



KEY STAGE 4 (GCSE) OPTIONS BOOKLET

2026/2027

Welcome to Key Stage Four

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to an exciting milestone in your education. Over the coming weeks, our Year 9 students will take the first step in personalising the school curriculum to their individual preferences by selecting the optional subjects they wish to pursue in Years 10 and 11. Depending on where those preferences lie, this may set the foundations for their academic and professional future. But rest assured, whatever choices are made at this stage, a multitude of possibilities remain open in the future.

At DBS Emirates Hills, we are committed to offering a broad and flexible range of options to support smooth transitions and open pathways for future success. Please use this booklet to guide your initial thinking and to find out more about each course you are considering. As always, please also talk to your teachers, Mr Barfoot our University and Careers Guidance Officer or any of our leaders to discover the information you need to make the best decisions for you. This booklet is designed to give you as much information as possible in order for you to take control of these next steps in your academic journey.

My guidance in making these choices is always to balance “what you enjoy” and “what you are good at”. If a career aspiration absolutely requires a subject which you do not enjoy and is not one of your strengths, that may be a prompt for careful reconsideration? On the other hand, choosing subjects you enjoy working on and play to your strengths, will completely set you up for an enjoyable course of study and success.

Thank you for considering or being a part of our thriving learning community at DBS Emirates Hills. We look forward to supporting you on this next step and celebrating your achievements with you.

Kind regards,

Sheridan Teasel
Head of Secondary



Progression through GCSE to the Sixth Form and beyond

It is important to give some consideration to your GCSE choices in preparation for the Sixth Form. Almost all DBS students enter university to study for a degree, for which they may need to have selected specific combinations of A Level or BTEC subjects; GCSEs set students up for making those A Level and BTEC choices.

Because the options are designed to give students a broad and balanced curriculum at GCSE, families need not worry unduly about choosing the 'wrong' subjects at GCSE but, you may want to be aware of some common degree requirements and their influence on GCSE option choices:

Common Subject Combinations for Popular Degree Courses (Globally)

Although there are always 'exceptions to the rule,' you may want to consider the following advice to give you the best chance of meeting the entry requirements for specific degree courses:

- In order to take a given science at A Level, the student must have taken that science at GCSE.
- Most Economics, Architecture and Engineering degrees will require A Level Mathematics, with many Architecture and Engineering degrees also requiring A Level Physics. Triple science is not required as an option at GCSE, but the student needs to be strong in Mathematics and Physics at GCSE.
- If you are interested in studying Law at university, strength in Humanities and English at GCSE will allow you to progress onto the relevant A Level or BTEC courses.
- Medicine courses generally require Chemistry at A Level with another science and Mathematics, so students should be strong in Mathematics and sciences at GCSE in order to progress onto the relevant A Level courses. Triple Science GCSE is not a requirement for studying Medicine at university.
- Business (and related degrees) generally have flexible A Level or BTEC subject requirements, so students who are strong in Mathematics, Business and/or Humanities at GCSE should be able to progress onto relevant A Level/BTEC subjects in the Sixth Form and beyond, and on a case-by-case basis elsewhere.
- BTEC qualifications (Level 2 and 3) are widely accepted in the UK.

Ian Barfoot
Head of University and Career Guidance



Introduction to Key Stage Four

The purpose of this booklet is to:

- Present to parents and students the courses that are planned for GCSE and Level 2 BTEC studies from August 2026.
- Outline the content of each specification, as well as the course structure and assessment criteria.
- Help you make informed decisions appropriate for the subsequent stages of student life.

At DBSEH there is a wide range of options available with two academic pathways on offer to our Key Stage Four students:

Route 1 - Traditional Route

- Students taking Route 1 will study English, Maths, Science and 4 options, made up of:
 - A Humanity (either Geography or History)
 - A Modern Foreign Language (either French or Spanish)
 - 2 other options.
- This combination of subjects (referred to as EBACC - English Baccalaureate) provides a broad and balanced curriculum and ensures that no future pathway is closed to your child should they be successful, ensuring that they are competitive in all further education and employment scenarios.
- These subjects are highlighted as desirable from the best universities and the business community.

Route 2 - Alternative Route

- Students taking Route 2 will study English, Maths, Science and 4 options, which do not have to include the EBACC subjects.
- Students may choose combinations that may lean more towards the creative side, providing increased opportunity at Post -16 to explore the Performing and/or the Creative Arts.
- The alternative route may be more appropriate for students who would like a blended BTEC and GCSE curriculum, where the assessment load is shared during the course of the two year phase, with reduced number of exams in the summer of Year 11.
- Although this route is referred to as 'non-traditional' it is expected that it will be an appropriate choice for a number of students at DBS Emirates Hills.

The EBacc is not a new qualification in itself. It recognises students' achievements across a core of selected academic subjects in getting good passes in rigorous GCSEs. The English Baccalaureate will cover achievement in English, Mathematics, sciences, a language and a humanities subject.' Secretary of State for Education.

Compulsory Core Subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Two Science IGCSEs
- Arabic A
- Arabic B up to Year 10

Option Block Subjects:

Please refer to page 5 for a description of Key Stage 4 option blocks.

Key Stage Four Curriculum Pathways

Option Blocks

Students will still study and take examinations in English, Mathematics and Science, as well as continuing with the study of Arabic. Additionally, you can select 4 courses that you would like to study in Years 10 and 11. You will also study Core PE and Moral, Social and Cultural (MSC) Studies, students do not take examinations in these subjects. The GCSE and BTEC options that you choose and the grades you achieve in them will also inform your decisions about options in the Sixth Form. The Option Blocks will be finalised and circulated after the Options Form deadline of 5 December 2024 to accommodate as many first choice combinations as possible.

Additional Information

Students opting for Triple Science will gain IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will have eight science lessons per week (comprising five from their compulsory science entitlement, plus three lessons from their optional subject allocation).

In line with other International and Independent Schools, subjects will only run with viable student numbers. The Leadership Team will do their utmost to ensure that students are supported with their first-choice options.

Below is **an example** of what the Option Blocks might typically be, however this is subject to change. Note that several subjects may appear in more than one option block.

