



**BECCLES**  
HIGH SCHOOL

# WELCOME TO THE KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS BOOKLET

**2025 - 2027**

**KS4 OPTIONS**  
YEAR NINE



Education is not preparation for life;  
education is life itself. **JOHN DEWEY**



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# 1 Introduction to Key Stage 4

PAGE 05



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# 2 Our Vision & Curriculum

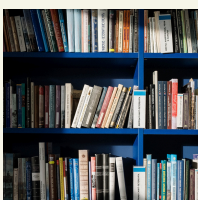
PAGE 06



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# 3 Careers

PAGE 07



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# 4 English

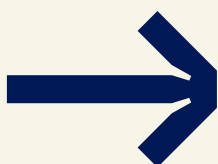
PAGE 08



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# 5 Mathematics

PAGE 09



Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

# CONTENTS





---

## 6 Science

PAGE 10



---

## 7 French

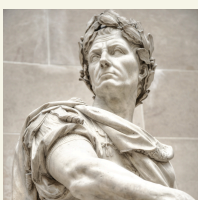
PAGE 11



---

## 8 Geography

PAGE 12



---

## 9 History

PAGE 13



---

## 10 Art

PAGE 14



Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

# CONTENTS



---

# 11 Computer Science

PAGE 15



---

# 12 Creative iMedia

PAGE 16



---

# 13 Drama

PAGE 17



---

# 14 Performing Arts

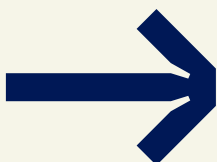
PAGE 18



---

# 15 Child Development

PAGE 19



Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

# CONTENTS



---

## 16 Health & Social Care

PAGE 20



---

## 17 Hospitality & Catering

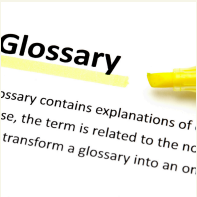
PAGE 21



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## 18 Sport

PAGE 22



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## 19 Key Terms

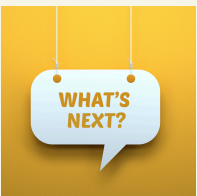
PAGE 23



---

## 20 Key Staff

PAGE 24



---

## 21 Next Steps

PAGE 25



Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

# CONTENTS

# Introduction to KEY STAGE 4



## Dear Student & Parent/Carer,

In Year 9, students continue to follow the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3. This means that they have followed a very broad curriculum, with the opportunity to gain experience in a number of subjects. At Key Stage 4, in Years 10 and 11, there is the opportunity to study a slightly smaller number of subjects in greater depth, and usually to examination level. Students are also encouraged to use their tutor who can offer impartial guidance during tutorial.

You will notice from this booklet that we require all students to continue to study a broad and balanced curriculum, maintaining studies in English, Mathematics, Science, either History or Geography & Physical Education.

In line with Government guidelines, students will have the opportunity to follow a flexible curriculum through a range of additional subjects. Non examined parts of the curriculum include PSHE, careers education, and personal development will be delivered primarily through curriculum time, although aspects will be covered in other subjects and in tutor time.

We will provide individual, impartial and realistic advice which will help your child to achieve to the best of their ability.

This booklet will help to inform your child's decisions about their study over the next two years. This is very important so students can get the most from their Key Stage 4 courses. Having read the information students can submit their preferences on the MS form link that you can find the QR code on page 26.

It should be noted that we do not work on first come first served so please don't rush this because changing or 'dropping' courses after September 2025 is not possible. Further details regarding the process are found on page 25.

Please note the key dates in the process, particularly:

- Wednesday 5th March : Launch the Options Process (Parents Evening)
- Monday 10th March: Completed option preference forms must be returned by this date via the MS form.
- Course choices will be confirmed just before the end of the summer term.

If you would like any additional advice or information please do contact us.

Senior Leadership Team  
Beccles High School

# OUR VISION

## Key Stage 4 Education & Curriculum

**WE OFFER A BROAD RANGE OF OPTIONS WHICH CATER FOR A RANGE OF ABILITIES, INTERESTS AND PREFERRED ASSESSMENT STYLES. WE HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO BALANCE THIS WITH ENSURING YOUR CHILD FOLLOWS A CURRICULUM WHICH WILL EQUIP THEM FOR FUTURE COURSES OR TRAINING POST 16.**

At Beccles High School we will provide an interesting, appropriate and stimulating range of subjects, qualifications and opportunities.

This is an exciting time; students are able to make some choices about what they study for the first time in their education. Remember that students will be continuing to study between the ages of 16-18. When they can specialise more then, and so, in many cases, keeping the KS4 experience as broad as possible is best.

It is worth noting that the 'core' subjects equip students to continue studies in most areas.

This booklet contains all the courses we will offer for 2025 - 2027. However, it is not guaranteed that all courses will run.

Once you have read the booklet should you need to speak to someone further you can contact the form tutor or careers advisor on their address below and they will be happy to help clarify your thinking.

As mentioned there is no need to return your form before the deadline as none will be processed until that date.

What is essential is that you actively choose subjects and know what they entail through reading this information and talking to teachers.

Students should think carefully about the courses and not choose based on friendships or teachers.

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Ms Slatford (9SR0) - [s.slatford@beccleshighschool.org](mailto:s.slatford@beccleshighschool.org)

Ms J Stockman - [j.stockman@beccleshighschool.org](mailto:j.stockman@beccleshighschool.org)



# Your Key Stage 4 Options

# CAREERS

Gatsby Benchmark <b>1</b> A stable careers programme	Gatsby Benchmark <b>2</b> Learning from labour market information	Gatsby Benchmark <b>3</b> Addressing every pupil's needs	Gatsby Benchmark <b>4</b> Linking curriculum learning to careers
Gatsby Benchmark <b>5</b> Encounters with employers & employees	Gatsby Benchmark <b>6</b> Experiences of workplaces	Gatsby Benchmark <b>7</b> Encounters with further & higher education	Gatsby Benchmark <b>8</b> Personal guidance

## CAREERS

When we talk about careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG), we are not just talking about jobs. Careers conversations are about life, learning and work, which is why information impacting career choices is embedded in the curriculum and school life from Year 7. When it comes to GCSE options in Year 9 it is important not to underestimate the impact GCSEs and grades achieved by students will have on future education and employment for the rest of their life.

