

# GCSE Options

## Class of 2027

### Introduction

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#### Message from Miss Steele

This is an exciting time for you in your education; it is the first time you will have autonomy over the subjects that you will choose to master. We have designed the options to ensure you have a good range of subjects to choose from in order to have a broad and interesting education. To ensure that you are prepared for almost any degree or career you might want to pursue, the following subjects are still compulsory: English language, English literature, mathematics, science, Spanish, religious education, at least one humanities and one IT subject. You will still get to participate in co-curricular electives and the Duke of Edinburgh award, so you will have lots of variety and challenge in your learning!

#### Subject overview

Compulsory examined subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Spanish
- Religious Education
- Humanities Option

You will also continue to have lessons in PDS, co-curricular and Physical Education (non-GCSE)

Optional subjects:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geography</li><li>• History</li><li>• Art and design - Art</li><li>• Art and design - Textiles</li><li>• Art and design - 3D Design</li><li>• Art and design - Photography</li><li>• Triple Science</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music Practice</li><li>• GCSE Physical Education</li><li>• Sport, Activity and Fitness</li><li>• Computer Science</li><li>• Digital Information Technology</li><li>• Creative Media</li></ul> |
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## Research your options

- Time: allocate enough time to read and talk about each subject that you are interested in.
- Keeping notes: make notes when you talk to trusted adults or read useful information. This will help you remember any important points when making your final decision.
- Beginning to make long-term plans: knowing what degrees or careers interest you can help you choose GCSEs that will support you.

## Be informed

- Look at prospectuses for universities. These will show you different degrees you can study when you are older and help you think about what you will need to study now in order to keep your options open. There are prospectuses in the iBase and every university lists its courses on its website.
- Other sources of information and advice: trusted relatives and family friends; older students; your teachers; your advisor; careers advisors and helplines; GCSE bitesize; the school website for useful careers links and the subject specification documents (to see an overview of what is studied in detail).

## Top Tips

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### Good reasons to pick a subject

- "I enjoy it."
- "I am good at it."
- "It is relevant to a degree or career that interests me."
- "I would like a new experience."
- "I'm not sure about what I want to do in the future; this subject will help me to keep my options open for A-Level and university."
- "It is a challenging subject, and I would like a challenge."
- "It is a subject I would like to get better at; I'm ready to work hard to improve."

### Poor reasons to pick a subject

- "I like the teacher." They might not be your teacher for GCSE. You are more likely to be successful if you have a good relationship with all of your teachers.
- "My friends are doing it." You might not enjoy the subject and could lose motivation to revise and work hard. Studying something you like will help you to get to know even more people who have similar interests to you.
- "It sounds easy." No GCSE is easy! Don't pick a subject that doesn't motivate you to work hard to get the best grade possible. If you are worried about getting the grades you want, speak to your teachers.
- "I'm in a rush and didn't research the other options." Make sure you take the time to find out about all the options to avoid any regrets.
- "I am under pressure to take the subject." You will already have a broad range of compulsory subjects that will help you to go to university (or a real alternative) and get a top job. Although others' advice is valuable, be guided by your own strengths and interests.

## Where to find help to research your options choices

Listed below are a range of websites that you may find useful for finding out about more about future career options and the subject choices that would help you be successful. Links to each of these websites, along with many others, are available on the school website in the Careers education section.

**Future Goals:** This website uses Labour Market information, as well as employers and employees from local businesses to give an insight to employment opportunities within different sectors, including how your subject links with a range of careers.

**A Level Explorer:** This website helps you to consider different university degrees based on the subjects you enjoy and may study at A-Level, after GCSE.

**Prospects:** This website helps you to find out more about a range of career options for your future. It will give you an overview of key skills and subjects that would support the career choice.

**BBC Bitesize:** Use the course title, including the exam board you will be studying with, to find out more about what you will be learning in your GCSE course.