In the Options Form please indicate the four subjects your child wishes to take in order of preference, and a fifth reserve.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
BTEC Business	Geography	Art	Art
Business	History	BTEC IT	Business
Geography	Media Studies	Business	Computer Science
Psychology	Music	French	Drama
Spanish	Physical Education	History	French
	Psychology	Psychology	Media Studies

*Triple Science

*Students wishing to take Triple Science should indicate this as their preference, however acceptance onto the course is based on performance. Therefore, please also indicate a reserve choice.

PLEASE NOTE that students can study A Level Science subjects regardless of whether they study two or three Sciences at IGCSE, as long as they achieve suitable grades.

Success Criteria

The skills needed to do well in each subject at GCSE and BTEC?

MFL

Subject	The ability to / an interest in:
French	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit towards extending your knowledge of French vocabulary to talk about a wide range of topics • Understand and use the three main time frames (Past, Present and Future) in the written and spoken form • Communicate in writing and speaking to give information about yourself, your opinions and your interests your option form.
Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit towards extending your knowledge of Spanish vocabulary to talk about a wide range of topics. • Understand and use the three main time frames (Past, Present and Future) in the written and spoken form. • Communicate in writing and speaking to give information about yourself, your opinions and your interests

HUMANITIES

Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in map reading skills • Think and work independently • Engage in critical thinking and commitment to learning extended terminology. • Develop synoptic skills • Provide evidence for both sides of an argument
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a balanced argument • Analyse sources, and assess their nature, origin and purpose • Organise written work in a logical and structured way • Form judgements based on evidence

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write extended essay questions – describing and evaluating research or theories • Think critically about research and theory • Numerical analysis • Scientific enquiry about conducting research and human biology
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in Critical analysis • Read and understand extended • Case studies and application of knowledge • Engage in numerical analysis • Be an independent learner
BTEC Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and understand extended case studies and application of knowledge • Engage in Numerical analysis • Be an independent learner and produce a portfolio of assessment work
BTEC IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding computer graphics, game development or how computer hardware and software work • After the completion of this course you could enroll on a similar Level 3 BTEC course to further your knowledge that will in turn help you get into university to study either game development, computer graphics, animation or computer systems in general

PE

Subject The ability to / an interest in:

- PE
- Students taking GCSE PE should refer to the list of Team sports and Individual sports, they must already be regularly training in and competing in at least 2 of the listed sports
 - A minimum expectation of regular sport outside school is required
 - Students are expected to be part of school teams and/or ECAs to develop their practical ability

SCIENCE

- Sciences
- Have a solid grounding in Mathematics (lots of the physics and chemistry involve calculations)
 - Be analytical
 - Learn, understand and reproduce complex processes
 - Be practically competent and able to understand the 'scientific method' to test and explore scientific hypotheses

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

- Drama
- Rehearse and devise original material linked to specific practitioners of study
 - Create original interpretation through characterization
 - Be disciplined when working independently or within a group environment
 - Enhance creativity through a set brief
 - Be organised and take initiative with good communication skills
 - Critical evaluation and reflections

- Art & Design
- Develop a high level of technical art-making skills across a wide range of media, especially within drawing
 - Employ independent investigative skills in research and exploration of artists and art making processes
 - Demonstrate a critical reflection of own work and the work of others
 - Engage creative skills in the exploration of ideas and experimentation with materials and techniques

- Music
- A passion for Music
 - The ability to play, or want to learn how to play, an instrument.
 - Creative and be willing to 'think outside the box'
 - To be able to work both independently and with others
 - A critical listener, who isn't scared to share their opinions about what they hear.

ENGLISH

- Media Studies
- Think and work creatively
 - Have strong analytical skills
 - Have a strong awareness of cultural context.

Key Stage 4 Examination Fees

GCSE

Parents should note that fees for external GCSE examinations are the responsibility of the parent. Parents will receive an invoice for each examination cycle the student is entered for, including resits.

BTEC

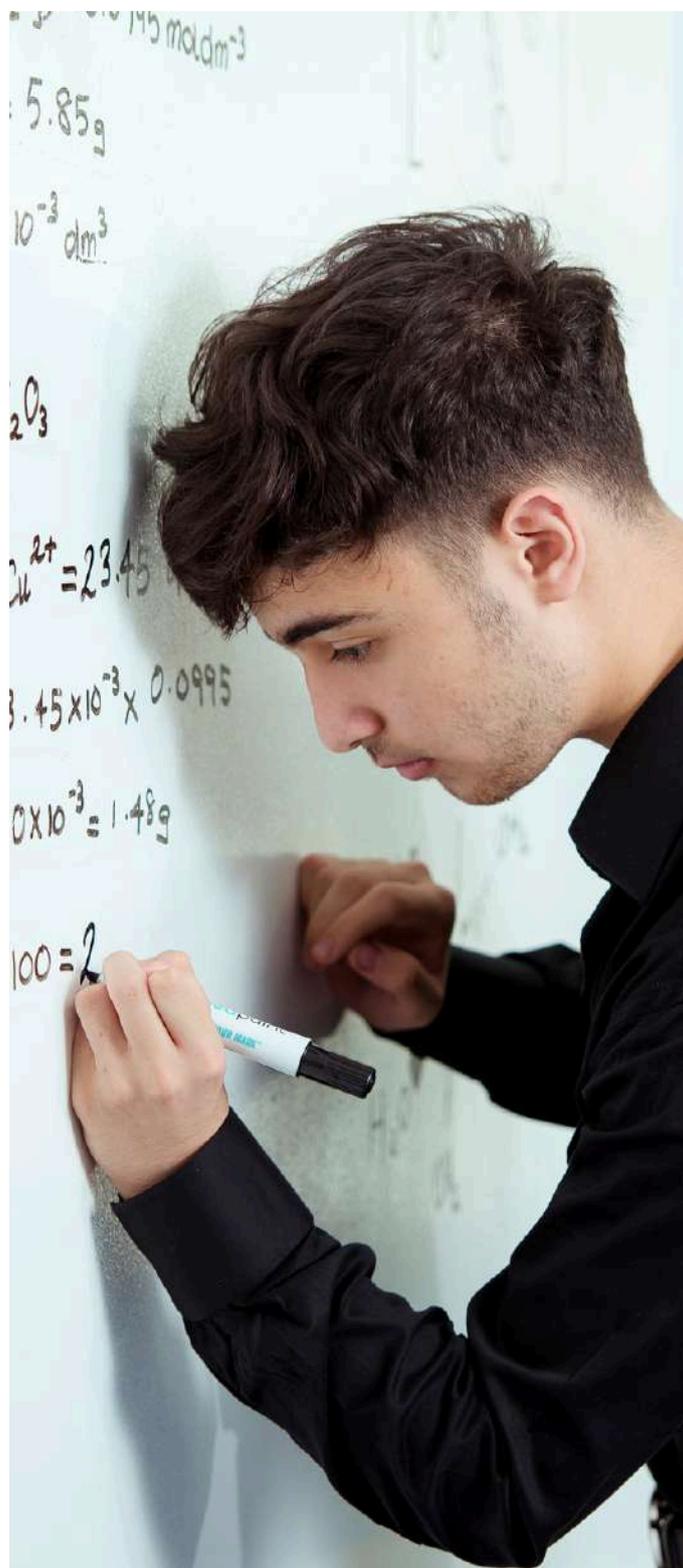
Registration fees for the BTEC courses are paid in full at the beginning of Year 10 for the full duration of the 2-year course. The fee charged will cover the entry fees for the course as well as moderator visits from the UK for each subject. Any resit of units within the course does not incur additional charges over and above the original fee paid.