Most students will not have an idea of what they wish to do when they are older and if they do, it is very likely these ideas will change over time. Some students may have very clear ideas that won't change over the years. Making sure the correct GCSE subjects are chosen in order to achieve ambitions, or keep 'all options open', is key. Our careers programme has been developed to address this need and is in line with the nationally recognised Gatsby Benchmarks which include access to independent careers guidance by a fully qualified careers adviser and experiences of the world of work.

## USEFUL LINKS

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/discover-your-skills-and-careers/> <https://icould.com/>  
<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspirational-talks-library/>  
<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/ssq>  
<https://www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk/careers/take-the-test>  
<https://www.goconstruct.org/learn-about-construction/find-the-role-for-you/ultimate-quiz/>  
<https://careers.bps.org.uk>

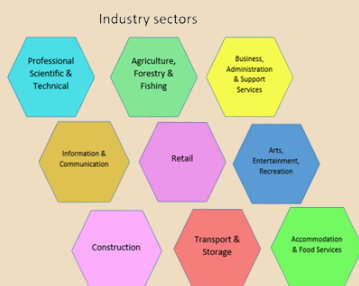
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/discover-your-skills-and-careers/>  
<https://icould.com/>  
<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspirational-talks-library/>  
<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/ssq>  
<https://www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk/careers/take-the-test>  
<https://www.goconstruct.org/learn-about-construction/find-the-role-for-you/ultimate-quiz/> <https://careers.bps.org.uk>

## CAREER PATHWAYS

You'll notice in this booklet that alongside information about each subject there is a list of potential career pathways that subject could lead to, as well as some of the transferable skills learned alongside the subject knowledge. Neither are finite lists and do not replace the need to talk to teachers and professionals and explore further.

The Careers Programme aims to develop students' careers knowledge from wide awareness of sectors, skills and pathways in Year 7, through preparation, discovery and experiences leading to fully informed decision making in Year 11.

Already in Year 9 students will have heard about some careers pathways in curriculum subjects, gained some useful transferable skills and learned about some pathway options in PSHE. All Year 9s are invited to a group meeting with the Careers Advisor with the option of a one-to-one if required ahead of choosing options.

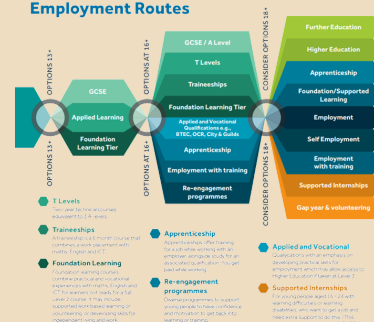


## YEAR 10 THROUGH TO POST 16

During Year 10 and 11 all students are offered a one-to-one meeting with the Careers Advisor, take part in mock interviews and have as many employer encounters as possible during careers week, in assemblies and one-off presentations or interactive sessions. All Year 10s take part in work experience and get a feel for what the working world might feel like as well as learning about their own strengths and preferences.

Students will learn about the post-16 options open to them, what they will need in terms of qualifications in order to access them and hear presentations from people who can talk them expertly through higher and further education, apprenticeships, T-levels, A-Levels and more as well as answer any questions.

### 13-19+ Learning and Employment Routes







## LITERATURE

**Exam Board: AQA**

### What is GCSE Literature?

**Explore the World of Literature**

#### Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-Century Novel

. Shakespeare: Study a play such as Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, or The Tempest. Analyze themes, characters, and dramatic techniques.

. 19th-Century Novel: Explore a classic novel like A Christmas Carol, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Frankenstein, or Pride and Prejudice.

#### Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

. Modern Prose/Drama: Study a contemporary text such as An Inspector Calls, Blood Brothers, Lord of the Flies, or Animal Farm.

. Poetry Anthology: Explore a collection of poems based on a theme (e.g., Power & Conflict or Love & Relationships).

. Unseen Poetry: Learn how to analyze and compare unseen poems.

#### How it is assessed?

Paper 1: Exam: 1 hour 45-minute exam (40% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Exam: 2 hour 15-minute exam (60% of GCSE)

#### What could I do next with English?

Law, poet, writer, teacher, advertising, publishing, journalism, librarian, film/tv director, acting, administration.

## LANGUAGE

**Exam Board: AQA**

### What is GCSE Language?

**Master the Art of Communication**

#### Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

. Reading: Analyze an unseen fiction extract (from the 20th or 21st century), exploring narrative structure, language, and impact.

. Writing: Develop creative writing skills by producing a descriptive or narrative piece.

#### Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

. Reading: Compare and analyze non-fiction and literary non-fiction texts (one modern, one pre-1900).

. Writing: Craft a persuasive or argumentative piece responding to a given topic.

