



Brighton Hill Community School

Guided Choices: 2017 - 2020

English
BTEC School MFL Technology
Science Performing Exams Brighton
Arts Parent PE Catering Dorney Drama Humanities French History Stratford
Portland Carer Greenwich Material Resistant Student AQA Booklet Expressive Dance Textiles
Edexcel Art Sport Hill Community
Maths GCSEs Geography
Guided Choices



Brighton Hill Community School

Guided Choices Booklet 2017 - 2020

Information and Guidance for Parents/Carers



Dear Parent / Carer

The purpose of this booklet is to help you and your child gain a greater understanding of the courses which he/she will follow from Year 9, through to Year 11, at Brighton Hill Community School. Please take the time to go through this booklet with him/her before attending the Year 8 Guided Choices Information Evening and Parents' Evening on **Thursday 27 April 2017, from 4.30pm until 6.30pm.**

Please bring this booklet with you on the 27 April 2017, as well as to your individual appointment during the week commencing Tuesday 2 May 2017 (*Monday 1 May is Bank Holiday*).

One of the school's aims is to provide a curriculum which is broad, balanced and relevant for all students.

Accordingly, in Years 9, 10 and 11, all students follow a 'core' curriculum which is supplemented by a range of subjects which they take following advice, guidance and consultation between their teachers and their parents.

During Years 7 and 8 your child will have studied a broad range of subjects related to the new National Curriculum. They now have the opportunity to choose, with advice and guidance, some of the subjects to specialise in during Key Stage 4 whilst maintaining a broad curriculum. They will study fewer subjects, some compulsory and some optional. The compulsory core components (*that is, subjects you MUST study*) of the GCSE programme consists of:

- **English Language** (1 GCSE)
- **English Literature** (1 GCSE)
- **Mathematics** (1 GCSE)
- **Sciences** (2 or 3 GCSEs)
- **Physical Education** (Non-examined)
- **Citizenship / PSHE** (Non-examined)

This provides 5 or 6 GCSEs. **Students will be asked to make four further guided choices from the list within this booklet, plus a reserve choice.**

Very few choices at this stage will limit choice in the future. This is important since young people are still changing and developing, and it is important to keep as many options open as possible.

At this stage in your child's education we know their academic subject strengths very well. Therefore, the list of additional subjects allows them to play to their strengths and provides subjects that the government say should be studied. The new National Curriculum measure, **Attainment 8**, will be relevant for you and your child when they complete their GCSEs. **Therefore, with our advice and guidance, all students must follow either:**

Geography or History

In addition, we also strongly recommend that some students in particular study a modern foreign language, as most well regarded universities favour a higher level pass in a Modern Foreign Language for entry on to a degree programme. Therefore our most able students should consider this option very carefully.

The government have changed the examination system, moving to a system of linear examinations, meaning that all exams will be taken at the end of the course (summer of Year 11).

All GCSE subjects have been reformed for delivery across England. All GCSE courses will be graded 1-9 (previously A*-U), with 9 being the highest grade and a 5 being equivalent to a C grade on the old system. **There may be other changes to the examination system that we are unable to anticipate at present.**

The information in this booklet is as up to date as possible as of March 2017.



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Information and Guidance for Parents/Carers



Additional Information:

Our recommendations for the curriculum packages that individual students should follow for the next 3 years are based on our professional knowledge and judgement of their relative strengths and needs, and in particular, their performance during this last year.

It is also important to remember that courses followed should take into account possible future options at Post 16, in terms of Further Education and training. Within this booklet you will find useful advice in this respect.

Most students will be working towards the GCSE examinations (General Certificate of Secondary Education), although some students will, in some subjects, take other examinations if this is more appropriate.

With the current Government changes being made and GCSE Reforms underway, there may be other changes to the examination system and/or subject delivery that we are unable to anticipate (or detail) at present. **The information in this booklet is as up to date as possible as of March 2017. With subject syllabus' changing, we reserve the right to move students to the most appropriate subject related course, as necessary during Key Stage 4.**

Whichever courses are taken, students and parents will realise that there is a considerable amount of work to be covered in Key Stage 4. Inevitably, this will involve students in extended study outside normal school hours in addition to maintaining a good standard of classroom work.

Details of all courses can be found in the following pages. Although every effort will be made to provide the full range of courses, **the school reserves the right to run reduced, additional or alternative courses depending upon group numbers, staffing and Government Policy.** In such an instance an alternative course may need to be followed.

If your child will not be able to follow one of his/her chosen courses he/she will be seen individually by a senior member of staff.

