



**THE BICESTER
SCHOOL**

Aspire and Achieve

Key Stage 4 Options booklet

2016 - 2018

Good evening and thank you for making time to attend our Key Stage 4 Options Evening.

Over the next few weeks your son or daughter will be asked to decide which subjects he or she would prefer to study in Years 10 and 11, where choices are offered.

This booklet sets out exactly where choices have to be made, and the options which are available. It also contains details of all the subjects that students will be following in accordance with the demands of the English Baccalaureate and the new Progress 8 focus.

There has been a lot of recent publicity around the changes to end of course examinations and a move away from some courses which no longer retain GCSE equivalency. The curriculum we have designed responds to both of these pressures whilst ensuring that those students whose needs will not be best served by the changes retain a genuine choice of courses from which to select.

All students are asked to select their choices on the separate Student Preference Form and to return it to Student Reception by the 4th March (or at the parents evening on the 25th of February). The school will do its utmost to meet all requests, subject to staffing and resources and to the choices being appropriate for long term career aspirations.

Tonight you will be given further details about the process of making these choices and an opportunity to meet subject teachers and to discuss their subjects at Key Stage 4.

With your support, we hope to ensure that your son or daughter will make appropriate and positive choices, whilst establishing high expectations for the future. If you require any further information either tonight or in the coming weeks please contact Mr Howard or Mr Marston.

BTEC and Vocational Courses

In addition to our GCSE subjects we are also running BTECs in a number of subject areas.

BTECs all have full GCSE equivalency and are run by subject specialists in the same way as the GCSE courses. The style of assessment is where the BTECs differ, each course involves an examination but also covers a number of units of study which students complete throughout the two years of Key Stage Four.

This means that they can be better suited to students who prefer to complete their assessed work throughout the course rather than rely on success in the final examination series in year 11.

The BTEC courses we will be running are;

Music

Travel and Tourism

Computer Skills (ECDL) & Business Studies (combined but with 2 qualifications)

These can be selected on the subject preference form in the same way as the GCSE subjects.

For more details about the BTEC courses please speak to Mr Altaf who coordinates these programmes of study.

STAFF CONTACT: Mr Altaf

The Curriculum offer.

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum sets out to provide a broad and balanced learning programme for students of all abilities, through a combination of compulsory subjects and choices. It meets all current legislation with regard to the National Curriculum. **Most** students will study subjects which can lead to nine full GCSE awards (or equivalent) made up as follows:

Core Subjects	English Baccalaureate route	Vocational route
Maths	GCSE	GCSE
English Language	GCSE	GCSE
English Literature	GCSE	GCSE
Science (double award)	2 x GCSE	2 x GCSE
Core PE	Practical sport not a qualification	

Pot 1 Subjects

Students opting to complete the English Baccalaureate will automatically be entered for either French or Spanish (dependent upon their Year 9 language choice), students not opting for the Ebacc route must select either History or Geography from column 2.

Ebacc		Non Ebacc	
English Baccalaureate	Below we have pre-selected the language that each student is currently studying in year 9	<i>Students not opting for the English Baccalaureate should select one of the following subjects</i>	Please indicate subject choice with a cross
<i>Students who are aiming for the English Baccalaureate will study either French or Spanish here and must select Geography or History from the second set of options.</i>			
Spanish		History	
French		Geography	

Pot 2 Subjects

Students must then select one subject from each of the Blocks below. Students opting for the Ebacc route must select either History **or** Geography in this section to ensure they qualify for the full English Baccalaureate.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
History	Geography	* Triple Science
Resistant Materials	Food Technology	Media
Philosophy and Ethics	Art	Art
BTEC Travel and Tourism	Drama	PE GCSE
Music BTEC	Computer Skills ECDL and Business Studies BTEC	Travel and Tourism BTEC

*Triple Science only available to students in Science sets 1 & 2 unless special consideration is given

GEOGRAPHY

Level

Exam Board

Course Code

GCSE

AQA

8035

Course:

Pupils choosing GCSE geography will enable them to achieve Ebacc as part of their Key Stage 4 education. It is a solid academic subject and well respected by universities and employers alike. Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. Our GCSE course has a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world. There are so many ways of learning in geography. It is very practical with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques.

The course follows the new AQA specification and consists of three components:

Living with the physical environment – 35%

Challenge of natural hazards – Tectonic hazards, weather and climate

Physical landscapes in the UK – Coasts and rivers.