## Case Studies

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### **Miss Akudi, Head of Year 9**

#### **Option choices**

Geography and history

#### **What did you enjoy about studying at KS4?**

Being able to choose the subjects I was studying meant that I was more motivated to work hard at them and that I found them more enjoyable. This meant I was successful in them too. I enjoyed studying in more depth.

#### **How did you make your choices?**

I spoke to my teachers who gave me advice about what I would be good at. I wanted to be challenged and had enjoyed studying both geography and history. Ultimately, I was guided by what I enjoyed and was best at.

#### **What advice do you have for the Class of 2027?**

My advice would be to choose the subjects you enjoy the most, and feel you are going to be successful in. They don't always have to be related to your career choices. Even though I am a Science teacher, the skills that I learnt from taking history and geography, such as being able to analyse the importance of things, helped me with all my other subjects during my GCSE's and A-Levels.

### **Maryam Kapree, Class of 2021**

Maryam is a former student who studies 4 A levels in biology, English literature, history and PE at Dixons Sixth form.

#### **Option choices**

History and GCSE PE

#### **What did you enjoy about studying at KS4?**

I realised that the subjects I selected offered me so much more than just an understanding of the content I was studying. There are so many transferable skills you can take from any of the options subjects and I have now developed such a strong passion for PE that I have continued it at A level and now considering careers in physiotherapy and sport science.

## **How did you make your choices?**

When making my decisions, I spent time researching the different options I had to choose from by looking at their specifications online. I spoke with my parents and teachers but overall I chose the two subjects that I enjoyed the most and knew that if I continued to work hard, I would get good GCSE results in.

## **What advice do you have for the Class of 2027?**

To a Year 8 student selecting their options, I would advise you to select the subject that you enjoy the most as, ultimately, you will be studying it for three years and if it is a subject you feel passionate about, you will feel motivated to achieve an exceptional grade. Although you may feel the need to select a subject that will relate to a specific career pathway, there are plenty of different options and careers which you can pursue and you do not have to be certain about what you want to do right now!

## **GCSE Geography (AQA – Grades 1-9)**

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### **What will I study?**

The GCSE helps students to develop knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live through the study of physical geography and natural processes; human interactions with the natural world and current and relevant environmental challenges and issues that we are facing today. Students are exposed to a wealth of knowledge and are taught how to apply this geographically and through the use of skills and analysis. You will develop a solutions focussed approach in what we can do to solve the problems that are encountered. You will study a variety of places at a variety of scales from the local to the global allowing you to develop a sense of perspective and understanding of our planet and how it is entirely interdependent.

### **How will I be assessed?**

#### **Paper 1: Living with the physical environment**

##### **1 hour 30 minute paper - 88 marks (35% of GCSE)**

- Challenge of Natural Hazards: Earth Hazards, Weather Hazards and Climate Change
- The Living World: Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests and Cold Environments
- Physical Landscapes in the UK: Rivers and Coasts

#### **Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment**

##### **1 hour 30 minute paper - 88 marks (35% of GCSE)**

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management: resources and water

#### **Paper 3: Geographical Applications**

##### **1 hour 15 minute paper - 76 marks (30% of GCSE)**

- Issue evaluation (Pre-Release)
- Human and Physical Fieldwork
- Geographical Skills

### **Skills required to be successful:**

- A passion for the world, nature, people and science
- A desire to keep up to date with news and current affairs
- An ability to work hard to retain powerful knowledge

- An ability to provide supported opinions on a variety of key ideas and themes
- An ability to apply knowledge and skills to a variety of situations

#### **Further study links:**

- A-Level Geography
- A-Level Geology
- A-Level Business; Economics; Government and Politics; Law; Psychology and Sociology

#### **Career opportunities:**

Environmental Consultant, Cartographer, Town Planner, Travel and Tourism, Geographical Information Systems Analyst, Sustainability Office, Conservation Officer, Education, Landscape Architect, Ecologist, Aid Worker, Public Health, Civil Service, United Nations, Graduate Schemes and Opportunities.