Please note that in order to support the Key Stage 4 curriculum choices process you and your child will be provided with an appointment with a senior member of staff to take place during the week commencing Tuesday, 2 May 2017. **During this meeting your child's choices form will be discussed and completed.**

Special Requirements:

Science

Our core Science course for all students from September 2017 is Combined Science (worth 2 GCSEs), most students in Year 9 will study this course and therefore there is not a requirement to choose it as part of the choices process. However, please note that students who should study Triple Science will be invited to follow this course by the school and this will take up choices Column Z. Students will only be invited to follow the Triple Science pathway if the school is confident that they can access the course and be expected to gain a **Grade 7** or higher and are likely to consider continuing to study a Science at Level 3 (A Level). Triple Science will, therefore, only be taken by those students for whom it is appropriate. For further guidance, please refer to the Science subject pages within this booklet.

If you need additional help or wish to discuss any detail further, please do not hesitate to contact in the first instance the relevant Head of Faculty / Subject, or Mr Coley.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

C Edwards, Headteacher



Brighton Hill Community School

Guided Choices Booklet 2017 - 2020

Information and Guidance for Students



Dear Students

After nearly two years at the school you will have experienced many aspects of a varied and extensive curriculum, preparing you for the next three years studying Key Stage 4 courses. You must now choose to continue your work in some subjects, whilst giving up others. These decisions are important decisions, so take your time. Consider all the possible choices carefully and make sure you use the help and advice that is available to you. It is really important that you discuss these choices with your parents, your tutor and your subject teachers.

Our aim is to provide you with a wide range of appropriate choices so that you can be guided towards subjects and qualifications that interest you and you are able to succeed in during Years 10 and 11.

You must consider carefully all information when making your choices as you are committing to programmes for the next 3 years. It is virtually impossible to change once you have started the courses that you choose in Year 9.

In addition to the **core curriculum** (*that is, subjects you MUST study*) - **English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Citizenship and PSHE** - you will be able to choose, with guidance from your teachers, up to four additional subjects to study in Year 9.

You must follow either Geography or History

We understand the importance of the decisions that you are about to make. Therefore, information on all of the courses is contained in this booklet. It is important to take note of the requirements for each of the subjects on offer so that suitable courses are selected.

Additional Information:

Places on some courses are limited due to constraints on available resources; this includes limited space in specialist rooms or the number of teachers available. Where courses are oversubscribed, preference will be given to students who have shown a high level of attendance and commitment to that subject.

Occasionally, a course may not be viable as very few students choose it. Students will then be asked to make an alternative selection, after their reserve choice has been considered. We make every effort to allocate students' preferences, or suitable second choice, although this is not always possible.

General Guidance:

- Think about which **subjects you are good at**, as this may lead to your best final results in Year 11
- Consider taking the **subjects that interest** you the most, as you will study them for up to 3 years
- Find out which subjects may **help you with your future career** (if you already have some ideas)
- If you need some **careers advice** make sure you **speak to your tutor or a member of the FLC** early on, as they will be able to help
- **Do not choose a course because you get on with the teacher or your friend chooses it:** you may end up with a different teacher and you may not be in the same class as your friend

Parents Information Evening:

To help you make your choices there will be a **Guided Choices Information Evening on Thursday 27 April 2017, 4.30pm to 6.30pm**. You will have the opportunity to hear more about the curriculum we offer and to discuss the process and its importance with your teachers and senior staff. This will be followed with an individual appointment the week commencing Tuesday 2 May 2017, for you and your parents, with a senior member of staff in order to finalise your course decisions. Please use the Guided Choices sheet at the back of this booklet to plan your thoughts, and bring it to your appointment.



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Information about *Public Examinations (GCSE)*



As a result of recent government reforms to examinations and GCSE, the qualifications and structure of subjects have changed.

Particular features of the new GCSE examinations are:

- A grading scale that uses numbers 1 - 9 to identify levels of performance (with 9 being the highest)
- Tiering of examinations will only appear in Maths, Science and Languages
- Linear GCSEs, with assessment to be taken at the end of the course in June, of Year 11 (summer exam period, usually May to June)
- Assessment by external exam only
- For most GCSE subjects, 5% of the total marks available in the final written examination paper are allocated to spelling, punctuation and grammar

Colleges, employers and now even more so universities ask for certain GCSE grades and subjects as entry levels for courses, employment and degrees. The expected entry requirement for most A-Level studies is 6 GCSEs awarded at a grade 5 or higher, with a grade 6 likely in specified subjects.

The majority of subjects from September 2017, for students across England, will be following the newly reformed GCSE courses. **These courses will be graded 1-9, with 9 being the highest grade and (currently) a 5 regarded as the National 'pass rate'.**

There may be other changes to the examination system that we are unable to anticipate at present. The information in this booklet is as up to date as possible as of March 2017.

