

**Blackpool Aspire Academy
Curriculum Pathway
2017-2020**

**Information &
Subject Preference Guide**

February 2017

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Introduction

Dear Parents/Carers

This Key Stage Four Curriculum Pack contains information about the core subjects and preference subjects which are available for study from Year 9.

All students will follow GCSE (or equivalent) courses in English, Mathematics, Science, and at least one from French, History, Geography & Computer Science.

Enhancement subjects fall into different categories: the traditional GCSEs and vocational qualifications such as BTEC's or Level 2 Certificates. Learners are able to choose four options to meet the full curriculum entitlement.

Please read the relevant sections in this pack to understand fully the differences between the courses on offer. Students in school have had the opportunity to listen to and talk with subject teachers or curriculum leaders about the preference subjects and have recently engaged in taster lessons to give them a better idea of what they may be studying in future. You are invited to an Curriculum Information and Parents' Evening on Thursday 2nd March 2017 when the KS4 curriculum will be explained and you will have the opportunity to get further information from Subject Leaders and your son/daughters current teachers. This will also allow for consultation with subject teachers or members of the Senior Leadership Team.

The subject preference form is included at the back of this booklet and a further copy will be given out on the evening. After careful consideration of applications, students will be required to meet with a member of the Leadership Team over the following weeks to ensure that they are happy with their choices before any final decisions are made. Decisions will also be made on the basis of viability of the course depending on low numbers as well as full courses due to high numbers, a full timeline is included in this information booklet.

If at any time you have any questions regarding this important process, please feel free to contact me at any time (r.hughes@aspire.fcat.org.uk).

Yours sincerely



Mr R Hughes
Assistant Principal

GCSE Reform – What is 9-1?

1. Introduction

As you are probably aware the government has introduced radical new changes to the structure and assessment of GCSEs. We are moving away from the familiar system of A*-G grades to a system of grading with numbers 9-1. In addition to the changes to the structure of GCSEs, the government is also raising a 'good pass' from a C to a new grade 5, where a 5 represents the top third of a C and the bottom third of a B. This is to align the UK with the best education systems in the world.

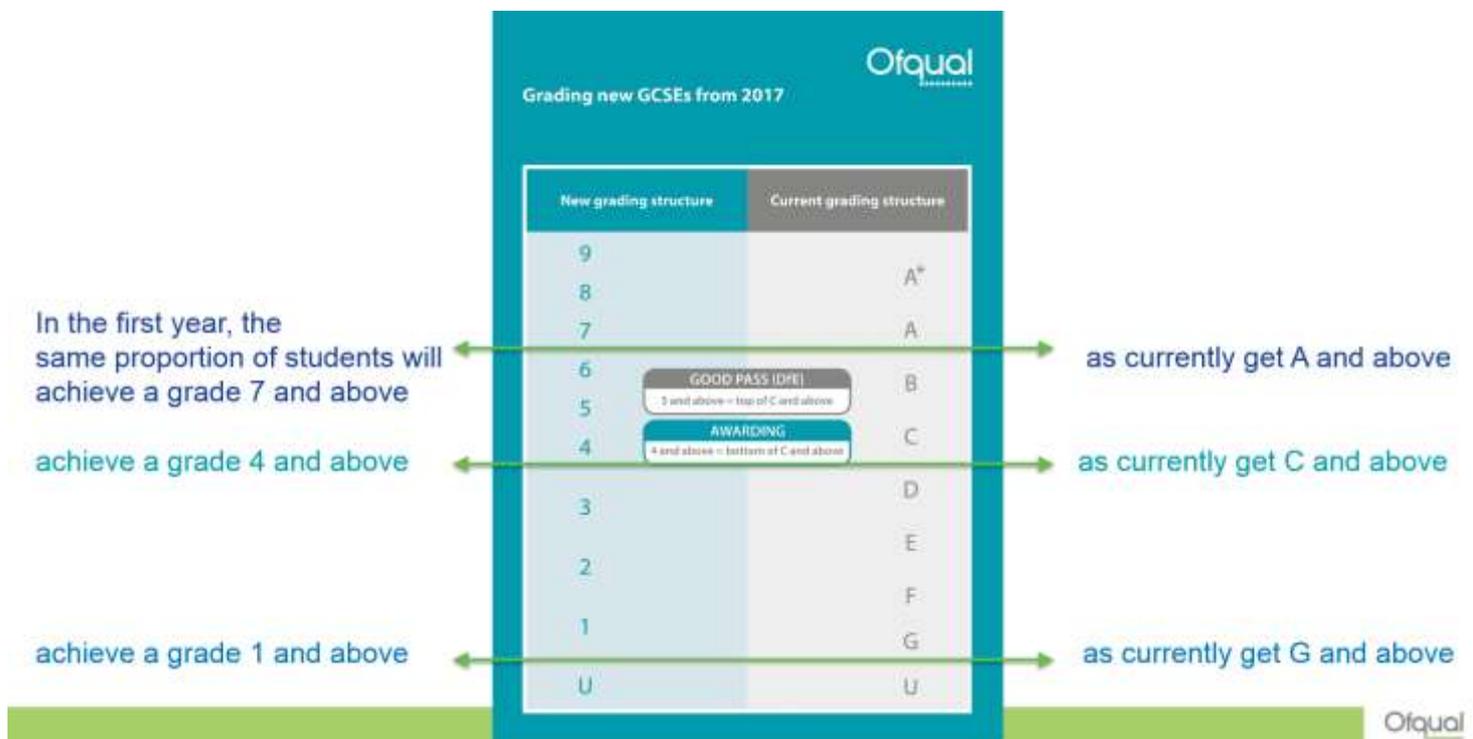
From September 2015 new reformed GCSEs will be taught in English language, English literature and maths, with the first results issued in August 2017. Further subjects will see new GCSEs introduced over the following two years.

2. What new GCSEs will look like?

The main features of the new GCSEs are:

- A new grading scale of 9 to 1 will be used, with 9 being the top grade. This will allow greater differentiation between students and will help distinguish the new GCSEs from previous versions.
- Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills
- There will be new, more demanding content, which has been developed by government and the exam boards
- Courses will be designed for three years of study - they will no longer be divided into different modules and students will take all their exams in one period at the end of their course
- Exams can only be split into 'foundation tier' and 'higher tier' if one exam paper does not give all students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities
- Resit opportunities will only be available each November in English language and Maths

3. New GCSE Grading Scheme



Curriculum Structure

At this point in your son/daughters time at Blackpool Aspire Academy we ask them to help determine what subjects and qualifications it is that they would like to study in Key Stage 4.

Certain subjects are considered essential and form the core part of the curriculum that all students will follow, this includes

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science (Unless in Set 1 where students will study Separate Sciences)
- Physical Education
- PSHE & RE

Beyond this we give students the opportunity to express a preference for **four** other subjects that they wish to study, we offer a range of academic (GCSE) and vocational (BTEC and equivalent) courses that enable all students to study a broad and balanced curriculum (Ofsted 2016).

It is expected that all students will study at least one of the following subjects as part of recent government reforms to education.

- GCSE Geography or
- GCSE History or
- GCSE French or
- GCSE Computer Science

These subjects are considered “gateway” subjects that employers and further education providers look very favourably on when students apply for jobs or university places.

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

The English Baccalaureate is recognition awarded to students that have successfully attained a Grade 5 or higher in the following subjects:

- GCSE English
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Science or GCSE Computer Science
- Either GCSE History or Geography
- GCSE French

This very academic route will not be suitable for all students.

Subject specific information is provided later in this booklet, including the next steps that each qualification could lead to including possible careers that each qualification opens up.

Please look carefully at the information provided, and please discuss your son/daughters preferences with them – this is critical point in their educational journey, and it will not be possible to make changes in Year 9 if they change their minds.

Top Tips for Future Success

You need to think long and hard about the subjects that you would like to study in Year 9; you need to think about why it is you want to do that subject!

Good reasons for expressing a subject preference

- You are good at the subject
- You think you will enjoy the course
- It fits your career ideas and plans
- It goes well with your other choices
- It helps to give you plenty of choice post 16
- You think you might want to continue studying it post 16
- Your research shows that it will interest you and motivate you to learn.

Bad reasons for expressing a subject preference

- Your friends have chosen it
- You think it will be easy
- You think it's a good option for a boy/girl
- Someone else thinks it is a good idea
- You like the teacher you have now
- You did not have time to research your options properly



Timeline

Week Commencing	What's Happening?
30th January 2017	Year 8 Careers Fair at Blackpool Pleasure Beach
13th February 2017	Taster lessons take place Subject Information pack released
20th February 2017	Half Term – Parents & Students to read information pack and discuss subjects available
27th February 2017	Y8 Curriculum Information Assembly Y8 Parents & Information Evening
6th March 2017	Monday – Deadline for Subject Preference forms Student interviews with members of the Leadership Team begin
13th March 2017	Student interviews continue
20th March 2017	Student interviews continue
27th March 2017	Details from interviews collated, and subject preferences finalised
3rd April 2017	Students & Parents informed of which subjects have been allocated

Future Key Dates

September 2017
June 2020
August 2020
September 2020

Key Stage 4 Begins
Final External Exams Take Place
Final Results Available
Post-16 Courses Begin



Core Subjects

These subjects serve as the compulsory part of our curriculum offer, the study of English, Mathematics & Science ensures that our students are articulate, literate numerate and scientifically curious when they move on to the next stages of their lives.

All students will study for GCSE's in:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science

All students will continue to study but not receive an external qualification in:

- PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) & RE (Religious Education)
- Physical Education

GCSE English

Why Study English Language & Literature?

English Language provides you with the key reading, writing and spoken language skills to assist you when you enter the wider world of further education and employment. It involves studying both fictional and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th & 21st centuries and writing in a variety of genres and styles.