#### How it is assessed?

Paper 1: Exam: 1 hour 45-minute exam (50% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Exam: 1 hour 45-minute exam (50% of GCSE)

#### Spoken Language Endorsement (Non-Examined Assessment)

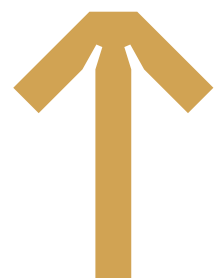
. Plan and deliver a presentation

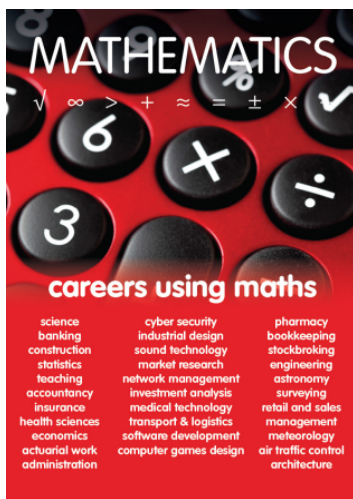
. Demonstrate clear and engaging spoken communication

. Respond effectively to questions and feedback

GCSE

ENGLISH





## OUR CURRICULUM

### Exam Board: Edexcel

#### What is GCSE Mathematics?

You have to study Using and Applying Mathematics, Number and Algebra, Shape and Space and Handling Data. You will investigate the application of these in real life contexts and look for interconnecting patterns between them. You will strengthen your numeracy, calculating skills and mathematical thinking as you understand better how mathematics is a present reality in all daily life.

#### What could I do next with Mathematics?

A high grade in GCSE will entitle you to continue Mathematics into AS and A2 where you will deepen and enrich your understanding of the subject. Most employers have a high regard for Mathematics and there is a similarly high regard for the subject in Post-16 study.

## THE COURSE

Students follow the Edexcel GCSE course in Mathematics. There are 2 tiers of Mathematics, Higher and Foundation. Both tiers will be assessed at the end of the course through 3 exam papers.

#### How it is assessed?

Exam 1: 33.3%  
 Paper 2 Non-Calculator  
 Written paper with a range of question types. 1 hour and 30 minutes  
 Exam 2: 33.3%  
 Paper 2 Calculator Project  
 Written paper with a range of question types. 1 hour and 30 minutes  
 Exam 3: 33.3%  
 Paper 3 Calculator  
 Written paper with a range of question types. 1 hour and 30 minutes

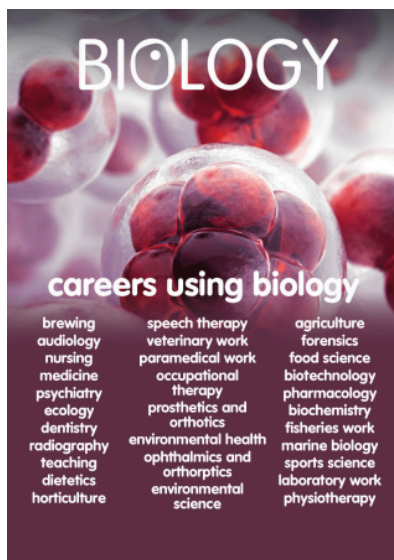
QAN code: 601/4700/3

GCSE

**MATHS** ↑



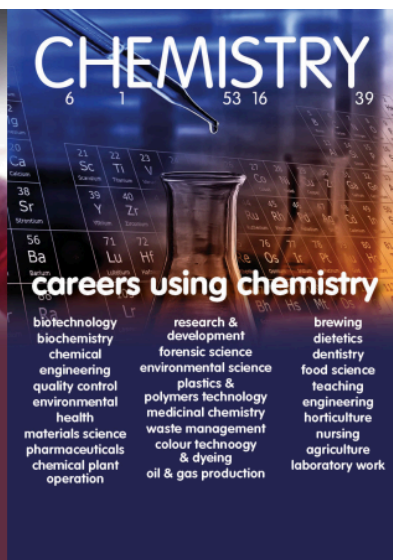
## BIOLOGY



### careers using biology

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>brewing</li> <li>audiology</li> <li>nursing</li> <li>medicine</li> <li>psychiatry</li> <li>ecology</li> <li>dentistry</li> <li>radiography</li> <li>teaching</li> <li>dietetics</li> <li>horticulture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>speech therapy</li> <li>veterinary work</li> <li>paramedical work</li> <li>occupational therapy</li> <li>prosthetics and orthotics</li> <li>environmental health</li> <li>ophthalmics and orthoptics</li> <li>environmental science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>agriculture</li> <li>forensics</li> <li>food science</li> <li>biotechnology</li> <li>pharmacology</li> <li>biochemistry</li> <li>fisheries work</li> <li>marine biology</li> <li>sports science</li> <li>laboratory work</li> <li>physiotherapy</li> </ul>
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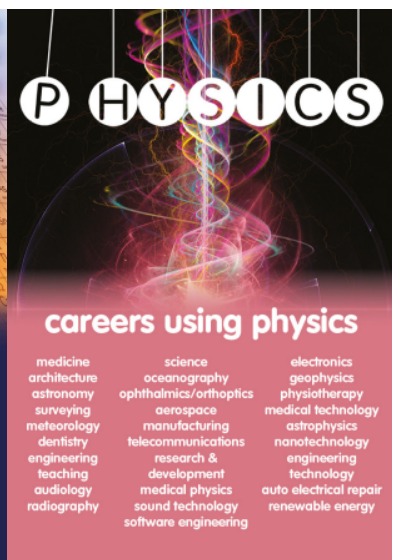
## CHEMISTRY



### careers using chemistry

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>biotechnology</li> <li>biochemistry</li> <li>chemical engineering</li> <li>quality control</li> <li>environmental health</li> <li>materials science</li> <li>pharmaceuticals</li> <li>chemical plant operation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>research &amp; development</li> <li>forensic science</li> <li>environmental science</li> <li>plastics &amp; polymers technology</li> <li>medicinal chemistry</li> <li>waste management</li> <li>colour technology &amp; dyeing</li> <li>oil &amp; gas production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>brewing</li> <li>dietetics</li> <li>dentistry</li> <li>food science</li> <li>teaching</li> <li>engineering</li> <li>horticulture</li> <li>nursing</li> <li>agriculture</li> <li>laboratory work</li> </ul>
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## PHYSICS