## **GCSE History (OCR History B – Schools History Project - Grades 1-9)**

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#### **What will I study?**

The GCSE helps students to develop a range and depth of history knowledge and to use historical evidence. KS4 further develops students' ability to engage in historical enquiry with a greater focus on evaluating evidence and testing interpretations about the past. Students learn to make and support their own judgements grounded in the evidence.

#### **How will I be assessed?**

##### **Paper 1: Thematic Study and British Depth Study**

##### **1 hour 45 minute paper (40% of GCSE)**

- Thematic Study: Migrants to Britain, 1250 to present
- British Depth Study: The Elizabethans, 1580-1603

##### **Paper 2: History Around Us**

##### **1 hour paper (20% of GCSE)**

- Site study of Fountains Abbey

##### **Paper 3: Period Study and World Depth Study**

##### **1 hour 45 minute paper (40% of GCSE)**

- Period Study: The Making of America, 1789-1900
- World Depth Study: Living Under Nazi Rule, 1933-1945

#### **Skills required to be successful:**

- An interest in the lives and experiences of people from the past
- A curiosity about what evidence can (and can't!) tell us about the past
- An open mind and a willingness to understand experiences that differ to our own
- An enjoyment of debate and discussion about interpretations (viewpoints) about the past
- Analysis and critical thinking
- Making supported judgements based on evidence

#### **Further study links:** (What could students go on to study at 6<sup>th</sup> Form or college?)

- A-Level History

- A-Level Politics
- A-Level Law

### **Career opportunities:**

Politics, Law, Journalism, Public Service, Teaching, Museum Curator, Archaeologist, Archivist, Media Researcher, Human Resources, University Research, Heritage Industry Role, Genealogist. Any career in which you are required to communicate your opinions and conclusions effectively.

## **BTEC Tech Award Art and Design – Fine Art (Pass-Distinction\*)**

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### **What will I study?**

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, skills and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating art and design work as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques and processes;
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs;
- process that underpins effective ways of working in art and design practice, such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review and refinement;
- attitudes that are considered most important in art and design practice, including planning, organisation and communication.

### **How will I be assessed?**

#### **BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice**

**Portfolio:** 60%, started in Y9 and completed by December of Y11.

- Component 1: Creative Practice in Art & Design

**Externally Set Task:** 40%, 20 hours of sustained, focused study after an extended period of preparation (Jan-May of Y11).

- Component 2: Responding to a Client Brief

### **Skills required to be successful:**

You will learn how to build a portfolio of work from a given starting point or theme, demonstrating investigation, experimentation, observation and presenting a creative outcome.

You will develop new skills on this course influenced by historical and contemporary artists in response to a theme and client brief. You will learn a wide range of photographic techniques such as: observational and experimental drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, mixed media and photography.

You will also photograph from direct observation, analyse the work of others, present a portfolio and learn how to be an artist in the art and graphic industries.

### Career opportunities:

Artist, Illustrator, Graphic Designer, Interior Designer, Gallery Manager, Artistic Director, Set Designer, Architect, Art Therapist, Art Historian, Studio Director, Artist/studio Manager, Museum Curator, Magazine Art Editor, Art Teacher, Animator, Photographer, Product Designer, Community Arts Worker, Conservator and Exhibition Designer.

## BTEC Tech Award Art and Design – Textiles (Pass-Distinction\*)

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### What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, skills and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating art and design work as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques and processes;
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs;
- process that underpins effective ways of working in art and design practice, such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review and refinement;
- attitudes that are considered most important in art and design practice, including planning, organisation and communication.

### How will I be assessed?

#### BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice

**Portfolio:** 60%, started in Y9 and completed by December of Y11.

- Component 1: Creative Practice in Art & Design

**Externally Set Task:** 40%, 20 hours of sustained, focused study after an extended period of preparation (Jan-May of Y11).

- Component 2: Responding to a Client Brief

### Skills required to be successful:

You will learn how to build a portfolio of work from a given starting point or theme, demonstrating investigation, experimentation, observation and presenting a creative outcome.