English Literature provides you with the analytical skill to approach and understand a variety of literary texts including poetry, prose and plays. The subject inspires and improves your own writing style as you study esteemed and valued authors from Shakespearean times through to the modern day. The discussion of topics and ideas that influence these texts allows students to examine their own cultural heritage and the variety of perspectives that exist.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Non – Fiction Point- of – View writing War Poetry Reading Assessment Media James Bond & Spy Fiction Descriptive Writing Shakespeare’s ‘Macbeth’ – understanding of plot. Non-Fiction Reading Autobiographical Extracts Dystopian Fiction Reading Assessment	‘An Inspector Calls’–JB Priestley Focus on themes ‘A Christmas Carol’ – C Dickens Descriptive Writing Reading and examining writers’ perspectives in non- fiction texts Paper 2 Language. Point of View Writing –Articles & Essays ‘Conflict’ Poetry cluster Reading and analysis of creative fictional texts. Revisit Shakespeare’s ‘Macbeth’-Focus on characters.	English Language Paper 1 Reading Exam Practice Spoken Language Assessments - Speech writing Narrative Writing ‘Power’ poetry cluster Unseen Poetry Analysis Letter & Leaflet writing Revisit ‘A Christmas Carol’ & ‘Macbeth’ – focus on themes. Revisit ‘An Inspector Calls’- characters Revision of bespoke language topics required for the examinations

Students are encouraged to participate in theatre visits to see live productions of the literary texts studied.

Qualification Details

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- AQA Exam board
- 100% examination
 - Spoken Language element assessed separately – non-exam.
- GCSE English Language:
 - Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing
 - Paper 2 – Writer's Viewpoints & Perspectives
- GCSE English Literature:
 - Paper 1 – Shakespeare & the 19th century novel.
 - Paper 2 – Modern texts & poetry

What Support is on Offer?

Lesson 6 is offered by subject teachers for extra assistance. Student study guides are provided.

PiXL Lit App is available for revision of literature texts.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize> recommended website.

What Next?

It is a core subject and without a qualification of 5 or above in this subject you will have to re sit the exams to the required standard in order to continue further studies at college or sixth form.

Possible learning pathways include 'AS' & 'A' Levels in English Language, English Literature, English Language & Literature, Creative Writing, Media Studies, Drama & Theatre Studies.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs S Johnson, Lead Teacher of English.

What the Students Say:

'English lessons always make me think more deeply about things.'
Fahmidah Year 11

'English lessons are enjoyable and topics are broken down so we understand them'.
Lauren Year 11

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Journalism,
- Publishing,
- Education,
- Creative Media,
- Performance,
- Law,
- Social Work
- Librarian
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Editor

GCSE Mathematics

Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a core subject and a compulsory part of your KS4 curriculum, this is because the over-whelming use of Mathematics in every career path and in your everyday lives. Whichever path you will want to take after you leave Blackpool Aspire Academy you will need to have received a good pass (Grade 5) in Mathematics. Without a good pass in Mathematics you will have to retake Mathematics at your set college, 6th form or apprenticeships. Mathematics promotes not only the ability to manipulate numbers but also logical thinking and problem solving which are transferable skills to future careers.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<p>Higher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indices/roots/factors/multiples • Standard form/ surds • Algebraic equations • Sequences • Statistics (representing data) • Fractions • Ratio • Pythagoras/Trigonometry • Graphs <p>Foundation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integers/factors/multiples • Algebraic expressions • Statistics (representing data) • Fractions/ percentages • Algebraic equations • Angles • Averages 	<p>Higher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solving equations • Inequalities • Constructions • Transformations • Accuracy bounds • 2D shapes • 3D shapes • Probability • Similarity • Graphs • Further Trigonometry • Circle theory <p>Foundation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area/perimeter • Transformations • Ratio/proportion • 2D shapes • 3D shapes • Real life graphs • Right angled trigonometry • Constructions • Pythagoras • Quadratic algebra 	<p>Higher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congruency • Constructions • Reciprocals • Proportionality • Vector geometry • Changing the subject • Trigonometry • Further Trigonometry • Iterations • Accuracy bounds • Graphical work <p>Foundation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rearranging equations • Quadratic algebra • Right angles triangles • Pythagoras/trigonometry • Ratio/proportion • Averages • Circles/cylinders/cones • Vectors • Probability

Qualification Details

- GCSE Mathematics
- Edexcel – Specification 1MA1
- The exam will be 3 papers each 1 hour 30 minutes long. The first will be non-calculator and the other two calculator papers.

What Support is on Offer?

The most important support is making sure you get the most out of every lesson as well as making sure you ask the maths teachers about any topics you are unsure on.

- Online learning platform/revision tools/resources logins. (MathsWatch, PIXL maths, JustMaths)
- Weekly lesson 6 (year 11)
- Weekly exam practice/papers (year 11)
- Maths revision packs

What Next?

Whatever you choose for your next step you have to achieve a grade 5 otherwise wherever you go you will have to re-sit Mathematics.

- A Level Mathematics
- A Level Further Mathematics
- Level 3 Core Mathematics

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr A. Thompson, Lead Teacher of Mathematics
a.thompson@aspire.fcat.org.uk.

What the Students Say:

"Maths in KS4 is more independent, teachers are there to help but the learning and progress is drive by us more."

Natalie Year 10

"Don't waste any years, every year counts! Always focus in Maths"

Connor Year 11

"My teacher is very supportive and always provides work for our ability and to help to push ourselves further to challenges us and make greater progress."

Shannon Year 11

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Actuarial analyst
- Forensic accountant
- Teacher
- Stockbroker
- Meteorologist
- Software tester
- Quantity surveyor
- Corporate Investment banker

GCSE Combined Science

Why Study Combined Science?

Science is essential to understanding the world in which we live. Many of the most important aspects of our lives are driven by scientific discovery including the phones we use and the medical treatment we receive. Science is the most exciting subject to study due to the wide range of practical and theoretical work carried out.

Studying Combined Science will help you to develop skills that are essential to any future career such as planning investigations, carrying out research, teamwork and evaluation.

GCSE Combined Science is taught by a passionate and enthusiastic team of scientists specialising in all three science subjects; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

"Science and everyday life cannot and should not be separated"
Rosalind Franklin- first person to see an image of DNA

"The scientist is not a person who gives right answers; he is one who asks the right questions"
Claude Levi-Strauss- French Anthropologist

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<u>Biology-</u> Cells Organisation of Plants and Animals Bioenergetics Infection <u>Chemistry</u> Atomic Structure Chemical Changes Energy Changes in Chemical Reactions Structure and Bonding Quantitative Chemistry <u>Physics</u> Particle Model Energy Waves Electricity	<u>Biology</u> Homeostasis Inheritance Ecology <u>Chemistry</u> Rate of Reaction Organic Chemistry Chemical Analysis Chemistry of the Atmosphere Using Resources <u>Physics</u> Forces Radiation Electromagnetism	<u>Biology</u> Cells, Organisation, Bioenergetics, Infection, Homeostasis, Inheritance, Ecology <u>Chemistry</u> Atomic Structure, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Structure and Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Rate, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Atmosphere and Resources <u>Physics</u> Particles, Energy, Waves, Electricity, Forces, Radiation, Electromagnetism

There will be 21 required practical investigations carried out over the Combined Science course. These will be assessed as part of the summative exam at the end of year 11.

Qualification Details

- GCSE Combined Science Trilogy (worth 2 GCSEs)
- AQA
- 100% Examination
- Each examination lasts 1 hour and 15 minutes. Two exams will be taken in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What Support is on Offer?

After school lessons are made available to all GCSE Combined Science students. These are planned specifically to the requirements of the individual student.

We use the Collins Combined Science Trilogy Revision guides. They will be handed out free of charge to all students in year 11. Supplementary material will also be distributed in years 9 and 10.

What Next?

Blackpool Sixth Form offer:

- A Level courses in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology.
- BTEC level 3 courses in Applied Science, Health and Social Care, Engineering and Sport Science

Blackpool and the Fylde College offer:

- Engineering Diploma
- Level 3 Applied Science Diploma including Medical, Forensic and Environmental Science

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr W Buchanan- Lead Teacher of Science

What the Students Say:

"We learn a lots of new things in Science and gain knowledge on a wide variety of topics. It helps us to understand the world and how to help people in the future. Our teacher is always helpful and wants us to do our best"

Macauley - Year 10

"Science is great because it gives us the opportunity to gain a greater insight into how the world works. The teachers are supportive and make sure you have a really good understanding of the subject"

Sophie - Year 10

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

People with GCSE Combined Science are some of the most employable people in a wide variety of careers.

Science opens up opportunities in a wide range of careers:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Animal Health
- Music
- Technology
- Sport Science
- Engineering
- Psychology

And some careers you may not have thought of...

- Finance
- Marketing
- Photography
- Art Restoration
- Media and Film
- Technology
- Food Technology

Physical Education

Why Study PE?