The living world – Ecosystems and Tropical Rainforests, Hot deserts OR cold environments

Challenges in the Human Environment – 35%

Urban issues and challenges

Changing economic world

Resource management

Geographical application – 30%

Issue evaluation

Fieldwork

Fieldwork:

There is a requirement that students attend a fieldwork day in which a human environment and physical environment will be studied. This will be assessed in an exam at the end of year 11.

Assessment:

This course will be examined by three written exam papers at the end of year 11 (split as above). Each paper is an hour and a half long and will be a progressive paper consisting of multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions.

Staff Contact:

Miss G Taylor (Head of Department)

Mrs K Knibbs

Mrs L Shipman

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

LEVEL	EXAM BOARD	COURSE CODE
GCSE	OCR	J625

COURSE:

The new OCR GCSE in Philosophy & Ethics is designed to help develop knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism, humanism and secularism.

The specification includes an exciting area of study: Dialogue between religions and non-religious beliefs and attitudes. This topic area tackles relevant issues for learners in modern British society.

Why choose OCR GCSE Philosophy & Ethics?

Modern and engaging – Students can gain a deeper understanding of two religions, Christianity and Judaism, and explore philosophy and ethical studies in the modern world.

Designed to inspire – The specification includes exciting content that explores relationships and families, the existence of God, gods and the ultimate reality, religion, peace and conflict, and dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes.

Skills for today's world – Philosophy & Ethics can open up the possibility of in-depth debate, which leads to critical evaluation and analysis.

ASSESSMENT:

The course is assessed at the end of Year 11 through two exams that are each two hours long. Each exam is worth half of the GCSE and is broken down into short and long answer questions, designed to test knowledge and understanding. Students will have a choice of questions to answer and these will require students to explain their own views as well as others and to evaluate claims made by religious and secular thinkers.

STAFF CONTACT: Mrs H. Bunn (Head of Department)
Mrs K. Wilson (Teacher)

The decision making process and key dates:

Students and parents attend options evening on 27th January 2016	
Students and parents to talk to tutors and subject teachers where further information is required.	
Parents, students and teachers discuss choices at Parents' Evening on Thursday 25th February 2016. Forms can be submitted on this date.	
Completed forms handed in to tutors by Friday 4th March 2016	

Some Advice to Students

DO

- Choose a subject because you like it, not because it is the "least worst"
- Choose a subject you have an interest in
- Choose a subject which might help you with a particular career
- Choose a balanced range of subjects
- Be aware of the requirements of the course and the style of assessment involved

DO NOT

- Choose a subject because your friends are doing it
- Choose a subject because you like the teacher (there may be a different one next year)
- Choose a subject because it looks easy
- Rush into anything - REMEMBER TO FIND OUT AND SEEK ADVICE

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Level	Exam Board	Course Code
GCSE	AQA	8702

COURSE:

English Literature creates, build and sustains a love of books: novels, plays and poetry. This GCSE develops students' ability to analyse plot, characters, themes, language and structural devices, and context. They will study old and modern texts, make comparisons between literary works and develop their ability to identify effects on the reader.

Students will study a range of texts; these texts will be chosen from such works as Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, William Golding's novel *The Lord of the Flies*, Dennis Kelly's play *DNA*, Arthur Conan Doyle's novel *The Sign of Four*, and poetry from a 'power and conflict' anthology both past and present.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment is 100% examination.

Exam One: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (40% of qualification)

Exam Two: Modern Texts and Prose (60% of qualification)

STAFF CONTACT: Ms Pollard (Head of Department)

MODERN WORLD HISTORY

Level	Exam Board	Course Code
GCSE	AQA	8145

COURSE:

This course explores History through the ages with a particular focus on American History, Elizabethan England 1568-1603, Conflict and Tension, 1919-39 plus a thematic study of Britain: health and the people c1000 to the present day.

Paper 1 will focus on understanding the Modern World with a particular focus on Conflict and Tension 1919-39, and America 1920- 1973, Opportunity and Inequality.

Paper 2: Section A includes a thematic study which covers British History, Health and the People: 1000-to the present day. **Section B** covers Elizabethan England and includes a study of an Elizabethan building.