### careers using physics

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>medicine</li> <li>architecture</li> <li>astronomy</li> <li>surveying</li> <li>meteorology</li> <li>dentistry</li> <li>engineering</li> <li>teaching</li> <li>audiology</li> <li>radiography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>science</li> <li>oceanography</li> <li>ophthalmics/orthoptics</li> <li>aerospace</li> <li>manufacturing</li> <li>telecommunications</li> <li>research &amp; development</li> <li>medical physics</li> <li>sound technology</li> <li>software engineering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>electronics</li> <li>geophysics</li> <li>physiotherapy</li> <li>astrophysics</li> <li>medical technology</li> <li>nanotechnology</li> <li>engineering technology</li> <li>auto electrical repair</li> <li>renewable energy</li> </ul>
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## OUR CURRICULUM

### Exam Board: AQA

#### What is GCSE Combined Science Trilogy?

In KS4 all students study a GCSE Science course, with students either following a single or combined course pathway. The Single Science pathway has students study separate Sciences and gain 3 GCSEs. The combined science pathway has students study all sciences but gain 2 GCSEs. Students may follow an entry level pathway which could be accredited with a single or double award. Science staff will decide the most appropriate course for each individual.

#### What could I do next with Science?

A grade of at least a 4 in GCSE Science is required for Higher Education. Many apprenticeships starting at age 16 value the skills learned from following a science course. Many university courses in technical subjects require A Level Sciences.

## THE COURSE

### Biology

- . Cell biology
- . Organisation
- . Infection and response
- . Bioenergetics
- . Homeostasis and response
- . Inheritance, variation and evolution
- . Ecology

### Chemistry -

- . Atomic structure and the periodic table
- . Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- . Quantitative chemistry
- . Chemical changes
- . Energy changes
- . The rate and extent of chemical change
- . Organic chemistry
- . Chemical analysis
- . Chemistry of the atmosphere
- . Using resources

### Physics -

- . Energy
- . Electricity
- . Particle model of matter
- . Atomic structure
- . Forces
- . Waves
- . Magnetism and Electromagnetism

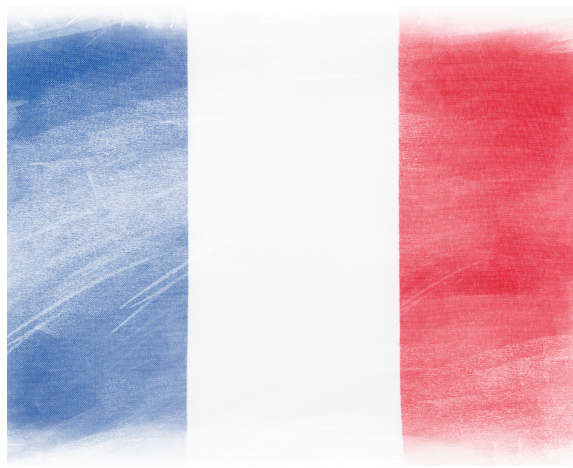
### How it is assessed?

Students following either a single or double pathway complete a number of required practical in each subject area throughout the 2 years. Students' understanding is assessed as part of their final written exam. Students will complete 6 exams: 2 exams for Biology, 2 for Chemistry and 2 for Physics, each worth 16.7% of the final award. There are two tiers of Entry for GCSE Science – Foundation or Higher

QAN code: 601/8758/X.

# GCSE

# SCIENCE



## OUR CURRICULUM

### Exam Board: AQA

#### What is GCSE French?

The key to success in Modern Languages is regular learning of manageable amounts of grammar and vocabulary. Practise in all four skills using topic specific material will be at the heart of every good language lesson. Lessons are varied and enjoyable, using a wide variety of resources and materials, with increasing emphasis on examination techniques as the course progresses.

#### What could I do next with French?

Linguists are highly valued in the working world and having a language will open many doors. There are many opportunities to study abroad as part of your degree course and career opportunities are diverse, ranging from the legal and diplomatic worlds to commerce, journalism and interpreting. Scientists, engineers and doctors are also all known to benefit from having a language, if not two, hence by continuing with languages, a bright future awaits.

## THE COURSE

The topics you will study are:

Family, friendships, technology, leisure and customs; Home town, social and global issues, travel and tourism; School, future plans, jobs.

#### How is it assessed?

Listening 25% - Questions to be answered non-verbally, in English and in the target language.

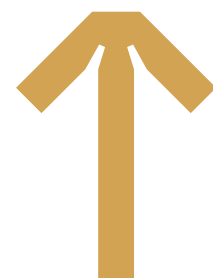
Speaking 25% - A role-play, a photo card, and a general conversation.

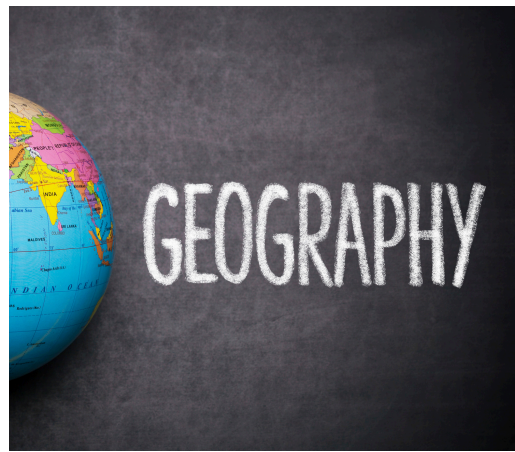
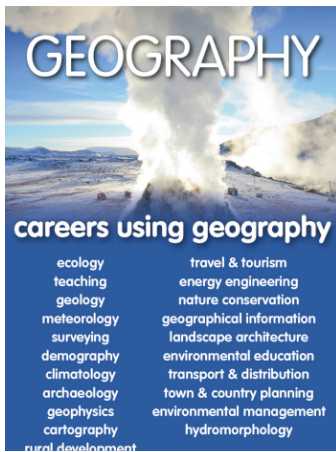
Reading 25% - Questions to be answered non-verbally, in English and in the target language, plus a translation into English.