You will develop new skills on this course influenced by historical and contemporary textile artists and fashion designers in response to a theme and client brief. You will learn a wide range of textile techniques such as: pattern cutting, draping, garment construction, decoration, fabric manipulation, free machine embroidery, applique, printing and felting.

You will also record and draw from direct observation, analyse the work of others, present a portfolio and learn how to be a designer in the fashion and textile industries.



### Career opportunities:

Fashion Designer, Textile Designer, Children's Wear Designer, Pattern Cutter, Fashion Buyer, Costume Designer, Bridal Wear Designer, Machinist, Print Designer, Homeware Designer, Interior Designer, Visual Merchandiser, Fashion Merchandiser, Fashion Stylist, Fashion Editor and Journalist.

### BTEC Tech Award Three Dimensional (3D) Design (Pass-Distinction\*)

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#### What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, skills and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating art and design work as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques and processes;
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs;
- process that underpins effective ways of working in art and design practice, such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review and refinement;
- attitudes that are considered most important in art and design practice, including planning, organisation and communication.

#### How will I be assessed?

##### BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice

**Portfolio:** 60%, started in Y9 and completed by December of Y11.

- Component 1: Creative Practice in Art & Design

**Externally Set Task:** 40%, 20 hours of sustained, focused study after an extended period of preparation (Jan-May of Y11).

- Component 2: Responding to a Client Brief

#### Skills required to be successful:

You will learn how to build a portfolio of work from a given starting point or theme, demonstrating investigation, experimentation, observation and presenting a creative outcome.

You will develop new skills on this course influenced by historical and contemporary 3D artists and product designers in response to a theme and client brief. You will learn a wide range of designing and modelling techniques such as: CAD/CAM, technical drawing, printing, paper and card modelling, cutting, joining, and finishing skills.

You will also record and draw from direct observation, analyse the work of others, present a portfolio and learn how to be a designer in the 3D and product design industries.

### Career opportunities:

Architect, Ceramicist, Product Designer, Furniture Designer, Set Designer, Interior Designer, Design Consultant, Teacher, Landscape Architect, Jewellery Designer, Exhibition Designer, Graphic Designer, Production Manager and CAD/CAM Technician.



## BTEC Tech Award Art and Design – Photography (Pass-Distinction\*)

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### What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, skills and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating art and design work as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques and processes;
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs;
- process that underpins effective ways of working in art and design practice, such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review and refinement;
- attitudes that are considered most important in art and design practice, including planning, organisation and communication.

### How will I be assessed?

#### BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice

**Portfolio:** 60%, started in Y9 and completed by December of Y11.

- Component 1: Creative Practice in Art & Design

**Externally Set Task:** 40%, 20 hours of sustained, focused study after an extended period of preparation (Jan-May of Y11).

- Component 2: Responding to a Client Brief

### Skills required to be successful:

You will learn how to build a portfolio of work from a given starting point or theme, demonstrating investigation, experimentation, observation and presenting a creative outcome.

You will develop new skills on this course influenced by historical and contemporary artists and photographers in response to a theme and client brief. You will learn a wide range of photographic techniques such as: operating a professional camera, using studio set ups and lighting efficiently, skills at Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Bridge.

You will also photograph from direct observation, analyse the work of others, present a portfolio and learn how to be a photographer in the art, fashion, media and marketing industries.

### Career opportunities:

Fine Art Photographer, Film Maker, Magazine Features Director, Television Camera Operator, Graphic Designer, Press Photographer, Wedding and Event Photographer, Fashion Photographer, Gallery Manager, Artistic Director, Advertising Art Director, Studio Director, Studio Manager, Museum Curator, Magazine Art Editor, Teacher, Animator, Photographer, Photographic Collector and Curator, Exhibition Designer, Web Content Manager, Web Designer, Visual Merchandiser, Digital Marketer and Media Planner.

