increasingly digital world. Computer science develops creativity, logical thinking, independent learning and self-evaluation. Knowledge of computing is of enormous importance to the economy and the course focuses on computer technologies that are relevant in the modern world. Studying computer science at GCSE can open the doors to a wide range of courses post 16 and post 18 such as computer science industry (software development, artificial intelligence, hardware development), engineering, sciences, product design as well as opportunities in cybersecurity for the government protecting our country at GCHQ or in the Forces or helping an organisation improve their security systems and defences.

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

Why choose GCSE Art, Craft and Design?

Art is a central part of the curriculum at Bristol Free School, giving students every opportunity to explore their creativity using a wide range of media, from traditional forms of painting, printmaking and sculpture, to more contemporary techniques using animation and Photoshop. We follow the AQA specification which provides students with a range of options with a broad course in Art Craft and Design and six specialist endorsements.

What will you learn?

GCSE Art Craft and Design provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature. Students will develop the following skills: creativity, imagination, research, investigation and experimentation, and the development of ideas from first-hand experience and, where appropriate, secondary source materials.

This two unit specification enables students to develop their ability to actively engage in the processes of Art Craft and Design – to build creative skills through learning and doing, to develop imaginative and intuitive ways of working, and to develop knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures. It is a strong foundation for further progression to Art and Design related courses such as A-level Fine Art or Photography and enhanced vocational and career pathways.

Assessment

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work (Controlled Assessment) 60%. Work is selected from that undertaken during course of study and must include more than one project.

Unit 2: Externally Set Task 40%

Unlimited preparation time and 10 hours of sustained focused study. Candidates respond to their chosen starting point.

All work is set and marked by the Art and Design team at BFS and moderated by AQA.

Where could GCSE Art, Craft and Design lead?

There are a range of possible pathways beyond GCSE if you opt to study GCSE Art and design for example A level Fine Art or A level Photography. A foundation diploma in Art and Design could follow and possible degree courses include Art History, Illustration and Architecture.

"As practice makes perfect, I cannot but make progress; each drawing one makes, each study one paints, is a step forward. "

- Vincent Van Gogh

BUSINESS STUDIES

Why choose GCSE Business Studies?

If you want a real insight into the way the Business world works, GCSE Business is a great starting point. The course will give you an overview of the way real-life businesses operate and will equip you with the skills and knowledge needed for the world of business. The course content is relevant for a range of careers within industry, but also teaches vital skills needed across the curriculum.

What will you learn?

Business Studies analyses and evaluates the decisions that firms have to make in order to achieve their business objectives. The course focuses on starting and running your own business in Year 10 and will cover topics such as marketing and financing your own business.

In Year 11 the course focuses on managing and building larger businesses and will cover topics such as motivating and managing employees and the role of the economy.

"Do not be embarrassed by your failures, learn from them and start again."
- Richard Branson

Assessment

Theme 1: Investigating small business (50% of GCSE)

This unit introduces students to the main concepts of business studies including marketing, cash flow, managing staff, legislation and many more. The exam will consist of short and extended-writing questions.

Theme 2: Building a Business (50% of GCSE)

Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human operations. It also considers the impacts of the economy and globalisation. The exam will consist of short and extended-writing questions.

There is no controlled assessment; the course will be assessed entirely by exam. A reasonably strong aptitude in maths is beneficial, as 10% of the subject marks are allocated to quantitative skills.

Where could GCSE Business Studies lead?

The knowledge and skills students will acquire, as outlined above, support progression to a broad range of level 3 study, whether academic or vocational. This could include A Level Economics, Level 3 BTEC Business and related degree courses.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Why choose GCSE Design and Technology?

At Bristol Free School, Design and Technology is a fundamental part of the curriculum enabling students to create solutions to real life problems. The qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that consider their own and others' needs, wants and values. Students work within a range of different materials using specialist hand and machine equipment. A GCSE in Design Technology enables students to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other subjects, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities. The new GCSE in D&T incorporates the full range of design disciplines such as product, textile and graphics. It has been re-designed through consultation with leading specialists in industry to ensure all students are better equipped and therefore more employable as the world's next generation of Designers and Engineers.

What will you learn?

Year 10 - Through practical and theory-based lessons students will gain confidence in all materials as well as their chosen medium. They will learn fundamental skills within Design and Technology learning from, wider influences, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Year 11 - Students will complete a detailed 'design and make' project within a given context by the exam board. Students tailor their brief to their own interests, material preference and future career paths.

"What works good is better than what looks good, because what works good lasts."