Writing 25% - Structured and open-ended writing tasks, plus a translation into the target language

QAN Code: 601/8157/6

# GCSE FRENCH





## OUR CURRICULUM

### Exam Board: AQA

#### What is GCSE Geography?

A GCSE in Geography is a sought-after qualification by colleges and employers alike, as it promotes critical thinking, problem solving, and nurtures a deeper understanding of the world around us and the complex relationships between people, places, and environments. At GCSE level, pupils learn vital data analysis and decision-making skills, and have the opportunity to take their learning outside the classroom with fieldwork studies.

#### What could I do next with Geography?

Geography is one of the most relevant subjects to current global issues, including climate change, urbanization, globalisation, natural disasters, and the management of resources. Studying Geography gives you a better understanding of the world's most pressing problems and how we can work to solve them.

GCSE Geography is an engaging, relevant, and skills-focused subject that offers both academic and practical learning. If you're interested in exploring the world around you, understanding global issues, and developing valuable skills for your future, Geography is the subject for you.

## THE COURSE

### 1. Physical Geography

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards: Study natural hazards like earthquakes, volcanoes, and tropical storms, understanding their causes, effects, and the ways people respond.
- The Living World: Learn about ecosystems, including tropical rainforests and deserts, exploring how organisms interact within these environments.
- Physical Landscapes in the UK: Explore the landscapes of the UK, focusing on coastal and river environments, and how physical processes shape these landscapes.

### 2. Human Geography

- Urban Issues and Challenges: Investigate the development of cities, the issues they face (e.g., overcrowding, pollution), and how they are managed.
- The Changing Economic World: Examine the development gap between rich and poor countries and explore how economic change impacts global development.
- The Challenge of Resource Management: Study global resource use, including energy, water, and food, and consider how these resources are managed and conserved.

### How is it assessed?

GCSE Geography is assessed entirely through written exams at the end of Year 11. The assessment is divided into three papers:

#### Paper 1: Physical Geography

- Focuses on natural hazards, ecosystems, and physical landscapes in the UK.
- Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Marks: 88 marks (35% of GCSE)

#### Paper 2: Human Geography

- Focuses on urban issues, economic development, and resource management.
- Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Marks: 88 marks (35% of GCSE)

#### Paper 3: Geographical Skills

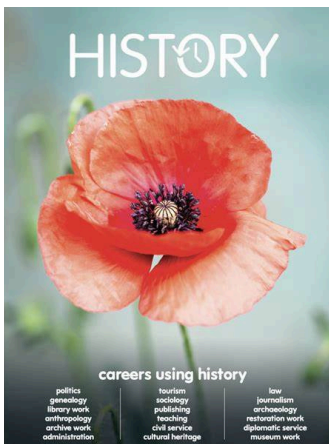
- Assesses your ability to apply geographical skills such as data analysis, interpretation of maps, and understanding geographical case studies.
- Duration: 1 hour
- Marks: 76 marks (30% of GCSE)

QAN Code: 601/8410/3

# GCSE

# GEOGRAPHY ↑





## OUR CURRICULUM

### Exam Board: Edexcel

#### What is GCSE History?

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- . develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history; and of the wide diversity of human experience .
- . engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers.
- .develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context.
- . develop an awareness of why people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them.
- . organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions.

#### What could I do next with History?

History GCSE is highly regarded as it represents a strongly academic, literate and challenging qualification. These skills are the foundations of many a career in the law, journalism, academe, archaeology and business. Students who have enjoyed GCSE History often look not only to progress to A Level History, but to include studies in Politics, International Relations and Philosophy.

## THE COURSE

Your course will involve two studies of British History, and two studies of global history: Thematic study – Medicine in Britain 1250-present.

Period study and British Depth study – Henry VIII and his ministers 1509-1540

The Cold War 1941-1991.

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 – 1939.

#### How it is assessed?

The four modules are examined in three exam papers. There is no coursework / controlled assessment. The exam papers comprise a combination of direct, knowledge-based questions, and historical sources.

QAN Code: 1H10 FQ

# GCSE

# HISTORY↑



## OUR CURRICULUM

### Exam Board: WJEC/EDUQAS

#### What is GCSE Art?:

You will be required to keep a Portfolio which will form a substantial part of your coursework. Within this Portfolio you will be expected to produce work in school, at home and on visits. It is a mandatory requirement of the course and must be looked after and treasured. GCSE Art and Design is all about developing visual ideas and for those that enjoy making practical pieces of artwork. The main areas are drawing and painting, mixed-media, and printmaking.

#### What could I do next with Art?

After your GCSE you may want to progress to Art and Design based courses at 6th Form or College or an apprenticeship. Potential careers this course could lead to include:

Animator, Architect, Art therapist, Cake decorator, Community arts worker, Costume designer, Design engineer, Dressmaker, Exhibition designer, Fashion design assistant, Fashion designer, Fine artist, Graphic designer, Illustrator, Make-up artist, Model maker, Photographer, Product designer, Prop maker, Set designer, Tattooist, Teacher.

## THE COURSE

The GCSE course is made up of two parts. Part One is your **Portfolio of Work (60%** of your final grade). This is a body of work that you build up throughout Year 10 and the beginning of Year 11. In this you will be guided to follow your own ideas in a wide range of personally explored pieces. Part Two is your **Externally Set Assignment (40%** of your final grade)

In January of year 11 the exam board will send out themes for you to creatively develop your personal response. You will have a term and a half to develop ideas which you will finish at the end of the year with a 10-hour exam.

The work you will make for your portfolio and your externally set assignment may consist of: drawing, painting, printmaking, illustration/graphics, and textiles.