Certificates

Certificates may be withheld if examination fees /textbooks are outstanding and not cleared.

Examination Costs 2025/26

GCSE Approximate Subject Cost Range
590-1070 AED
BTEC L2 Approximate Cost Range
2500 AED





COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

2026/2027

English Language – IGCSE Edexcel – 4EA1 (9-1)

Course Outline

The English Faculty will deliver the Edexcel IGCSE for both English Language and English Literature. This IGCSE is exclusive to independent and international schools. The specification includes a wide range of reading and writing; the reading requirements of the course are covered in the Edexcel Anthology for International GCSE, for use throughout the course and the examination.

Course Prospects

Further study is offered in English Language at A Level. Careers in Education, Media, Law, Journalism can be pursued.

Course Details



PAPER 1: 4EA1/01 (Examination – 60% of total GCSE) Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing

Overview of content:

Reading - A mixture of short and long answer questions related to a non-fiction text from the anthology and one previously unseen extract. Students will analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects. For this unit students will look at the contemporary non-fiction texts from Part 1 of the Edexcel Anthology for International GCSE and Certificate Qualifications in English Language and Literature.

Writing - Transactional writing – one 45 minutes writing task from a choice of two involving given audience, form or purpose.

Overview of assessment - The assessment of this unit is through a two-hour and 15-minute examination paper, set and marked by Edexcel. Single tier of entry. The total number of marks available is 90. Students provided with an Anthology for the examination.

Paper 2: 4EA1/02 (Coursework – 40% of total GCSE) Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing

Overview of content:

Reading - One 30-mark essay question on a poetry or prose text from the Pearson Edexcel Anthology.

Writing - One 30-mark imaginative writing task.

Overview of assessment - The assessment of this unit is through an essay written in class time, marked by teachers and moderated by Edexcel.

The total number of marks available is 60.

Timing

The full English Language IGCSE will be completed and assessed at the end of Year 10 (May 2027)

English Literature – IGCSE Edexcel – 4ET1 (9-1)

Course Outline

The English Faculty delivers the Edexcel IGCSE for both English Language and English Literature. This IGCSE is exclusive to independent and international schools. A selection of prose, drama and poetry from around the world allows teachers a wide choice of set texts. The examination questions allow all students to make a personal, informed response to the texts studied.

Course Prospects

Further study is offered in English Literature at A Level. Careers in Education, Media, Law, Journalism can be pursued.



Course Details

Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose (Examination – 60% of total GCSE)

Overview of content:

- Poetry
- Prose

Overview of assessment:

- The assessment of this paper is through a 2-hour examination, set and marked by Edexcel.
- Single tier of entry.
- The total number of marks available is 90.

Timing

The full English Literature IGCSE course will commence towards the end of Year 10 and will be completed and assessed in Year 11 (May 2028)

Paper 2: Coursework (alternative to Paper 2 exam) (Coursework – 40% of total GCSE)

Overview of content:

- One modern drama text to be studied
- One literary heritage text to be studied

Overview of assessment:

- The assessment of this paper is through two separate coursework assignments, internally set and assessed and externally moderated by Edexcel.
- Assignment A – Modern Drama: one essay response to a teacher devised assignment on a studied text.
- Assignment B – Literary Heritage Texts: one essay response to a teacher devised assignment on a studied text.
- The total number of marks available is 60 (30 marks for each assignment)

Mathematics – IGCSE Edexcel– 4MA1 (9-1)

Course Outline

During the IGCSE course, students will continue to study topics from these six key areas: 1. Number, 2. Algebra, 3. Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, 4. Geometry and Measures, 5. Probability and 6. Statistics. New topics are introduced under these headings such as error bands, further trigonometry, solving quadratic equations, vectors and more advanced statistical measures. Other topics from previous years are studied to a greater depth.

The aims of the Mathematics Department at Dubai British School Emirates Hills relate to all year groups but are especially relevant to those IGCSE students who may be considering taking Mathematics in the Sixth Form:

- To develop an ability to think and reason mathematically.
- To notice and realise the application of Mathematics in the real world.
- To have the understanding of how to use Mathematics up to GCSE level and create a firm foundation for those wishing to study the subject further.
- For students to have a positive attitude to Mathematics and to achieve to the best of their ability, with confidence and enjoyment.

Course Prospects

Successful completion of the course provides an excellent platform to study A Level Mathematics. Furthermore, most Higher Education providers require a minimum of a Grade 4.