## **BTEC Music Practice (Pearson BTEC Tech Award – Level 1/2)**

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### **What will I study?**

The BTEC Music Practice course is designed to place an emphasis on practical activities. You will continue to focus on aspects you have already covered at KS3 music, but also develop new musical skills. The course is divided into 3 components. Students will study and develop their musical skills and techniques, and by responding to a music industry brief as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification enables learners to develop their skills, such as using musical elements, music creation, performance and music production, using realistic vocational contexts, and their personal skills, such as self-development, responding to a brief, planning and time management through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

### **How will I be assessed?**

#### **Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles**

##### **36 Guided Learning Hours (30% of BTEC)**

- You will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles.
- Internally assessed assignment

#### **Component 2: Music Skills Development**

##### **36 Guided Learning Hours (30% of BTEC)**

- You will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.
- Internally assessed assignment

#### **Unit 3: Responding to a Music Brief**

##### **48 Guided Learning Hours (40% of BTEC)**

- You will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief
- Externally assessed

### **Skills required to be successful:**

Performing, communication, organisation, practical technology skills, teamwork.

### **Further study links:**

- BTEC Level 3 in Music or Music Technology

### **Career opportunities:**

Session Musician, TV and Film Composer, Film Music Director, Arts Management, Sound Engineer, Producer, Teacher, Musical Director, Music Therapist, Musicologist, Promoter, Radio Researcher and Sound Technician.

## GCSE Physical Education (AQA – Grades 1-9)

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### What will I study?

The GCSE helps students to develop knowledge and understanding from many different aspects of physical activity and sport including detailed analysis of our body systems, socio-cultural influences and application of fitness and training programmes to specific athletes. During this course, students will learn to make and support their own judgements grounded in the factual knowledge presented to them. Students will also be assessed practically in 3 sports based on their skill set and application to the game.

### How will I be assessed?

#### **Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport**

##### **1 hour 15 minute paper - 78 marks (30% of GCSE)**

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical Training

#### **Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport**

##### **1 hour 15 minute paper - 78 marks (30% of GCSE)**

- Sports Psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being

#### **Non-Exam Assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport**

##### **100 marks (40% of GCSE)**

- Performance assessment (in 3 sports)
- Performance analysis assessment (analysis and evaluation)

### Skills required to be successful:

- Passion for sport and science
- Application of knowledge to sporting situations
- Analysis and evaluation
- Practical strengths in at least 3 sports (individual and team)
- Motivation to participate in sport outside the Academy day

### Further study links: (What could students go on to study at 6<sup>th</sup> Form or college?)

- A-Level Physical Education
- L3 BTEC National in Sport
- L3 OCR Cambridge Nationals in Sport and Physical Activity

### Career opportunities:

Sports Scientist, Physiotherapist, Sports Doctor, Teacher, Coach, Journalist, Nutritionist, Strength and Conditioning, Psychologist, Fitness Instructors, Sports Business and Management.

## Sport (Pearson BTEC Tech Award – Level 1/2)

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### What will I study?

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Investigating provisions for sporting including equipment and facilities to enhance sport
- Planning and delivery of sport drills and sessions
- Fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology

### How will I be assessed?

#### **Component 1 – Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (60 marks)**

- Internally assessed (coursework that is moderated externally).
- Completed through coursework assignments set by Pearson to assess your understanding of the different types of provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity. Learners will also research equipment and technological advances in a chosen sport and how to prepare bodies for participation in sport and physical activity.
- Set by Pearson to be completed in approximately 5 hours of supervised internal assessment.

#### **Component 2 – Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (60 marks)**

- Internally assessed (coursework that is moderated externally).
- Completed through coursework assignments set by Pearson to assess your understanding of the components of fitness and their effect on performance, your participation in practical sport, the role of officials in sport and the application of sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance.
- Set by Pearson to be completed in approximately 4 hours of supervised internal assessment.

#### **Component 3 – Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (60 marks)**

- Externally assessed –synoptic (synoptic assessment that builds on component 1 and 2 to enable learning to be brought together and related to a real life situation in component 3)
- This component is assessed through a written assessment under supervised conditions that requires learners to demonstrate their level of understanding of the importance of fitness, the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity and their understanding of the body and fitness testing.