ASSESSMENT:

The exam comprises of two papers, both worth 50% of the GCSE and each exam lasts 1 hour 45 minutes. Each exam is split into 2 sections, A and B. Paper 1 has 10 questions and Paper 2 has 8 questions.

STAFF CONTACT: Ms Riches, Mr Maddox, Ms Waddams, Miss Constantine

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Level	Exam Board	Course
GCSE FRENCH	AQA	8658

COURSE:

The GCSE courses in French and Spanish build on the vocabulary, phrases and grammar that you have learned in Years 7, 8 and 9. At GCSE you study three key themes: Identity and culture; Local, national, international and global areas of interest; Current and future study and employment. You then develop your opinions about these themes relating to your own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where the language you are studying is spoken. The aim is to expand your cultural knowledge while developing your language skills.

The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are all practised and developed. You build on your grammatical knowledge, moving into more complex areas, and also learn strategies to help you understand and communicate more easily.

ASSESSMENT:

This is a linear qualification which means that you are assessed by examination at the end of the course. You may be entered for either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier but you must enter at the same tier for all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing). Each language skill is worth 25% of the marks. There are a number of different tasks in each paper, involving short and long texts. Your individual speaking assessment is conducted by your teacher.

STAFF CONTACTS: Mrs. H. Young (Head of Department),

Mrs K. Gregory, Ms N. Meneses

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Level	Exam Board	Course Code
GCSE	AQA	8700

COURSE:

English Language focuses on developing core literacy skills: reading and writing. This GCSE develops students' ability to use and explore language in different contexts, and for different purposes and audiences. It also includes some analysis of literary and media texts. Students will have opportunities to write creatively and demonstrate their discussion and formal presentations.

Students will sit two examinations which assess both their reading and writing skills. A range of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts from 19th, 20th and 21st centuries will be provided in the examinations. Students will need to show a range of reading skills including comprehension, deduction, summary, analysis and evaluation. In addition, students will be required to produce extended pieces of writing which will include imaginative texts such as a narrative or descriptive piece as well as transactional writing such as a letter of application or a newspaper article. In both the reading and writing sections of the examinations, students' literacy (spelling, punctuation and grammar) will be assessed.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment is 100% examination.

STAFF CONTACT: Ms Pollard (Head of Department)

MATHEMATICS

Level

Exam Board

Course Code

GCSE

Edexcel

1MA1

COURSE:

The purposes of this qualification are to:

- ◆ provide evidence of students' achievements against demanding and fulfilling content, to give students the confidence that the mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding that they will have acquired during the course of their study are as good as that of the highest performing jurisdictions in the world.
- ◆ provide a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study and for employment, to give students the appropriate mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding to help them progress to a full range of courses in further and higher education. This includes Level 3 mathematics courses as well as Level 3 and undergraduate courses in other disciplines such as biology, geography and psychology, where the understanding and application of mathematics is crucial.

Students will follow either the Foundation or Higher Tier course

- ◆ Foundation tier - grades 1 to 5 available
- ◆ Higher tier - grades 4 to 9 available (grade 3 allowed)

ASSESSMENT:

100% examination. Students sit three equally weighted papers at the end of the course: one paper is non-calculator and the other two papers are calculator. Each paper is 1hr 30mins and carries 80 marks.

STAFF CONTACT:

Mrs Nash (Head of Department)

Mrs Laverick (2nd in Department)

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY continued

Task 1: Food investigation

This is a written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 1 provides evidence of students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients

Task 2: Food preparation assessment

This measures students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Evidence for task 2 will be a written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

Resistant Materials

This GCSE offers a practical approach to analysing products, design icons and design movements in order to broaden understanding of design and to stimulate creative ability.

The course is design to research, design, model and manufacture a product in a range of medium including card, foam, wood, metal, plastic and smart materials. We will use a range of machining processes and develop further skills in CAD software and CAM machinery to turn ideas into a reality.

If you like sketching and modelling ideas, being creative, working in teams, learning how to design and are interested in using computers and CAD/CAM to design and make products, then this course is for you.

ASSESSMENT FOR RESISTANT MATERIALS:

60% of the grade is gained from a major project. This is a 45 hour design and make task when we produce a portfolio and final practical piece. All coursework is completed during lesson time.

40% of the grade is a two hour written exam.

There is only one tier of assessment and questions will test the application of knowledge and understanding of materials, components, processes, techniques, technologies and the evaluation of commercial practices and products. The first part of the paper will be a design task and the remainder will relate to the information learnt in lessons.