Assessment Criteria

- Students will be required to show their application of Mathematics and their choice of skills in a variety of practical and investigational problems within assessments.
- All students will plan to enter the tighter tier examinations

Course Details

Paper 1:
Calculator paper (50% of total IGCSE)

Paper 2:
Calculator paper (each worth 50% of total IGCSE).

Both papers must be taken during the same assessment series.

Science – IGCSE Edexcel (9-1)

Biology – 4BI1

Chemistry – 4CH1

Physics – 4PH1

Course Outline

We offer separate IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Every student will take 2 or 3 of these 3 subjects. As a compulsory core subject, each student must choose which 2 subjects they prefer. Students wishing to take all 3 should still choose which 2 they prefer and also select Triple Science as one of their options. Entry on to the Triple Science is based on performance in Year 9 Science.

The objectives of all the courses are:

- To further appreciate and understand "How Science works"
- To develop inquiry, analysis and evaluative approaches to scientific problems and issues
- To develop students' understanding of higher level Biology, Chemistry or Physics
- To ensure students who wish to are well prepared for A Level science courses

Skills which will be developed include:

- The ability to plan investigations and to analyse, interpret and evaluate the data
- Critical evaluation of science in the news
- The processes which scientists carry out in order to collect evidence and develop theories

Course Prospects

Students can progress from these IGCSEs to the relevant A Level(s) and on to related degree courses.

Only students who have consistently demonstrated an aptitude for and a commitment to science in Years 8 and 9 will be eligible to take Triple Science. Students joining the school in Year 10 will be assessed by the Head of Science for their suitability for Triple Science. Information considered will include academic reports from previous school(s), entry level test scores and individual motivation.



Course Details: Biology

Paper 1: Biology 1

2-hour written examination paper (110 marks)
61.1% of the IGCSE Biology

Paper 2: Biology 2

1-hour 15 minute written examination paper (70 marks)
38.9% of the IGCSE Biology

Aims & Objectives

Students will explore key biological concepts and patterns, applying their understanding across various contexts. They will build a strong foundation in biological facts, terminology, and processes, while developing the ability to analyse data, draw evidence-based conclusions, and communicate findings clearly using appropriate vocabulary. Mathematical skills will be applied where relevant to support scientific understanding. Through core practicals such as microscope use, food tests, dissection, osmosis investigations, and enzyme experiments, students will gain hands-on experience in following methods, handling equipment safely, recording observations accurately, and evaluating experimental procedures.

Both papers assess the following 5 areas:

- 1 The nature and variety of living organisms
- 2 Structures and functions in living organisms
- 3 Reproduction and inheritance
- 4 Ecology and the environment
- 5 Use of biological resources

Science – IGCSE Edexcel (9-1)

Course Details: Chemistry

Paper 1 – Chemistry 1

2-hour written examination paper (110 marks)
61.1% of IGCSE Chemistry

Paper 2 – Chemistry 2

1-hour 15 minute written examination paper (70 marks)
38.9% of IGCSE Chemistry

Both papers assess the following 5 areas:

- 1 Principles of chemistry
- 2 Inorganic chemistry
- 3 Physical chemistry
- 4 Organic chemistry

Aims and Objectives:

Students will explore key chemical principles and patterns, applying their understanding in a range of contexts. They will build a strong foundation in chemical facts, terminology, and concepts, while developing the ability to analyse data, draw evidence-based conclusions, and communicate findings clearly using appropriate vocabulary. Mathematical skills will be applied through multi-step calculations to support scientific understanding. Through core practicals such as titration, filtration, chromatography, testing for ions, and salt preparation, students will gain hands-on experience in following methods, handling equipment safely, recording observations accurately, and evaluating experimental procedures.

Course Details: Physics

Paper 1 – Physics 1

2-hour written examination paper (110 marks)
61.1% of the IGCSE Physics

Paper 2 – Physics 2

1-hour 15 minute written examination paper (70 marks)
38.9% of IGCSE Physics

Both papers assess the following 5 areas:

- 1 Forces and motion
- 2 Electricity
- 3 Waves
- 4 Energy resources and energy transfers
- 5 Solids, liquids and gases
- 6 Magnetism and electromagnetism
- 7 Radioactivity and particles
- 8 Astrophysics

Aims and Objectives:

Students will explore key physical principles and patterns, applying their understanding to both real-world and theoretical contexts. They will build a strong foundation in physical laws, terminology, and concepts, while developing the ability to analyse data, interpret graphs, and draw evidence-based conclusions. Mathematical skills will be applied through multi-step calculations involving formulae and units. Through core practicals such as investigating motion with light gates, measuring resistance, exploring refraction and reflection, and examining forces and energy transfer, students will gain hands-on experience in following methods, handling equipment safely, recording observations accurately, and evaluating experimental procedures.



OPTIONS

2026/2027

Art and Design – Edexcel – GCSE 1AD0 (9-1)

Course Outline

The course is made up of 2 components.

- In component 1 the portfolio must include supporting studies and personal responses, demonstrating evidence of the four assessment objectives and approximately 45 hours supervised study.
- Component 2 is a body of work for the four assessment objectives based on an externally set theme. The work produced will consist of approximately 30 hours supervised study and 10 hours of sustained focus in examination conditions.

The objectives of the course are to develop creative and imaginative ability and the practical skills for engaging with and for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings in art, craft and design. To develop investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretive capabilities, aesthetic understanding and critical and enquiring minds, with increasing independence, cultural knowledge and understanding of art, craft, design and of the media and technologies used in different times, contexts and societies; and to develop personal attributes including self-confidence, resilience, perseverance, self-discipline and commitment.

The skills that will be developed will include recording experiences and observations and undertaking research and gathering, selecting and organising visual, tactile and sensory materials and other relevant information. Exploring relevant resources, analysing and evaluating images, objects and products, and making independent judgements as to their relevance in visual art.

Course Details

- Component 1 – Personal Portfolio in Art and Design (60% of total GCSE)

- Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment (40% of total GCSE)

An on-going portfolio of work throughout the course plus an examination under controlled conditions.

This GCSE qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total subject mark where 9 is the highest grade. Individual components are not graded.

