

BIDDULPH HIGH SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 4
SUBJECT INFORMATION
2025 - 2026

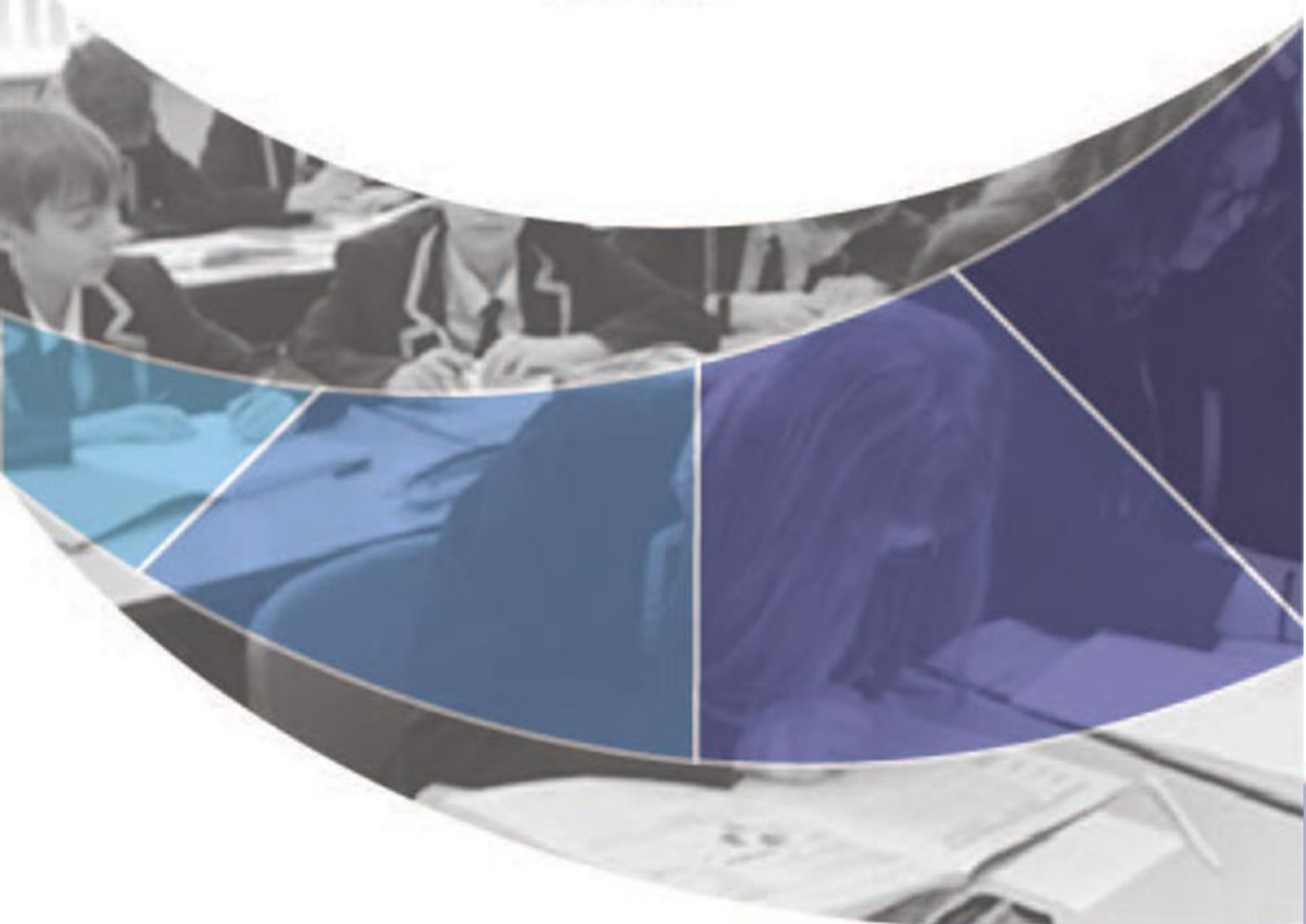


Table of Content

English Language GCSE & English Literature GCSE.....	Pg 6
Mathematics GCSE.....	Pg 7
Biology GCSE.....	Pg 8
Chemistry GCSE.....	Pg 9
Physics GCSE.....	Pg 10
Trilogy (Combined) Science.....	Pg 11
Design & Technology: Graphic Design Or 3d Product Design.....	Pg 12
Art And Design: Fine Art or Textiles.....	Pg 13
Business Studies GCSE.....	Pg 14
BTEC Level 1/ Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology.....	Pg 15
Computer Science GCSE	Pg 16
Design & Technology: Level 1 / 2 Award in Hospitality & Catering.....	Pg 17
Geography GCSE.....	Pg 18
History GCSE.....	Pg 19
German GCSE.....	Pg 20
Music GCSE.....	Pg 21
Physical Education GCSE.....	Pg 22
Religious Education.....	Pg 23
BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Health & Social Care.....	Pg 24
BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development	Pg 25
BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Award in Sport.....	Pg 26