STAFF CONTACT:

Mr. S. Payne (Head of Design and Technology)

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Level	Exam Board	Course Code
GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition	AQA	8585
GCSE Resistant Materials	Edexcel (Pearson)	2RM01

COURSE:

In each option students will be taught to:

- ◆ Investigate, research, develop and communicate ideas
- ◆ Carefully select materials, tools and equipment and make quality products
- ◆ Evaluate products, understanding how and why they have been designed
- ◆ Change and improve their work as the course progresses

Food Preparation & Nutrition:

This is an exciting, creative and interesting subject to study. Most of the learning is through practical lessons. The subject involves;

- ◆ Experimenting, investigating and testing products
- ◆ Learning about foods, ingredients, processes, techniques
- ◆ Being creative and designing new products
- ◆ Understanding how a product can be developed in a test kitchen
- ◆ Having an insight into how products are made in industry
- ◆ Developing skills which enable you to make food products
- ◆ Understanding about diets and health
- ◆ Making choices as consumers

ASSESSMENT FOR FOOD:

50% of the grade is gained from a one hour forty five minutes written exam. This carries 100 marks with 20 of these coming from multiple choice questions.

The rest of the marks are awarded for the non-exam element which consists of two tasks.

SCIENCE

Level	Exam Board	Course Code
GCSE	Edexcel	1CS0

GCSE SCIENCE

From September 2016 we will be introducing new GCSE Science courses. These will include new and updated content that will provide a challenging but balanced and inclusive science curriculum. All students will study a minimum of Combined Science from which they will achieve 2 GCSE grades. Some students will also have the option to study single sciences through which they will achieve separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

COURSE CONTENT:

All our GCSE Science courses contain modules which cover a wide range of Chemistry, Biology and Physics topics that will extend and develop the ideas encountered during our KS3 curriculum.

All our GCSE Science courses provide a modern and relevant curriculum for all students that will allow them to develop a sound theoretical understanding while recognising the wide applications of Science. The course will also develop students' ideas and understanding of how scientists work and the investigative approaches used in Science.

ASSESSMENT:

In both the Combined and Single Science courses, students will sit six written exam papers. Practical skills will now be assessed through these examinations rather than coursework.

STAFF CONTACT: Mr G. Ladd (Head of Department)
Mr C. Curtis (2nd in Department)

MEDIA STUDIES

Level

Exam Board

Course Code

GCSE

WJEC

4390

COURSE:

The GCSE course has a focus on the assessment of knowledge and understanding, description and analysis of media texts and key concepts. Students are encouraged to create and evaluate at all times as controlled assessment centres on Pre-Production and Production work. Students will explore Media Concepts and ideas through:

- ◆ Media texts - genre, narrative, and representation
- ◆ Media organisations
- ◆ Media audiences and users

Students who choose to study this course encounter the following texts in depth:

- ◆ Films and film trailers
- ◆ TV programmes
- ◆ Advertising (moving image and print based)
- ◆ CD covers/DVD covers
- ◆ Music tracks, CD covers and music videos
- ◆ Computer games and gaming culture
- ◆ New media platforms and digital technologies

ASSESSMENT:

Unit 1: Thinking about the Media : Investigating and Planning (exam) 40%

Unit 2: Creating for the media: Investigating and Producing (coursework) 60% - three pieces of work from at least two different media

SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Diverse skills, i.e. independent, critical, creative learners imbued with practical skills.

STAFF CONTACT:

Mr. A. Chatora (Lead Media Teacher)

Ms. F. Pollard (Head of English and Media)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Level	Exam Board	Course Code
GCSE	AQA	8582

COURSE:

Students will have three theory lessons and two GCSE practical lessons; this is in addition to their core Physical Education lessons.

Theory aspects covered include:

PAPER ONE: THE HUMAN BODY AND MOVEMENT IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT.

- APPLIED ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY
- MOVEMENT ANALYSIS
- PHYSICAL TRAINING
- USE OF DATA

PAPER TWO: SOCIAL-CULTURAL INFLUENCES AND WELL-BEING IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT.

- SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY
- SOCIO-CULTURAL INFLUENCES
- HEALTH, FITNESS AND WELL-BEING
- USE OF DATA

ASSESSMENT:

The Theory is assessed by 2 papers each being 1 hour 15 minutes. This constitutes of 60% students total marks.