We reserve the right to change a course, without prior notice, with the intention of ensuring that any new course is as close as possible to the associated course within this booklet.

The GCSE Certificate

Each candidate (student) will be given a certificate by the examination group setting out the grade awarded for each subject. GCSE grades will be awarded as follows:

GCSE Numerical Grades	
9	
8	
7	
6	
5	Currently the National 'pass rate'
4	
3	
2	
1	

*Where performance is below the minimum required to pass a GCSE.

The Core Subjects at GCSE

Just as in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 & 8) students in Key Stage 4 (Years 9 to 11) will all study a number of compulsory subjects known as the core subjects. These are:

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (Combined [2 GCSEs] or Triple [3 GCSEs]), Physical Education and Citizenship / PSHE

In light of the Government's GCSE Reforms and alongside A-Level Reforms, we are continually evaluating the value and suitability of courses and subjects offered during Key Stage 4.

We reserve the right to move students on to alternative but, related, examination courses at any point during Key Stage 4 in order to secure the best possible outcomes for all students.

Mr B Coley
Assistant Headteacher



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Core Subject

English Language

Head of Faculty: Miss S Plunket

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE



Course Description:

Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. This course will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts. GCSE English Language is designed on the basis that students should read and be



assessed on high quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The texts, across a range of genres and types, should support students in developing their own writing by providing effective models.

Assessment Structure:

This course has 100% external examination assessment. There will be a series of Spoken Language assessments which will be teacher assessed throughout the course. This element will not carry marks for the final GCSE grade.

Examination Structure:

There will be two final examinations to assess students in the English Language course.

Examination Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50% 1 hour 45 minutes)

This examination will include a reading response to one unseen literature fiction text and one extended descriptive or narrative writing piece.

Examination Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% 1 hour 45 minutes)

This examination will include a reading response to one unseen non-fiction text and one unseen literary non-fiction text, as well as one extended writing piece – writing to present a viewpoint.



Core Subject

English Literature

Head of Faculty: Miss S Plunket
 Examination Board: AQA
 Qualification: GCSE



Course Description:

This English Literature course should encourage students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level. Students will have the opportunity to study a wide range of literature including:

Shakespearean plays; 19th Century novels; modern plays and novels and a selection of poetry both modern and from the English Literary Heritage.



Assessment Structure:

This course has 100% external examination assessment structure.

Examination Structure:

There will be two final examinations to assess students in the English Literature course.

Examination Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (40% 1 hour 45 minutes)

This examination will include a response to an extract from the Shakespearean play they have studied and a response to the question on their studied novel.

Examination Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (60% 2 hours 15 minutes)

This examination will include a response to a question on their studied modern play or novel; a comparative response to their studied poetry; a response to an unseen poem and one comparing the unseen poem to another unseen poem.



Core Subject

Mathematics

Head of Faculty:

Mrs R Duffy

Examination Board:

Edexcel

Qualification:

GCSE



Course Description:

The Mathematics Faculty aims to teach Mathematics in a stimulating and interesting way. This is accomplished by adopting a variety of styles and approaches for the different topics to be covered.

Mathematics is taught and examined under five headings:

1. Using and applying Mathematics
2. Number and Algebra
3. Geometry
4. Statistics
5. Ratio and Proportions

Assessment Structure:

The assessment is conducted solely by examination:

- Written papers sat in the summer of Year 11
- There is no coursework component



Examination Structure:

There are two examination entry levels. It is anticipated that students will be entered for either:

Higher Level:

Results in the award of grades: 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 or 4

The examination component consists of 3 examination papers

Foundation Level:

Results in the award of grades 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1

The examination component consists of 3 examination papers

The written examination at each level consists of two calculator papers and one non-calculator paper.

Special Requirements:

Students are **required** to have a full set of mathematical equipment and a scientific calculator for all of their lessons and examinations.



Core Subject

Combined Science

Head of Faculty: Miss V Mandizha

Examination Board: TBC

Qualification: 2 GCSEs



Course Description:

This course is suitable for students of all abilities and is our core Science course. The course will cover:

Biology: Cell biology, Transport systems, Health, disease and the development of medicines, Coordination and control, Photosynthesis, Ecosystems, Inheritance, variation and evolution.

Chemistry: Atomic structure and the periodic table, Structure, bonding and the properties of matter, Chemical changes, Energy changes in chemistry, The rate and extent of chemical change, Chemical analysis, Chemical and allied industries, Earth and atmospheric science.