Options Introduction

As you approach an exciting new stage in your educational journey, this booklet is designed to help you make informed decisions about the subjects you will study in Years 10 and 11. These choices are a significant step in shaping your future, so it's important to explore the opportunities available and consider what inspires and motivates you.

At this point in your education, you'll begin to specialise in areas that match your interests, strengths, and ambitions. Our curriculum offers a broad and balanced selection of courses, ensuring you have the flexibility to pursue a wide range of career and further education opportunities.

The decisions you make now will influence your options beyond Year 11, whether you choose to continue your studies through A-levels, vocational courses, or apprenticeships at post-16, and eventually progress to higher education, training, or employment post-18. Employers and universities alike value students who demonstrate passion and commitment to their chosen subjects, as well as the transferable skills developed through them. With the right choices, you can set yourself up for success in a fast-changing and competitive world of work.

Through this process, you'll receive guidance and support from teachers, tutors, and the school careers employability and careers advisor. We encourage you to think carefully about your choices, consider the skills you want to develop, and discuss your options with parents and carers. Remember, the subjects you choose should support and reflect your passions and future aspirations.

This booklet provides detailed information about the subjects on offer, including what you will learn and how you will be assessed. Please take the time to read through it carefully and use it as a tool to plan the next steps of your educational journey

The Curriculum 2025

All students at Biddulph High School will complete the statutory core curriculum

GCSE English Language & literature

Students will study both subjects separately, enabling students to gain two GCSEs: one in English Language and one in English Literature.

GCSE Mathematics

Students in Year 10 and Year 11 continue to build on their mathematical knowledge and problem-solving skills; essential to everyday life and necessary for financial literacy and many forms of employment. GCSE Mathematics has a foundation tier (grades 1-5) and a higher tier (grades 4-9).

GCSE Science

We offer two tailored pathways for students. Approximately 30% of our students will be selected (based on their performance in Year 9) to study 3 separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The remainder will study for two GCSEs in Science, examined in Year 11. All these courses count towards the English Baccalaureate and can lead on to A level study.

Additional subjects which are not examined but are part of our statutory core offer

-

Physical education (non- examined)

All students are expected to participate in core PE, providing them with lifelong knowledge and skills in a range of sports and exercise. In addition to core PE, the subject can be studied in depth as an optional subject through either GCSE PE or BTEC Sport.

PSHE/RE (non -examined)

Relationship, Sex, Health Education, Careers and other aspects of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and Citizenship will be studied through assemblies and tutor time

The English Baccalaureate

It is expected that some groups of students will study all GCSE subjects within the English Baccalaureate.

The EBacc is made up of:

English language and literature

Mathematics

The sciences

Geography or History

A language (German at BHS)

Our curriculum offer is varied and contains a broad range of subjects which are outlined in the booklet. For example, Art, Music, PE. These are part of our optional element for students and are outlined in students tailored pathways.

GCSE Options: Making Decisions

We strongly encourage students to give the proper consideration to their option choices basing their decision on their interests, strengths and future plans. Here are some questions to consider when deciding which subjects to take

Do I enjoy the subject?

This is a very important question because students usually do better at the subjects they like.

Does the course description interest me?

Look at the information about each course on the school website (with a parent or guardian) and follow the links to the exam board specifications for further information. Each subject will introduce new ideas and areas of study which have not been covered before. Ask your teacher if you want to find out more about any course.

Am I prepared for the demands of the course?

All subjects demand effort and commitment if you are to be successful. Some courses make considerable demands on your own time over and above normal lessons and homework. Look at your effort and attainment/assessment grades. The subjects where you have higher grades are the ones where you are making the best progress currently. Ask your form tutor if you need help accessing your grades.

Does my teacher advise me to choose the subject?

Teachers will offer you expert but impartial advice on your ability and suitability for any course. Ultimately it will be your choice of subject but we would strongly recommend that you listen to advice from your teachers.

Which teacher will be teaching me?

Trying to guess which teacher will be taking a particular group is very difficult because decisions on the teachers' timetables are taken after Year 9 option choices are made.

What are my friends doing?