Course Prospects

This is a gateway to A Level in Art and Design. If students choose to seek employment, they will have a portfolio of work that evidences their ability to pursue a course in Art and Design, covering different projects and producing a range of work. There may be opportunities to work, for example, Art Historian, Publisher, Gallery Manager, Writer, Game Designer, Stop Motion Animator, Interface Designer, Advertiser, Web Designer, Furniture Designer, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Interior Designer, Fashion Designer, Video/film/photographer, Teacher, Lecturer etc



Business – Edexcel – 1BS0 (9-1)

Course Outline

The course is split up into two units. Unit 1 “Investigating Small Business” focuses on spotting a business opportunity, showing enterprise, putting a business idea into practice, making the start-up effective and understanding the economic influences. Unit 2 “Building a business” focuses on growing the business, including marketing, HR, finances and operations.

The course objectives are to actively engage in the study of business and the wider environment to develop as effective and independent students and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. To use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts and opinions, to build arguments and make informed judgements. To develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts. To appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities. To consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable.

Skills that will be developed will be to introduce students to the world of small businesses consider what makes someone a successful business person. Students will know how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity, and turn that into a successful business. How to make a business effective and manage money.

Course Details

- **Unit 1** – Investigating Small Business (50% of total GCSE)
- **Unit 2** – Building a Business (50% of total GCSE)

Students will take two examinations at the end of Year 11.

Both exams are 1 hour and 30 minutes and have a maximum of 90 marks available.

Course Prospects

Successful completion the GCSE Business course will provide you with an excellent grounding for A Level Business or the BTEC National Diploma in Business. It would provide students with a suitable foundation to study A Level Economics.



Computer Science – Edexcel – 4CP0 (9-1)

Course Outline

The International GCSE in Computer Science introduces students to the core principles of how computers and digital systems work, and how to think like a computer scientist. Across six key topic areas - Problem Solving, Programming, Data, Computers, Communication and the Internet, and The Bigger Picture - students develop strong analytical, logical and creative skills.

Students will learn to design, write and debug programs using languages such as Python, Java, or C#, while also gaining a deep understanding of how data is represented, how computer systems operate, and how networks communicate securely. The course also explores real-world issues such as cybersecurity, ethical computing, and the environmental impact of technology.

This course encourages independence, creativity, and confidence in tackling computational challenges - essential qualities in today's digital world.



Course Details

Assessment is entirely exam-based, consisting out two papers outlined below:

Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science

80 marks, 50% of the total International GCSE
Content summary: Theoretical questions of all chapters

Assessment: 2-hour written examinations paper

Question types:

- Multiple choice
- Short open-response
- Open-response
- Extended open-response

Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking

80 marks, 50% of the total International GCSE
Content summary: Questions related to Topics 1-3

Assessment: 3-hour written and practical examinations paper

Question types:

- Multiple choice
- Short open-response
- Open-response
- Extended open-response
- Task-based questions (choice of Python, C#, and Java)

Course Prospects

Computer Science equips students with highly transferable skills valued in every modern career. Graduates of this course will have the ability to think critically, solve complex problems, and innovate using technology - skills sought after by universities and employers alike.

Successful students can progress to:

- International A-Level & A-Level Computer Science, BTEC Level 3 IT, or other equivalent Level 3 qualifications.
- Degrees and careers in fields such as software engineering, AI, cybersecurity, data science, robotics, computer graphics, and network administration.

Beyond technology-specific paths, Computer Science nurtures analytical and logical thinking that supports future success in mathematics, physics, engineering, finance, and design-related disciplines.

In an increasingly digital society, this qualification opens doors to future innovation, entrepreneurship, and a broad range of exciting, high-impact careers.

Drama – AQA – 8261 (9-1)

Course Outline

GCSE Drama offers students the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention. Students will create, perform and respond to drama informed by their theoretical knowledge of drama and theatre.

The subject content details the knowledge, understanding and skills that students are expected to develop throughout the course of study. The new specification allows practical exploration through the study of practitioners and set texts that will be explored practically and theoretically.

The aim and objectives of the qualification are to enable students to:

- apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama
- explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created
- develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances
- work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas
- develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective students able to make informed choices in process and performance
- contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance
- reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others
- develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice and to adopt safe working practices.

Course Prospects

After you have completed GCSE Drama you can go on to higher levels of study. These include: GCE Drama and Theatre Studies at A Level and BTEC Performing Arts. This GCSE is also very helpful with any post -16 course, due to it giving you confidence and creativity. Students have the chance to enhance their presentation and evaluation skills through critical reviews of professional productions that influence their own products. This clearly links to Journalism, Marketing, Media, Business or English degree subjects due to the practical and theoretical nature of the subject.



Course Details

Component 1: Understanding Drama

Students will prepare for a written examination which is divided into three compulsory sections:

- Section A: Theatre roles & terminology
- Section B: Study of set text
- Section C: Live theatre production.

(Written examination 40% of total GCSE)

Component 2: Devising Drama

A practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance and apply theatrical skills to analyse and evaluate their own work.

This will be tracked in a devising log book written work submission.

(Practical & written 40% of total GCSE)

Component 3: Texts in Practice

A practical component assessing theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance.

For this component students must complete two assessment tasks:

- Study and present a key extract (monologue, duologue or group performance)
- Study and present a second key extract (monologue, duologue or group performance) from the same play.

(Practical 20% of total GCSE)



French – IGCSE Edexcel – 4FR1 (9-1)

Course Outline

The study of a Modern Foreign Language at IGCSE enables pupils to develop oral and written communication skills and gives an insight into different global cultures.

Over the 2 year IGCSE course, pupils will study 5 key topic areas for approximately one term per topic:

- Home and Abroad
- Education and Employment
- Personal Life and Relationships
- The World Around Us
- Social Activities, Fitness and Health

Designed to enable pupils to: develop their understanding of written and spoken French in a range of contexts.

- develop the ability to communicate effectively in written and spoken French, using a range of vocabulary and structures and demonstrating a solid understanding of grammar.
- develop a knowledge and understanding of Francophone countries and communities.
- acquire a suitable foundation for further study of the target language, or another language.