- Charles Eames

Assessment

This course has 50% controlled assessment to recognise the importance of being able to apply technical knowledge to real-life designing and making scenarios.

Component 1: Written Paper (50% of total GCSE marks, 2 hours – 100 marks)

Candidates answer questions in sections, core technical principles, specialist technical principles and 'designing and making' principles. The exam contains a mixture of different question styles, including multiple choice, graphical, calculation/mathematical and extended-open-response questions.

Component 2: Design and Making (50% of total GCSE marks, approximately 35 hours – 100 marks)

Consists of a substantial 'design and make' task following the iterative process. The exam board will release a choice of contextual challenges that students pick from. This component will allow students to focus on their Investigation, Design, Development, Making and Evaluation skills.

Where could GCSE Design and Technology lead?

The range of skills developed in GCSE Design and Technology opens many doors to future career paths including engineering, gaming design, product design, the fashion industry, set design, construction industry, architecture and graphic design to name just a few! The key skill of creative problem solving will be used in every future career choice. The GCSE leads into a range of A Level choices at BFS including Fashion & Textiles, Product Design and Design Engineering.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Why choose GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition ?

This exciting GCSE course will offer students the chance to develop knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages students to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

What will you learn?

Year 10 - Through a balance of practical and theoretical lessons students will be given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the core content. This includes topics in food commodities, principles of nutrition, diet and good health, the science of food and where food comes from. They will also learn cooking and food preparation techniques focusing on a range of complex technical skills.

Year 11 - Students will have the opportunity to show case their skills and knowledge they have learnt in two non-examination assessments (equating to 50% of their final GCSE grade). Students will be able to select from a choice of tasks set by the exam board, for each assessment.

Assessment

Component 1: Written Paper

Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition Written Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of qualification)
This component will consist of two sections both containing structured, short and extended response questions to assess content related to food preparation and nutrition.

Component 2: Non-examination assessment:
internally assessed, externally moderated Assessment
Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action
1x 8 hours Assessment and 1 x 12 hours (In total 50% of qualification)

Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment (8 hours - 15% of total qualification) - A scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment (12 hours – 35% of total qualification) - Students will prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food. Students will have to make a menu of three dishes.

Where could GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition lead?

This course can lead to a variety of food and health related career options. Hospitality is the largest employer in the UK so the opportunities are vast. Health and wellbeing is a growth sector in the world of work. This course combines well with PE/BTEC Sport, Health and Social Care, Business Studies and Level 3 Diploma in Food Science.

DRAMA

Why choose GCSE Drama?

GCSE Drama at BFS encourages and enables students to become confident performers and practitioners. The course offers students plenty of opportunity to do what they enjoy most- participate in performance. Students will develop their ability to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They will gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts.

What will you learn?

The GCSE Drama course is a chance for students to work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating and communicating their ideas. During the course students will demonstrate a range of practical skills, as well as actively getting involved in the process of dramatic study in order to develop as effective, independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers.

Assessment

Assessment: Component One: Understanding Drama (written exam 40%)

This component tests students' knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre in a written exam at the end of the two-year course. Students will study and practically explore one set play text in their drama lessons and demonstrate their understanding of how it could be performed in the written exam. They will also go to see a live theatre production, which they are required to analyse and evaluate in the exam.

Assessment: Component Two: Devising Drama (practical and written, internally assessed, externally moderated 40%)

Students will learn how to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning in a devised theatrical performance. They will develop their ability to carry out research, develop their own ideas, collaborate with others, rehearse and refine their work in progress and analyse and evaluate their own process of creating devised drama. For assessment students will perform their devised piece to an audience (20 marks) and produce an individual devising log documenting their devising process and an analysis and evaluation of their contribution (60 marks).

Assessment: Component Three: Texts in Practice (practical, externally assessed 20%)

For this component, students will perform two extracts from one play to an audience and AQA examiner. They will develop their ability to interpret texts, create and communicate meaning, and realise artistic intention in text-based drama.

"There is a kind of invisible thread between the actor and the audience, and when it's there it's stunning, and there is nothing to match that.'
– Maggie Smith

Where could GCSE Drama lead?

Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace such as:

- The ability to develop problem solving skills.
- Presentational skills and confidence.
- A useful capacity to reflect on and evaluate situations and feelings.
- The ability to develop interpersonal and communication skills, and work as part of a team.

MUSIC

Why choose GCSE Music?

The GCSE Music course encourages students to broaden their musical knowledge, develop their understanding of practical and theoretical music, and pursue their own musical interests in a creative and collaborative context.