The choices you make should give you the set of subjects best suited to your own talents and needs. It is very unwise to simply follow friends as they may be better suited to different courses to you. Choosing the same options as friends will not mean you end up in the same classes as many option subjects have more than one class.

Could I study the subject in the future even if I don't study it in Key Stage 4?

There is usually a great benefit in studying a subject at GCSE before studying at post-16 level. A number of subjects will require you to have studied them at GCSE before you can study them at POST-16. For more information about the entry requirements for each subject in the Sixth Form, please see the Sixth Form section of the school website.

Which subjects do I need for my chosen career?

If you have a clear idea about your future you need to research the required subjects very carefully.

It is important to realise that some future opportunities might be lost if you opt not to take certain subjects. If you are interested in a particular career, please check carefully if it requires any particular Key Stage 4 and 5 qualifications. You can also speak to our Careers and Employability Advisor Miss Campbell for help or for a Careers interview.

Accessing Unifrog is also ideal for exploring future careers it is a universal destinations platform. All students have access to Unifrog.



If you have no clear ideas about your future, try to choose subjects which will give you a wide range of future options.

What shall I do at the end of Year 11?

This is a decision that is difficult to make 2 years in advance. You may have an interest in a particular area of work or further study but this often changes before you reach the end of Year 11. If you do have some ideas on what you would like to aim towards at the end of Year 11, then discuss your final subject choices with a teacher to check you have a good balance and have included the subjects appropriate to your final aim.

What shall I do if I need help?

Make sure you have read the information about KS4 Options and KS4 subjects on this website. Talk to your teachers about studying their subject at Key Stage 4 and talk to your form tutor. They will either be able to answer your questions directly or, if your questions are more subject specific, they will send you to a subject specialist

COURSE OVERVIEW: ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE & ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

www.aqa.org.uk

Course Code: 8700 English Language, 8702 English Literature

The English Language course places emphasis on reading texts in a wide range of genres and for a wide range of audiences. Texts read are both modern and pre-Twentieth Century; fiction and non-fiction. Speaking and listening is also assessed and reported separately.

English Literature focuses on the study of novels, plays and poetry, both modern and pre-Twentieth Century.

How is the course assessed?

- English Language – 100% Examination;
- English Literature – 100% Examination;

Students will be assessed more formally with a test each half-term and mock examinations in Years 10 and 11. This will highlight areas that will need to be improved prior to the GCSE examinations in the summer of Year 11.

Career Pathways

- A qualification in English and English Literature can open up a vast array of careers;
- Some possibilities are: Teaching, Journalism, Marketing, Speech Therapy, Media Work, PR and Law.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs J Fleet.

COURSE OVERVIEW: MATHEMATICS GCSE

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Code: 1MA1

[Pearson Edexcel](#)

All students follow pathways which are designed to cater for their individual needs and rates of progression. All examinations will be taken at the end of the course, in line with government policy.

All students will study Number, Algebra, Shape and Space (Geometry), Probability, Applying Mathematics (Problem Solving) and Ratio and Proportion.

How is the course assessed?

- Coursework – there is no controlled assessment component in GCSE Mathematics;
- Students are assessed at either Foundation tier (grades 1 to 5) or Higher tier (grades 4 to 9);
- Homework is assessed weekly with feedback given in class;
- Students will be assessed more formally with a test as per the calendar and mock examinations in Years 10 and 11. This will highlight areas that will need to be improved prior to the GCSE examinations in the summer of Year 11.

Career Pathways

- A Mathematics qualification can lead to a career in Statistics, Transport, Engineering, Law, Food Technology, Graphics, Computing, Medicine, Teaching, Finance and many others. Many doors will be open to students with a good Mathematics qualification that would otherwise be closed;
- For more information, see www.mathscareers.org.uk.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mr M Thorley.

COURSE OVERVIEW: BIOLOGY GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8461 GCSE Biology

[AQA Biology](#)

All students follow pathways which are designed to cater for their individual needs and rates of progression feeding curiosity in Science. All examinations will be taken at the end of the course, in line with government policy.

All students will study cell biology, organization, infection and response. Biogenetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, ecology, variation and evaluation.

How is the course assessed?

- The GCSE is 100% external examination;
- Practicals are integral to the course and knowledge of practical technique is assessed in the written papers;
- Students sit two papers: each paper carries 50% of the final mark for the GCSE;
- Students are entered for Higher tier papers, or Foundation tier papers;
- Homework is set regularly by staff. Students should expect to get a piece of homework per week, taking approximately 1 hour to complete;
- Mini tests occur every 3 – 4 weeks and students are encouraged to reflect and evaluate their progress based on staff feedback.