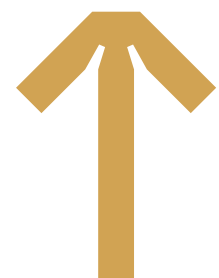
#### How it is assessed?

Art & Design is not examined like other subjects. You will spend two full days, 10 hours, in exam conditions finishing all work in your portfolio and externally set assignment.

QAN Code: 601/8087/0

# GCSE

# ART





## OUR CURRICULUM

**Exam Board: Edexcel**

### What is Computer Science?

A student on this course will develop program design and writing skills, obtain an understanding of the internal working of computers and how networks operate and gain an insight into cyber security with a broad overview of the impact of digital technology upon society and the environment.

### What could I do next with Computer Science?

With a GCSE in CS there are a range of courses available at college covering a diverse set of topics from network engineering to software development. These can be either a BTEC, T-Levels or A-Levels

## THE COURSE

Fundamentals of algorithms, Programming (using Python), Fundamentals of data representation, Computer systems, Fundamentals of computer networks, Cyber security, Relational databases and structured query language (SQL), Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy.

### How it is assessed?

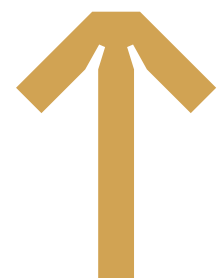
One written exam, one on-screen programming exam  
 Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking (2 hours)  
 Each paper is 50% of the overall grade

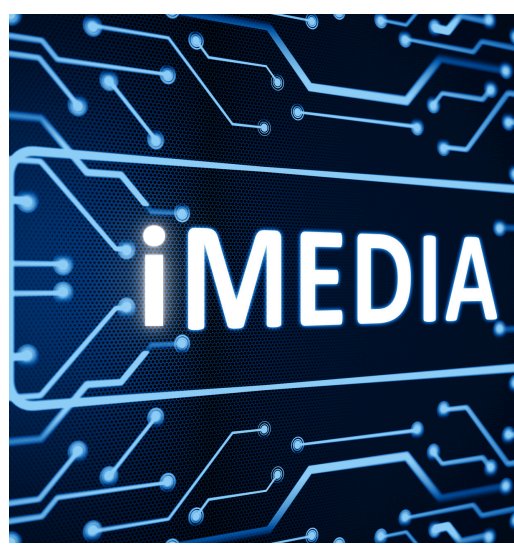
QAN CODE: J277

GCSE

COMPUTER  
SCIENCE







## OUR CURRICULUM

### Exam Board: OCR

#### What is Creative iMedia?

Creative iMedia allows learners to develop creativity, originality, and awareness and become independent creators of digital media. The main focus is to equip learners with a range of creative media skills, which ultimately allows learners to create fit-for-purpose creative ICT products.

#### What could I do next with iMedia?

This course would prepare you for taking a college course in iMedia, games development, media production or anything similar. East Coast, Access Creative, City College and many others offer media related courses that would be a perfect step after studying this course.

## THE COURSE

This course covers different areas of information creative technologies, including pre-production skills in the creative digital media and ICT sector. Learners will develop their understanding of client briefs, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form the planning and creation process. Over three units they will develop an understanding of the media industry and its various sectors, create original graphics from a client brief and document their process and develop an original computer game concept that will be developed to a prototype level and documented.

#### How it is assessed?

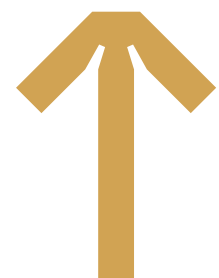
There is one 90-minute written exam that covers the creative industry and its sectors. This exam is 40% of the final grade.

Two non-examinable assessments (NEAs) that cover Digital Graphics and Digital Games. These are both completed over a series of lessons, the first one being completed in year 10.

The NEAs contribute to 60% of the final grade.

QAN CODE: J834

# Cambridge National CREATIVE iMEDIA





## OUR CURRICULUM

**Exam Board: WJEC/EDUQAS**

### What is GCSE Drama:?

The GCSE Drama specification is designed to give you a broad and balanced experience of Drama. You will be given the opportunity to develop not only your **performance skills** but also your **design skills** in areas such as: **Lighting design Sound design Set design Costume, Hair and Make-Up Design** You will collaborate in devising your own piece of theatre and perform in a performance from a text. You can choose to concentrate on acting or design. You will explore a range of texts and view a variety of live theatre productions. The Eduqas GCSE Drama specification has three components: Devising Theatre, Performing from a Text, and Interpreting Theatre

### What could I do next with Drama?

The possibilities are endless. Drama will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities will be looking for. It can also give you opportunities to travel, meet people and get the most out of life. Some students go on to study Drama in some of the most recognised Drama colleges and conservatoires in Britain such as RADA, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Many also choose to study Drama as degree courses in Universities. A number of students forge successful careers as Actors, Directors, Lighting or Sound Designers, Costume, Hair and Make-Up Designers or Stage Designers. There are many other career paths within the industry including Stage Managers, Press and PR Managers and Producers. Others go on to various Universities (including Russell Group) to read a diverse range of subjects and work within an extremely broad range of careers including teaching, law, publishing, politics, translation, science, occupational therapy, journalism.

## THE COURSE

**Component 1: Devising Theatre Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 40% of qualification**

Learners will be assessed on either **acting or design**. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by Eduqas.

Learners must produce:

- a realisation (performance or design) of their piece of devised theatre
- a portfolio of supporting evidence
- an evaluation of the final performance or design.

**Component 2: Performing from a Text Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner 20% of qualification**

Learners will be assessed on either **acting or design**. Learners study two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the centre. Learners participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts.