Lessons will develop the 4 skill areas of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Pupils will be supported and encouraged to use the language for genuine communication and to be as creative as possible.

Course Prospects

Students who achieve a Grade 6 or above will have the opportunity to continue French to A Level. Language graduates have a vast array of career opportunities open to them in all fields, thanks to the wide range of skills developed through learning a foreign language. There are exciting opportunities often involving travel abroad in almost every sector.



Course Details

Paper 1: Listening

- Topics: Covers all 5 key topic areas.

**30 minute exam
5 minutes' reading time**

25% of total IGCSE

Paper 2: Reading & Writing

- Topics: Covers all 5 key topic areas.

**Written examination of 1hr
45 minutes**

50% of total IGCSE

Paper 3: Speaking

- Topics: 3 of the 5 key topic areas.

Recorded discussion and conversation with class teacher lasting a maximum 10 minutes.

25% of total GCSE

All examinations will take place at the end of Year 11 and are externally marked

Geography – IGCSE Edexcel – 4GE1 (9-1)

Course Outline

Geography is an ideal subject for developing a full range of skills. You will be encouraged to develop your investigative approaches to explore geographical questions and issues. There will be a focus on improving your ability to make geographical decisions by applying your knowledge, understanding and skills with a real-world focus. Fieldwork is an integral part of the course and this will help you to develop the skills of organising your own time, and working and co-operating with others. All these skills are transferable and will help you to make progress in other subjects. They are also skills that are highly valued by employers, and will be useful in the world of work.

The objective of the course will be to actively engage in the process of geography to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Develop your responsibilities as global citizens and recognise how you can contribute to a future that is sustainable and inclusive. In addition, geography enables you to develop and apply your learning to the real world through fieldwork and other out-of-classroom learning and to use geographical skills, appropriate technologies, enquiry and analysis.

Course Details

Paper 1: Physical geography

70 marks, 40% of the total International GCSE
Content summary: Coastal Environments, Hazardous Environments, Coastal Fieldwork

Assessment: Examination of 1 hour and 10 minutes, consisting of two sections. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.

- Section A: Candidates choose two out of three questions on **river environments, coastal environments, hazardous environments.**
- Section B: Candidates choose one out of three fieldwork-related questions on river environments, **coastal environments, hazardous environments.**

Both components will be externally assessed by a terminal examination. A core part of Component 2 is that students must undertake fieldwork outside of the school environment.

Course Prospects

Geography ensures students are well placed to contribute to the scientific and political debates regarding the world in which we live. Students learn an excellent range of transferable skills that enable them to be successful across a range of professions.

Employment opportunities include Journalism, Media, Law, Engineering, Business Management, ICT, Environmental Management, Teaching, Economic Planning, Marketing, Leisure and Recreation and Tourism.



History – IGCSE Edexcel – 4HI1 (9-1)

Course Outline

The objective of the course will be to enable students to recall, select, organise and deploy knowledge and communicate it through description, explanation and analysis. Show that students understand and can analyse and interpret historical sources in context. To show that students can comprehend, analyse and evaluate how and why events, people, situations and changes have been interpreted and represented in relation to the historical themes and periods studied.

The skills that will be developed will be to foster a knowledge and understanding of selected periods and/or aspects of history, exploring the significance of historical events, people, changes and issues and to give students the ability to use historical sources critically, in context, recording significant information and reaching conclusions. To enable learners to organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history and to enable learners to draw conclusions and make historical judgements.

Course Prospects

Successful completion of the IGCSE History course allows for the progression to Edexcel GCE A Level History which is also studied at Dubai British School. However, because the course is very much geared to allowing students to become independent thinkers, who are good communicators and able to articulate sound judgements, it also provides a sound basis for a number of other avenues.



Course Details

Paper 1 - Depth Studies:

- Germany: Development of Dictatorship, 1918-45
- A world divided: Superpower Relations, 1943-72

Students are assessed through an examination based on their selected depth studies

Students answer **two** questions, one on each of the **depth studies** they have studied.

Written examination, **1 hour 30 minutes**

All the assessment for the IGCSE History course will take place at the end of the two years of study. There is no coursework element to the course. The examination will be two un-tiered written assessments.

The IGCSE qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9-1 using the total subject mark where 9 is the highest grade. Individual papers are not graded.

Paper 2 - Investigation and Breadth Studies

- The origins and course of the First World War, 1905-18
- Changes in medicine, 1848-1948

Students are assessed through an examination based on their historical investigation and breadth study in change.

Students answer **two** questions, one question on their **historical investigation** and one question on their **breadth study in change**.

Written examination, **1 hour 30 minutes**

Media Studies – AQA – 8572 (9-1)

Course Outline

The objective of the course is to develop students' appreciation and critical understanding of the media and its role in their daily lives. Students will learn how to use the media key concepts (media language, institution, audience and representation) to deconstruct media texts (such as films, magazines etc.) across the media platforms and then apply that knowledge when creating their own media products.

Skills that are developed by students undertaking Media Studies include:

- Independent learning skills – students are always encouraged to take ownership of their learning.
- Research and project management skills – through class work and the completion of the NEA
- Communication skills – through class discussions, group work and presentations.
- ICT skills – use of laptops in lessons is encouraged and students are required to use ICT when completing the NEA and creative work. Students will edit productions using industry software – Final Cut Pro and Da Vinci Resolve 15.
- Creative skills – students will get the opportunity to plan, film and edit their own moving image production and have full use of the camera and lighting equipment available in the department.

Course Prospects

This is a subject which allows all students from across the ability range to succeed if students have an interest in the media, are creative, innovative and are willing to work hard.

Many students go directly into employment in a related field of work or continue onto the A Level course. There are multiple job opportunities in the fields of advertising, marketing, creative media film and TV industries, screenwriting, journalism, sociology, education and business. There are also opportunities for internships in the media industry.



Course Details

Examination 1 Media One:

A written examination - 1hr 30 mins (84 marks) – 35% of the final GCSE grade at the end of Year 11.