Career Pathways

- To study A-Level, a level 7+ grade pass is required (plus a level 7 grade in Maths);
- A Science qualification can lead on to a career in: Medicine, Veterinary Work, Teaching, Research, Pharmacy, The Royal Air Force, Optometry, Radiography, Physiotherapy and Town Planning.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mr S Williams.

COURSE OVERVIEW: CHEMISTRY GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8462 GCSE Chemistry

[AQA Chemistry](#)

All students follow pathways which are designed to cater for their individual needs and rates of progression feeding curiosity in science. All examinations will be taken at the end of the course, in line with government policy.

All students will study atomic structure, bonding, quantitative and qualitative chemistry, rates and energy, organic chemistry and the use of resources.

How is the course assessed?

- The GCSE is 100% external examination;
- Practicals are integral to the course and knowledge of practical technique is assessed in the written papers;
- Students sit two papers: each paper carries 50% of the final mark for the GCSE;
- Students are entered for Higher tier papers, or Foundation tier papers;
- Homework is set regularly by staff. Students should expect to get a piece of homework per week, taking approximately 1 hour to complete;
- Mini tests occur every 3 – 4 weeks and students are encouraged to reflect and evaluate their progress based on staff feedback.

Career Pathways

- To study A-Level, a level 7+ grade pass is required (plus a level 7 grade in Maths);
- A Science qualification can lead on to a career in: Medicine, Veterinary Work, Teaching, Research, Pharmacy, The Royal Air Force, Optometry, Radiography, Physiotherapy and Town Planning

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mr S Williams or Mrs Totton.

COURSE OVERVIEW: PHYSICS GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8463 GCSE Physics

[AQA Physics](#)

All students follow pathways which are designed to cater for their individual needs and rates of progression feeding curiosity in science. All examinations will be taken at the end of the course, in line with government policy.

All students will study matter, forces, electricity, magnetism and magnetic fields, waves in matter, radioactivity, energy and global challenges.

How is the course assessed?

- Each GCSE is 100% external examination;
- Practicals are integral to the course and knowledge of practical technique is assessed in the written papers;
- Students sit two papers: each paper carries 50% of the final mark for the GCSE;
- Students are entered for Higher tier papers, or Foundation tier papers;
- Homework is set regularly by staff. Students should expect to get a piece of homework per week, taking approximately 1 hour to complete;
- Mini tests occur every 3 – 4 weeks and students are encouraged to reflect and evaluate their progress based on staff feedback.

Career Pathways

- To study A-Level, a level 7+ grade pass is required (plus a level 7 grade in Maths);
- A Science qualification can lead on to a career in: Medicine, Veterinary Work, Teaching, Research, Pharmacy, The Royal Air Force, Optometry, Radiography, Physiotherapy and Town Planning.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mr S Williams or Mr D Woolhouse

COURSE OVERVIEW: TRILOGY (Combined) SCIENCE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8464 Trilogy

[AQA Combined Science](#)

All students follow pathways which are designed to cater for their individual needs and rates of progression feeding curiosity in science. All examinations will be taken at the end of the course, in line with government policy.

All students will study 6 modules across all three sciences incorporating topics such as cells, inheritance, compounds and mixtures, chemical reactions, matter, radioactivity and global challenges.

How is the course assessed?

- Practical activities are embedded in the course and are a fundamental part of the learning process. Techniques are assessed in the written papers;
- This GCSE is 100% external examination;
- In total, students take 6 written examinations in the summer of Year 11, each worth 16.7%;
- 3 of the examinations will be based on work covered in Year 10 and will be examined as separate science components, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. These combined grades will then be amalgamated to give one GCSE grade;
- The remaining 3 examinations will be based on work covered in Year 11 and will be examined as separate science components, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. These combined grades will then be amalgamated to give the second GCSE grade;
- Students are entered for either Foundation or Higher tiers;
- Homework is set regularly by staff. Students should expect to get 2 pieces of homework per week, each taking approximately 1 hour to complete;
- Mini tests occur every 3-4 weeks and students are encouraged to reflect and evaluate their progress based on staff feedback.

Career Pathways

- To study A-Level Separate Sciences, a level 7 grade or level 8 grade pass in Combined Science is required (plus a level 7 grade in Maths);
- To study BTEC post-16, two passes at grade 5 in Combined Science GCSEs are required;
- A Science qualification can lead on to a career in: Medicine, Veterinary Work, Teaching, Research, Pharmacy, The Royal Air Force, Optometry, Radiography, Physiotherapy and Town Planning.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mr S Williams.