Physics: Energy, Forces, Forces and motion, Waves in matter, Light and electromagnetic waves, Electricity, Magnetism and electromagnetism, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure.



Assessment Structure:

The assessment is conducted solely by examination:

- Written papers sat in the summer of Year 11
- There is no coursework component

Examination Structure:

All examinations are to be externally assessed through written examinations.

Special Requirements:

Students are **required** to have a full set of mathematical equipment and a scientific calculator for all of their lessons and examinations.



Core Subject

Triple Science

Head of Faculty: Miss V Mandizha
 Examination Board: TBC
 Qualification: 3 GCSEs



Course Description:

This course is suitable for students who have a genuine interest in Science and wish to study a Science at A-Level in post 16 education. Such students are predicted to achieve a **minimum of a Step 5 at Key Stage 3**, in both Science and Maths. Prospective Triple Science students will be invited to join the course in April. The course will cover, in addition to the content of the Combined Science course:

Biology: in addition to the Combined Science content -
 The genome and gene expression

Chemistry: in addition to the Combined Science content -
 Organic Chemistry

Physics: in addition to the Combined Science content -
 Space physics



Assessment Structure:

The assessment is conducted solely by examination:

- Written papers sat in the summer of Year 11
- There is no coursework component

Examination Structure:

All examinations are to be externally assessed through written examinations.

Special Requirements:

Students are predicted a **minimum of a Step 5 at Key Stage 3 in both Science and Maths**. Prospective Triple Science students will be invited to join the course. Students are **required** to have a full set of mathematical equipment and a scientific calculator for all of their lessons and examinations.



Core Subject

Physical Education

Head of Faculty: Miss S Lambert

Examination Board: N/A

Qualification: Non-examined



Course Description:

Throughout Year 9 students will continue to complete a range of activities planned by the PE Faculty. These activities are developed in line with the National Curriculum. Students will continue in their current PE sets throughout Year 9 unless their rate of progress indicates that a move of set would be beneficial.



Towards the end of Year 9 students will be guided towards one of a range of different pathways based upon their progress. The aim of this is to encourage students to take ownership of their own learning, enable them to develop aspects of their own personal fitness, experience new sports and to refine their competitive play.

As well as covering some traditional and new sports there is also greater emphasis placed on leadership. This is aimed at ensuring all learners know how to lead sessions and develop their awareness of the associated responsibilities. Furthermore, the course looks to develop skills such as communication, organisation and fair play. During the summer term of Year 9 students will be guided towards one of a range of pathways which they will then follow throughout Year 10 and 11, during core PE lessons. These include the Sports Leadership Award, 'old school' traditional sports and 'new school' alternative sports.

Further information will be available during the course of Year 9. At the end of the year, students in core PE will be able to opt to study Sports Leadership to commence in Year 10.

Assessment and Examination Structure:

This is a non-examined course but a compulsory element and subject of the National Curriculum.

Special Requirements:

Students are **required, as currently**, to have full PE clothing for these sessions.



Core Subject

Citizenship & PSHE

Head of Faculty: Miss H Adkins
 Examination Board: N/A
 Qualification: Non-examinable



Course Description:

Year 9

- Mutual respect diversity racism and prejudice
- Laws
- Sex and relationships awareness
- Antisocial behaviour

Year 10

- Legal systems
- Democracy
- Media and free press
- Money
- Sex and relationships awareness
- Antisocial behaviour
- Alcohol and drug awareness

Year 11

- Careers how to apply for college
- UN and EU
- Democracy
- How to revise for exams
- How to manage stress
- Revisit sex and relationships awareness
- Revisit antisocial behaviour
- Revisit alcohol and drug awareness



Assessment and Examination Structure:

This is a non-examined course but a compulsory element and subject of the National Curriculum.

Special Requirements:

Students are **required** to have a full set of equipment for all of their lessons.



Choice Subject

French

Head of Faculty: Mrs S Hallum-Barnard
 Examination Board: AQA
 Qualification: GCSE



Course Description:

In Year 9 students will follow a foundation course based on the Expo 3 text book including a range of topics not previously covered during Key Stage 3.

The aim of the foundation year is to give students a more in-depth understanding of grammar, linguistic skills and vocabulary that have been introduced in Key Stage 3. The foundation year prepares students for the GCSE speaking and writing assessments by using GCSE style tasks and the GCSE mark schemes to grade their work

Years 10-11 GCSE French pathway. The themes and topics on which the GCSE course is based are:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment



Assessment Structure:

- Students will be regularly assessed during the foundation year
- Over the course of the foundation year, the skill areas of listening, reading and speaking or writing will be assessed at least once per half-term
- Over the two year GCSE course, students will be assessed regularly in each of the four skills
- All four skills are assessed in final exams at the end of Year 11 and are marked externally, although speaking exams are conducted by the teacher

Examination Structure:

- All four skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing have equal weighting at 25% each

Special Requirements:

- Students must have their own dictionary to assist with class work, coursework and homework
- Students will have access to ICT in some lessons and in their own time at school for internet access to the foreign language, access to listening and reading tasks on the VLE, word processing, etc.