- A broad and balanced curriculum, which fulfils National Curriculum guidelines but which also enables Aspire Academy to prioritise its curriculum to its pupils needs.
- A curriculum that develops attitudes, behaviours and establishes norms of conduct.
- A curriculum that includes leadership as a skill to develop with our pupils.
- A curriculum that allows continuity from Year 7 to Year 9.
- A curriculum which will be developed to allow continuity between different key stages.
- A curriculum which allows pupils to spend meaningful time on each unit of work.
- A curriculum which makes best use of resources and staff.
- A curriculum which is consistent for each pupil.
- A curriculum that allows pupils to progress according ability and which influences KS4.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion Boys = Rugby, Basketball, Hockey, Football, 20- 30 hrs • Net/wall Boys =Tennis, Badminton, Table tennis 20-30 hrs • Striking and fielding Boys = Cricket, Baseball, Rounders 30 hrs • Invasion Girls = Netball, Hockey, Football, Basketball, 20-30 hrs • Net/wall Girls = Tennis, Badminton, Table tennis 12-20 hrs • Striking and fielding Girls = Rounders, Cricket 30 hrs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options from invasion games of Basketball, Football, Rugby, and handball. • Options from Netball, Hockey, Football, Basketball. • Options from striking & fielding games eg Rounders, Cricket and Athletics. • Health & Fitness. • Trampolining, Table tennis and perhaps Gymnastics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options from invasion games of Basketball, Football, Rugby, and handball. • Options from Netball, Hockey, Football, Basketball. • Options from striking & fielding games eg Rounders, Cricket and Athletics. • Health & Fitness. • Trampolining, Table tennis and perhaps Gymnastics.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Qualification Details:

- There may be a chance to undertake a leadership course in 'Coach Education' or a proficiency award in a certain sport of your liking.
- The core PE you undertake will support your future study at KS4 & 5.

What Support is on Offer?

- There may be opportunities to develop your leadership, officiating and organising skills through supporting extra-curricular work before school or after school in the 'out of hours' programme.
- You may also be able to join a school team to really improve your skills.
- PE staff can also guide you to a team or club in the Blackpool & Fylde area to enhance your skills and your competitive nature, your teamwork and co-operation skills and your ability to socialise.

What Next?

- You will then be in a good position to develop your skills and techniques further at KS4 and KS5 leading to possible career choices in a range

Who should I contact for more information?

- Mr Lavelle, Director of Expressive & Performing Arts, Subject Lead of PE

Student Quotes

"I like doing PE because it inspires me to keep exercising and helps me to learn new skills outside of the classroom"

Jade, Year 11.

"PE is a lesson I look forward to because I like being active and trying new sports and improving. I play football and now I know how to play rugby and badminton better"

Adam, Year 9

- PE Teacher
- Sports Development
- Sports Coaching
- Sports Management
- Physiotherapy & Sports Injury
- Nutritionist
- Public/Armed services
- All active careers from landscaping to the Fire brigade.

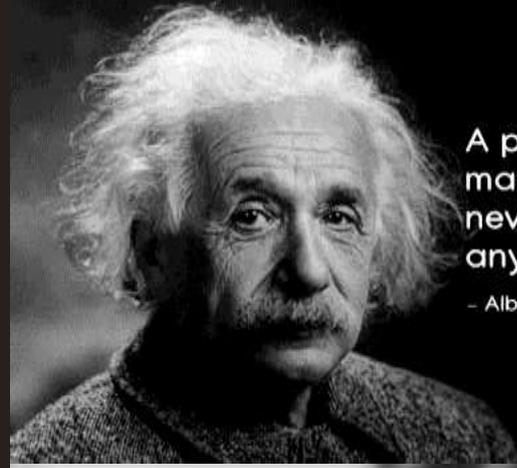
SUCCESS

IS THE SUM OF SMALL EFFORTS,
REPEATED



Robert Collier (1885-1950)

InspirationBoost.com



A person who never
made a mistake
never tried
anything new.

- Albert Einstein

TTS.MS



“A comfort zone
is a beautiful
place, but
nothing ever
grows there.”

WILL IT BE
EASY?
NOPE.

WORTH IT?
ABSOLUTELY.

DREAMS
Don't
Work
Unless
YOU Do.

Preference Subjects

All students must study at least one of the following:

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE French
- GCSE Computer Science

Students can then express a preference to study from the following subjects:

- GCSE Separate Sciences
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Art
- GCSE Art:Textiles
- Hospitality & Catering
- Materials Technology
- VCERT Business & Enterprise
- BTEC ICT
- BTEC Sport
- BTEC Travel & Tourism
- GCSE Dance

GCSE Geography

Why Study Geography?

Geography helps us to make sense of the world around us. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big global questions and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world. So many of the world's current problems boil down to Geography, and we need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Geography at GCSE level is both challenging and rewarding.

Geography at Aspire Academy is taught by well-qualified and highly experienced teachers, in a successful department. In September 2016 the department gained the Geographical Association's 'Centre of Excellence' for the quality of geography teaching and learning.

In December 2016 Ofsted stated that:

'In geography, the teacher's prior knowledge of what the pupils could do underpinned an effective challenge to the class to write a diary entry of a Nepalese Sherpa, which encouraged them to display empathy and an awareness of cultural differences.'

'Teaching is particularly effective in geography.'

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
The challenge of natural hazards Physical landscapes in the UK	The living world Urban issues and challenges Fieldwork and geographical skills	The changing economic world The challenge of resource management



Qualification Details

- GCSE Geography
- AQA Syllabus A
- 100% examination
- Physical Geography paper (35% of final grade)
- Human Geography paper (35% of final grade)
- Geographical skills and fieldwork (30% of final grade)

What Support is on Offer?

Lesson 6 revision lessons are made available to all geographers to help support revision and exam technique.

The Geography department produces its own revision guides which are given out (free of charge) to all GCSE Geography students.

What Next?

Blackpool Sixth Form offer AS/A level Geography, AS/A level Sociology.

Blackpool and the Fylde offer course in Marine Biology and Coastal Management (Foundation Course), Travel and Tourism (Level 2 and 3 BTEC) and Travel Services (Level 2 and 3 BTEC).

Who should I contact for more information?

Miss L. Stevenson, Head of Geography and Director of Humanities.

What the Students Say

'For me, Geography has opened my eyes to the world. I have a greater knowledge and understanding of the physical and human world in which I live. I thoroughly enjoy Geography lessons and would recommend the subject to any Year 8 student who is considering it as an option.'

Tia, Year 11

'I love Geography! Each of the units we study are very different, but all of them are linked in some way, meaning that topics are easier to understand than other subjects.'

Jodie, Year 11

'Geography has made me understand the physical aspects of the world in a lot more detail. It has informed me about how our world works and has raised questions about the world that I had never considered before. I enjoy the lessons and the work is really interesting.'

Tayla, Year 11

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

According to the Royal Geographical Society, Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment.

Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, and weather forecasting.

The army, police, government, research organisations, law and business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop.

GCSE History

Why Study History?

It would be great to know what could happen before we make an important decision wouldn't it? Well, studying History can help us do this on a big scale.

By analysing past events we learn about the **consequences** of people's actions, from kings & queens to the London baker who forgot to put his fire out on September 2nd 1666...

If we apply this knowledge to the present, governments, businesses and individuals can learn lessons from past mistakes or successes and make informed choices about their futures.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<p>Germany 1890-1945. A study of how Germany became a great world power, suffered defeat and humiliation in World War One, struggled to regain their status and finally succumbed to the rule of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis.</p> <p>Conflict and Tension 1918-1939. A study of how world leaders tried and ultimately failed to build a lasting peace in Europe and around the world.</p>	<p>Elizabethan England c1568-1603. A study of how a young woman from a difficult family, dealt with complex problems including religious bigotry and sexism to become arguably England's greatest monarch.</p> <p>The Health and the People c1000- Present Day. A study of how and why the health and life expectancy of British people has changed so dramatically over the last 1000 years.</p>	<p>Historic Environment Study. An in depth study of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in the English Channel in the summer of 1588.</p> <p>Germany 1890-1945 Overview Re-cap.</p> <p>Conflict and Tension 1918-1939 Overview Re-cap.</p> <p>Elizabethan England c1568-1603. Overview Re-Cap</p> <p>The Health and the People c1000- Present Day. Overview Re-Cap</p>

Qualification Details

- GCSE History. AQA.
- 100% examination based at the end of Year 11.
 - 50% Paper 1- Germany 1890-1945 and Conflict and Tension 1918-1939.
 - 50% Paper 2- Elizabethan England c1568-1603 and The Health and the People c1000- Present Day.

What Support is on Offer?

During Year 11 students will be invited to attend Lesson 6 to consolidate extend previous learning.

CGP Revision guides will be provided to all History students.

Individual revision guides will be published to Show my Homework.

What Next?

History is highly valued by all post-16 institutions and is included in the English Baccalaureate. This means that a GCSE in History can help you to study any post-16 course.

More specific History related courses are as follows:

A-Level Ancient History- Classical Civilisation

A-Level History- Medieval and Modern

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr D Carter, Subject Leader of History d.carter@aspire.fcat.org.uk
Miss L. Stevenson, Director of Humanities

What the Students Say

"History is amazing! It opens your mind to things you've never even considered before, which could potentially involve you and your family."

Sinead, Year 11

"I chose History because I love to learn about what has happened in our country's past. I like History because it gives you an insight in to how the past has influenced the future."

Arran, Year 11

"History is great because you to learn about the past and how the world has evolved."

Fahmidah, Year 11

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Any qualification in History is highly valued by further and higher education institutions due to the analytical and critical reasoning skills that they develop. Common career paths taken by History graduates include:

- Law
- Teaching
- Police Force
- Armed Forces
- Journalism
- Business Management
- Media
- Politics

GCSE French

Why Study French?

Learning languages gives pupils opportunities to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. To be able to express yourself with increasing confidence, independence and creativity. To explore the similarities and differences between French and English and learn how language can be manipulated and applied in different ways. To develop communication skills, together with understanding the structure of language to lay the foundations for future study. To support the development of literacy skills in your own language. The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill. Future employability is enhanced by knowledge of a foreign language and opens doors to a wide range of opportunities.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Themes include: School Future Aspirations Study and Work Daily Life Cultural Life Leisure and Hobbies Media and communication	Themes include: Me, my family and friends. Food and drinks and Lifestyle Family celebrations Customs and festivals Town and Region	Themes include: Holiday and Travel Shopping Environment International and global dimensions World problems

Qualification Details

Qualification Title: GCSE French (Grade 9-1)

Examination Board: AQA

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9)

The following units are assessed:

- **Unit 1 Listening (25%)**
 - Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language
- **Unit 2 Speaking (25%)**
 - Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes
- **Unit 3 Reading (25%)**
 - Understanding and responding to different types of written language
- **Unit 4 Writing (25%)**
 - Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

What Support is on Offer?