**Component 3: Interpreting Theatre Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification**

**Section A: Set Text for assessment**

**Section B: Live Theatre Review**

### How it is assessed?

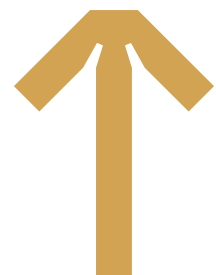
Component 3 – Written exam

Component 2 – Practical Exam (performing and designing specialism)

QAN Code: 601/8420/6

# GCSE

# DRAMA







## OUR CURRICULUM

### Exam Board: WJEC/EDUQAS

#### What is BTEC Performing Arts:?

Do you have a passion for performance? Are you a budding actor, dancer or musician? Do you want to discover more about the fantastic roles behind the scenes – from costume design and make-up, to set design and lighting? If so, it's time to uncover your potential – find out more about this exciting qualification today!

#### What could I do next with Performing Arts?

The performing arts industry offers you a wide range of exciting opportunities which includes:

Actor, Arts administrator, Community arts worker, Choreographer, Composer, Dancer, Designer, Director, Drama / Music therapist, Front of house manager, Lighting / Sound technician, Musician, Musical Theatre Performer, Teacher, Stage manager.

#### Skill Development

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including: Communication, Confidence, Learning independently, Organisation, Problem solving, Research, Self-discipline, Stamina, Taking on responsibility, & Time management.

## THE COURSE

### Unit 1: Performing

You will learn the skills and techniques needed to produce a successful performance of an existing work, such as a piece of music or an extract from a play or show.

### Unit 2: Creating

You will learn how to create and refine your own original work in performing arts, such as choreography, designing costumes or composing music

### Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice

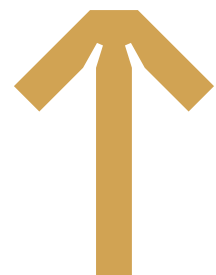
You will learn about areas of the performing arts industry that need to be considered when responding to a commission, and will consider these when coming up with and pitching your own idea.

### How it is assessed?

You will be assessed through project work. For Units 1 and 2 you will undertake projects (not exams) in response to briefs. The project for each Unit will take 10 hours and be worth 30% of your qualification. For each one you will be given a scenario and will need to undertake a number of tasks. In Unit 3 you will undertake another project (no exam) in response to a brief, which will take 20 hours and be worth 40% of your qualification. You will be given a scenario and will need to undertake a number of tasks.

QAN Code: 603/7020/8

# BTEC PERFORMING ARTS





## OUR CURRICULUM

**Exam Board: Pearson**

### What is Child Development?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge through vocational contexts by planning, developing and adapting play opportunities suitable for young children across five areas of development as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and understanding of child development and growth up to the age of five, how children learn through play and how meeting the needs of individual children will support their development, play and learning

### What could I do next with Child Development?

- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC Level 3 National in Children's Care, Learning and Development or a vocational qualification in a related sector such as a BTEC Level 3 National in Health and Social Care.

These qualifications prepare learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or for a move to higher education to study a degree in early childhood, childhood and youth areas or in related sectors such as nursing and social care.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 1 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- Study at Level 2 post-16 through a technical qualification, such as the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Technical Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Assistant).

## THE COURSE

The course has three components:

Unit 1: Children's growth and development (An internally assessed assignment.)

Unit 3: Learning through play. (An internally assessed assignment.)

Unit 3: Supporting children to play, learn and develop. (An externally set exam.)

### How it is assessed?

Learning outcomes for Unit 1 and 2 (the internally assessed assignments).

Learning outcomes for Unit 3 (the externally assessed exam).

QAN code: (603/7058/0)

# BTEC CHILD DEVELOPMENT





## OUR CURRICULUM

**Exam Board: Pearson / WJEC**

### What is Health & Social Care:

The award gives you the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on three areas, which cover:

- . skills and processes, such as interpreting data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing
- . attitudes, namely the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practice applying them
- . knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

### What could I do next with H&SC?

If you succeed in Health and Social Care you can progress to a Health and Social Care Level 3 course or a range of other subjects at 6th Form or College or an apprenticeship.

This course can lead to careers in a wide range of roles including Social Work, Nursery Nurse, Child Minder, Youth Work, Nursing and the Allied Health professions, Occupational Therapist, Medical technician, Health Care Assistant, Community Support and Outreach worker.

## THE COURSE

The course consists of three separate components;

- 1) Human Lifespan Development (2 assignments that are internally assessed)
- 2) Health and Social Care Services and Values (2 assignments that are internally assessed)
- 3) Health and Wellbeing (1 controlled assessment, externally set and marked)

### How it is assessed:

Externally marked assessment  
Task set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions.  
The set task will be completed in three hours in the period timetabled by Pearson.  
(60 marks)

QAN code: 603/7023/3

# BTEC HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE





## OUR CURRICULUM

**Exam Board: WJEC**

### What is BTEC Hospitality & Catering:

Over the course you will develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication. You will learn how to plan, prepare and cook a range of dishes, how to plan a menu to a set brief and how to work in safe manner in a Catering setting. You will also learn about health and nutrition and the different types of Hospitality and Catering settings.

### What could I do next with BTEC Hospitality & Catering?

Further study would lead to A Levels in food technology, a diploma in advanced professional cookery, hospitality and catering courses at college or a professional cookery apprenticeship route. With this qualification you can progress to many different career paths within the hospitality and catering industry such as chef, restaurant owner, restaurant/cafe manager, nutritionist, toxicologist and factory production manager.

## THE COURSE

Unit 1 The Hospitality and catering industry: is assessed through a written examination.

Unit 2 Hospitality and catering in action: is assessed through a non-examination assessment task (NEA) which will be completed under controlled conditions, marked by your teacher, externally moderated by WJEC. This assessment will allow you to showcase the food preparation skills you have developed through your practical lessons.

The course will be heavily practical based and cooking skills and knowledge will be delivered through hands-on cooking lessons. You will develop a portfolio of work that is submitted to reach your overall grade.