Choice Subject

Spanish

Head of Faculty:

Mrs S Hallum-Barnard

Examination Board:

AQA

Qualification:

GCSE



Course Description:

In Year 9 students will follow a foundation course based on the Mira 2 Express text book including a range of topics not previously covered during Key Stage 3. For students who have not experienced Spanish during Key Stage 3 it may be necessary for them to undertake some additional, independent learning.

The aim of the foundation year is to give students a more in-depth understanding of grammar, linguistic skills and vocabulary that have been introduced in Key Stage 3.



The foundation year prepares students for the GCSE speaking and writing assessments by using GCSE style tasks and the GCSE mark schemes to grade their work. The themes and topics on which the GCSE course is based are:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

Assessment Structure:

- Students will be regularly assessed during the foundation year
- Over the course of the foundation year, the skill areas of listening, reading and speaking or writing will be assessed at least once per half-term
- Over the two year GCSE course, students will be assessed regularly in each of the four skills
- All four skills are assessed in final exams at the end of Year 11 and are marked externally, although speaking exams are conducted by the teacher

Examination Structure:

- All four skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing have equal weighting at 25% each

Special Requirements:

- Students must have their own dictionary to assist with class work, coursework and homework
- Students will have access to ICT in some lessons and in their own time at school for internet access to the foreign language, access to listening and reading tasks on the VLE, word processing, etc.



Choice Subject

Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering

Head of Faculty: Mrs C Sweryt

Examination Board: WJEC

Qualification: Technical Award (GCSE Equivalent)



Course Description:

This new Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering will equip students who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study in Catering.

What activities will I take part in?

This is a very practical subject in which you will be given the opportunity to select, prepare and cook a wide range of dishes. You will develop your practical skills and use electrical appliances. You will learn about the different types of providers within the hospitality and catering industry, the legislation that needs to be adhered to and the personal safety of all of those involved in the business, whether staff or customers. You will learn about the operation of hospitality and catering establishments and the factors affecting their success. In the course work unit you will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for you to plan nutritional dishes to go on a menu. You will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes. Students will cook on a regular basis and are required to bring in ingredients or all their practical lessons.



Assessment and Examination Structure:

- Unit 1 - 50% written examination lasting 90 minutes, consisting of an on screen e-assessment
- Unit 2 - 50% internal assessment

What Knowledge, understanding, skills and values will I develop?

Hospitality and Catering is about the knowledge, understanding and skills required when cooking and applying the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. You will gain knowledge through theory and practical situations. You will develop an understanding of what happens to food when it is cooked, how to select foods and how to prepare and store foods hygienically and safely. You will gain extensive knowledge about the Catering industry and be able to apply subject knowledge gained to an e-assessment.

How will I be assessed?

There are 2 units, 1 external exam and 1 internal piece of course work that will be graded as follows: L1 Pass, L2 Pass, Merit and Distinction.

Each of these courses require a substantial commitment to complete the large proportion of written and practical project work. If you wish to have further information about any of these subjects, please see Mrs Sweryt, Head of Technology Faculty.



Choice Subject

Design and Technology

Head of Faculty: Mrs C Sweryt

Examination Board: TBC

Qualification: GCSE



The GCSE in Design and Technology course will cover aspects of Textiles, Graphics, Electronics, Product Design and Resistant Materials.

The outline of the course below is based on the Department for Education's draft subject contents and may be subject to change when the specifications are released by the exam boards which are expected in the summer term. It is expected that you will be able to focus on the following areas of interest and will be able to include more than one of these in your non-exam assessment project if you choose; context will be set by the exam board in Year 11.

Textiles and Fashion

This could include clothing, jewellery, accessories, footwear, interiors and furnishings. This will cover modern and smart materials, composite materials and technical textiles. Students will be expected to have an understanding of fibres and fabrics before deciding which project to complete. It will also enable the students to use creative design packages to complete a range of design ideas.



Resistant Materials and Product Design

For example: leisure: which could include sports wear, camping and sports equipment, games and toys. Interiors and furnishings: which could include furniture, home accessories and utility items. Mechanical systems: which could include mobility aids and children's toys.

Electronics

This could include communication and entertainment devices and products that fulfil a practical need such as torches or light sensors.