Departmental support opportunities include focused lesson 6 support sessions eg for help with speaking, revision guides with CD for listening practice, online revision and consolidation materials with personal logins and passwords.

Recommended websites:

www.linguascope.com

www.languagesonline.org.uk

www.funwithlanguages.vacau.com

www.languageskills.co.uk

What Next?

Languages are an invaluable skill to have. Having a language can increase your salary from 8 to 20% and gives you a head start on other potential employees as by speaking another language you're vital to any company who does international business (and there's a lot of them). Plus, a language is also a pre-requisite for lots of university courses so it's something to consider if you're thinking about university in the future. Languages are key to the exciting multinational world we live in! Languages at A-level (such as A Level French at Blackpool Sixth) offer you a fantastic opportunity to work towards becoming a linguist.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs J. Barnett, Director of Modern Languages

What the Students Say:

"Taking French was a really good decision. It is not as hard as I thought it would be and it will open up a lot of opportunities for me in life"

Demi, Year 10

"I really enjoy how we practise our French skills in different ways. I think that taking French could lead to travelling around the world."

Joshua, Year 10

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Knowing a foreign language can help you in many aspects of your life, including travel and work. But did you know that you can find some of the coolest jobs just by knowing another language?

- Media (journalism) and film
- Tourism and travel services, including airlines and hotels
- Banks and insurance
- Government
- International companies
- Publishing companies
- Health services
- Social services
- Immigration services
- Primary and Secondary school Teaching.
- Law
- Gaming
- Flight Attendant
- Photography
- Fashion

GCSE Computer Science

Why Study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a rapidly growing subject and is seen as an underpinning subject across science and engineering and indeed many other subjects. It involves the study of computers, including how they work and looking at the growth in the mobile device market. Furthermore, the logical thinking skills that you will learn in Computer Science are invaluable and will help with your learning in other subjects especially maths.

What Will I Study?

We break down the Computer Science curriculum into the following areas.

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer Systems• Computational Thinking & Algorithms• Learning Python & how to create a robust program• What is SQL?• Memory & Storage• Networks: Wired and Wireless	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• System Security• System Software• More Python• Translators and Facilities of Languages• Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Concerns• Computational Logic• Data Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Examined Assessment• Revision

In Year 11 students have to complete a 20 hour board-set assignment which is worth 20% of their grade in the programming language Python.

Qualification Details

- GCSE Computer Science
- OCR Exam Board
- 80% Exam; 20% NEA
- At the end of Year 11, students will sit two 90 minute exams;
 - Paper 1 is focused on Computer Systems;
 - Paper 2 is focused on Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming.

What Support is on Offer?

To support student learning, we currently offer the following:

- Lesson 6 to support revision
- Independent learning through Google Classroom so that students can learn to program at their own pace
- Customised revision materials and practice papers
- A programming drop-in session to support the learning of Python
- A wide range of revision websites and online quizzes to help with the learning and revision of difficult topics

What Next?

Following this qualification, many students go on to study some of the following:

- A level in Computing or Level 3 equivalent
- A Level in ICT or Level 3 equivalent
- A Level in Electronics
- Apprenticeship in the IT industry

Who should I contact for more information?

Ms S. Matthews, Director of Technology & Computing

What the Students Say:

"Computer Science is amazing!!!"

Patrick – Year 9

"It can be difficult but it gets easier as you learn more"

Luke – Year 11

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Some careers where this is useful include:

Data Analyst

Games Developer

Information Systems Manager

IT Consultant

Multimedia Programmer

Systems Analyst

Web Designer

Web Designer

Digital Copywriter

Network Engineer

Social Media Manager

Technical Author

Artificial Intelligence

Intelligence Service

Mobile Application Developer

GCSE Separate Sciences

Why Study Separate Sciences?

For students passionate and curious about Science, this is the option that you need to select. Science will be the most important subject of the 21st Century and with so many advances in the fields of technology, medicine and space exploration, why wouldn't you want to be a part of it?

This option is not only for students interested in pursuing a career in Science. It will allow you to develop many skills required for a wide variety of careers including planning, research, teamwork and investigation.

All teachers in the department are just as passionate about Science, with dedicated specialists in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Be part of the future! Choose Separate Science!

"It is not the strongest species that survives or the most intelligent. It is the one most adaptable to change"- Charles Darwin author of "On the Origin of Species"

"I feel sorry for people who don't understand anything about Chemistry. They are missing an important source of happiness!"- Linus Pauling 1954 Winner of Nobel Prize for Chemistry

"If anyone says he can think about quantum physics without getting giddy, that only shows he has not understood the first thing about them"

- Niels Bohr discovered that electrons orbit the atom in energy shells

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<u>Biology</u> - Cells Organisation Bioenergetics Infection	<u>Biology</u> Homeostasis Inheritance Ecology	<u>Biology</u> Cells, Organisation, Bioenergetics, Infection, Homeostasis, Inheritance, Ecology
<u>Chemistry</u> Atomic Structure Chemical Changes Energy Changes Structure and Bonding Quantitative Chemistry	<u>Chemistry</u> Rate of Reaction Organic Chemistry Chemical Analysis Chemistry of the Atmosphere Using Resources	<u>Chemistry</u> Atomic Structure, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Structure and Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Rate, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Atmosphere and Resources
<u>Physics</u> Particle Model Energy Waves Electricity	<u>Physics</u> Forces Radiation Electromagnetism Space	<u>Physics</u> Particles, Energy, Waves, Electricity, Forces, Radiation, Electromagnetism, Space

There are 28 required practical investigations assessed in the final examinations.

Qualification Details

- GCSE Biology
- GCSE Chemistry
- GCSE Physics
- AQA
- 100% Examination
- Each examination lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes. There are two in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics

What Support is on Offer?

After school lessons are made available to all GCSE Combined Science students. These are planned specifically to the requirements of the individual student.

We use the Collins Biology, Chemistry and Physics Revision guides. These will be handed out free of charge to all students in year 11. Supplementary material will also be distributed in years 9 and 10.

What Next?

Blackpool Sixth Form College offer A Level courses in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr W Buchanan- Lead Teacher of Science

What the Students Say:

"Separate Science gives us an understanding of the world and provides us with life skills for the future. We learn in lots of different ways and do lots of practical experiments and group work."

Julia – Year 10

"Separate Science gives us a wide range of opportunities for our future. It provides us with important information about our world and our society. Teachers are friendly and helpful and always plan exciting lessons."

Joshua - Year 10

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many options open to you if you choose Separate Science. These include:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Zoology
- Pharmacy
- Chemical Engineering
- Forensic Science
- Astrophysics
- Civil Engineer
- Nuclear Physics

It can also lead to other careers including:

- Law
- Photography
- Psychology
- Finance
- Media and Film
- Teaching

GCSE Religious Studies

Why Study Religious Studies?

GCSE RS will turn your world upside down, turn childish thoughts into mature ideas, and turn darkness into light. The topics studied in Religious Studies inevitably lead to fascinating and mystifying, sometimes outrageous aspects of the human experience. The topics studied will be based on concepts surrounding popular culture, violence, the environment, social change and emotional life. In addition to the content of the units studied, the focus on critical thinking about religion, Empathy and tolerance towards other cultures and customs, Religious knowledge, the knowledge about religions and religious cultures, is a powerful resource to use throughout the rest of your life. Let's face it: religion is one of the most powerful social and cultural forces in human history.

What Will I Study?

Please provide a brief outline of the different topics / areas of study that will be covered in each year group

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<p>Students will investigate topics through two religions Christianity and Islam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nature of God. God as omnipotent, loving and just, and the problem of evil and suffering.• Resurrection and life after death• Crucifixion of Jesus Christ• Worship• Persecution• Key beliefs of Sunni and Shia Islam• Predestination• Muhammed (PBUH)• The Five pillars of Islam	<p>Students will investigate topics through two religions Christianity and Islam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peace and Conflict: Beliefs about war, Terrorism and Violence, Just War and Pacifism.• Crime and Punishment: Reasons for Crime, Christian and Muslim attitudes towards criminals, Christian and Muslim attitude the death penalty	<p>Students will investigate topics through two religions Christianity and Islam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religion and life: Origins of the universe, The environment, Origins of Human life, Abortion, Euthanasia and Death and afterlife.• Relationships and family: Human sexuality, Family planning, Sexual relationships, Marriage, family life and Gender equality.

Qualification Details

- GCSE
- AQA
- All assessment is linear, with exams taking place at the end of Year 11.
- Paper 1: students are required to study two religions in depth. Paper 2: students must study philosophical and ethical themes.
- The assessment objectives (AOs): AO1 (knowledge and understanding) and AO2 (analysis and evaluation). Both are worth 50% at GCSE.

What Support is on Offer?

Opportunities are available for students who need to catch up on work and obtain a deeper understanding of the topics studied, in lesson 6, which is run after school.

Revision guides and extra learning material can be obtained from Mr Butt, B4.

What Next?

Blackpool Sixth Form College you can go onto study AS/A Level Courses - A Level Religion, Ethics and Philosophy. You will need a 5 in GCSE English and a grade 5 or above in Religious Studies is preferred.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr A. Butt, Subject Leader of Religious Education
Miss L. Stevenson, Director of Humanities

What the Students Say

'We get to learn through various activities such as class debates, day trips and personalised activities to help you learn. I really enjoy giving my opinion and debating controversial issues.'

Joshua, Year 10

'Religious Studies is an interesting and diverse subject to take. It allows expansion of knowledge and respect for all people.'