COURSE OVERVIEW: DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: GRAPHIC DESIGN OR 3D PRODUCT DESIGN

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J170-J176

www.ocr.org.uk

Design and Technology is concerned with visual and tactile forms of expression. It is designed to encourage students to develop an ability to observe, select and interpret with imagination, feeling and understanding. It also helps to understand the language and conventions (rules) of Design and Technology and gain an understanding of the place that Design and Technology has through creating professional outcomes for a purpose.

How is the course assessed?

- 60% portfolio, 40% externally set task;
- In Design and Technology, the Design Portfolio is equal to 60% of your final grade. One unit is the externally set task and this makes up the remaining 40% of your final grade;
- In this subject, your Design Portfolio and externally set task are assessed internally by the staff who teach you. As you develop your practical work, each piece will be regularly marked with a current grade and a commentary will be written outlining what you need to do to improve.

Career Pathways

- Graphic Design, Product Design, Transport Design, Fashion Designer, Illustrator, Architect or Design Engineer, Theatre Set or Costume Designer, Furniture Designer, Interior Designer, Editor, Buyer, Art Therapist, Make-up Artist;
- To study Design and Technology at a higher level, i.e., BTEC Design in the Sixth Form, you would need to achieve a level 5 grade or above.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs A Halfpenny or Mr S Halfpenny

COURSE OVERVIEW ART AND DESIGN: FINE ART OR TEXTILES

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J171 & J174

www.ocr.org.uk

GCSE Art and Design helps students to develop knowledge, skills, and the understanding to enable them to express their creativity and imagination through responses to visual and written stimuli. When studying Fine Art, you can explore the following: • Drawing • Installation • Lens-/Light-based Media • Mixed-media • Printing • Painting • Sculpture. Within Textiles students can include woven, stitched or printed textiles that can be transferred to a variety of outcomes.

In KS3 students experience Art Textiles as a combined lesson. As they progress to KS4 the subjects and specialisms become standalone- GCSE Fine Art and GCSE Textiles. Students are given the initial 2 weeks of KS4 in YR10 to trial and explore each subject as a separate specialism before choosing their desired specialism in either Fine Art or Textiles.

How is the course assessed?

- 60% portfolio, 40% externally set task;
- In Art and Design; Component 1 is the portfolio and is equal to 60% of your final grade; Component 2 is the externally set task and this makes up the remaining 40% of your final grade;
- In this subject, your portfolio and externally set task are assessed internally by the staff who teach you. As you develop your practical work, each piece will be regularly marked with a current grade and a commentary will be written outlining what you need to do to improve.

Career Pathways

- Fashion Designer, Illustrator, Architect or Design Engineer, Theatre Set or Costume Designer, Furniture Designer, Interior Designer, Editor, Buyer, Art Therapist, Make-up Artist, Freelance Artist, Surface Pattern Designer;
- To study Art and Design at a higher level, i.e. A Level Art or Photography in the Sixth Form, you would need to achieve a level 5 grade or above.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs S Hall or Mrs C Carroll-Wright.

COURSE OVERVIEW: BUSINESS STUDIES GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8132

www.aqa.org.uk

The Business Studies course introduces students to issues concerning the setting up and operation of a business. It explores Business in the Real World, Influences on Business, Business Operations, Human Resources, Marketing and Finance.

How is the course assessed?

All examinations will be taken at the end of the course, in line with government policy. The course is split into two examinations. Both will include 'Business in the Real World' and 'Influences on Business' plus:

Paper 1	Paper 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influences of Operations and Human Resources on Business Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influences of Marketing and Finance on business activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 45 minutes; • 90 marks; • 50% of GCSE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 45 minutes; • 90 marks; • 50% of GCSE.
Questions	Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: multiple choice and short answer questions 20 marks • Section B: one case study with questions, 34 questions, 34 marks approximately; • Section C: One case study with questions, 36 marks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: multiple choice and short answer questions 20 marks; • Section B: one case study with marks approximately; • Section C: case study with questions, 36 marks

Career Pathways

Business and Management courses are the most popular subjects studied at university. There are numerous career opportunities where skills and knowledge gained in Business Studies would be relevant. Some examples are Accounting, Management, Finance, Marketing, Human Resources and Retail. The course also encourages you to develop your expertise and entrepreneurial skills if you are considering starting your own business.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs S St Clair.

COURSE OVERVIEW BTEC LEVEL 1/ LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD IN DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Exam Board: Pearson

Course Code: 600/7043/2

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology.html>

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology (DIT) is for students with a keen interest in ICT. The course is the equivalent to 1 GCSE. The course is aimed at learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The course develops key skills that prove learner aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data. As well as developing effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct. The course develops attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication.