Examination 2 Media Two:

A written examination - 1hr 30 mins (84 marks) – 35% of the final GCSE grade at the end of Year 11.

Coursework Assessment:

(60 marks) – 30% of the final GCSE grade – completed during Year 11. This is a creative media production

Music – Edexcel - 1MU0 (9-1)

Course Outline

GCSE Music takes you deeper into the world of Music, studying and performing a variety of pieces ranging from Classical to Rock.

The course is split into three main areas: Areas of study include:

Instrumental Music 1700–1820:

- J S Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major
- L van Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor 'Pathétique'

Vocal Music:

- H Purcell: Music for a While
- Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')

Music for Stage and Screen:

- S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked)
- J Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope)

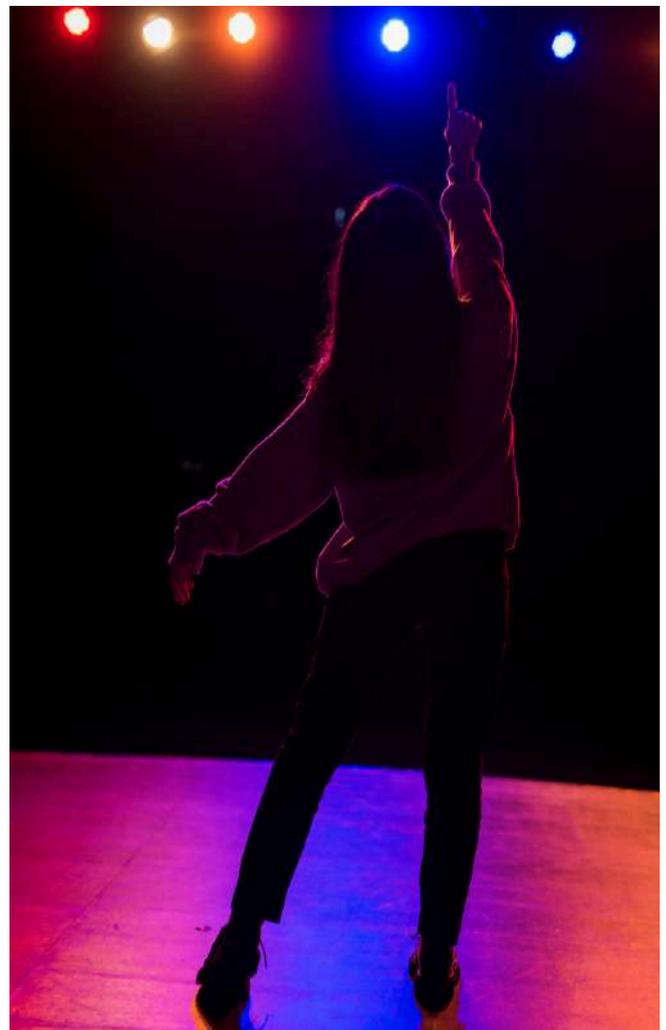
Fusions:

- Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release')
- Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

Due to the nature of the course we recommend that students have instrumental / singing lessons alongside GCSE. We do offer instrumental lessons in school. Please get in contact for more details.

Future Prospects

Studio Engineers, Teachers, Professional Musicians, Session Musicians, DJs, Producers, Record Label Managers, Singers are some of the possible career paths after taking GCSE Music.



Music – Edexcel - 1MU0 (9-1)

Course Details

Component 1: Performing

- Solo performing - this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces
- Ensemble performing this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces
- Approaches to performing

Students perform for at least four minutes' combined duration. Each performance will be out of 30 marks.

Component 2: Composing

- Developing musical ideas
- Compositional techniques and strategies
- Ensuring technical control and coherence
- Methods of notating composition scores
- Students compose two compositions, of at least three minutes' combined duration
- One composition to a brief set by Pearson, of at least one minute in duration.
- One free composition set by the student, of at least one minute in duration.

Each performance will be out of 30 marks.

Component 3: Appraising

The paper is made up of two sections and is out of a total of 80 marks.

Section A – Areas of study, dictation, and unfamiliar pieces (68 marks)

- Six questions related to six of the eight set works.
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
- One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided) with questions on its musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

Section B – Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)

- One question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music.
- A CD with the music extracts will be played to all students at the same time and will repeat the extracts a set number of times.

1 hour and 45 minutes

Physical Education – Edexcel – 1PE0 (9-1)

Course Outline

GCSE Physical Education will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Students will also gain understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and well-being.

The objectives of this course are to develop knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and how to use these factors to improve performances. It also provides opportunities for students to understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport and the contribution that sport can make to health, fitness and well-being.

The practical element of the course aims to improve performances in different physical activities by developing skills, techniques, tactics and strategies. Students will also become equipped to analyse and evaluate to improve performances in physical activity and sport.

Course Prospects

As well as being the ideal preparation for the Level 3 BTEC in Sport, the blend of scientific and social knowledge in GCSE PE positions students to access a range of qualifications. GCSE PE allows for progression to related vocational qualifications and gives students an in-depth insight into the career pathways in sport and the necessary skills to allow them to take on coaching roles in the future.



Course Details

Component 1: Fitness & Body Systems (36% of total GCSE)

An externally assessed through a written examination papers.

Component 2: Health & Performance (24% of total GCSE)

An externally assessed through a written examination papers.

Component 3: Practical Performance (30% of total GCSE) is assessed internally by the teacher. These marks are then modified by an external moderator.

Three different physical activities in the role of player/performer.

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (10% of total GCSE) is internally marked and externally moderated by Pearson. This piece of work should include planning, performing and evaluation a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) and will be completed prior to the final exams.

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Psychology – AQA – 8182 (9-1)

Course Outline

Psychology is the science of mind, brain, and behaviour. It seeks to understand why and how humans behave as they do through. In each of two equal units, a range of established findings from psychology are studied, along with research methods details of how these findings were proven. Groups of candidates will also undertake small replicas of experiments to understand the nature of these findings themselves, as well as writing up their findings and taking appropriate notes from key studies. There is much discussion work and students will be required to consider a variety of theories to explain behaviour.