Hannah, Year 10

'Religious Studies is an ecstatic subject because it emphasises the importance of tolerance and diversity.'

Leon, Year 10

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Jobs directly related to Religious Studies include:

- National and local government, including the Civil Service and government agencies, as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
- Schools, colleges and universities (for teaching and research positions);
- Charities, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations;
- Social services and other caring professions;
- The church and other religious organisations;
- Financial and legal firms;
- The National Health Service;
- PR, advertising, sales and marketing companies;
- Media companies;
- Libraries, charities, museums, television companies and publishing houses also a range of roles.

GCSE Art

Why Study Art GCSE

1. The Internet has created an explosion of opportunity for digital designers and multimedia artists

The world is filled with computers, smartphones, tablets and other portable electronic devices. Almost all businesses have an online presence, with online advertising increasing by the day. The demand for web designers, app designers, software designers, graphic designers, digital illustrators, multimedia artists, video producers, online publishers, animation artists, game designers and many other digital careers is undergoing unprecedented growth.

2. Those with a wide skill set have an advantage, in any career

Some people excel at mathematics. Others have strengths in written language. Others excel in creative areas such as Art and Design. If you are lucky enough to excel in two or three of these areas, you are part of a much smaller subset of the population. Those who are multi-skilled are astronomically more useful, well rounded, hireable and capable of excelling in a much wider range of professions.

3. Art makes you happy

Art courses often begin with observation of the real world: recording, analysis and creation of a visual response to the surroundings. Art makes students look at things anew – even mundane ordinary aspects of the world. The fluffy, 'feel good' reasons that are usually given for selecting Art as a subject are given because they are right. Art *does* fill the soul. There is something magical about smearing pencil and paint across a piece of paper and sculpting form with your hands. Communicating with colour and shape and form awakens the imagination; it opens a door to 'now'. If you love making art, you'll miss it when it's gone.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<p>Ancient art – cave art (animals) Aboriginal (illustrating stories), ancient greece (lifestyles). Medieval art – illustrated lettering (decoration), stained glass (still life), aztecs (warfare), mexican sugar skulls (pattern), heraldry (early graphics) and symbols) and mosiacs (portraits).</p>	<p>Industrial art – romantics (fantasy) the impressionists (landscapes), cubism (portraits and still life), futurists (movement), surrealism (dreams), Contemporary art – Pop art (icons), land art (journeys and nature), cartoons and animation (manga, stan lee, marvel), installations (conceptual ideas), photography (composition), video (storyboards), digital (image manipulation), public sculpture (a sence of place).</p>	<p>Portrait project. Landscape project. Still life project. Personal study project.</p> <p>Pupils select one project from the above list and follow a creative journey which must show evidence of:</p> <p>Research and investigation, Experimentation and development of ideas, recording information and producing a personal, meaningful outcome.</p>

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Qualification Details

- GCSE Art And Design
- AQA
- Unit 1: 60% Internally Set Controlled Assessment
 - 30%
 - Skills-observation drawing, collage, printing, painting, 3d work, digital art, photoshop.
 - 30%
 - Skills-observation drawing, painting, mixed media, collage, printing, sculpture, and digital media
- Unit 2: 40% Externally Set Exam Piece
 - The skills assessed will depend on the choice of project in Year 11

What Support is on Offer?

Art Extra sessions are open to any art GCSE pupil. These sessions offer the opportunity for pupils who may wish to extend projects to gain higher grades or the sessions can be used offer support and extra 1:1 help from our specialist art team. Monday to Friday 1.20pm – 2.00pm every day during term time and Monday to Thursday 3.00pm – 4.00pm during every week during term time.

What Next?

'A' level courses in any arts based subjects.
National Diploma in any arts based subjects.
An Apprenticeship in any creative based employment.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr S. Iddon, Subject Lead of Art
Mrs S. Matthews, Director of Technology & Computing

What the Students Say

'Art makes me feel more confident, I like the challenge and really enjoy developing my ideas and watching my art improve'.

Georgia, Year 11

'I chose Art GCSE because it's calming and I am good at it but I wanted to get better and challenge myself'.

Cody, Year 11

'I want to be an Architect or Interior designer; Art will help me achieve this'.

Ryan, Year 11

- Animator
- Antique dealer
- Architect
- Archaeologist
- Art gallery curator
- Art sales
- Body piercer
- Costume designer
- Fashion designer
- Fine artist, Florist
- Furniture designer
- Film and television set creator
- Graphic designer
- Hair dresser
- Illustrator
- Interior designer
- Jewellery design
- Museum curator
- Music Promotional design
- Photographer
- Portrait painter
- Product designer
- Printer
- Set designer
- Sewing machinist
- Sign Writing
- TV and media design
- Theatre set design
- Tattooist
- Textile designer
- Web designer
- Window dresser

GCSE Art: Textiles

Why Study Art Textiles?

Do you like being creative? Enjoy working independently on your own ideas? Are open minded? Enjoy working with a wide range of materials and fabrics? Drawing? Making 3D objects? Being experimental and creating something unusual that has the WOW factor?

Then Art Textiles is the course for you!

If you choose Art Textiles you are required to work in one or more of the following areas of textile design: **Fashion design and illustration, costume design, constructed textiles, printed and dyed textiles, surface pattern, stitched and/or embellished textiles, soft furnishings and/or textiles for interiors.**

Studying Art improves performance in other subjects

James Catterall, leading professor and Chair of the Faculty at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, has studied 12,000 students over twelve years. His research demonstrates that involvement in the arts (both Visual Art and Performing Art) is associated with higher levels of attainment in both high school and university. Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<p><u>Textile techniques</u> You will experiment with a range of techniques such as felt making, printing, trapping, construction techniques, manipulating fabrics.</p> <p><u>Artist focus</u> Students will research a range of Textile artists. Then complete an in depth project which will have a self-directed textile outcome.</p>	<p>Students will be given specific projects to complete during each term of year 10. Each project will be assessed against the GCSE criteria and one will be submitted as unit 1 of their final assessment.</p> <p>Each project should include: Research and investigation, Experimentation and development of ideas, recording information and producing a personal, meaningful outcome.</p>	<p>During year 11 students select one theme from a set list, they will then follow a creative journey which must show evidence of: Research and investigation, Experimentation and development of ideas, recording information and producing a personal, meaningful outcome.</p> <p>SKILLS- these will vary depending on the choice of topic and personal responses of individual pupils</p>

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Qualification Details

- GCSE ART AND DESIGN
- AQA
- UNIT 1: 60% UNIT 2: 40%
- 3 YEAR COURSE WHICH IS ALL PRACTICAL WORK

What Support is on Offer

Art Extra sessions are open to any art GCSE pupil. These sessions offer the opportunity for pupils who may wish to extend projects to gain higher grades or the sessions can be used offer support and extra 1:1 help from our specialist art team. Tuesday and Thursday 1.20pm – 2.00pm and Tuesday and Thursday 3.00pm – 4.00pm every week.

What Next?

'A' level courses in any arts based subjects.
National Diploma in any arts based subjects.
An Apprenticeship in any creative based employment.

Who should I contact for more information?

Subject Teacher: Miss Isherwood
Subject Lead: Mr Iddon

Student Quotes

'Art Textiles is good because it's not as stressful as other subjects, you have a lot of freedom with the work you can do, I can be myself'
Gabi Year 9

The greatest thing about Textiles Art is the range of skills you explore; you can express your feelings within art in all sorts of styles'
Wen Year 9.

'Art Textiles helps you express yourself and challenges you to use your imagination'
Chelsea Year 9

Art makes me feel calm, it's not easy or difficult it's just right for me'
Brandon Year 9

Art gallery curator
Art therapist
Costume designer
Community arts worker
Dressmaker
Exhibition designer
Fashion designer
Florist
Footwear designer
Glass maker
Graphic designer
Hat designer
Illustrator
Interior designer
Jewellery designer-maker
Make-up artist
Museum curator
Pattern cutter
Photographer
Photographic stylist
Product designer
Prop maker
Set designer
Sewing machinist
Sign writer
Tailor
Tattooist
Textile designer
Visual merchandiser
Web designer

Hospitality and Catering

Why Study Hospitality and Catering?

Do you like food? Do you like cooking? Are you creative? Want to use ingredients to produce new and exciting dishes? Do you want to learn in a practical way and be assessed both internally and externally? Want to learn about balanced diets? Can you work safely in a team and independently? Then Hospitality and Catering is for you! If you choose Hospitality and Catering here are some of the facts. Hospitality and Catering is a Technical award assessed through 2 units, 1 internal and 1 external exam. During this course you will develop your knowledge and understanding of different areas such as, nutrients, intolerances, healthy living, Hospitality & Catering job roles and structure. You will develop your practical skills using different Catering equipment to produce a range of dishes. You will be internally assessed through your ability to plan, prepare, cook and present a range of nutritional dishes whilst creating a portfolio of evidence. Throughout this course you will explore dishes from around the world to widen your understanding of the Hospitality and Catering industry. As well as completing practical activities you will also gain knowledge and understanding of the Hospitality & Catering industry which will support the externally assessed exam.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<p>During year 9 you will develop vital culinary skills that will help you with planning and preparing nutritional dishes. You will also investigate areas such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food poisoning, intolerances and nutrients. • Understand the importance of nutrition when planning meals. • Understand Menu planning • Understand the environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate. • Understand how hospitality and catering providers operate. • Be able to cook dishes. • Developing and improving skills learnt at KS3. • Understand how Hospitality and catering provision meets health and safety requirements. 	<p>Internal assessment portfolio, nutritional needs of target group. Environmental issues and food safety.</p> <p>Internal assessment scenario 1 & gathering portfolio evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the importance of nutrition when planning meals. • Understand Menu planning • Be able to cook dishes. • Understand how Hospitality and catering provision meets health and safety requirements. 	<p>Continuation of Internal assessment scenario 1 & gathering portfolio evidence.</p> <p>Exam content focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the importance of nutrition when planning meals. • Understand Menu planning • Understand the environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate. • Understand how hospitality and catering providers operate. • Understand how Hospitality and catering provision meets health and safety requirements.