### Skills required to be successful:

- Confident in typing extended pieces of work using Microsoft Word
- Organisational skills to keep coursework files saved and backed up
- Consistency in meeting of deadlines for coursework completion
- Verbal communication skills (when delivering your planned session)
- An interest in sport and physical activity

### Further study links:

Learners who generally achieve a Level 2 grade may consider progressing onto:

- A-Levels as preparation for entry into higher education (University) in a range of subjects.

- The study of a vocational qualification at Level 3. For example, BTEC National in Sport.

### Career opportunities:

Sports Coach, Sports Therapist, Sport Development Officer, PE Teacher, Nutritionist, Exercise Physiologist and Sports Physiotherapist.

## GCSE Separate Science (AQA – Grades 1-9)

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### What will I study?

Triple science covers much of the same content as combined however, some of the topics are extended. Infection and response in biology will require students to learn additional content such as monoclonal antibodies and plant diseases. In homeostasis and response students will study the brain, heart, eye and the kidney in detail which is surplus content. In chemistry students will study energy changes and acquire key information on fuel cells and batteries. In structure and bonding students will cover additional content of bulk and surface properties of matter including nanoparticles. Students will carry out additional required practical in titrations. Additionally students will be completing an extra unit for physics looking closely into space and the life cycle of a star, the solar system and orbits and the red shift and the big bang.

### How will I be assessed?

**Biology:** 2 exam papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each

- Paper 1: B1 cells, B2 organisation, B3 infection and response, B4 bioenergetics.
- Paper 2: B5 homeostasis and response, B6 inheritance, variation and evolution, B7 ecology

**Chemistry:** 2 exam papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each

- Paper 1: C1 Atomic structure and periodic table, C2 Structure and bonding, C3 Quantitative chemistry, C4 Chemical Changes, C5 Energy Changes
- Paper 2: C6 Rate and extent of chemical change, C7 Organic Chemistry, C8 Chemical Analysis, C9 Chemistry of the Atmosphere, C10 Using resources

**Physics:** 2 exam papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each

- Paper 1: P1 Energy, P2 Electricity, P3 Particle model of matter, P4 Atomic Structure
- Paper 2: P5 Forces, P6 Waves, P7 Electromagnetism, Space physics

### Skills required to be successful:

- Organisational skills
- Resilience
- Communication
- Ability to analyse
- Ability to evaluate

### Further study links:

- A-level Biology
- A-level Chemistry
- A-level Physics

### Career opportunities:

Optometrist, Audiologist, Oncologist, Dentistry, Medicine, Chemical Engineer, Environmental Chemist, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Forensic Scientist, Astrophysicist, Astronomer and Meteorologist.

## GCSE Computer Science (OCR – Grades 1-9)

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### What will I study?

The GCSE helps students to develop knowledge and understanding in different concepts of Computer Science, this includes programming, algorithms and data structures. A key skill that is developed is 'computational thinking' and this offers insightful ways to view how information operates in many computer systems. Another core skill in Computer Science is computer programming which develops logic and problem solving techniques.

### How will I be assessed?

#### Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minute paper - 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

- 1.1 Systems architecture
- 1.2 Memory and storage
- 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols
- 1.4 Network security
- 1.5 Systems software
- 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

#### Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minute paper - 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

- 2.1 Algorithms
- 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing robust programs
- 2.4 Boolean logic
- 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

### Skills required to be successful:

- Passion for Computing/technology
- Motivation for computer programming
- Strong in Maths and Science
- Resilience

### Further study links:

#### Post 16 options:

- A-level in Computer Science
- L3 BTEC Nationals in Information Technology
- L3 BTEC Specialist in Programming

#### Higher Education:

- BSc Computer Science ( Digital & Technology Solutions)
- BSc (Hons) Applied Computing

### Career opportunities:

Application Analyst, Applications Developer, Cyber Security Analyst, Data Analyst, Database Administrator, Forensic Computer Analyst, Network Manager, Information Systems Manager, IT Consultant, Software Engineer and Systems Analyst.