What will you learn?

You will learn about Music from a wide variety of different times and places through performance, composition and listening and analysis. You will have a chance to pursue your own musical interests and focus on performing and composing the music you enjoy. Music should not be studied in the isolation of the classroom. The most successful GCSE Music students are those who engage with the extra-curricular programme in school, receive instrument tuition, attend performances or involve themselves in a musical activity out of school. Students may also choose to teach themselves an instrument or develop their music technology skills. Parental support and encouragement to motivate students to commit to these activities is essential to their musical development. It is this dedication and commitment to the subject, as well as creativity, which appeals to universities and potential employers.

Assessment

Component 1: Performing Music (30%)

Students will prepare a minimum of two solo and two ensemble performances on their chosen musical instrument (including voice), or using music technology (computer sequencing and multi-track recording). At the end of Year 11 the marks from the strongest solo and ensemble performance will be submitted. When a performance deadline is due some lesson time will be given over to performing so that feedback and targets can be shared; however, there is an expectation that students will regularly practise and prepare performance work as part of their homework.

Component 2: Composing Music (30%)

During Year 10 students will complete three short composition tasks and one full composition, and in Year 11 two full compositions. At the end of Year 11 the marks from the strongest two full compositions will be submitted to the exam board for moderation. Students are issued with a set brief for one of the compositions, and the other is a free composition of your choice, for which students can compose in any style. All composition work takes place in lesson time and students are free to compose using their instrument or using computers.

Component 3: Appraising (40%)

Over the two years students will study the fundamentals of music theory and two pieces of music (set works specified by Eduqas). At the end of Year 11 students will sit an exam consisting of responses to listening questions on the set works, and music styles studied from the four areas of study; Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music, and Popular Music.

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." — Plato

Where could GCSE Music lead?

Music is a traditional, academic and highly valued subject looked upon favourably by universities including Oxbridge. Students may want a career in music, such as performer, composer, conductor, management/promotion, DJ/producer, songwriter, composer for film/tv, sound engineer, music therapist and many more. Other students may have music as a lifelong passion alongside their chosen career. The study of music at GCSE can foster a love of and appreciation for music that many find brings joy, creativity and meaning throughout their life.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Why choose GCSE Photography?

Photography is for students who enjoy taking creative images but who want to learn the techniques required to achieve this. The photography course is very similar to Art GCSE. You will be required to research photographers and develop your own ideas. This course is ideal for hardworking individuals who are expected to use their own time each week as well as lessons completing their coursework.

What will you learn?

Students will learn photographic techniques and processes, for example: lighting, viewpoint, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement, digital media, and editing software.

You will be completing projects under different themes and will need to understand how to record ideas, develop and refine techniques using photography as a tool towards a final outcome. You will be taught a variety of skills in using digital photography and various types of software, including Photoshop. Sections of the course allow you to learn about contemporary photographers as well as the history of photography.

An element of the course involves analysing and writing about your own work, and the work of other photographers or artists.

In component 1 (portfolio) students develop responses to initial starting points, project briefs or specified tasks and realise intentions informed by research, the development and refinement of ideas and meaningful engagement with selected sources. Responses will include evidence of drawing for different purposes and needs and written annotation.

In component 2 (externally set assignment) students respond to a starting point provided by AQA. This response provides evidence of the student's ability to work independently within specified time constraints, realise intentions that are personal and meaningful and explicitly address the requirements of all four assessment objectives.

Assessment

COMPONENT 1: Coursework: 60% of grade
COMPONENT 2: Externally set assignment: 40% of grade

Where could GCSE Photography lead?

This course is perfect preparation for further studies at A Level. A level courses in Photography build on knowledge acquired at GCSE and prepare you for studying at university.

"You don't take a photograph, you make it. "
- Ansel Adams

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why choose GCSE Physical Education?

This specification follows on from the Key Stage 3 Physical Education programme of study by providing students with exciting opportunities to learn about physiology and anatomy and how to develop the body's systems through activity, and develop their understanding of the physiology, psychology and socio-cultural influences behind physical activity and sport, through an academic and exam-based qualification.

What will you learn?

The content of this GCSE Physical Education specification is designed to enable students to enjoy and understand the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle, and to provide a route to further study in Further Education awards, such as A Levels, and to higher education in PE, sports coaching, physiotherapy, medicine and other career options.

Assessment criteria

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport. Written Paper 30% (1 hour 15mins).

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.
Written paper 30% (1 hour 15 mins).