Qualification Details

- WJEC Level 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering

Course Content breakdown

Externally assessed unit

- Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry

Internally assessed unit

- Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action

What Support is on Offer?

Lesson 6 will be available to develop practical skills and complete your portfolio of evidence.

There are also a range of websites to support with subject content:

www.foodsafety.gov

<http://homefoodsafety.org/app>

www.nutrition.org.uk

www.food4life.org.uk/key-stage-four/health-and-nutrition/nutritional-requirements/

www.gdalabel.org.uk/gda/gda_values.aspx

What Next?

WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition (certificate and diploma)

Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery

Level 3 Advanced Diploma in Food Preparation and Cookery Supervision

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr J Barnhurst, Subject Leader of Technology

Ms S Matthews, Director of Technology & Computing

What the Students Have to Say:

"I like Hospitality and Catering because I can cook and try food I haven't tried before and share it with my family."

Charlie – Year 9

"I like Catering because it helps me with learning about what food I should eat and what a healthy balanced diet looks like."

Charlie – Year 9

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Chefs:
- Head Chef
- Sous Chef
- Pastry Chef
- Larder Chef
- Sauce Chef
- Nutritionist
- Kitchen Porter
- Restaurant manager
- Waiter / Waitress
- Receptionist
- Housekeeper
- Conference manager
- Hotelier
- Hotel manager
- Bar keeper
- Food critic

Materials Technology

Why Study Materials Technology?

Do you like being creative and hands on? Use tools, equipment and new machinery to produce new and exciting products? Experiment using a range of workshop materials and Techniques? Do you want to learn in a practical way and be assessed both internally and externally? Work safely in a team and independently? Then Materials Technology is for you! Materials Technology is a Technical award whereby 60% of the course will be internally assessed in 2 units and 40% external exam. The 60% internal assessment is broken into 30% skills demonstration and 30% extended project making. During the skills demonstration, you will explore how to use a range of tools and equipment from gauges, saws and planes to the CNC Miller and 3D printer. You will demonstrate how to complete various skills through a series of mini projects. During this process you will also be assessed for quality of outcome, accuracy, time management and ability to participant in a team as well as displaying high levels of health and safety throughout the course. During the extended project making you will respond to a brief through planning, developing, making, testing and evaluating an outcome that will fit that brief, whilst applying all the skills you have learnt during the skills demonstration unit of study. To undertake this course, you need to work safely within a workshop environment, be able to work within a team as well as show leadership and independent thinking skills and willing to develop your practical skills using tools, equipment and machinery to produce different outcomes.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Unit 1: Skills demonstration Learners will carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate their competence in the 12 core skills outlined. This will include the transferable skill of teamwork and one of the mini projects should allow for this. Learners will produce a series of small made outcomes and record their work in a portfolio of no more than 12 pages.	Unit 2: Extended making project Learners will undertake an extended making project that showcases the skills and knowledge they have developed in Unit 1 and the knowledge they have developed through Unit 3. The project will be in response to a brief, Learners will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing, evaluation and communication.	Unit 3: Fundamentals of materials technology Learners will study materials and their working properties and learn about processes and manufacture. They will gain knowledge of the applications and characteristics of a wide range of woods, metals and polymers and also learn about possible careers within industry.

Qualification Details

- Qualification: Level 2 Technical Award – Materials Technology
- Examination board: AQA

Course content breakdown:

- **60% Controlled assessment**
 - Unit 1: Skills demonstration (30%)
 - Unit 2: Extended making project (30%)
- **40% external examination based on:**
 - Unit 3: Fundamentals of materials technology (40%)

What Support is on Offer?

You will be able to attend extra sessions after school to develop practical outcomes. You will be able to access a range of online material linked to Resistant Materials and Product Design which will help your understanding of different workshop skills. Below are some links that will help widen your knowledge and understanding of tools, equipment and machinery.

<http://www.technologystudent.com>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design>

What Next?

This Technical Award is designed to equip learners with the practical skills in Materials Technology that they need to progress to further general or vocational study.

Upon completion, learners can progress to Technical Certificates and other Level 3 vocational qualifications such as NVQ Carpentry or Manufacturing and Production and A-level Design and Technology: Product Design.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr J. Barnhurst – Subject Leader of Technology

Ms S. Matthews – Director of Technology & Computing

What the Students Have to Say:

This is a brand new course that we are offering based on requests by our students for more technology related options. We hope you like.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Civil Engineering
Carpentry
Joinery
Architecture
Product Designer
Manufacturing
Set Designer
Plumbing
Mechanic
Electrician
Illustrator
3D designer
Furniture designer
Car designer
Jewellery maker
Researcher
Developer
Interior designer
Materials Engineer
Product manager
Exhibition designer
Tool maker

Business & Enterprise

Why Study Business?

Knowledge of how and why businesses operate will be of great relevance to all young people, as they finish their education and enter the world of work. Businesses are part of our everyday lives, providing us with the products we need, communicating relentlessly with us through advertising, providing employment and inventing new products and services that transform how we live. This course focuses on what businesses are and how they organise themselves to achieve their objectives.

What Will I Study?

Please provide a brief outline of the different topics / areas of study that will be covered in each year group

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring the different types of business.• What does it mean to be an entrepreneur?• Market Research• Aims & Objectives in a Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Marketing?• Market segmentation and target marketing• Rewards and Risks in a business• The marketing mix (4P's)• Marketing methods• Writing a Business plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sources of finance• Cash Flow Forecasts & Budgets• Break-Even & Margin of Safety• Profit & Loss Accounts• Tax, VAT & National Insurance• Financial Records

During the course the students will sit an external exam and have to complete a board-set case-study under exam conditions.

Qualification Details

- Level 2 Certificate in Business and Enterprise
- NCFE exam board
- It is assessed 25% externally through an exam and case-study; 75% internally through a portfolio of evidence.
- Please note this is subject to change following a DoE review in March 2017.

What Support is on Offer?

- Lesson 6 to support revision
- Customised revision materials and practice papers
- A wide range of revision websites and online quizzes to help with the learning and revision of difficult topics

What Next?

Following completing this qualification, students have the following options:

- A Level Economics
- A Level Business
- Apprenticeships in Business
- Vocational Business Qualifications

Who should I contact for more information?

Ms S. Matthews, Director of Technology & Computing

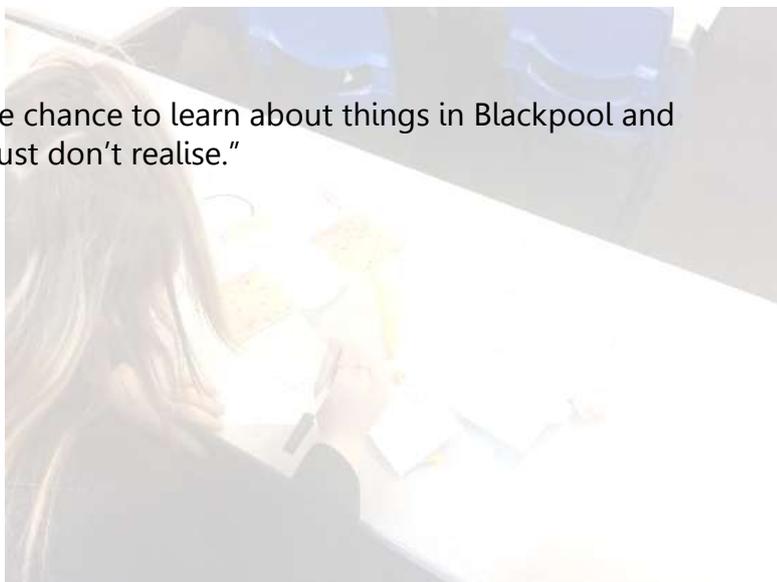
What the Students Say:

"It is a bit tough to start with as it is a new subject, but it is fun and gets easier"

Rebekah – Year 9

"Business gives the chance to learn about things in Blackpool and beyond that you just don't realise."

Nicole – Year 9



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Some careers where this is useful include:

Management

Trading

Accountancy

Banking

Retail & Sales

Advertising

Media

Human Resources

Law

Catering

Administration

Systems Analyst

Public Relations

Marketing

BTEC Performing Arts

Why Study Performing Arts?

Preference Subjects: On the Performing Arts Course you will study acting and rehearsal skills and will perform for audiences in groups and on your own. The course culminates in a large scale performance and production for a live audience. This will:

- Be inspirational in enthusing learners into studying Music and learning about how to enter the Music Industry
- Give learners the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge of and develop skills in Music
- Support progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic Music course or an apprenticeship

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<p>Unit 3 Acting Skills Hotseating Improvisation Scripts Drama Practitioners Vocal and Physical skills</p> <p>Unit 1 Individual Showcase An Introduction to monologues Acting on your own Learning and Performing Monologues Application Form for a Performing Arts Company</p>	<p>Unit 1 Individual Showcase (continuation of unit) Acting on your own Learning and Performing Monologues Application Form for a Performing Arts Company</p> <p>Unit 2 Preparation Performance and Production Planning a Show Preparations for a show</p>	<p>Unit 1 Individual Showcase (continuation of unit) Acting on your own Learning and Performing Monologues Application Form for a Performing Arts Company</p> <p>Unit 2 Preparation, Performance and Production (continuation of unit) Planning a Show Preparations for a show Performing a Show to a large invited audience incorporating acting skills and possible dance and music skills. The show will include full costumes, lighting, sound and make up.</p>

It is useful for students to visit as many performances as possible during the course. We will visit a live, professional show as a group.