How is the course assessed?

- One examination unit Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices
- It is an external examination set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions. The examination must be completed in 1 hour 30 minutes. 60 marks
- Two Controlled Assessment units. We will complete the following 2 components:
Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

All components must be passed to achieve the Award.

Each component is graded: Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction.

Career Pathways

- Most industries and careers use ICT on a daily basis. You will be well-equipped to enter the workplace and use ICT confidently as a result of this qualification;
- This course feeds directly into the Level 3 BTEC IT course offered in BH6th Form; Further study could lead to careers in Business, Digital Design or Computing. For example: Web Development, Game Design, Programming, Business Analysis.

Contact If you have any queries, please contact Miss V Deavall or Mrs L Sharrock.

COURSE OVERVIEW: COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J277

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

The qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science elements of the KS3 programme of study. It will encourage students to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. It will also allow students to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.

Computer science students gain valuable analytical and problem-solving skills that can be utilised in multiple subjects and career paths.

How is the course assessed?

There are 2 examination units.

Unit 1 'Computer Systems'

- Written Paper
- 1 Hour 30 minutes
- 80 Marks
- 50% of GCSE

Unit 2 'Computational thinking, algorithms and programming'

- Written Paper
- 1 Hour 30 minutes
- 80 Marks
- 50% of GCSE

Classwork and homework are regularly assessed and feedback provided. Students will undertake classroom assessment through examination questions and end of unit tests as well as sitting mock examinations in Year 10 and Year 11.

Career Pathways

This GCSE course feeds into the A Level Computer Science course that we offer at BH6. Of the few growing industries in the UK, computer science can open doors to careers in most of them. As industries become more and more reliant on technology, funding and research are being invested into developing new and improved computational solutions. A computer science qualification can lead to degrees and apprenticeships in these key areas of growth. Universities and industry offer opportunities within cyber security, web development, software programming, technology development, games design, big data analysis and many more.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Miss V Deavall or Mrs L Sharrock

COURSE OVERVIEW DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: Level 1 / 2 AWARD IN HOSPITALITY & CATERING

Exam Board: WJEC

Course Code: 5569

www.wjec.co.uk

This course has been designed to support students who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. This course provides the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, students will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

Some of the topics covered include food safety and hygiene, nutritional modelling and food preservation.

Practical elements will involve soups, baking, pastry and cook-chill products to name a few.

How is the course assessed?

This course is made up of two mandatory units:

- **Unit 1** The Hospitality and Catering Industry: Students will use their knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry in order to propose new hospitality and catering provision to meet specific needs. **External Assessment – 50%**
- **Unit 2** Hospitality and Catering in Action: Students will safely plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes **Internal Assessment – 50%**

All components must be passed to achieve the Award. Each component is graded: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*.

Career Pathways

- The Public Health Sector, Hospitality and Catering, Retail Management, Dietetics (working with those who require special dietary needs, working with the NHS), Food Scientist (making new products), Packaging Designers (crates, cartons, bottles, and packets) and Chefs etc.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs A Halfpenny.

COURSE OVERVIEW: Geography GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8035

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035

All students opting for Geography GCSE will sit their examinations at the end of the course, in line with government policy. There is no longer a tiered level of entry.

How is the course assessed?

Examination: 100% (3 papers). The examinations include a variety of assessment techniques including multiple choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing.

- **Paper 1:** Living with the physical environment - The challenge of natural hazards, The living world, Physical landscapes in the UK, Geographical skills (worth 35%).
- **Paper 2:** Challenges in the human environment – Urban issues and challenges, The changing economic world, The challenge of resource management, Geographical skills (worth 35%).
- **Paper 3:** Geographical applications – Issue evaluation, Fieldwork, Geographical skills (worth 30%).

There are regular modular internal assessments with detailed feedback on progress. Trial examinations take place in both Year 10 and Year 11.

Career Pathways

Geography is considered a facilitating subject by universities as Geography teaches a combination of transferable skills including problem-solving and critical thinking.

The many careers related to Geographical studies include:

- Business and Finance, Human Resources, Public Relations, Town Planners, Surveyors, Environmental Consultants and Meteorologists.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs J Horton-Smart.

COURSE OVERVIEW: HISTORY GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: GCSE History (8145)

www.AQA.org.uk

The GCSE History content comprises the following elements:

- A Period Study: America 1920-73 Opportunity and Inequality
- A Wider World Depth Study: Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945-72 (The Cold War)
- A Thematic Study: Britain: Health of the People c.1000 to present day

A British Depth Study: Elizabethan England c.1568-1603 British History will form a minimum of 40% of the assessed content over the full course.