Graphics

This will encompass advertising and promotion and could include point of sale, digital promotion and branded packaging of products.

Assessment and Examination Structure:

- 50% from a non-exam assessment and 50% from an external examination



Choice Subject

ICT (Information, Communication Technology)

Head of Faculty:

Mrs C Sweryt

Examination Board:

TBC

Qualification:

Technical Award (GCSE Equivalent)



Course Description:

The ICT course gives students an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works in the 21st century. Students are also provided with excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the Computer Science world.

Core Unit:

Digital portfolios can be viewed by anyone with a computer and an internet browser.

You will learn how to create a digital portfolio that includes a series of web pages with links to content that you have created. You will learn how to make use

of multimedia assets such as images, sound and video to make your portfolio appealing and engaging.



For this unit, your digital portfolio will have a clear purpose and audience to show them who you are and what you are capable of. It should have a structure that is logical and easy to navigate and must be in a format that can be uploaded and viewed on the web. You should think of your portfolio as a shop window, carefully selecting a range of content including work done on this course as well as any other appropriate content. Every item should be clearly introduced, explaining why it is included and what it demonstrates to the viewer. Multimedia assets should be used to enhance the experience for the viewer, not as a substitute for good content.

This unit is your chance to show off! A digital portfolio is an exciting onscreen way to showcase your achievements to potential employers or when applying for a course.

Optional Units: You will also have to complete 1 optional unit which will be discussed in Year 10.

External assessments:

Edexcel sets and marks the test. The assessment must be taken by students under examination conditions. The external assessment will be 1 hour. Total 50 marks.

PLEASE NOTE: This is the most up-to-date information available as the ICT specifications outlining the detail of taught content and examination structures are yet to be released by the Examinations Bodies.

Assessment and Examination Structure:

- 25% is assessed via external examination
- 75% is assessed internally via one core unit and a number of optional units.



Choice Subject

Fine Art

Head of Faculty:

Mrs V Britton

Course Leader:

Mrs C Espeseth

Examination Board:

AQA

Qualification:

GCSE



Course Description:

All candidates will be given the opportunity to develop their creative skills using a wide range of media. They will be encouraged to study the work and methods of artists and designers. Firstly under guidance with the hope that they will learn to work independently, students will gain a wider appreciation of all forms of Art from across the ages.

Candidates will undertake a series of projects and activities exploring the following possible areas:

- Still Life
- The Human Body
- Animals in Art
- Natural Forms
- Foundation Skills

Candidates will then complete their own portfolio, made up of their most successful work, from common starting points.



Assessment / Examination Structure:

- GCSE Fine Art (Single Award)
- We follow the AQA Examination board, which awards a single GCSE for this course
- There are several extended projects which will form a portfolio of coursework which will account for 60% of the overall grade
- Students must also apply their analytical ability through written response and evaluations

Special Requirements:

- You are of a good skill level in Art
- You are committed to attending workshops & homework clubs
- You are able to work independently & with advice
- You are open minded to new subjects & materials
- You communicate well with teachers & peers

Following one year of Art studies across a range of materials including 3D, textiles and photography, teachers, students and parents will select the area of art which they wish to study in depth. This will be based upon their marks, confidence and overall success in each area.



Choice Subject

Dance

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Britton
 Course Leader: Mrs V Britton
 Examination Board: AQA
 Qualification: GCSE



Course Description:

This course is suitable for students who are considering a career in the performance arts sector, teaching or choreography. Dance is a powerful and expressive subject and so encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject. Students will study a range of dance styles allowing them to choose any style to perform and choreograph in, providing it meets the assessment criteria.

A new element of the course which is the study of an anthology of professional works will develop students' ability to critically appraise dances of different styles and cultural influences and provides a springboard for engaging practical tasks.



Commitment to the course is essential, and students taking this GCSE are expected to commit to extra-curricular dance clubs/activities in order to strengthen and practice essential performance and choreography skills.

The aim of GCSE Dance is to engage students in the process of dance in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers. Students are encouraged to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of dance styles through the process of performances, creating and appreciating dance. Students will develop technical, physical and expressive skills through which they are able to communicate choreographic intention and develop their individual qualities as performers. Throughout the three years, students will develop a critical appreciation of dance.

Assessment Structure:

Written examination: 40% of total marks

The written paper will be focussing on critical analysis and perceptive understanding of professional dance works, as well as using dance terminology to reflect on and evaluate own performance and choreographic work.

Practical Examination through controlled assessment: 60% of total marks

The practical elements will be focussed on choreography and performance. Candidates will demonstrate their physical competence and effectiveness as a performer. They will also have to choreograph their own work to demonstrate their ability to select appropriate action content in response to a chosen stimulus.