Qualification Details

- Btec Level 1/2 First Award in Performing Arts
- Pearson Edexcel
- 80% Units 2 and 3 (Internally Marked, Externally Moderated, 20% Unit 1 (Externally Marked)
- 2 hour controlled assessment on application form for an imaginary Performing Arts Company. Filmed Monologues assessed externally by Pearson Edexcel.

What Support is on Offer?

There are opportunities to attend lesson 6 at various points during the course. On the build up to the final performance we hold an Easter Holidays rehearsal session.

Scripts and resources will be provided during the course.

What Next?

BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts (Extended Certificate / Diploma)
BTEC Media Studies
A-Level Drama & Theatre Studies
A-Level English Literature
A-Level Media Studies

Who should I contact for more information?

Miss Mackay, Subject Lead of Music and Drama
Mr Lavelle, Director of Expressive & Performing Arts

Student Quotes

"This course helps you develop your acting skills and confidence. I have had so much fun on this course. I have made friends, been able to express myself and have learned self-discipline which is very important in Performing Arts. The teachers are brilliant and know how to work you hard but still enjoy and have fun with the tasks."

Adam, Year 10

"The Performing Arts Course is amazing. I have acted on my own and in groups and learned singing technique. I have had lots of fun while developing my Performing Arts skills. I have learned a lot about rehearsal discipline, confident performing and expression. The teachers are fantastic."

Nikkita, Year 11

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Performing Artist (Actor / Dancer / Musician)
- Drama Teacher
- Music Teacher
- Dance Teacher
- Stage Manager
- Drama Therapist
- Television Production Assistant
- Radio Presenter
- Theatre Director
- Arts Administrator
- Model
- Make Up Artist
- Lawyer
- Police

BTEC Music

Why Study Music?

Preference Subjects: On the Music Course you will study a musical instrument or voice, learn rehearsal and music techniques and will perform for audiences in groups and on your own. You will also create a group CD and learn about music software packages.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<p>Unit 5 - Music Performance Rehearsal Techniques Technical skill on your chosen instrument or voice Performance practice Forming an ensemble Performing to an audience</p>	<p>Unit 5 - Music Performance Rehearsal Techniques Technical skill on your chosen instrument or voice Performance practice Forming an ensemble Performing to an audience</p>	<p>Unit 1 – The Music Industry Job roles and responsibilities Licencing and permission Understanding scenarios in the music industry Externally assessed</p>
<p>Unit 2 - Managing a Musical Product Create a company and take a specific job role Create a musical product</p>	<p>Unit 1 – The Music Industry Job roles and responsibilities Licencing and permission Understanding scenarios in the music industry</p> <p>Unit 7 – Music Technology Exploring music technology software and composing music to a brief</p>	<p>Unit 5 Music Performance Rehearsal Techniques Technical skill on your chosen instrument or voice Performance practice Forming an ensemble Performing to an audience</p>

It is useful for students to visit as many performances as possible during the course. We will encourage students to visit live performances in the local area, including visiting theatres and various performance venues.

Qualification Details

- Award: Btec Level 1/2 First Award in Music
- Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel
- Weighting: 25% Unit 1 (Externally Assessed) 75% (Internally Assessed)
- Live and recorded performances are filmed / audio recorded. Unit 1 externally set written exam based on the Music Industry.

What Support is on Offer?

Tuition on chosen instrument or voice is available weekly after school.

Music and resources will be provided during the course. Instrument extras e.g. reeds, plectrums must be purchased by the student.

What Next?

Btec Level 3 Music (Extended Certificate / Diploma)
Btec Level 3 Music Technology (Extended Certificate / Diploma)
GCSE and A-Level Music and Music Technology

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr Oldham and Miss Mackay

Student Quotes

"I enjoy studying the Btec Music Course because music has been part of my life since I was very young. The course has helped me develop my musical skills which I will find useful in the future as I will be continuing my musical education at College."

Corban, Year 11

"I am studying Music A-Level when I leave school, at College. This course has helped me understand the Music Industry and how I might enter into it for a career. As a Classical Musician I am experienced in Music Theory and performance but I had little experience in Music Technology. After taking the Btec course, I now have an extensive knowledge of this also. Also, the teachers are awesome!"

Chiana, Year 11

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Professional Musician / Performing Artist
- Sound Engineering
- Theatre / Gig / event Organisation
- Record Producer
- Music Teacher
- Music Producer
- Songwriter
- Music Therapist
- Session Musician
- Club DJ
- Conductor
- Recording Engineer
- Music Director

BTEC IT

Why Study ICT?

ICT plays an important role in nearly all careers in 21st Century businesses and is an important life skill as technology impacts on so many facets of our modern lives.

- ICT is a useful route into further and higher education.
- You could develop a career on the creative side of new media like web-design or online publishing, or you might follow a path that leads into even more technical ICT areas.
- You might be more interested in managing the whole ICT process in a business, or you might use your software knowledge to take you into sales & marketing.

What Will I Study?

During the course you will look at the following:

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current and emerging digital technologies including• hardware and software, the Internet and the World Wide Web.• How digital technology impacts on organisations and individuals.• The issues raised by technology usage.• Understand the safe, secure and responsible practice and organisational obligations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an understanding of the importance of the analysis of data in organisational decision making.• Use skills and techniques to• develop, test, use and review a• spreadsheet solution to model data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design an interactive product to meet an organisational brief.• Prepare content, develop and• optimise assets to produce a high quality interactive product.



Qualification Details

- BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Information Technology
- Edexcel Exam Board
- 40% external exam; 30% developing a spreadsheet solution to model data; 30% creating an interactive product

What Support is on Offer?

- Lesson 6 to support revision
- Customised revision materials and practice papers
- A wide range of revision websites and online quizzes to help with the learning and revision of difficult topics

What Next?

- A Level in ICT or Level 3 equivalent
- Apprenticeship in the IT industry
- A Level in Graphic Design

Who should I contact for more information?

Ms S. Matthews, Director of Technology & Computing

What the Students Say:

This is a brand new course that we are offering based on requests by our students for more ICT options. We hope you like.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This qualification is useful in careers in the following areas:

Mobile application developer

Web developer

Computer forensic investigator

Cloud architect

Software engineer

Information Security Analyst

Writer or Journalist

Accountant

Designer

Games Designer

Marketing

Database Administrator

Network engineer

Any career that uses a computer

BTEC Sport

Why Study Sport?

- Inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in the sport sector.
- Give learners the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge of and develop skills in, the sport sector.
- Support progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic sports course or an apprenticeship.
- Give learners the potential opportunity, in due course to enter employment within a wide range of job roles.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical Sport – you will take part in 2 sporting activities and learn in detail about officiating, rules, and how to control a game.• You will learn about the techniques and tactics and also how to analyse your own performance.• Leadership – you will lead other pupils in a sporting activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership – in 2 sporting activities you will have to deliver a coaching session to your peers.• Sport Performer in Action – you will look at how the body changes with exercise and why?• Also you will look at the cardio respiratory, and muscular systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fitness for Sport & Exercise – pupils will learn about the components of fitness, the Principles of Training and the Methods of Training.• You will also investigate the methods of fitness testing and find out your own level of fitness.

You will also still study PE in your core PE lessons, twice a week. There will be opportunities for you to lead parts of these lessons and to develop your understanding further in sporting activities. It will be helpful if you:

- Have a good practical ability in at least 2 different sports
- Be well organised e.g. bringing P.E kit
- Have a commitment to extra-curricular sport
- Have good levels of achievement in English and mathematics
- Be prepared to work equally hard in both theory and practical aspects of the course
- Show good leadership qualities
- Have the confidence to take on the role of a coach or official

Qualification Details

- BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Sport
- Edexcel
- 4 units each of 25% of the marks available.
- Practical Sport, Sport Performer in Action and Leadership in Sport are all examined by coursework.
- Fitness for Sport unit is assessed by an external online exam for 25% of the marks.

What Support is on Offer?

There may be opportunities for leadership within Aspire Academy, through core PE lessons and in after school activities, where students can apply their knowledge and deliver coaching and officiating to our younger pupils.

What Next?

BTEC National Diploma in Sport
A Level Physical Education

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr Lavelle, Director of Expressive & Performing Arts, Subject Lead of PE

Student Quotes

"I prefer to study the BTEC First in Sport because it allows me complete the course each lesson and each term. I can complete the coursework as I go along which I prefer. I find it easier that way"

Freddie, Year 10.

"The practical work we do is good, I like it that way instead of doing classroom stuff all the time We can learn things when doing them in the sports hall or on the pitches"

Travis Year 10.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- PE Teacher
- Sports Development
- Sports Coaching
- Sports Management
- Physiotherapy & Sports Injury
- Nutritionist
- Public/Armed services
- All active careers from landscaping to the Fire brigade.

BTEC Travel & Tourism

Why Study BTEC Travel and Tourism?