The Practical aspect is assessed is over three sports as a Player/Performer. The practical performance in the three different activities which consist of one in a team activity one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity. The students will also complete one written assessment piece on evaluating and improving performance.

STAFF CONTACT:

Mrs S Masterson (Head of Physical Education)

MUSIC

Level	Exam Board	Course Code
BTEC Level 1/2	EDEXCEL	600/6818/8

COURSE:

BTEC music is for those students who have an interest in creating and performing music, and want to learn about the music industry and live performance. During the two year course students will be able to develop their skills, and learn about a wide variety of music. Students will have the opportunity to create and perform music using their preferred instrument and music software, as well as planning and developing a live music event. For the performing unit students will need to perform a selection of solo and/or ensemble pieces, on a chosen instrument.

UNITS

Unit 1: The music industry

In this unit students will learn about the areas and organisations of the music industry and how they work together.

Unit 2: Managing a music product

This unit provides the opportunity for students to plan and deliver and participate in a live music event.

Unit 4: Introduction to music composition

In this unit students will explore music composition using music software and their own instruments.

Unit 5: Introduction to music performance

In this unit students will have the opportunity to develop their skills both as a solo and ensemble/ band performer, working towards final performances.

ASSESSMENT:

Unit 1: The music industry -1 hr Written paper - 25%

Unit 2: Managing a music product - Controlled assessment - 25%

Unit 4: Introduction to music composition - Controlled assessment - 25%

Unit 5: introduction to music performance - Controlled assessment - 25%

STAFF CONTACT:

Mrs R. Sanders (Head of Music)

DRAMA

Level	Exam Board	Course Code
GCSE	Edexcel	2DR01

COURSE:

Drama encourages students to develop a personal interest in why drama matters and be inspired, moved and changed by studying a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. Students will work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas. They will consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities. Students will reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others. They will develop and demonstrate competence in a range of practical, creative and performance skills.

Practical work

- ◆ Show commitment to their group
- ◆ Carry out research to share with their group
- ◆ Listen to advice and act upon it
- ◆ Set targets after each rehearsal to ensure their piece progresses effectively

Student comments;

"I can express my personality in drama"

"It builds your confidence"

"It is good for team building and allows you to be someone else and forget about everyday life"

ASSESSMENT:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| ◆ Drama Exploration: | 30% |
| Six hour practical exploration | |
| Documentary response | |
| ◆ Exploring play texts: | 30% |
| Six hour practical exploration of the play text | |
| Documentary response to practical exploration | |
| Documentary response to love theatre | |
| ◆ Drama Performance: | 40% |

Students will present their work as either performers or performance support students in a single performance to an examiner appointed by Edexcel.

A qualification in Drama demonstrates that students have:

- ◆ Shown creativity and imagination
- ◆ Worked constructively with others
- ◆ Worked to, and met, deadlines
- ◆ Learnt to communicate effectively
- ◆ Interpret their own and others' ideas through performance

STAFF CONTACT: Amy Hoyles (Head of Drama)

ART AND DESIGN

Level	Exam Board	Course Code
GCSE	AQA	4200

COURSE:

In Art and Design students will be able to discover new and interesting ways of making art. In Year 10, they will learn a wide variety of skills, techniques and processes. Students will explore the work of artists and develop their own ideas. The coursework consists of a portfolio of work which includes at least one extended project. Students will complete projects on "Objects/Still Life" and "Windows, Doorways and Shop fronts" in Year 10 and in Year 11 a project exploring "Pattern". The exam is set in January of Year 11 where students respond to a question, followed by a ten hour practical exam (across 2 full school days) in April. Commitment to independent learning and a passion for art are essential.

Student comments:

"It is a lot of work, but the outcome is worth it."

"I have learnt loads of new skills, for example, lino printing, inks and painting."

"I always look forward to my art lesson. Although it is hard work, it brightens up my day"

Choose Art and Design if you enjoy developing ideas, experimenting with materials and taking inspiration from artists. It is a practical and creative course that gives you the chance to develop new skills within the subject. If you liked Key Stage 3, you will love Key Stage 4!

ASSESSMENT:

GCSE Art is 60% coursework and 40% exam.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ms. L Kennett (Head of Creative and Expressive Arts)