Choice Subject

Drama

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Britton
 Course Leader: Miss A Jones
 Examination Board: AQA
 Qualification: GCSE



Course Description:

Do you have a passion for drama?

Are you a budding actor or actress?

Do you have creative flair?

This course is suitable for students who have an interest in live theatre or the performing arts.

The course leads into further qualifications such as AS and Advanced level or progression onto the National Diploma in Performing Arts (performing at QMC).

Career pathways include performing and working in the performing arts industry.



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

GCSE Drama is divided into three components: Understanding drama, devising drama and texts in practice

Students will gather many invaluable skills, they will learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They will gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.

Assessment Structure:

- Component 1: Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre - study of one set play and complete an analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers (Written exam: 1 hour 45 mins)
- Component 2: Devising drama - students will learn the process of creating devised drama and complete a performance devised drama (Devising log and performance)
- Component 3: Texts in practice - Performance of two extracts from one play. (Performance of Extract 1 and 2)



Choice Subject

Music

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Britton
 Course Leader: Miss F Earwood
 Examination Board: AQA
 Qualification: GCSE



Do you have a passion for music? Do you play an instrument or sing? Do you have a creative flair for composition or song writing? You may already play in a school ensemble or be involved in a school production.

Did you know that a GCSE in music can eventually lead to one of the following careers?

- Session musician
- Songwriter
- Composer
- DJ
- Teacher
- Marketing in the music industry
- Radio
- Producer
- Music journalist
- Singer



Course Description:

The AQA GCSE music course is designed to develop four core skills; composing, performing, listening and appraising. Students also study a wide variety of genres: Western Classical tradition since 1910, Traditional World Music and The Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910. Students are taught to compose music using technology and explore the following strands through the four core skills:

- Strand 1: Rhythm, meter, texture, melody, structure and form
- Strand 2: Harmony, tonality, timbre (sonority), dynamics, phrasing and articulation

Assessment / Examination Structure:

- Performing Music [controlled assessment] 30%
- Composing Music [controlled assessment] 30%
- Listening and Appraising [examination] 40%



Choice Subject

Geography

Head of Faculty:

Miss H Adkins

Examination Board:

OCR B

Qualification:

GCSE



Course Description:

The course consists of two sections our natural world which explores physical geography patterns and processes affect our lives and those of others on a local, national and global scale. Learners will be encouraged to make links between topics and challenge their previous ideas developed in geography through an enquiring approach to the content. Pupils will take part in 2 fieldwork are embedded throughout the content ensuring learners become both adaptable and resilient no matter their future pathway.

Students follow the OCR B Specification.

There are 3 themes:

The natural world contains a rich diversity of distinctive landscapes and ecosystems which are constantly changing through physical processes and human interactions.

People and Society investigates patterns and processes that shape the human planet. It explores the connections between people and places, questioning how these may change over time and space.

Geographical Exploration uses content from a range of topics within both the Our Natural World and People and Society components will be applied, as appropriate, in relation to a specific unseen country context.

Throughout the course you will be challenged to suggest and explain sustainable solutions to a wide range of interlinked issues. You will be a problem solver!



Examination Structure:

- There are three written exams:
 - Our National World = 35%
 - People and society = 35%
 - Geographical Exploration = 30%



Choice Subject

History

Head of Faculty:

Miss H Adkins

Examination Board:

Edexcel

Qualification:

GCSE



Course Description:

If you have an interest in how we got to where we are today and in finding out how the problems of the past have shaped our future, then History is the course for you!

GCSE History aims to promote understanding of the political world post World War One and bring to the fore what life was like in post-war Europe.

We follow the Edexcel exam board for History with particular focus on the inter-war years as well as the development of crime and punishment over time.

Units include:

Warfare through time: Thematic Study

- How and why the experience of war has changed over time
- London and the Second World War

Early Elizabethan England: British Depth Study

- Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad
- Elizabethan society in the age of exploration

Assessment Structure:

- Written examinations

However, the final course specification and assessment structure are still under review, once more details from the examination board are released further information will be shared.



Weimar and Nazi Germany: Modern Depth Study

- The Weimar Government
- Hitler's Rise to Power
- Life in Nazi Germany

Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91:

- The origins of the Cold War
- The Cold War Crises
- The end of the Cold War

Examination Structure:

There are three exam papers, each paper examines different historical skills:

- Paper 1 concentrates on arguing points and is worth 30% of the overall grade
- Paper 2 primarily assesses knowledge and understanding and is worth 40% of the qualification
- Paper 3 is primarily a skills based paper, which concentrates on the use and analysis of sources, worth 30%.