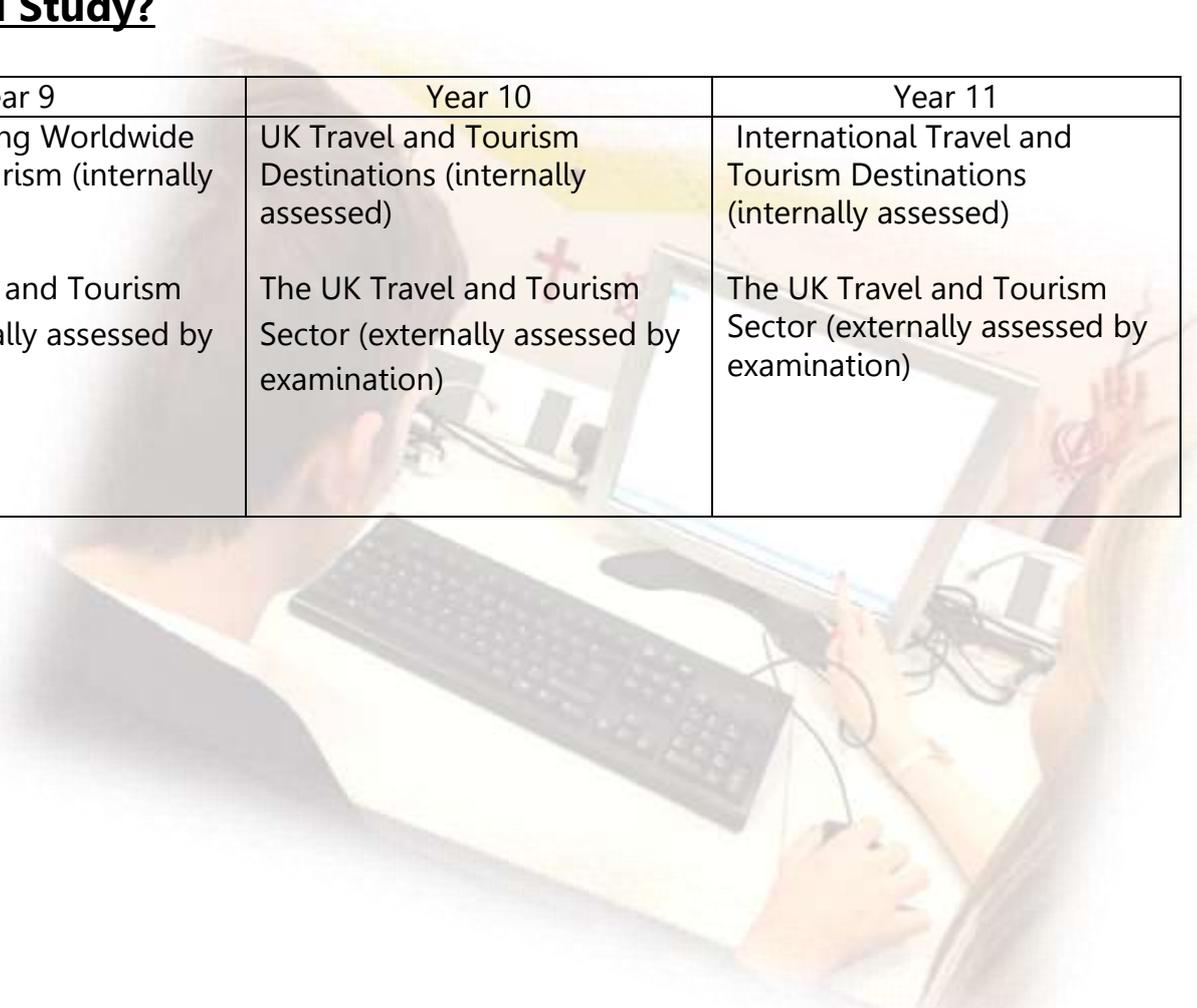
BTEC Travel and Tourism is an ideal subject to choose if you are interested in the travel and tourism industry; living in Blackpool, you should be!

It is a vocational subject in which students learn about how the travel and tourism industry operates at both local and global scales. Tasks are varied and range from booking holidays for specific customers to investigating sustainable tourism in the UK.

BTEC Travel and Tourism is taught within the school's Geography Department by a well-qualified and experienced team. 75% of the course is based on units completed during lessons which are internally assessed; the remaining 25% is assessed by an examination at the end of Year 9, with an option to re-take the exam at the end of Year 10 and 11, if necessary. Travel and Tourism classes tend to be small, allowing students more opportunity to be successful within the internal units.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Factors Affecting Worldwide Travel and Tourism (internally assessed)	UK Travel and Tourism Destinations (internally assessed)	International Travel and Tourism Destinations (internally assessed)
The UK Travel and Tourism Sector (externally assessed by examination)	The UK Travel and Tourism Sector (externally assessed by examination)	The UK Travel and Tourism Sector (externally assessed by examination)



Qualification Details

- BTEC Travel and Tourism
- Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Travel and Tourism
- 25% examination (one paper), 75% internally assessed work

What Support is on Offer?

Lesson 6 revision lessons are made available to all Travel and Tourism students to help support revision and exam technique.

The Travel and Tourism department produces its own revision guides which are given out (free of charge) to all BTEC Travel and Tourism students.

What Next?

Blackpool Sixth Form offer courses in Travel and Tourism (Level 3 BTEC).

Blackpool and the Fylde offer courses in Travel and Tourism (Level 2 and 3 BTEC) and Travel Services (Level 2 and 3 BTEC)

Who should I contact for more information?

Miss L. Stevenson, Head of Travel and Tourism and Director of Humanities.

What the Students Say:

'Travel and Tourism is great because you learn about different destinations around the world. It is far less stressful than other subjects because most of your final grade is made up of internally assessed work that you complete in class. Teachers help you to get the best grade you can on the internal assessments.'

Nicole, Year 11

'Travel and Tourism is interesting because it's all about independent working. Teachers set us assignments and then it is up to us to complete these, using research and by doing practical activities, such as booking holidays and researching destinations. The teachers really help us to achieve the best we can and push us to complete our internally assessed pieces of work to the best of our ability.'

Payden-Louise, Year 11

'This subject has made me learn about different places all around the world and has made me think about how different customers have different needs when planning holidays. The best thing is that there is only one examination and there is more than once chance to sit the exam if you don't do as well as you would have liked first time around.'

Stephanie Year 11

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Air cabin crew
- Airline customer service agent
- Airline pilot
- Airport information assistant
- Bus or coach driver
- Cinema projectionist
- Cinema-theatre attendant
- Croupier
- Cruise ship steward
- Events manager
- Fairground worker
- Helicopter pilot
- Hotel manager
- Hotel porter
- Hotel receptionist
- Hotel room attendant
- Housekeeper
- Museum assistant
- Resort representative
- Riding holiday centre manager
- Riding holiday leader
- Tourist guide
- Tourist information centre assistant
- Tour manager
- Train driver
- Travel agent
- Wedding planner

GCSE Dance

Why Study Dance?

GCSE Dance is a comprehensive study of Dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural context. The GCSE Dance course incorporates both practical and theory work. Practical work will involve the study of dance set phrases and the creation of solo and group choreography. Theory work will involve the critical appreciation of 6 professional dance works focusing on a number of different genres.

In addition to helping our students acquire dance specific knowledge, the course also promotes fitness, a healthy active lifestyle, team work and creativity.

What Will I Study?

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Introduction to dance. Safety, actions, space, dynamics and relationships	Recap of the 2 set phrases Breathe and Shift	Assessment of 2 set phrases and performance piece.
Basic dance techniques	Performance piece	Solo and Duet choreography and assessment
Set phrase 1 – Breathe	Introduction to choreography	Professional dance works including 'Shadows' and 'Within her Eyes'
Set phrase 2 – Shift	Professional dance works including 'A Linha Curva' and 'Infra'	
Professional dance works including 'Emancipation of Expressionism' and 'Artificial Things'		

Pupils will complete a compulsory dance moderation in Year 11. This will involve all practical work for each student being recorded and sent to the schools AQA moderator for marking and assessment.



Qualification Details

- AQA GCSE Dance
- 60% Practical
 - Individual Performance
 - Duet Performance
- 40% Written Examination
 - Focussing on 6 professional dance works focussing on style, costume, lighting and choreographer's intentions

What Support is on Offer?

The dance department run regular Lesson 6 after school session. During this time pupils are given the opportunity to work on their own dance choreography with support from Blackpool 6th Form's Dance Academy and a member of the Aspire Dance Department.

Pupils will be provided with revision materials for exams covering all 6 professional dance works that need to be studied over the 3 year course. Pupils can also access the videos of the professional works through YouTube and the AQA website.

What Next?

A Level Dance
BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs S Elson – Head of Dance
Mr B. Lavelle – Director of Expressive & Performing Arts

Student Quotes

"I've taken part in various dance programmes since I was 3 years old. I love the subject and wanted to pick it at GCSE level. I enjoy learning about different dance styles as well as working with others in duets and trios. GCSE Dance has also given me the opportunity to create my own choreography round the dance styles which I enjoy the most".
Kennedy, Year 9

"I love Dance and wanted to pick it at GCSE level. I enjoy looking at the different dance styles as well as creating my own choreography".
Melissa, Year 10

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Studying GCSE Dance could lead to a career in the Performing Arts industry as a Performer or a Choreographer.

This GCSE could also lead to a career as a dance teacher in a school or private dance company.

So What Now...

Please spend some time thinking carefully about the wide range of information that has been provided within this guide, and as a family please think about which subjects you think you could succeed in if you were to study them for the next three years.

The Subject Preference form should be completed and returned to your son/daughters form tutor by **Monday 6th March 2017**, or preferably handed in at the Subject Information & Parents Evening held on **Thursday 2nd March 2017**.

Whilst we will do everything we can to accommodate all student's subject preferences we reserve the right not to offer any of the above subjects if there is a lack of interest that would make the course unviable to run. Where this is the case we will endeavour to allocate your son/daughter to their second preference.

Where students express a preference for a subject that they are currently a "Cause for Concern" in (either based on academic ability or behaviours for learning) they will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team to determine the best way forward – we do reserve the right to allocate students to alternative courses if we feel this is in the best interest of your son/daughters academic performance.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

“ You are the
choices you
make, make
good choices. ”

Don't wait
for opportunity.
Create it.

THE ONLY WAY TO
DO GREAT
WORK
IS LOVE WHAT
YOU DO
STEVE JOBS



Fylde Coast Academy Trust

A Local Solution

Pride Ambition Respect Resilience Integrity Excellence