How is the course assessed?

Each paper is divided into two sections; each section is worth 25% of the entire course.

- Paper One: One written examination of 2 hours, 84 marks available and is worth 50% of the entire course.
- Section A: Period Study: America 1920 – 1973 Opportunity and Inequality;
- Section B: Wider World Depth Study: Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945-72 (The Cold War).
- Paper Two: One written examination of 2 hours, 84 marks available and is worth 50% of the entire course.
- Section A: Thematic Study: Britain: Health of the People c.1000 to present day;
- Section B: British Depth Study: Elizabethan England c.1568-1603.

Career Pathways

- You will need to gain at least a level 6 grade at GCSE level in order to apply for a place to study A- Level, plus a level 6 grade in English Language;
- Whatever job you may think of doing, you will need to follow a balanced GCSE course which involves some study of how people have interacted with one another. An employer, noting that you have a GCSE in History might well be aware that you understand what makes people tick, what motivates them, what they think and feel.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs N Ireland.

COURSE OVERVIEW: GERMAN GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8662

www.aqa.org.uk

All students follow the AQA GCSE course in German in order to develop the ability to communicate effectively in German through the spoken and written word, using a range of vocabulary and structures to develop knowledge and understanding of countries and communities where German is spoken.

How is the course assessed?

Examination = 100%

- There are 4 exam papers: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing worth 25% each;
- Students are assessed at either Foundation (grades 1 to 5) or Higher (grades 5-9);
- Homework is assessed weekly and students will get feedback from their teacher in class. Students will be assessed more formally at the end of every topic on the work covered to date. There is a mock examination part way through Year 11 and this will highlight areas that will need to be improved prior to the GCSE examinations in the summer of Year 11 and determine examination entry.

Career Pathways

- International Banking
- Public Relations
- Travel and Tourism Industry
- Export/Import Business
- Civil Servant
- Cabin Crew
- Teaching
- Armed Forces
- Interpreting
- Hospitality Industry (Hotels and Catering)
- Translation
- IT Sector

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mr M Bailey-Rigby.

COURSE OVERVIEW: MUSIC GCSE

Exam Board: Eduqas

Code: C660QS

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/8271>

Students will prepare for an examination which will take place in the Summer of Year 11. The examination will test students' knowledge of music theory and technical language.

Coursework involves solo and ensemble performances and two compositions.

How is the course assessed?

- 40% Examination: Understanding Music;
- 30% Performing Music (internally assessed, externally moderated);
- 30% Composing Music (internally assessed, externally moderated).

Career Pathways

- Performing, composing, recording, technology, teaching, copyright and law, music management, music therapy

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Dr J Shufflebotham

COURSE OVERVIEW: PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J587

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/physical-education-j587-from-2016/>

The OCR GCSE Physical Education course is designed to provide students with a solid understanding of the principles of physical education, while developing both their practical skills and theoretical knowledge. The course aims to encourage students to understand how physical activity impacts health, fitness, and performance, and to appreciate the social, cultural, and psychological aspects of sport and exercise.

How is the course assessed?

The OCR GCSE Physical Education (PE) course is assessed in the following ways:

1. Written Examination (Theory) - 60%
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
The exam assesses your knowledge and understanding of both theoretical concepts and practical application within physical education. Topics include:
Applied anatomy and physiology
Physical training
Health, fitness, and well-being
Sports psychology
Socio-cultural influences
Use of data
2. Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) - 40%
This component is made up of two parts:
 - Practical Performance (30% of the total grade):
You will be assessed on your performance in three physical activities from a set list. These can be individual or team sports, and you will need to demonstrate your skills, techniques, and tactics.
 - Analysis of Performance (10% of the total grade):
You will analyse your own performance in one of the chosen activities. This involves identifying strengths and areas for improvement, followed by a development plan aimed at improving performance. • Homework will be set on a weekly basis and students will be expected to spend a lot of their own time improving their physical activities.

How to be a successful student in this subject?

- You need to spend as much time on your theory work as your practical activities;
- You also need to work hard on your weaker practical areas so that they don't have a negative
- impact on your overall grade. You will therefore need to be proficient in more than one practical
- activity.

Career Pathways

This course acts as an introduction to A-Level Physical Education or Level 3 BTEC Sport. Many Universities are accepting A-Level Physical Education as a Science subject when applying for courses such as Physiotherapy and Occupational Health. The course is also beneficial to those seeking employment in the Leisure, Sports Coaching and Sports Injury industry.