Choice Subject

Philosophy, Ethics and Beliefs (PEB)

Head of Faculty: Miss H Adkins
 Examination Board: AQA Syllabus A
 Qualification: GCSE



Course Description:

Students are assessed in the following two components:

Component 1:

The study of religions - beliefs, teachings and practices

The two religions studied are Christianity and either Judaism or Islam. Beliefs, teachings and practices of these two religions are taught and the final examination makes up 50% of the final mark.

Component 2:

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes

The following four themes are studied, mainly through the religion of Christianity:

- Theme B - Religion and Life
- Theme C - the existence of God and revelation
- Theme D - Religion, peace and conflict
- Theme E - Religion, crime and punishment

Each theme is made up of 24 marks, totalling 50% of the final mark.

Assessment Structure:

100% externally assessed by two examination papers.



Examination Structure:

- There are 2 written papers for each component of study both worth 50% of the marks.
- Each written paper is 1 hour 45 minutes in length.
- There are no controlled assessments involved in this GCSE.



Choice Subject

Psychology

Head of Faculty:

Miss H Adkins

Examination Board:

TBC

Qualification:

GCSE



Course Description:

This course is suitable for students who have a genuine interest in Science and/or Humanities and wish to study a Science and/or Humanities subject at AS level in post 16 education.

The course consists of two units:

Unit 1: Making Sense of Other People

- Memory
- Non-Verbal Communication
- Development of Personality
- Stereotyping, Prejudice and Discrimination

Unit 2: Understanding Other People

- Learning
- Social Influence
- Gender
- Aggression

Throughout these units the following areas of study will also be undertaken:

- Research Methods
- Methods of Investigation
- Methods of Control, Data analysis & Data Presentation
- Ethical Considerations



PLEASE NOTE: This is the most up-to-date information available as the Psychology specifications outlining the detail of taught content and examination structures are yet to be released by the Examinations Bodies.

Assessment Structure, currently:

100% externally assessed by two examination papers.

The current specification for this course is under review, once additional information becomes available this will be shared with students.

Examination Structure:

The structure of the examinations are yet to be confirmed by Examination Bodies however, it has been confirmed that all examinations are to be externally assessed through written examinations; currently, the examination structure is outlined below, for reference only.

Unit 1: Making Sense of Other People

- Written paper
- 80 marks
- 50% of the qualification

Unit 2: Understanding Other People

- Written paper
- 80 marks
- 50% of the qualification



Choice Subject

Physical Education

Head of Faculty: Miss S Lambert

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE



Course Description:

This course is equally challenging and rewarding for those students who wish to refine their skills and broaden their depth of knowledge in the many aspects of sport and PE. The course is highly theoretically based for students to learn about a narrow list of sports in detail, as well as to back that up with the academic aspects of sport sciences. This course is a highly academic subject and we would like to stress that a good grasp of English and a strong understanding of Science is important for students to meet the challenges of the course.



Students will be expected to have an exemplary PE kit record as well as demonstrate an excellent attitude towards PE both in lessons and extra curricular activities to support their success on this course. This is a three year course where the final grade is established through two terminal written examinations, practical assessments and one written coursework element. The GCSE course is both challenging and enriching and is weighted 70% theory and 30% practical. Classes will be mixed gender.

Assessment Structure:

Theory - 70%

Due to the weighting of the different components, and in preparation for the exam, each student will complete at least one lesson of theory per week. Students will cover a range of topics in preparation for **two written examinations of 75 minutes in length**: The Human Body and movement in sport, Socio-cultural influences and Well-being in physical activity and sport.

There is one coursework element which involves analysing performance in one sport.

Practical - 30%

All practical work is continuously assessed, and students will follow at least 8 areas of study, of which they will submit at least 3 marks consisting of at least one team and one individual sport.

Within each sport students will be assessed in their individual skill, their competitive play and their knowledge of tactics and strategies or routines and sequences. All students will be expected to lead their peers as well as umpire / coach in all areas of study.

Examination Structure:

Practical element - **two written examinations of 75 minutes** - Coursework element

Special Requirements:

Each student is required to provide a course folder and maintain this throughout the course. Therefore each student must purchase their own binder, dividers etc. Each student will be provided with a homework book in which to complete their homework.

Students will also be encouraged to invest in some revision resources which will be offered in Years 10 & 11 and attend additional activities where recommended by their teacher. Students will be expected to have the full and correct Brighton Hill PE kit to be able to complete all aspects of the practical component effectively.



Notes page 1

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Notes page 2

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Notes page 3

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