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

NEA (40%)

Practical performance in physical activity and sport (30%).

Students are to perform in a competitive setting in 3 different sports. 1 x individual, 1 x team, 1 x either.

Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity as a controlled assessment (10%).

Students are moderated in all aspects of the NEA during Year 11.

"True enjoyment comes from activity of the mind and exercise of the body; the two are ever united."
- Wilhelm Von Humboldt.

Where could GCSE Physical Education lead?

GCSE Physical Education complements a range of GCSE subjects, particularly the Sciences. It enables students to develop a range of skills including:

- The knowledge and understanding to lead a healthy active lifestyle.
- The ability to critically analyse sporting performance.
- The knowledge to explain both the physiological and psychological factors in sport.
- The ability to discuss recent sporting stories in the media and link to sporting performance.

GCSE PE provides a fantastic foundation for students who would like a career in medicine, physiotherapy, teaching, sports coaching, sports analyst and more!

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY – SHORT OR FULL COURSE

All students are currently completing the Short Course GCSE in Religious Studies. They have the option to complete the Full Course in addition to this, which is an excellent opportunity to develop their interest and passion in religion and philosophy.

Why choose GCSE Religion and Philosophy?

Religion plays an important role in our society and can influence what people think, feel, and believe. Through studying Religion & Philosophy, students get a broad look at how religion and spirituality form the basis of our culture.

What will you learn?

Religion & Philosophy also helps students develop marketable skills and aptitudes including: analytical and strategic thinking; research skills; critical judgement; the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas; an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict; problem-solving skills; leadership skills; understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences.

The exams ask philosophical questions and questions on ethical issues, so students will learn about different beliefs about God; beliefs about life after death; the problems of evil and suffering and how different religions answer moral questions. Students will be required to study religious beliefs, teachings and practices. Additionally, students will learn about what different religions teach about relationships, marriage, divorce and contraception; what religions teach about the attitudes towards war, violence, crime and punishment and social injustice; and what religions teach about abortion, euthanasia and animal rights.

Students are encouraged to express their views on these issues, learning to use evidence in their argument, as well as considering the point of view of others with different religious beliefs.

Students who choose the full course GCSE in RP will also complete a Higher Project Qualification (HPQ). This is a fantastic opportunity for them to independently research any topic of their choice and gain skills in presentation, research methods, independence and extended writing.

Assessment

Assessments: 100 % exam – 2 x 1hr 45min exams in Year 11

Where could GCSE Religion and Philosophy lead?

Oxford and Cambridge, as well as Russell Group Universities, recognise an A-Level in Religious Studies to be part of a good grounding for many of their degree courses, and it can be combined with many other subjects to provide a broad skill-set, including those listed above.

Careers Advisers have noticed that people who have studied Philosophy carry certain kudos, being viewed as 'thinkers' with a perception of life and society that can be very useful in numerous environments, making them highly employable in a wide range of careers, especially those involving working closely with other people.

"'Rivers, ponds, lakes and streams - they all have different names, but they all contain water. Just as religions do - they all contain truths."

– Muhammad Ali

BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Why choose Health and Social Care?

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in the diverse world of health and the associated social care services. It looks at a variety of topics within the health and social care and early years spectrum, including how we develop throughout our life, relationships and working in a health and social care sector. It is a useful subject for anyone thinking about a career in these areas.

What is a BTEC?

BTECs are vocational qualifications designed to help students succeed. Students develop knowledge and understanding through applying their learning to work-related contexts and gain the skills they need for further study and employment.

What will you learn?

The units' students will study and the skills they will learn include:

Human lifespan development, looking at the factors that can affect growth and development throughout our lives such as relationships, lifestyle choices and life events from childhood through to old age.

Health and social care services and values.
This unit looks at good practice in health and social care and how to effectively support individuals of all ages. Students learn the importance of care values and how they are applied in caring for individuals of all ages, including how to communicate effectively with individuals in different situations and life stages. Students also consider barriers to effective communication and how these can be overcome. Health and well-being will be covered in the examination unit and will pull together students' knowledge and understanding from the whole course.

Students will study three components across years 10 and 11 covering the content outlined above.

Assessment

There is one exam (external assessment) 40% and the rest of the components are assessed as coursework (internal assessment), 60% of the course. Students can achieve a level 2 pass, merit, or distinction. If they do not achieve a level 2 pass, they can be awarded a level one qualification. Students can use a variety of assessment methods i.e. report writing, videos, leaflets and posters, or presentations.

Where could Health and Social Care lead?