The objectives of the course are to engage in the process of psychological enquiry to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds; to develop an awareness of why psychology matters and how it makes an essential contribution to our understanding of people, society, culture, behaviour, intelligence, cognition, personality and so much more. Students will develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology and a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods.

Skills developed will include understanding methods and results of key studies into human behaviour. Effective note-making, skills of enquiry and response, observation skills and interpretation of behaviour. Working in groups, time management. Extended writing skills. Summarising facts, data and evidence. Interpreting and using data evidence. Forming hypotheses, testing through practical research (questionnaires, interviews, observation studies, and others.) Analysing and critiquing theory, the views of others and interpretations of behaviour.

Course Prospects

Psychology is a rapidly expanding subject with strong career potential, 'The science of the 21st Century'. Realistic careers include management, marketing, advertising, profiling, recruitment, education, healthcare, forensic law, forces officership, counselling / therapy, and research work. The A Level course follows on well but equally the GCSE course is good preparation for any science or humanities subjects at A Level.



Course Details

Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research Methods

Assessment Criteria

- 50% of whole GCSE. Worth 100 marks
Examination time: 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour

- Social Influence Language
- Language, Thought and Communication
- Brain and Neuropsychology
- Psychological Problems

Assessment Criteria

- 50% of whole GCSE. Worth 100 marks
Examination time: 1 hr 45 mins

Spanish – IGCSE Edexcel – 4SP1 (9-1)

Course Outline

The study of a Modern Foreign Language at IGCSE enables pupils to develop oral and written communication skills and gives an insight into different global cultures.

Over the 2 year IGCSE course, pupils will study 5 key topic areas for approximately one term per topic:

- Home and Abroad
- Education and Employment
- Personal Life and Relationships
- The World Around Us
- Social Activities, Fitness and Health

Course Prospects

Students who achieve a Grade 6 or above will have the opportunity to continue Spanish to A Level. Language graduates have a vast array of career opportunities open to them in all fields, thanks to the wide range of skills developed through learning a foreign language. There are exciting opportunities often involving travel abroad in almost every sector.



Course Details

The Edexcel IGCSE in Spanish is designed to enable pupils to:

- develop their understanding of written and spoken Spanish in a range of contexts
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in written and spoken Spanish, using a range of vocabulary and structures and demonstrating a solid understanding of grammar
- develop a knowledge and understanding of Hispanic countries and communities
- acquire a suitable foundation for further study of the target language, or another language.

Lessons will develop the 4 skill areas of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Pupils will be supported and encouraged to use the language for genuine communication and as creatively as possible.

Paper 1: Listening

30 minute exam, plus 5 minutes' reading time.

25% of total IGCSE

Paper 2: Reading & Writing

Written examination of 1hr 45 minutes.

50% of total IGCSE

Paper 3: Speaking

Recorded discussion and conversation with class teacher lasting a maximum 10 minutes.

25% of total IGCSE

All examinations will take place at the end of Year 11 and are externally marked.

Business- BTEC International Level 2 Certificate

Course Outline

Pearson BTEC International Level 2 has a work-related focus to a business course, with broad coverage of knowledge and practical skills required for the vocational sector.

Key areas, including interpersonal skills and customer service. Learners have the opportunity to develop skills to support them as they build relationships with a wide variety of customers, internal and external, to a range of business environments.

Students will be guided and supported throughout the course which is based on internally set and assessed projects.

The course allows the student to develop business expertise in the following areas:

- finance, both personal and business, together with bookkeeping, which supports development of basic financial principles
- working in business teams and team leading
- business support or administration, which supports development of practical administration skills including office systems and equipment, meeting support and filing systems
- personal selling, which helps learners to understand the personal selling process
- aspects of business online and how this can support businesses to develop opportunities
- aspects of retailing such as promoting, branding and visual merchandising
- consumer rights
- business ethics
- logistics
- enterprise and business start-up

Course Prospects

The Pearson BTEC International Level 2 Certificate offers a work-related vocational qualification that focuses on particular aspects of employment in the appropriate vocational sector. The Pearson BTEC International Level 2 Certificate is a qualification that can be part of a learner's programme of study and provide a vocational learning experience. Potentially the qualification could prepare learners for progression to an appropriate Level 3 programme in the same or related vocational area.



Course Details

Mandatory units

- Unit 1 – Business Purposes
- Unit 2 – Business Organisations
- Unit 3 - Financial Forecasting for Business

Totals 120 Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Optional units

- Unit 30 - Social Enterprise



IT - BTEC International Level 2 Certificate

Course Outline

The BTEC IT Level 2 curriculum will provide students with hands on, practical experience which will prepare you for a future career in the IT industry. Given the huge growth in IT related jobs and services in the global economy, students will gain skills and experience which will improve their future employability skills.

Students will be asked to complete hands on robotics and programming activities. We can design activities which allow for dynamic assessment through practical experiences rather than preparing for end of year examinations. This will mean that students should be prepared to not simply focus on basic Microsoft Office skills, but creative and exciting projects such as Game Design designed to encourage their creativity and gain higher level IT skills.

Course Details

Students will learn IT hardware, software, computer infrastructure, and basic coding, exploring how IT supports industry and game development.

All students will work towards the Award, completing 2 units-equivalent to 1 GCSE, with high performers students being eligible for the Certificate and will complete 4 units which will be equivalent to 2 GCSEs.

The course provides pathways to Level 3 BTECs in computing, IT, or creative media, leading to university study in game development, animation, computer graphics, software engineering, or cybersecurity, as well as apprenticeships and entry-level technology roles.

Course Prospects

No specific requirements needed, however, students should have an interest in IT and demonstrate an enthusiasm for related fields. This course provides a good grounding to progress on to the BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in IT.

You will gain a better understanding of what it would be like to work in IT professions such as Graphic Design, Computer Animation, Games Development and so on. This is a course perfectly suited for all students who wish to have a more hands on vocational experience, whilst gaining future ready 21st century skills in the process. The qualification could prepare learners for progression to an appropriate Level 3 programme in the same or related vocational area.





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