Contact - If you have any queries, please contact Mr C Swift.

COURSE OVERVIEW: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Students will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of religion by exploring the importance and impact of beliefs, teaching, sources and practices. They will also be able to express their own personal responses on issues such as identity, belonging, values and commitments.

This is a non-examined compulsory course:

- The course focusses on the study of two major world religions: Christianity and Islam;
- Students will study topics such as:
 - Crime and Punishment;
 - Peace and Conflict;
 - War;
 - Other ethical issues like euthanasia and infertility treatments.
- Internal assessment: progress is monitored through the course by class work;

We would also advise that students keep up-to-date with current affairs by watching the news and reading quality newspapers.

Career Pathways

- The value of Religious Studies is immeasurable. Identification, investigation and response to fundamental questions of life raised by religion and human experience are all seen by employers as positive in helping employees to work side by side and shows the ability to demonstrate organisational skills;
- There are a variety of jobs which value Religious Studies. These range from Veterinary Surgeon to Accountancy. All jobs utilise the ability to employ logic and an understanding of others' ideals and presentation of empathetic responses.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs N Ireland

BTEC LEVEL 1 / LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Exam Board: Edexcel Pearson

Course code: 603/7047/6

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care.html>

BTEC Tech qualifications in Health and Social Care are specialist qualifications that introduce students to aspects of employment within the Health and Social Care Sector. They are equivalent to 1 GCSE and will consist of 120 guided learning hours.

Components include: 1. Human Lifespan Development, 2. Health and Social Care Services Values, 3. Health and Wellbeing.

How is the course assessed?

- Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed and externally moderated;
- Each component will have an overall grade awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction Level;
- Component 3 is externally assessed and is a synoptic unit drawing together all the prior knowledge of Health and Social Care.

Career Pathways

- With further training or study, students go on to careers in Nursing, Social Work, Radiography, Residential Management, Physiotherapy and many other occupations.
- If students choose to enter employment rather than further education, they may be able to obtain positions in the following areas:
- Registered Care Homes;
- Hospitals and Primary Care Trusts;
- Nursing Homes;
- Health Centres;
- Or any other Health Care setting.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Miss H Bowden. hbowden@bhs.potteries.ac.uk

BTEC LEVEL 1 / LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Exam Board: Edexcel Pearson

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/child-development/2022/specificationand-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-child-development-spec.pdf>

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/ 2 Tech Award in Child Development is for learners who want to acquire sector specific applied knowledge through vocational contexts by planning, developing and adapting play opportunities suitable for young children across five areas of development as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and understanding of child development and growth up to the age of five, how children learn through play and how meeting the needs of individual children will support their development, play and learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning applied knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs.

How is the course assessed?

- Component 1- Children's Growth and Development- Internally Assessed
- Component 2- Learning Through Play- Internally Assessed
- Component 3- Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop- Externally Assessed, Synoptic Unit

Career Pathways

- Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:
- Continue to study Child Development at Biddulph Sixth form with our T Level in Education and Childcare
- Progress to A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Students wanting to go to university to further their knowledge of Childhood Development could choose a degree in Early Childhood, Childhood Youth Studies or in related sectors such as Nursing and Social Care.
- Career Pathways students may wish to pursue could be- Teaching, Nursing/Midwifery, Social Care, Teaching Assistant, Nursery Nurse, Counselling/Psychologist, Family Support worker, Speech and Language Therapist.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs. Acton (acton@biddulphhigh.co.uk)

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport

Exam Board: Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport

Course Code: 603/7042/5.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/sport-2022.html>

The **Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport** is a vocational qualification designed for students who have an interest in sports and wish to develop practical and theoretical knowledge in the field. This course is aimed at providing students with an understanding of key concepts in sport, including performance, fitness, and the principles of training.

How is the course assessed?

The **Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport** is assessed using a combination of **internally assessed coursework** and an **externally assessed exam**. The course is structured in three components, each of which is assessed differently. Written Examination (Theory) - 60%

Component 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise (Internally Assessed – Coursework)

Learners will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity. They will also research equipment and technological advances in a chosen sport or physical activity and how to prepare our bodies for participation in sport and physical activity.

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (Internally Assessed - Coursework)

Learners will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (Externally assessed – Exam)

Learners will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing

Career Pathways

- This course acts as an introduction to Level 3 BTEC in Sport studied in Year 12/Year 13 which leads on to the many sports degrees on offer at universities;
- The course is also beneficial to those seeking employment in the Leisure, Sports Coaching and Sports Injury industry.

Contact

If you have any queries, please contact Mr C Swift