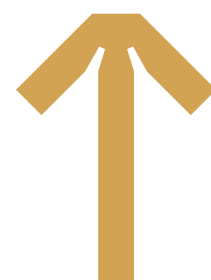
### How it is assessed:

Unit 1 – Exam worth 40% of final mark

Unit 2 – 9 hour allocated assessment worth 60% of final mark

QAN: 603/7022/1

# BTEC HOSPITALITY & CATERING





## OUR CURRICULUM

### Exam Board: Pearson

#### What is BTEC Sport:

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by exploring the different types and providers of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available for participation as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

#### What could I do next with Sport?

If you succeed in BTEC Sport, you can progress to Sports based courses and a range of other subjects at 6th Form or College or an apprenticeship.

Potential careers this course can lead to include Sports Science, Personal Trainer, Diet and fitness instruction, Sports policy and Development, Physiotherapist, PE Teacher, Sports Psychologist, Professional Sportsperson.

## THE COURSE

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 sport including equipment and facilities to enhance sport.
- planning and delivery of sport drills and sessions.
- fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology.

#### How it is assessed:

##### Component 1 (5 hours)

Preparing participants to take part in Sport and Physical Activity - NEA set assignment. (60 marks)

##### Component 2 (4 hours)

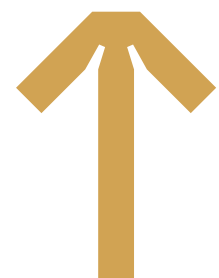
Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance - NEA set assignment. (60 marks)

##### Component 3

Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in Sport and Physical Activity - External exam 1 ½ hours. (60 marks)

QAN code: 603/0458/3

# BTEC SPORT



# KEY TERMS

Old A*-D GCSE Grades (replaced in 2017)	BTEC (Level 1/ Level 2)	Cambridge national (Level1/2)	New 9-1 GCSE Grades
		Level 2 Distinction*	9
A*	L2 D*	Level 2 Distinction	8
A	L2 D	Level 2 Distinction	7
B	L2 M	Level 2 Merit	6
		Level 2 Pass	5
C	L2 P	Level 2 Pass	4
D	L1 D*	Level 1 Distinction	3
F	L1 D	Level 1 Merit	2
G	L1 M / L1 P	Level 1 Pass	1
U	U	U	U

Level 1 = L1  
Level 2 = L2  
U = Candidates who fail to reach the minimum standard will be unclassified.



## GCSE

General Certificate of Secondary Education: a system of examinations, with subjects using a scale of 1 - 9, with 9 being the highest.



## COURSEWORK AND CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS

Those parts of your work which are done during Years 10 and 11 and which count towards your GCSE examination. You can expect homework in all subjects which will not necessarily be related to assessed coursework. More and more coursework is now completed in controlled conditions in school. These are called Controlled Assessments.



## LEVELS OF TIERED ENTRY

In a small number of subjects the examination is split into levels of ability, with different papers for each level, and different grades awarded to each level.



## ACCREDITATION

When a course, or part of a course, is given credit or certification by an examining body.



## KEY STAGE 4 (KS4)

This is the National Curriculum term for work usually completed in Years 10 and 11.



## VOCATIONAL COURSES

Vocational courses are career-focused educational programmes that give you the practical skills and knowledge to excel in a particular industry or trade.

Equivalent Level 1/2 qualification to a GCSE however assessed in different way to 9-1 like the GCSE. Vocational qualification outcomes are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\*



## TUTORS

N Downes

S Slatford

[n.downes@beccleshighschool.org](mailto:n.downes@beccleshighschool.org)

[s.slatford@beccleshighschool.org](mailto:s.slatford@beccleshighschool.org)



## KEY STAGE LEADER

N Waddington

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## CAREERS ADVISOR

J Stockman

[j.stockman@beccleshighschool.org](mailto:j.stockman@beccleshighschool.org)



## SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

C Barns - Headteacher

C Goode - Assistant Headteacher

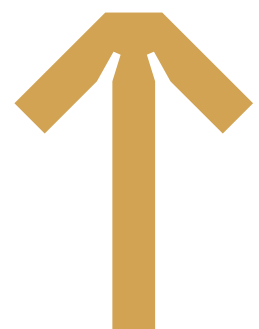


J Reeve - SENDCo

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# KEY STAFF



# NEXT STEPS



## READ THROUGH THE BOOKLET

Take the time to read through the information in the booklet for each of the courses available.



## DISCUSS WITH TEACHER AND KEY STAFF

Discuss each of the courses with your teachers and key staff and ask questions. You want to be fully equipped to make the most informed decision.



## COMPLETE THE OPTION PREFERENCES POLL FORM

Select the 5 options you would be happy to continue to study into KS4. This must include Geography or History.  
Deadline: Monday 10th March



## OPTIONS INTERVIEW

1:1 options interview with Miss C Goode where you can ask questions and discuss your post 16 pathway to ensure the options selection is the most appropriate pathway for your further studies.



## OPTION BLOCKS RELEASED

Once school has collated all the preferences submitted and the options interviews are completed then school will release the final option blocks where students will make their final selections for KS4 study in September.



## 2025-2027 OPTION ALLOCATIONS RELEASED

In the summer term the students will be issued with their individual option allocations.



# STEP 3 PREFERENCES POLL FORM

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 **PREFERENCES FORM**

Please scan the QR code below which will take you to the first step of sharing your option preferences.

Please select 5 subjects you would continue to study into Key Stage 4.

This must include either History or Geography.

Once school have all preferences submitted, and the interviews have taken place we will work on the option blocks (the subjects selected for 2025) based on the most selected subjects from your answers in the form below.

Then we will release the option blocks for you to make your final selection of subjects to continue to study at Key Stage 4 - 2025-2027.



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# Key Stage 4 OPTIONS

YEAR NINE



BECCLES HIGH SCHOOL  
CASTLE HILL  
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01502 718850