## BTEC Tech Award Digital Information Technology (Pass-Distinction\*)

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### What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology, allows students to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to User Interface, data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

### How will I be assessed?

#### Component 1: Internally assessed (30% of BTEC)

- Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques

#### Component 2: Internally assessed (30% of BTEC)

- Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

#### Component 3: External Assessment (40% of BTEC)

- Effective Digital Working Practices
- Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes – 60 marks
  - Modern technologies, Cyber security, The wider implications of digital systems, Planning and communication in digital systems

### Skills required to be successful:

- Passion for Information Communication Technology
- Imagination
- Able to plan, design and evaluate
- Strong Literacy skills
- Self-management/ independence
- Organisation
- Problem solving

### Further study links:

#### Post 16 options:

- L3 BTEC Nationals in Information Technology Communications
- L3 BTEC in Computing
- A-Level in Computer Science

#### Higher Education:

- BSc Computer Science ( Digital & Technology Solutions)
- BSc (Hons) Applied Computing



### Career opportunities:

Students may want to progress to an apprenticeship, for example at Level 5 in Digital Marketer, Infrastructure Technician or Software Development Technician. Other careers could include a role as a Web Designer, System Analysis, Games Development, IT Consultant, Application Developer, Network Manager, Database Manager, ICT Technician, Teacher.

## BTEC Tech Award Creative Media Production (Pearson's – Pass - Dist)

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### What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production, allows students to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by investigating, exploring and creating media products. This will allow students to develop skills across a range of media practices using a combination of practical exploration, experimentation and realistic vocational contexts. They will develop personal skills, such as managing their creative projects, documenting progress of skills and work, responding to briefs and presenting work through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment. The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

### How will I be assessed?

#### Component 1: Internally assessed (30% of BTEC)

- Exploring Media Products

#### Component 2: Internally assessed (30% of BTEC)

- Developing Digital Media Production Skills

#### Component 3: External Assessment (40% of BTEC)

- Create a media product in response to a brief

### Skills required to be successful:

- Passion for Information Communication Technology and Creative Media
- Imagination
- Creativity
- Able to plan, design and evaluate
- Strong Literacy skills
- Self-management/ independence
- Organisation
- Problem solving

### Further study links:

#### Post 16 options:

- L3 BTEC Nationals in Information Technology Communications
- L3 BTEC in Computing
- L3 BTEC in Creative Media Studies
- A Level- Photography

#### Higher Education:

- BSc (Hons) Applied Computing
- BSc (Hons) Information Communication Technology

- BA (Hons) Creative Media Studies
- BA (Hons) Photography and Filming

### **Career opportunities:**

Students may want to progress to an apprenticeship, for example at Level 5 in Digital Marketer, Infrastructure Technician or Software Development Technician. Other careers: Web Designer, System Analysis, Games Development, IT Consultant , App Developer, Network Manager, Database Manager, ICT Technician, Photographer, Videographer, Director of media, Teacher.

## Options - Class of 2027

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**Student name:** ..... **Advisory:** .....

### Humanities

Students have to study either History or Geography. Please **tick** your preference below. Those students wishing to study both History and Geography, please still select your preference below and then choose the other Humanities subject as one of your options subjects on the table below.

Humanities	Choice
History	
Geography	

### Options Subjects

Please state what your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> choice option subjects would be. Remember, this is an initial expression of interest. Once all forms have been returned, subjects will be finalised based on student interest. Students will then have the opportunity to select their final option choices.

Subjects	Options Preferences			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice
History				
Geography				
Art				
3D-Design				
Textiles				
Photography				
GCSE PE				
Sport				
Music Practice				
Computer Science				
Digital Information Technology				
Creative Media				
Triple Science				

**Student signature:** .....

**Parent / carer signature:** .....

*Please hand your completed options form back to your advisor by **Friday 1 April**.*