The knowledge and skills students will acquire, as outlined above, support progression to a broad range of level 3 study, whether academic or vocational, for example a BTEC National in Health and Social Care or A Level Health and Social Care.
Career opportunities linked to Health and Social Care include Nursing, Youth Worker, Midwifery, Social Worker and many more within the healthcare profession.

SPORT STUDIES

Why choose Sport Studies?

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in developing their sports skills and leadership skills, as well as learning about contemporary issues in sport. The qualification aims to incorporate a significant core of knowledge and theoretical content with broad-ranging applicability and provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills.

What will you learn?

The qualification will help learners to understand the barriers to physical activity that many people face along with solutions to overcome them. Students will learn about the values promoted through sport and the Olympic and Paralympic movement. Reasons why performers may use performance enhancing drugs and other aspects of sporting behaviour. They will learn about hosting major events and the role of National Governing Bodies in sports. There is a practical element of the course where students will be developing the sports skills as well as applying their knowledge of the rules through officiating. Students will also develop their leadership skills.

Assessment

Unit R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities

Practical and written NEA
Students will perform in 2 sports.
Students will create a session in 1 sport and assess their performance in 1 sport.
This is a written piece of coursework (40%)

Unit R186
Sport and the media

Written NEA discussing the impact of media on a specific sport.
This is a written piece of coursework (20%)

Unit R184
Contemporary issues in sport

Controlled assessment (exam) (40%)

Assessment

Units R185 and R186 are internally moderated. All coursework is completed during the 3 hours of study per week and submitted throughout the 2 year course.
As part of R185 students will complete portfolios of their work and teacher observation records of the learner demonstrating practical skills and their skill session.
Units R184 is externally moderated – students will complete an external assessment paper administered under specified assessment conditions.

This course is a great alternative to GCSE PE as students can complete 2 sports only, in a non-competitive situation. And it only requires 1 exam at the end of the course. All other learning is completed throughout the 2-year course.

Where could Sport Studies lead?

Sport Studies provides a platform for students to undertake a wide range of sports related courses at Post 16, such as Cambridge National Level 3, BTEC in sport, various other college courses, A-Level PE. It also develops a wide range of skills and knowledge including:

- Knowledge and understanding of barriers to physical activity and how to overcome them.
- The ability to analyse performance and implement methods to make improvements.
- The ability to plan and lead a range of sporting activities.

CREATIVE iMEDIA

Why choose Creative iMedia?

Creative iMedia is a digital media focused course, covering digital aspects of film, TV web development, gaming and animation. The course provides knowledge in a number of key areas in this field from pre-production skills to digital animation and has a motivating, hands-on approach to both teaching and learning. Cambridge Nationals deliver skills across the whole range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things. Pupils will complete two compulsory units and two optional units.

What will you learn?

R093 – Creative iMedia in the Media Industry
In this unit you will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences.

Topics include:
- The media industry
- Factors influencing product design
-Pre-production planning
- Distribution considerations

Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics
In this unit you will learn to how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences.

Topics include:
- Develop visual identity
- Plan digital graphics for products
- Create visual identity and digital graphics

Unit 3:
There are 5 optional units to choose from. Each optional unit has the same structure to your learning, but the conventions and practical skills are tailored to the media product being studied. .

Assessment

R093 is externally assessed unit (exam) two other units R094 and Optional unit are centre-assessed units (NEA)

Where could Creative iMedia lead?

Digital Media is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives and vital to the UK economy. Production of digital media products is a requirement of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce. This qualification will help students develop specific and transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts. The qualification's hands-on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media. There are many career choices within the Creative iMedia field. These include animation, digital marketer, film/video editor, Games Developer, Graphic designer, magazine features editor, media buyer and newspaper journalist. Student will gain valuable experience through practical work, learning skills and how to do things that may be relevant to the world of work.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

Compulsory - Examined

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- Religion & Philosophy (Short)

Compulsory - Non-examined

- PHSE
- Physical Education

E-Bacc

Geography **OR** History

\+

Spanish **OR** French

+ two optional subjects

A small number of students, exempt from languages, will study Geography or History and three optional subjects

Bespoke

A reduced subject offer to incorporate core subject support. Students who are suitable for this pathway will be invited during term 4, and this will be discussed with parents/carers

Option Subjects

GCSE

- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- French
- Computer Science
- Art
- Business Studies
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Food and Nutrition
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Religion & Philosophy (Full)

Vocational

- Health and Social Care
- Creative iMedia
- Sport Studies